

"Safely Home"

Read-Aloud Discussion Questions Pg. 1

*Note: The following questions are aimed for teens and young adults.

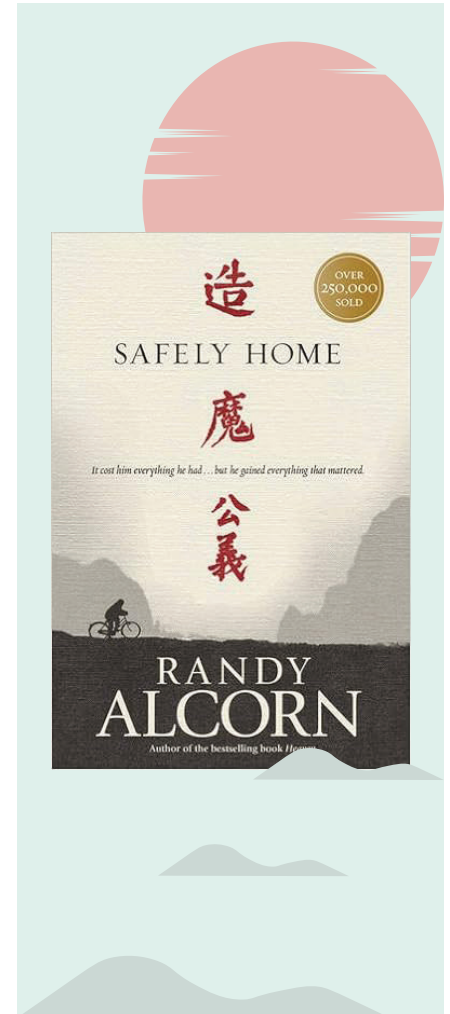
1. How would you describe Ben Fielding's relationship with Jesus when he was in college?
2. How does Ben's life change as the story progresses to the present day, when he is a grown man?
3. Characterize Ben's relationships with the various people in his life.
4. Did something stop being a priority in Ben's life? If so, what or who contributed to this possible change?
5. Do you think there is a connection between a lifestyle that's focussed solely on gaining personal satisfaction (i.e. living for self and ease) and the viewpoint that God is not relevant?
6. The word "relevant" according to Merriam-Webster dictionary means "having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand...relevant testimony; having social relevance." Considering this, would you say God is relevant in your life?

7. In his book, *Knowing God*, author J.I. Packer comments on a concerning trend: "Christian minds have been conformed to the modern spirit...[which] spawns great thoughts of man and leaves room for only small thoughts of God."¹

Do you think this statement is true or false? When looking around at your Christian associations, is there more value placed on what man says (regarding creation, the physical body, science, sexuality, etc.) than what God says?

8. Do "small thoughts of God" affect the way a person lives?

9. How does Li Quan measure up in this discussion? Does he possess big or small thoughts of God?



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10. Describe Li Quan's relationships with the people in his life.
11. When assessing Li Quan's life, would you say it is good or bad? How would you measure this?
12. Which man is happier: Li Quan or Ben Fielding? Explain the reason for your answer.
13. Is our happiness dependant on earthly circumstances?
14. Can someone be truly joyful and peaceful even when living under the threat of persecution?
15. What is the perpetrators' goal when inflicting persecution? Is it simply to cause turmoil or pain in other people's lives? What are those who persecute others really trying to accomplish?
16. Most persecutors act with the goal of silencing a believer's witness for Christ. Why do you think it matters to so many who oppose Christianity that the "Good News" of the Gospel be silenced?
17. In chapter 40, on pages 290-293, we read the example of Watchman Lee and his "wordless sermon." Because his voice was silenced, he smashed his glass, stomped on it, and walked all around the cave, spreading fine glass shards everywhere. He did so in order to convey the following message: "In attempting to destroy the church, the government has spread it.... For the church multiplies under communism, even as Israel multiplied under Pharoah's tyranny."

When something is shattered, it seems broken and unusable. However, through the crushing process, Watchman Lee demonstrated that the number of glass pieces had actually been multiplied; and, as a result, they were able to go to more places than the solid glass could. If spreading the "Good News" is the way for multitudes to discover faith in Christ and become eternally saved, what does that say about the "crushing?" Is it a good thing or bad?