

God in a Brothel Discussion Guide

1. How did you respond to *God in a Brothel*? What challenged or surprised you?
2. God asks for everything from us (p. 20). He also despises injustice (p. 21). What do these facts mean to you? How does it affect how we live?
3. The author writes, “God was in that brothel before I arrive . . . and he would remain in the brothel long after I left” (p. 31). What do you understand the title of the book to mean?
4. Consider the author’s observation on page 36 that those rescued will quickly be replaced by other vulnerable women and children. What do you think is the biggest need right now as the church combats human trafficking? Should we be working to rescue individuals or working toward poverty relief and community development?
5. Comment on these three quotes about danger: “I knew it would involve danger. But I was adamant that the greater danger lay in *not* doing that which made me come alive (p. 54). “The greatest danger I faced was when I was emotionally bankrupt and spiritually broken, and considered myself unworthy and unforgivable (p. 185).” “When Christians love with fearless resolve and obey God regardless of the outcome, they are the most dangerous people on earth (198).”
6. How does the author’s view of heroism change over the course of the book (see p. 168 and p. 179)? Do you agree or disagree with his conclusions? Why or why not?
7. To what extent should we be considering our personal risk as we do ministry? The author writes that he goes into darkness of brothels because, “if our faith in all that was good was worth anything at all, then it had to be stronger than whatever darkness and suffering it might encounter along the way” (p. 117). Do you agree or disagree? Consider also Corrie Ten Boom’s words (pp. 152-153).
8. How do we determine which moral codes are universal and which are culturally bound? Are some sexual taboos culture-bound? Consult the author’s assessment on page 124, “I acted in a moral universe where some laws were universal.”
9. How have you come to better understand the importance of Jesus’ words, “I am the truth”? How does truth affect our witness and ministry? How does it affect people trapped in human trafficking?
10. Consider the author’s observation that the church has been “seduced, entertained and enslaved by a form of worship inherited from the West: the focus was more on the feelings and desires of those present than on a suffering world that was crying out for rescue” (p. 131). Do you agree or disagree? Compare these comments on the church to his analysis of the abusers on page 156, “The only characteristic they all shared in common was an incessant and compulsive interest in their own pleasure.”
11. What does the author come to learn about evil? Is it most like an enemy, a disease, or darkness? Consider his words on page 167: “Everything else had become a ‘necessary evil’ to further the work of abolition and rescue.”

12. What is the role of grace in this book? How do sin, shame, and grace relate to victims of human trafficking? How do they relate to the author?
13. The book shows that trafficking is happening in all corners of the world. How do you think the body of Christ can respond realistically and lovingly to the situation around us?