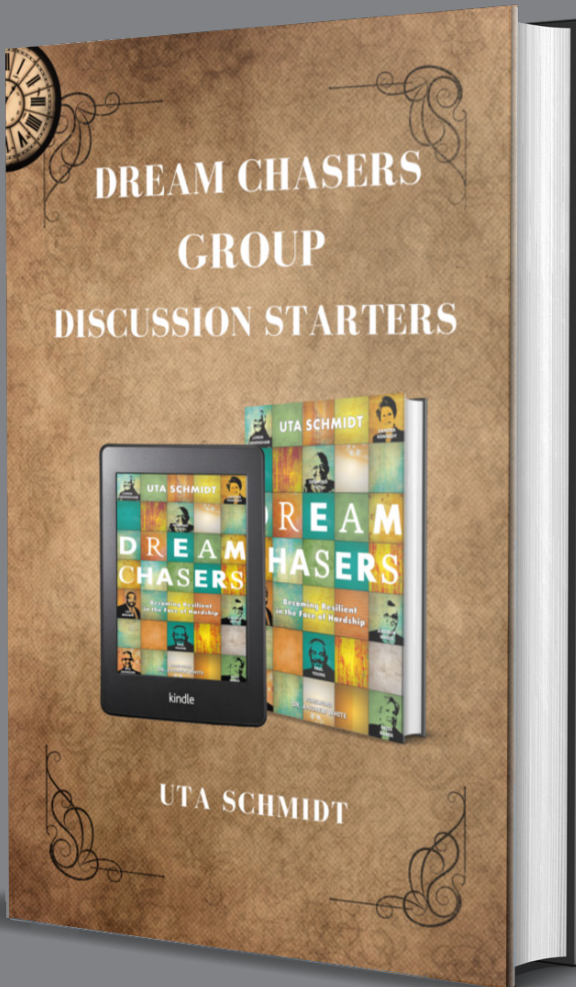


DREAM CHASERS

Group Discussion Starters



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Uta Schmidt

Preliminary Remarks

This Group Discussion Starter Guide is designed to help small groups or home groups have meaningful conversations and dig deeper into the principles and life lessons shared by the heroes of faith represented in my book *Dream Chasers: Becoming Resilient In the Face of Hardship*. Next to gaining a deeper understanding of our own process of our dream and where we are in our journey towards our destiny, the aim of the discussions is to share life and encourage one another in the pursuit of our dreams, vision and calling. The questions are designed to cultivate an atmosphere of openness, love and support, and to discover the greatness each group member carries within and is called to walk out.

The questions are arranged per chapter and encourage each person to reflect on their own lives on a deeper level. Many of the questions are very personal. Therefore an atmosphere of openness and trust within the group is necessary in order to have meaningful discussions. This is in particular the case when going through the questions for chapter 9 *Inside The Shack*. Depending on your group's dynamics, not everyone might feel free or safe enough to share in front of the whole group about issues that go to the core.

As a group leader you might want to consider splitting the group for parts of the discussion into a men's and women's group or into other smaller units where the topics such as sexual abuse and addictions can be addressed. I encourage you to take a lot of time for prayer for each other as you go through chapter 9 since it addresses so many areas of our lives that need healing.

Each group is different and not everything will work for every group. The group leader should be sensitive to the group's needs and select the questions for discussion accordingly. Not all questions need to be discussed, in particular in later chapters you can pick and choose as the number of questions increases towards the end.

I pray you find this discussion guide helpful and will have fruitful discussions!

Uta Schmidt



Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Prisoners of Destiny.....	6
Chapter 2 The Battle of the Mind - Les Brown.....	9
Chapter 3 Camped at the Gates of Hell Rolland and Heidi Baker.....	16
Chapter 4 The X factors - Loren Cunningham.....	21
Chapter 5 Enduring Faith - Bill Johnson.....	25
Chapter 6 Against All Odds - Sandra Kennedy.....	32
Chapter 7 Faith Under Fire - Andrew White.....	39
Chapter 8 Inside The Shack - Paul Young.....	47
Chapter 9 Wounded Healers - Desmond Tutu.....	60
Chapter 10 Greatness in The Making Understanding The Process of Transformation.....	72

Chapter 1

Prisoners of Destiny

1. Share what resonated with you when reading this chapter. Can you identify with any of these experiences? Discuss how this chapter correlates with process you're going through on the journey to your destiny.

2. Maybe you don't know what your destiny is or you're having difficulty even putting it into words. Listen as others in the group describe their journey and process. How does their story relate to yours? Can you relate to any of their 'contradictions'? (see Why this book p. 10)

3. The Methodist teacher gave Rolihlahla an English name, Nelson, which means ‘son of a champion’. How might this one event of affirmation have changed his life and destiny for him and his country?

