

Discussion Guide for Assassins

Just-for-Fun Facts

- 1) As the book begins, how far into the seven-year period are we? How close to the halfway point? What begins immediately after the halfway point?
- 2) The name on the office door next to Mac's has just been repainted. What does CCCCC stand for?
- 3) As Leah helps Buck get Dr. Floyd into the Land Rover, what surprise does she spring on Buck in addition to a purse full of controlled medications?
- 4) What frightens Leah when she and Rayford try to get the money from her safe?
- 5) What is the name of Leah's late husband?
- 6) What kind of an airplane do the Tuttles have? Where are they from?
- 7) The side arm Rayford buys from Albie holds how many rounds? What is the weapon's nickname?

Discussion Questions

Prayer

- 8) Rayford steps out from the shower and hears the other members of the Trib Force praying downstairs. He goes down quietly so as not to disturb them, and as he draws near the thought occurs to him that he might reconcile with his brothers and sisters without apologizing, that posturing in prayer would say to them that he had recovered from his anger and outbursts (see pp. 65, 69–70). Then his conscience catches up with him, and he realizes that he was simply going to use the prayer meeting to manipulate the others into thinking he was worthy to lead them again. God's forgiveness and redemption does not automatically change our fig-leaf mentality, does it? What is the best way to check our own motives when we come to the Lord in prayer? Recall times when you confessed weaknesses to others and were restored after humbling yourself.
- 9) As Rayford and Buck are dropping Leah off during their mission to Belgium to rescue Hattie (see p. 362), Leah asks them to wish her luck. Buck reminds her that Christians don't do luck, and she replies, "Oh yeah, pray for me then." It is easy for all of us to depend on ourselves or luck to accomplish various things, but it is unwise and insulting to God. Why do we sometimes have this reluctance to lift up our endeavors to God? In spite of many answered prayers, we can falter in this regard. How can we encourage one another to ask God for help in every circumstance?

Boldness

- 10) At the beginning of chapter 4, as David accompanies Mac back to his quarters in the GC palace, he shares with him how he has designed fail-safe encryption to protect the conversations he has eavesdropped from Nicolae's monitoring equipment. It occurs to Mac that David has undertaken such risky business only to expose himself to great personal jeopardy. David says being on the front lines against the Antichrist and making mischief against Satan himself scares him to death (see p. 53). How does surrendering our giftedness to God and boldly trusting him for results allow God to use the abilities he has given each of us for his glory? David is a genius, but how does his admission of great fear authenticate his dependence on God for the safety of others and his own ministry? How are the boldness of the Lord and presumptuous arrogance different?
- 11) After it becomes clear that he and Leah are going to be protected from the GC, Rayford returns to the garage to grab the cash he and Leah had come to get in the first place (see pp. 130–31). To Leah, this seems a foolish risk, but Rayford is now confident that he can retrieve the money for the benefit of the Trib Force. Do you think Rayford's boldness was appropriate? Describe experiences you've had when you or others acted boldly in the face of danger while you or your brothers and sisters became dismayed.

Sharing Faith

12) Rayford sets aside time for Leah to share her story with the Trib Force at the safe house (see pp. 93–95). Her testimony includes accounts of others who had witnessed to her before the Rapture. There was a chaplain at the hospital where she worked and the woman who ran the day care center where Peter and Paul went each day. In both cases Leah was offended. After the Rapture, Leah went back to find these people and even took a pamphlet to read—just like the one she had ignored when she first received it. After the Rapture, which of your unbelieving family and friends may come looking for you? Out of fear that someone may be offended we have sometimes chosen not to share the Good News. How can we learn to overcome this unimportant anxiety for the love of those who are lost? If we knew the road ahead was washed out, would we not do everything possible to stop drivers from continuing over the edge—even if we offended them?

13) Tsion is praying for Chaim one afternoon, and he came to the end of himself (see pp. 319–20). He remembers God’s promise that his Holy Spirit would help us to pray when in our weakness we could no longer think how to pray. In faith, Tsion thanks God that his Holy Spirit had and would undertake prayers for Chaim’s salvation. Recall times when you have asked the Holy Spirit to pray on your behalf when you came to a point where you didn’t know what to pray anymore. Share these with the group.

14) Buck stays up late into the night to plead with Chaim to come to Christ (see pp. 269–71). With tears, Buck appeals to his friend to think clearly about it. It is difficult to imagine a more genuine and loving approach to a nonbeliever. Sometimes we want God to answer our prayer for the conversion of a friend or loved one, but it doesn’t happen while we are there pleading with them. What role do you think this evening of prayer and witnessing played in the eventual conversion of Chaim? What role do you think the deceit and hardness in Chaim’s heart over his secret plans played in his rejection of God’s grace?

