

SONG IN THE NIGHT

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Additional information:
Song in the Night, P.O. Box 42, Kendrick ID 83537
www.SongInTheNight.net

PREFACE

These short chapter-by-chapter studies are designed for either group or personal reflection of the issues presented in *Song in the Night*. The questions, posed in each chapter study, review some of the main points presented and give you an opportunity to relate the lessons to your own lives and apply God's Word to your own situation.

God bless you as you seek Him for answers to the hard questions in your lives.

And you will seek Me and find Me,
when you search for Me with all your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:13

The Lord will command His loving kindness in the daytime;
And His song will be with me in the night,
A prayer to the God of my life.

PSALM 42:8

The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.

PSALM 28:7

CHAPTER ONE

Nightfall

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 1-11)

1. Did reading about someone else's disaster bring up memories of your own trials in life?

2. Did it evoke a sense of dread or foreboding about the future? What do you fear?

3. How do you deal with fear of the future on a day-by-day basis?

4. What struck you most about this chapter?

5. Have you ever felt that God spoke to you? How did you know it was God?

6. In what ways do you think God speaks to humanity?

CHAPTER TWO

Through the Night

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 14-25)

1. Have you ever seen someone on life support? If so, explain how you felt at the time.

2. If you are like most people, the idea of being on life support is frightening. What was your reaction when you first saw pictures of Christopher Reeve after his injury?

3. Before you read Kevin's story, did you think that the only people on long-term life support were those in a terminal state, in a vegetative state, or in a coma?

CHAPTER THREE

The Consultation from Hell

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 26-32)

1. What did you think of the doctor from the "Consultation from Hell"?

2. In your mind, was he justified to argue for pulling the plug?

3. Were you surprised to find that someone would want to live in a broken body while existing on a ventilator?

4. Have you ever thought about what you would want if you were in Kevin's condition? Do you feel any differently about your decision now?

5. What do you think the Bible says about stopping treatment?

6. Who should make these kinds of decisions?

CHAPTER FOUR

Like an Eagle

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 33-37)

1. Erik's quiet strength helped me to overcome my fear of the machines that helped Kevin stay alive. When has the strength of someone near to you helped you conquer a fear?

2. Do you think God uses everyday events to protect and guide us?

3. How do you perceive the everyday events in your life? Do you look for the hand of God in them?

4. Are you satisfied with your relationship with God? Why or why not?

5. Getting to know God better is a lifelong adventure. How do you think you could encourage a deeper walk with Him?

6. What has been your most holy moment of worship?

CHAPTER SIX

Out of the Valley

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 48-56)

The Bible tells us that God will never give us more temptation than we can bear, but that He will make a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). When Kevin was in intensive care, he loved to play Christian music to help him through the nights.

1. Which events in life cause you the most temptation to despair?

2. What ways of escape do people often use to get through the days? Do any of these ways honor God?

3. In what ways can we run to Him in times of need?

CHAPTER SEVEN

Parting the Waters

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 57-65)

1. It was a miracle for us when Kevin started to be able to move. But miracles come in many ways. Describe a time when you witnessed the “parting of the waters” in your life or in the life of someone you loved.

2. Can you still feel the thrill of past answered prayers in your life, or have the recent trials of life buried the memories of those victories?

3. Could you relate to the jealousy we felt when we saw people enjoying the life Kevin had lost?

4. Is it possible that others could be looking at our lives with the same jealousy?

5. How can we keep thankful hearts for the good we have been given and resist being envious of others?

CHAPTER EIGHT

"Miricals"

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 66-73)

1. Children are so wonderful and innocent. How have children spoken into your life?

2. Jesus rebuked His disciples for keeping the children away from Him and told them that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). What qualities of children do you think Jesus was talking about?

3. Name a moment when you knew that God is alive.

CHAPTER NINE

Victims and Victors

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 74-84)

1. Have you ever been in a situation when you felt like a victim? Were you able to get out of that situation? If so, how did you accomplish this?

2. Can you remember a time that you criticized someone's actions and then turned around and did the same thing? If so, relate what you learned from the event.

3. Tell about an unexpected kindness that someone had done for you that showed you the heart of God.

CHAPTER TEN

And Still He Weeps

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 85-93)

1. Re-read Colossians 1:24. Does it surprise you to read in the Bible that Christ still suffers afflictions through the suffering of His people? What do you think of that?

2. If you could guess at what part of the Body of Christ you fulfill, what would it be? Why?

3. Have you ever experienced wounds that were inflicted by someone in the Body of Christ? Can you remember a time that you inflicted pain on another Christian by a thoughtless word or action?

4. How can the Church encourage godly attitudes toward each other within the Body?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Going Home

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 94-110)

1. There's something in us that yearns for home. Think back to a time that you were away from home for a long time. What did it feel like to be back where you belonged?

2. Our family was amazed to discover that God had arranged for our financial provision. God rarely drops money from heaven, but His provision through others is still miraculous. Tell about a time that you experienced a financial miracle. Could you see God's hand in it?

3. What "Pits" do you have in your home? In your life?

CHAPTER TWELVE

Breathe

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 111-119)

Both the Old and New Testaments give accounts of God speaking to people through dreams. The Psalmist said, "I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; indeed, my mind instructs me in the night" (Psalm 16:7).

1. Has God ever spoken to you through a dream? If so, what do you think He was saying?

2. How could you tell the dream was different than other dreams?

3. Should we look for answers in dreams? How do we test such things before we accept them?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Moving On

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 120-128)

1. Can you look back on your life and see how God prepared you to be in the place you are now?

2. Tell about someone who has played a heroic part in your life when you needed a hero.

3. What did you learn from this person?

4. It's easier to blame God and others for failure than it is to take responsibility for our own actions. Do you agree that failure is a great teacher?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Heartsick

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 140-145)

1. What was your greatest disappointment in life?

2. How do you handle disappointment?

3. What are the “nevers” in your life?

4. Is wallowing in the “nevers” healthy? What is God’s way of finding victory beyond the disappointments in life?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

The Rock

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 146-154)

Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed (ROMANS 9:33).

1. What do you think this verse means?

2. Could you relate to this statement: "Gradually, it seemed that even God Himself tired of the marathon and withdrew." Does God sometimes seem far removed from your pain?

3. Is there a way we can fight the feelings of isolation that come with trial? What ways can we reach out to God and others in the midst of our own sorrow?

4. Why does God let us go through times of brokenness?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN
God's Unwilling Servant

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 156-166)

1. Did you agree with the assertion that God uses Satan to accomplish His goals? Why or why not?

2. Do you agree with Satan's assertion that "all a man has he will give for his life"?

3. What do you think it says about a person who gives his life for another person or for an ideal?

4. Does it make you feel safer to know that Satan has to get permission from God before he touches a Christian? If you answered "yes," in what way do you feel safer?

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Contentment

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 167-174)

1. What's the difference between contentment and happiness?

2. Is it possible to be truly happy?

3. What is the secret to contentment?

4. What's your favorite statement out of this chapter, the one that spoke the most to you?

CHAPTER NINETEEN

In the Light

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (pages 177-181)

1. Did you find it hard to see the book end this way, or was it satisfying?

2. How can we cope with a situation that has no real resolution?

3. Has Kevin's story helped you understand the mystery of suffering on any level? Explain.

4. Why do you think this book is titled *Song in the Night*?