4. Share how your name was chosen and what your name means. How has this impacted your life? If you don't know the meaning of your name, take time to research the meaning. Then examine what characteristic was spoken over you thousands of times as you were growing up. Share what you discovered with the group if you'd like to.

Chapter 2
The Battle of the Mind
- Les Brown -

1. What was the main point that spoke to you in this chapter?

2. Les Brown described how “the negative internal dialogue“ in his mind tried to keep him from fulfilling his potential. Describe a time when this applied to you. How did or do you respond and overcome the negative internal dialogue?

3. Have you ever considered that you have greatness in you? What do you think when you hear the phrase: You've got greatness in you! Do you believe that? If not, why not?

4. Les had a hard time believing that he had greatness in him. He was ridiculed at school and called the DT - the dumb twin. Have you ever been called names that still resound with you?

5. Mr. Washington exhorted Les when he told him he was dumb and could not solve the math problem: “Don’t you ever say that again! Someone else’s opinion of you does not have to become your reality!” Share about a time when the opinion and words someone else spoke over you became your reality.

6. Les shares he had to shut out all negative voices in his life in order to pursue his calling. What did that include for him? What negative voices do you need to silence in your life?

7. Even his own brother ridiculed him and did not believe that Les could speak in front of large audiences. He questioned him because of his lack of education. How did Les deal with this? Have you ever had a reaction to your dream and vision from someone close to you like Les had from his brother? How has it affected you?

8. What impact did Miss Mamie Brown's faith and life have on Les? How does her story of adopting eight abandoned children and trusting God to make a way to provide for them speak to you?

9. Les says that the most painful experience in his life was seeing his mother lose the battle with cancer. How did he process this? Share the story of your personal battle and how you walked through to the other side of the battle.

10. Les shares that the day after his mother had passed away he read a newspaper article that a mafia leader who had killed numerous people had died comfortably in his sleep. “At that moment I became very angry“. Can you relate to Les Brown’s torrent of emotions? How did he deal with the anger?

11. Read Psalm 73. Have you ever felt that life is unfair? What does the Psalmist say about that? What helped the Psalmist to get a different perspective when he saw that the ungodly prospered, but he suffered?

12. Les Brown spoke faith and Scriptures of healing over his body, soul and spirit for more than 19 years - ever single day. What does that tell you about perseverance, determination and “willingness to do the work”? What work do you have to do and are you willing to do it?

Chapter 3
Camped at the Gates of Hell
- Rolland and Heidi Baker -

1. What stood out for you in Rolland and Heidi's chapter? Is there anything in their story that you identified with?

2. Heidi and Rolland Baker state that one of the reasons they wanted to go to Mozambique was to learn from the poorest of the poor about the kingdom of God. They were tired after serving as missionaries in several countries. The decision was described as "a holy frustration". What does this mean to you? Have you ever been so tired from serving the Lord that you knew you had to make a radical move?

What were Rolland and Heidi frustrated about the most?

3. Describe a time when you saw a miracle. What were your impressions of the food multiplication in this chapter?

4. Heidi said, “But what most people are not aware of is that the flip side of glory is suffering. It is usually in the midst of suffering, in devastation and destruction that God breaks through in miraculous ways.” Describe a time when you were in the midst of suffering, devastation or despair and saw God break through with a miracle.

5. Rolland says that every Christian should make up their mind to trust God no matter what right from the beginning when becoming a Christian. Why do you think this is crucial?

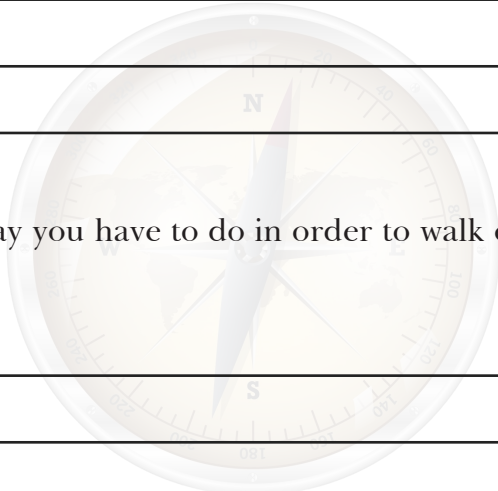
6. Rolland says that we do not often talk about Job but that the book of Job and his experience is relevant to all our lives. Have you ever had a Job experience where your whole life fell apart and you thought you could not go on and where you realized the only thing you have left is Jesus? How did you get through?

7. Heidi wrestled with the contradiction of watching the Lord do miracles in the ministry on the one hand and Rolland's illness and continuing deterioration in losing his mind on the other hand. How did Heidi cope with it all and not give up?