Prophecy

15) Tsion and Buck are discussing the passage in Revelation 9 that talks about the 200 million horsemen who will have the power to slay a third of the population (see p. 90). Tsion says, “I believe when the Scriptures say the writer saw something in a vision, it *is* symbolic of something else. But when the writer simply says that certain things happen, I take those [prophecies] literally.” How have the books in the Left Behind series shown you the truth of what Tsion is saying about interpreting prophecy?

16) Christians in Acts 12 gathered at the home of John Mark’s mother, Mary, to pray earnestly for the release of Peter, whom King Herod Agrippa had imprisoned to please the Jewish leaders. But after Peter was freed by God, he knocked on their gate and they were incredulous, then amazed. In much the same way, Mac certainly believes the prophesy about the 200 million horsemen, but when Abdullah sees them first (see pp. 134–35), Mac finds it very difficult to believe such an amazing thing is actually happening in spite of Abdullah’s earnest pleas. How can we prepare ourselves to be more expectant in the face of God’s amazing prophecies?

17) The sanctimonious Peter the Second is falling out of favor with the Antichrist and his ten kings (see pp. 334–35). This prophecy from Revelation 17, as it is fulfilled, should be proof to Nicolae that his own path will surely lead to destruction as well. God’s prophecies are promises to believers, but the enemies of God cannot see or understand them. The Holy Spirit leads all believers into the truth of the Scriptures. What are some prophecies that are being fulfilled, even in the present, that believers understand and accept, but which are not even considered by those who reject God?

Fellowship

18) Buck is reminiscing (see p. 13) about his early days when he, Bruce Barnes, Rayford, and Chloe were just getting started with the Trib Force. Having been a new believer at that time punctuated the goals to which they had been committed: winning people to Christ, opposing Antichrist, and surviving until the reappearing of Christ. How are these goals similar to those of a small group to which you belong (or might want to belong)? Buck felt he had become a part of a pivotal, cosmic effort. Do you (or would you like to) feel that way too?

19) One of the realities about Christian fellowship among believers during the Tribulation is that many brothers and sisters are frequently being martyred. Mac and Abdullah briefly discuss this on p. 355. There are places in the world where deadly persecution threatens believers and no invisible mark helps those in fellowship to be certain of someone’s sincerity. How does the truth of Paul’s declaration in Philippians 1:21-24 challenge us to live, even now?

God's Sovereignty

20) In Ephesians 3:20, Paul declares that by God's mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. As Mac reveals the eavesdropping intercom to Annie Christopher, though she initially has some misgivings about the ethics of using it, she admits that she'll sleep better knowing that the Trib Force has Carpathia under surveillance (see p. 30). What kinds of marvelous things have you discovered that, in his sovereignty, God set into motion before you would have even thought about them?

21) In this book, Dr. Charles dies, drawing Leah into the safe house inner circle. These are big changes and sovereign in nature (see pp. 46, 54–55). Later in the story, Leah and Rayford are saved by the timing of the 200 million horsemen (see p. 128). Sometimes the sovereign purposes of God are to our liking and other times they are not. How can Christians enjoy the peace that passes understanding when events completely demoralize us as Dr. Floyd's death did to Rayford?

22) After the onset of the attack by the 200 million horsemen, David sees clusters of survivors crying, talking, and commiserating (see p. 154). Most likely there would have been some among the survivors who thought they would accept Jesus Christ on their deathbeds or when it was obvious that the claims made by Christians about God were really true. But their foolish procrastination put them into a situation where, in the sovereignty of God's plan for the ages, many Christians who had pleaded with them were now already raptured, and tribulation saints like David would not always be openly available to them (see Hebrews 3:13). How can we convince unbelievers that it may not be as easy as they envision it to surrender to Christ when they feel like it?

Answer Key for *Assassins Just-for-Fun Facts*

We are almost to the halfway point; it is just four months away. Then the Great Tribulation begins. (see p. 6)

CCCCC stands for Corporal Christopher, Condor Cargo Chief. (see p. 19)

Leah intends to take up residence in the safe house, and she expects Buck to take her there right away. (see pp. 46–47)

Leah is frightened of the ferocious horsemen. (see p. 115)

Leah's late husband's name is Shannon. (see p. 121)

The Tuttles have a Super J. Although they pretend to be Australian, they are from Oklahoma. (see pp. 178, 182)

The side arm holds nine rounds, and its nickname is the Saber. (see pp. 313–14)