8. In the section on 'the biggest test of love: forgiving a parent', Heidi shared her personal struggle with her mother. She thought she had forgiven her but realized later she hadn't really forgiven her. What happened in her relationships, in particular with Rolland, when she really forgave her mother? Can you relate to that in your own life?

9. Explain why the identity of who we really are as a son and daughter of Father God makes all the difference in our lives.

10. What may you have to do in order to walk out your true identity?



Chapter 4
The X factors
- Loren Cunningham -

1. Is there anything that resonated with you in Loren Cunningham's story in particular? What stood out for you?

2. Loren's first test was the test of refusing a great offer – he could have become a millionaire and inherit his aunt's business. How would you have responded if you had been made this offer?

3. As Loren was weighing the decision, what was his guideline that helped him make a difficult decision? What were the pressures he had to overcome in declining his aunt's generous offer?

4. What are your guidelines for making important decisions? Share from your own life where you were faced with a hard decision. What helped you to hear his voice or recognize his guidance?

5. Look at the quote at the beginning of the Chapter. Stephen R. Covey says ‘good’ is the enemy of ‘best’. What does ‘good’ mean for you?

Have you ever sacrificed the best for the ‘good’? Share your own experience.

6. Review the X Factors: 1. excitement over the vision 2. the experimental phase, 3. the exam 4. the executive stage 5. exponential growth.

Where do you locate yourself at this point in life on your journey to walking out your destiny? Which phase do you identify with? Share your own experiences from the ‘exam’ phase.

Have you gotten stuck in any of these X factors?

Chapter 5
Enduring Faith
- Bill Johnson -

1. What touched you the most in reading Bill Johnson's story? Is there anything that spoke to you in particular?

2. What have you found out about Bill's greatest contradiction in life and ministry?

3. What have you learned from how Bill processed the disappointment, loss and unanswered questions?

4. Bill says “*Pain doesn’t need an answer. Pain needs a touch from God.*” Share from your own life’s experience where answers were not what you needed – what you needed was a touch from God.

Have you had experiences where people tried to give you well-meant advice or answers, but they did not help at all? Or have you experienced also the opposite, where people were sensitive to the Holy Spirit in your time of pain and where God was able to use them to touch you?

5. What was Bill's main challenge when he faced the loss of his dad?

6. Bill says: "When unexpected things happen, there's always that sense of setback or disappointment, but I don't have to feed myself with that. It's like eating from two plates of food. I don't have to eat that rotten food. Instead, I can feed myself on what God is doing instead of what he isn't doing."

What did that look like for Bill? What did he do proactively to feed on what God was doing? And what do you do?

7. What have you found out about Bill's greatest contradiction in life and ministry?

8. Have you gone through times where you have eaten from the plate of 'rotten food'? What were you going through and what thoughts were you feeding on? Then look at the alternative – how could you have focused on and fed yourself on what God was doing instead of what he wasn't doing?

9. Bill defines suffering according the Scriptures not as suffering from illness or tragedy but as living “in between two conflicting realities: the truth of God’s promise and the contradiction of actual experience.” What do you think about that?

10. Bill talks about healthy mourning and unhealthy mourning. Give examples for both. Where in your life have you gone through healthy or unhealthy mourning? Are there areas of unattended grief and pain that was pushed aside that need attention and a process of healthy mourning?

11. Often when we are in challenging situations and are desperate to hear from God we find it hard to hear. Bill says, “I have had times when it was hard for me to hear God’s voice, but usually it was because of anxiety. My own anxiety made it hard to hear.” Share about a time when you needed to hear from God and felt he was silent. What were you going through?

12. Bill discovered again and again after those times when God seemed silent was that God had only changed the way he spoke, and Bill didn’t recognize his voice. He realized that he had to adjust the way he listened. Share examples on how you hear God’s voice. Are there channels that you are not used to that God might be speaking to you? How can you stay open to hear and recognize different ways he might be speaking to you?

13. In the beginning of the chapter Bill says in the quote that your destiny is not brought to you on a silver platter. There is a fight that must be gone through: one of persistence, one of diligence, one of knowing how to face loss and how to bring strength and courage to yourself in the midst of confusion. How do you *strengthen yourself in the Lord*? Share how you have brought courage to yourself in the midst of confusion. What can you apply from Bill's practice and experience in your own life?

14. Digging Deeper: On July 13, 2022, Bill even had to face a greater loss when his wife Beni lost her battle to cancer. Watch Bill's sermon "Breaking The Bread of my Soul" he gave just four days after Beni passed away in Bethel Church. What do you learn from Bill and what speaks to your heart?

<https://youtu.be/LbmKDFcG-vE?feature=shared>

Chapter 6
Against All Odds
- Sandra Kennedy -

1. What stood out to you when reading Sandra Kennedy's story?

2. What were the main challenges she was facing when she had the first two visions? Share if you can relate to anything she was going through.

3. It has been taught by some that if you do not obey God, he will go find someone else for the assignment he had for you. What do you learn about God's character through Sandra's life? Have you ever wondered whether you have *missed* your calling and God simply moved on and chose someone else? What do you think about that now that you have read Sandra Kennedy's story?

4. Sandra says that many people do not understand that *vision has hands and feet to it*. Share your understanding of that and the difference between hope and faith Sandra compares it to. How can you give your vision hands and feet?

5. How did Sandra eventually face her insecurity she was struggling with about herself and her calling? What insecurities are you facing?

6. Sandra had heard the Lord calling her when she was a child. She heard a clear voice from God saying that he would use her in healing. She did not grow up in a church that believed that God was still healing today. Look at how she respond as a child and process this. Where are areas in your life where you need child-like faith?

7. What was the main revelation through her experience hearing the Heavenly type writer? What was God saying to her?

8. Sandra nailed her mother on her wrong belief system concerning healing, saying, *“If you think it is God’s will for you to be sick, you should be really sick and not take any of this medicine! After all, you should not be acting against the Lord’s will!”* Sometimes we believe ridiculous things. Have you ever thought that something bad in your life must have been God’s will? What other common wrong teaching or theological misconceptions does Sandra address in this chapter? Identify some wrong thinking and teaching you might have been taught.

9. Sandra says, “You cannot keep looking at the promise and the contradiction at the same time.” How does that correspond to Bill Johnson’s advice in the previous chapter about the two plates of food?

10. Sandra shares that she has had experiences where she felt God was on a sabbatical and simply stayed silent. Have you ever felt like God is on a sabbatical? Are you experiencing any contradictions in your life right now?

11. Sandra says, “Once I finally got to the point where I believed that what God said is truth, I could process the contradictions. If what God said is the truth, it cannot end up the way this all looks. I know God is there, I know he won’t leave me.” What truth do you need to know and hold onto about your present situation? How can you keep that truth alive and in front of you?

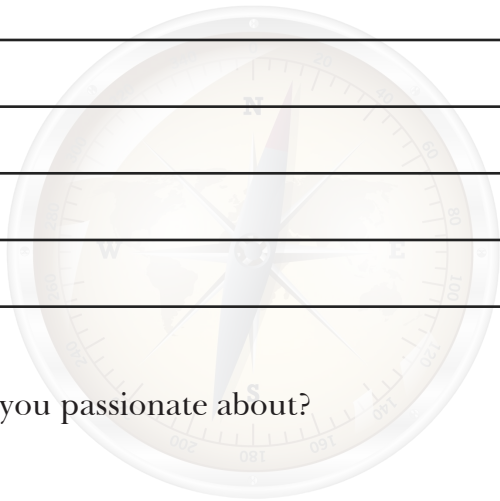
12. Sandra had to face all kinds of opposition and persecution of her ministry - mainly from other Christians who resisted her being in ministry as a woman. Have you ever faced opposition and resistance - even from those who you thought would or should support you?

Chapter 7
Faith Under Fire
- Andrew White -

1. Were there any highlights for you in this chapter? Share what touched, convicted or inspired you.

2. When have you last asked to God “What’s next“? What did He say?

3. Andrew shares a key that drives him to excellence: “I’m bright when I’m *passionate* about something. Things I’m not passionate about, even if I really should be, I’m no good at. Passion drives me to excellence.” Share about an experience where you have not been passionate about something but had to do it. How did you feel and what was the result?



4. What are you passionate about?

5. Andrew told his school teacher that he wanted to become an anesthesiologist and a priest, and his teacher told him he can't do both. How did Andrew respond? Has anybody ever told you that you couldn't do something? How did you respond?

6. Although Andrew had a stellar career, he did not have everything going for him in life. He had terrible ear pain as a child and was hospitalized for nine months as a teenager for cancer treatment. How did Andrew process these challenges? What has helped him to maintain a simple faith?

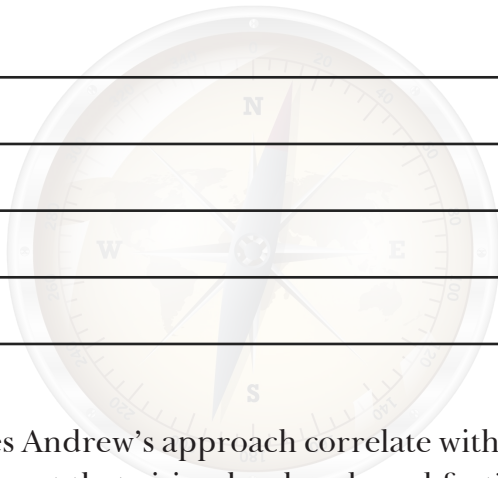
7. How does Andrew's experience of his life being a constant back and forth between agony and ecstasy correlate with the concept of 'suffering and glory' Heidi Baker shares in chapter three?

8. Sometimes you don't have answers. All you can do is put one foot in front of another. Andrew shares that when he had terrible ear pain all he could do was put one foot in front of another - and since MS was added to the medical list, all he can do is take all these pills. What does putting one foot in front of another look like for you?

9. Andrew has a cheerful and light-hearted personality. However, if he would focus on the difficulties he would get as depressed as any other person dealing with them. But there is one key that has helped him “Despite all these health issues I’ve never considered myself as being ill“. Have you ever allowed yourself to be defined by a challenge or difficulty? How could this apply to your present situation if you are facing a challenge?

10. Despite continual prayer and faith for healing, the MS has not budged. Some people told Andrew that if I would have enough faith, God would do a miracle and heal him. Andrew responds, “But the real miracle is actually that I’ve been able to do everything I need to do!“ Sometimes the miracles look different than we expect. What can you learn from Andrew’s perspective? Think about areas in your life where you have not received the outcome you have been praying for. Can you discover miracles though they look different from what you expected in your situation?

11. Andrew addresses a wrong understanding of “waiting on God” where people believe that God will make things happen. He says “We have to work with God in making things happen – otherwise we are just wasting our time. It’s not that opportunities are not there. You have to see everything as a God-given opportunity. But in those opportunities, you always have to make things happen!” Look at your life from the perspective of opportunities. What opportunities are there? And what action can you take to make specific things happen?



12. How does Andrew’s approach correlate with Sandra Kennedy’s statement that vision has hands and feet?

13. Look at the chapter opening quote by Andrew: People often say to me “Take care!” But I say to them “Take risks!” After reading this chapter, what understanding have you gained of this statement?

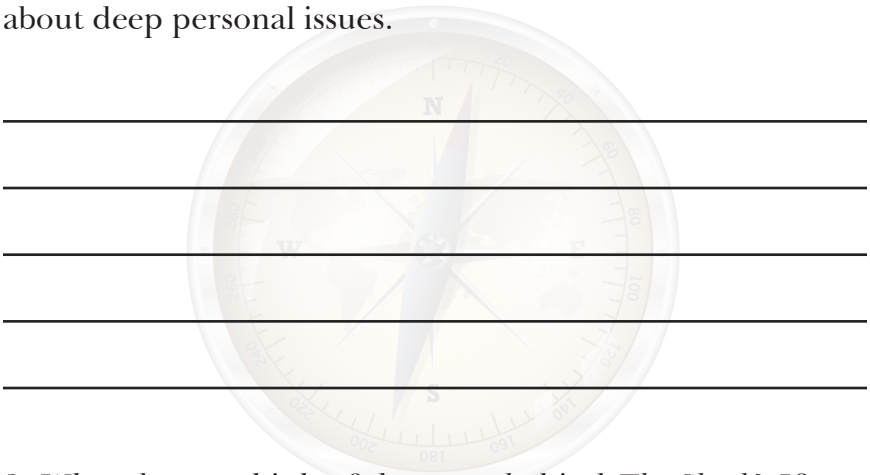
14. When Andrew lived in Baghdad, his faith was continually under fire. What sustained him were not the miracles they’ve seen. Rather it was the love of his children and among the believers. “Love casts out all fear, and when you truly love each other, you find comfort and strength.” Are there instances in your life where you have experienced that love cast out all fear?

15. While reading the testimonies about the persecuted Christians in Iraq, what touched you the most? What can we learn from them?

16. Andrew's life is a demonstration of turning every situation into an opportunity to follow the path of the dream, even if obstacles on the way demand a detour. Where has life demanded detours from you? Also feel free to share where obstacles to your dream have caused discouragement or even hopelessness. Pray for each other and look for practical ways to support each other in love.

Chapter 8
Inside The Shack
- Paul Young -

1. This chapter goes to the core as it deals with Paul's experience of childhood sexual abuse and the dismantling of his identity as a child. You may want to discuss in your group if you want to split up in a men's/women's group or other smaller constellations where you feel you can share openly about deep personal issues.



2. What do you think of the story behind *The Shack*? If you have read the book or seen the movie, and if so, is this what you had expected?

3. What moved you, touched you or was an eye-opener for you as you read what Paul shared about his journey towards healing?

4. From Paul's story we learn that many who were broken in their childhood become breakers. Where have you seen someone who operates out of brokenness and tries to hide behind a facade? What effect does that behavior have?

5. Are there areas in your life where you hide behind pain? Paul's defense and hiding mechanisms were performance, perfectionism and controlling /spinning conversations. Can you discover defense mechanism of yourself in the past or now at present? Are you willing to look at the pain behind the defense mechanism?

6. Why is abuse - whether verbal, emotional, physical or sexual - so detrimental to a person, and in particular to a child?

7. Most of us have been raised by parents who carried emotional baggage, who were broken in different areas in life - and therefore became breakers. Where have you experienced verbal, emotional, spiritual or physical abuse or wounds that still have a negative impact on you?

8. Healing of any kind of emotional wound takes a long time and a whole lot of relationship. Paul says that that is the “sucky” part: we can only receive healing in relationship - the exact thing that hurt us in the first place. And that is always a risk.

Is there a person in your life that you can trust absolutely with anything? If not - why?

9. Bill Johnson said “Pain doesn’t need an answer - pain needs a touch from God“. What did the touch from God look like practically in Paul’s life (eg. when he was at the lowest point and wanted to kill himself)?

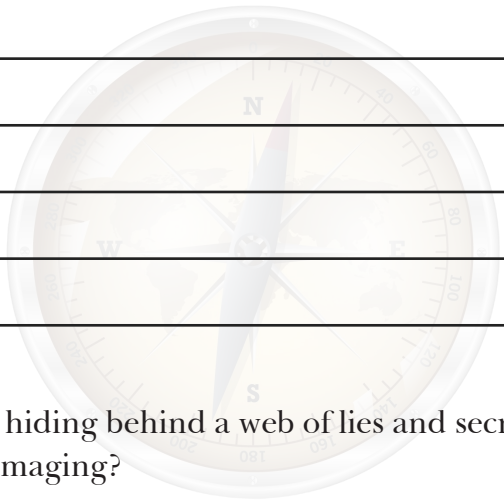
10. Have you ever started a healing process but then abandoned it as soon as you gained control over your emotions and situation, as so many people do when they start feeling better? What are the results?

11. Paul says he had to hit rock bottom in order to be willing to stop running and finally start dealing with the real issues of pain. Have you ever had such a rock bottom experience? Or do you know someone else who has hit rock bottom?

How can you tell that someone has hit rock bottom?

12. Consider Paul's analogy of *the shack*. "It's the house on the inside that people helped us build, and for a lot of us it's a place where we hide our addictions and store all of our secrets" Paul explains. "For me, it was a place of shame, so I took large pieces of plywood and dragged them out a hundred feet around the shack of my heart and built a façade." How does that apply to you?

13. Paul continues to explain: But at some point, the façades you build around you have to come down” Paul says. “And I wish I could say that I finally realized that I was pretty broken and sought help, but I didn’t. A lot of times when we are broken, we have to get caught – and finally I was caught.” Why is it so hard for so many people to seek help? Is there anything that hinders you to ask for help when you know you need it?



14. Paul was hiding behind a web of lies and secrets. Why are secrets so damaging?

15. From early childhood on, trust has always been the big issue for Paul. He says: “I knew I had to find a way to let go of control, but control had become my default response to fear: intellectual control, conversational control, and manipulation of people and circumstances around me.” Has control become a default response to any of your fears? How do you deal with fear?

16. Paul explains: “Dealing with what you think is the truth of your being becomes the deep issue where so much work has to be done. And it is the process of suffering that exposes the lies that underpin the way you deal with yourself, with others, and with the world.” Dealing with the lies you were taught and believe about yourself is for many a life long process (Romans 8:1). What lie have you had to uproot in your life so far? How has it changed the way you deal with yourself and others?

17. Read the section “The Journey toward Authenticity“. Paul says at the end: “That is the essence of the maturing process every human being is invited to, and there is no shortcut.“ Specify the journey toward authenticity.

18. Where are you at this point in your journey toward authenticity? What is God showing you about yourself, your (wrong) belief systems and others?

19. Paul says that we often have a low view of humanity. What does he mean when he says that and what is the danger if we operate from this low view?

20. When looking at the Greek of John 16:18, it means that the Holy Spirit actually comes to expose what is not authentic. The journey of authenticity is a journey of trust and turning from wrong religious beliefs to a face-to-face relationship with God. That is the essence of repenting – of re-turning to God and His truth about who we are. How does that understanding change things for you?

21. How did Paul break free from his addiction to pornography, to control and perfectionism? What was the essence of that process?

22. Which lies and wrong theological conceptions have you grown up with that you had or have to confront?

23. An essential part of Paul’s healing process involved restoring his childlikeness and living in *the grace of today*. Where are you future tripping and what are you worrying about where you need to learn to live in the grace of today?

24. Have you gained a different perspective on the healing process and dealing with wounds from the past after reading through and studying the chapter about Paul Young? What new things have you learned?

Digging Deeper:

As a group, watch the movie *The Shack* and provide a safe environment where places of pain are allowed to show up. Pray for each other and love on each other.

As we all need to visit places of pain in our lives.



Chapter 9
Wounded Healers
- Desmond Tutu-

1. Describe what effect growing up under apartheid had on Tutu's way of thinking and self-perception.

2. Have you ever experienced any type of discrimination? How has it affected you? Racism and discrimination is rampant today. It is important to understand and listen to those who have experienced discrimination. If you have not experienced it yourself, ask a person who has to share their experience.

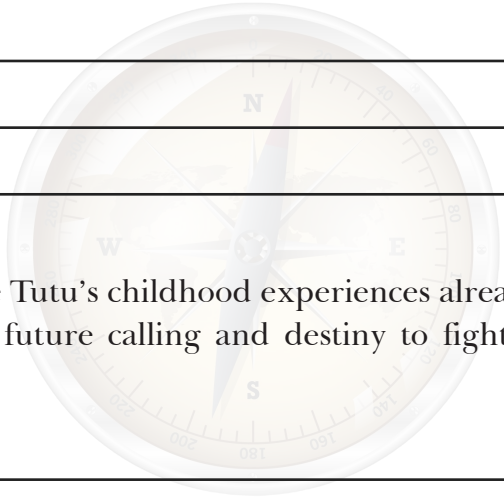
3. In the beginning of the chapter Tutu relates a seemingly minor incident of discrimination he experienced, but it illustrates how deeply we can get wounded when we are constantly exposed to mistreatment. Tutu said, “It was a stinging hurt that was heaped on all the other hurts that were commonplace in our daily lives under apartheid. We were so used to these incidents that, at the time, I didn’t consciously realize I had to forgive the boy behind the register.” Have you ever experienced that a seemingly minor offense caused great hurt and a deep emotional reaction in you?

4. A strong and sometimes disproportionate reaction to a seemingly minor offense is an indication that there is a deeper wound underneath. Do you have any relationship with a difficult history (eg.your parents or spouse) that keep triggering a strong emotional response in you with particular words or actions?

5. The boy behind the counter triggered a deep wound in Desmond. “I was furious,” Desmond writes. “And like so many frustrated parents, my temper flared. Underneath my temper, however, was a bright, burning wound.” Anger always sits on top of a wound. What incident has caused anger in you lately? Can you discover a deeper wound underneath the anger?

6. When nothing changed in the heat of apartheid, Tutu would get angry and say, “God, I know you are in charge, I just wish you would make it slightly more obvious!” Is there a situation of continuous challenge with no apparent change that has evoked a similar reaction in you? Have you ever been angry at God?

7. In order not to grow bitter, Tutu would often repeat the saying, “*there go I for the grace of God.*” What does he mean with that? Apply this idea to your situation, to the people who might have injured and offended you - does it help you to move forward?



8. How have Tutu’s childhood experiences already prepared him for his future calling and destiny to fight for the oppressed?

9. Trevor Huddleston showed small tokens which had great impact. Discuss what lasting impact Trevor had on Desmond. What and how did he teach him?

10. It all started with visiting a black child in hospital and showing him that he was important. Little did Trevor Huddleston know that later on Desmond Tutu would become the voice for the oppressed and mouthpiece of the nation while Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island. What do you learn from Trevor Huddleston's example?

11. What according to Desmond Tutu was the worst thing about apartheid? How did it make people feel?

12. Tutu recognized more and more how this sense of inferiority among black South Africans actually dehumanized them and caused them to treat each other poorly. He also began to believe that an important part in healing the nation would be the restoration of a sense of personal dignity.

Where have you witnessed that a sense of inferiority has caused people to treat each other poorly? Can you see this in your own nation? What can be done to stop that cycle?

13. Tutu's career dreams were shattered twice. In hindsight he says that God forced him into his destiny. Explain what he means. And what did Desmond do when his first dream of studying medicine was thwarted?

14. Do you have any shattered dreams? Have any of your life plans been crossed? What can you learn from Desmond and Leah Tutu's experiences?

15. Why was the commission to heal the nation called *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*? Why not *Forgiveness and Reconciliation Commission*? What does Tutu say about the importance of truth in the reconciliation process?

16. A widely spread misconception among Christians about forgiveness is that forgiving is forgetting. What dangers and complications does Desmond Tutu mention in the journey towards forgiveness when truth is not admitted or the person is told to forget the past?

17. The inscription of the Dachau concentration camp museum says “*Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.*” Tutu explains, “Bygones don’t become bygones just by your say-so. You cannot just say ‘be gone!’ Bygones will return to haunt you.” How does this apply on a personal level as well as for a whole nation?

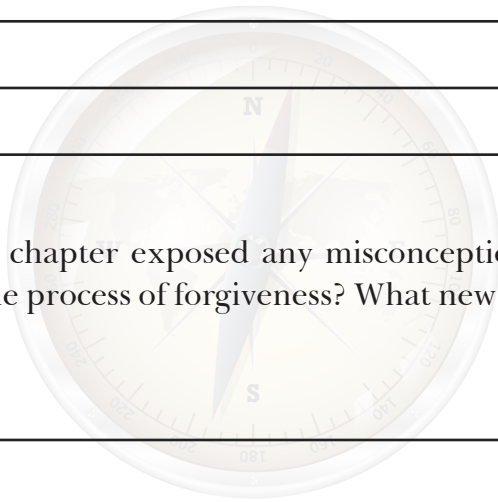
18. By understanding forgiveness it can be helpful to look at what it is not. What does Tutu say forgiveness is not?

19. Why did the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* offer amnesty to the perpetrators in exchange for truth? And what did the telling of their story in the TRC hearings do for the victims?

20. Contrary to what many expected, what is most remembered and valued from the TRC process is not the revelation of the terrible atrocities that were committed, but rather the incredible generosity and magnanimity of many victims to forgive. What do you think enabled the victims to forgive the most horrible crimes?

21. During the process of the TRC hearings, they realized that they were a deeply wounded nation, and that they were wounded healers. Discuss Tutu’s concept of “wounded healers”.

22. Has this chapter exposed any misconceptions you have had about the process of forgiveness? What new insights have you gained?



23. Review the section “Prisoners Of Hope“. In what ways does Tutu’s view on how God sees the `bad person` challenge you?

24. Tutu called himself a prisoner of hope and he calls on you and me to „dream dreams!“ He exhorts us not to get infected by cynicism and not to forget our dreams. Have you forgotten or abandoned a dream you have had? What are your dreams to see this world become a better place - for God’s kingdom to come?

Chapter 10

Greatness in The Making

Understanding The Process of Transformation

1. What can you learn from how Nelson Mandela treated those who had formerly abused and oppressed him?

2. Tutu shared, “Many people say that the 27 years Mandela was imprisoned were such a waste of his life, that he could have accomplished so much more, but I tell them, that it was not a waste. People don’t understand that heroes don’t fall from heaven; they are formed on earth. When Mandela first got to Robben Island, he was an angry young man.” Describe the transformation process Mandela went through while imprisoned. Why do you think the process almost 27 years?

3. Have you ever felt impatient in your own process? Or have you gotten frustrated and hopeless in the face of the hardships you have been experiencing? After reading the book, can you discover any redemptive purpose in your life story?

4. Compare your own journey of your dream with that of the dream journey Jakob went through. His dream was to marry Rachel but he woke up with Leah - that was not what he wanted. Have you started out with a dream and found yourself ending up with something that does not correspond with what you had in mind? Can you trust God that he has a purpose with it?

5. How does Jakob's experience of his dream journey correlate with Desmond Tutu's? Can you draw hope from their experiences for your own path?

6. If we start out with a dream, vision or calling we will all go through the valley of testing. The valley of testing develops strength of character in our lives. Second, it is also a "valley of the shadow of death." This is where things that hinder the full manifestation of God's dream need to die. What did that valley look like for Paul Young and Sandra Kennedy? What things had to die?

9. What does dying to yourself actually really mean?

10. Suffering in itself doesn't do anything except make us suffer. But when we allow God to work through the suffering to draw us closer to Him, we can find treasures in the midst of darkness. What are some treasures you have found in times of darkness you have walked through?



11. List the qualities of a godly leader. Do you know any godly leaders? Are you willing to be/become one ?

12. It's important not to compare yourself with others. It's important to find *your place*. Only there you can find fulfillment - not in someone else's calling or gifting. Have you found your place? How can you help others find theirs? Pray for each other that God would lead each person into the good works he has prepared for them before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 2:9)

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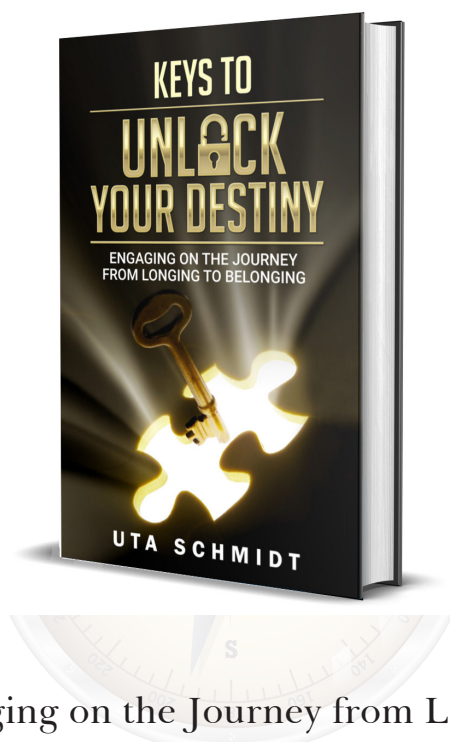
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