

## ***Discussion Guide for Soul Harvest***

### **Just-for-Fun Facts**

- 1) When Buck finally finds his laptop in the rear corner of his Range Rover, what is wrong with it?
- 2) Nicolae tells Rayford that the plane Amanda had taken from Boston to Baghdad has crashed and all are presumed dead. According to Nicolae, where did the plane crash?
- 3) What is laying in the grass of the yard in front of Donny and Sandy Moore s duplex in Mount Prospect?
- 4) What is the destination when Rayford is learning to fly the helicopter and sharing the gospel with Mac?
- 5) What is the reason for Mac going to see his old friend Albie?
- 6) What is in Donny Moore s briefcase when Buck finally opens it?
- 7) How does Ken Ritz receive the gash in his head that puts him in Arthur Young Memorial Hospital in Palatine?

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Prayer**

- 8) Near the end of chapter 2, after Rayford gives the flight attendant the best advice he can, he prays that the passengers trapped in the British Air 747 would be able to exit the plane, climb the steep banks of sand, and return to the relative safety of the surface. Later Rayford learns that all of the people on the plane had survived. Share experiences you ve had when you prayed for those teetering on the brink destruction. What has God taught you?
- 9) Sometimes believers who have known the Lord for even a short time forget how awkward prayer feels the first time. Pastor Billings included a sample prayer in his videotape *Have You Been Left Behind?* (see Tyndale catalog ISBN 0-8423-5196-5) On pp. 133—34, Rayford walks through the importance of saying the prayer, and then he gives Mac a specific list of items to include.

How can believers help those attempting their first prayer to accept prayer for what it is?

### **Boldness**

- 10) While Tsion is waiting outside at Arthur Young Memorial Hospital for Buck to return with information about Chloe, a couple of GC guards decide to question Tsion. After a little chitchat, Tsion heads for the prearranged rendezvous spot, but the guards follow him (see pp. 187—89). We don't know it until later, but he has told them he is Joe Baker, a baker from Lithuania who will give them free donuts if they stop by. This cloak-and-dagger stuff is all new to Tsion. His courage, boldness, and clever cover story worked only because he went with it all the way. How have you experienced the power of God when you stepped out in boldness while depending on him?
- 11) Rayford must constantly walk a tightrope as a double agent from the Trib Force stationed in New Babylon in the employ of the Antichrist. The same morning that Mac bursts into Rayford's announcing his conversion, Rayford is called into a meeting with Fortunato. When he gets there Chaim Rozenzweig asks him how Tsion Ben-Judah is. On p. 190, it says that Rayford fought for composure. Such boldness can only come from faith. Share times when you have had to walk boldly in faith, trusting that God would pull you through.
- 12) Buck and Ken travel to Littleton, Colorado, to rescue Hattie (see p. 337). Everything seems to go wrong as soon as Buck enters the facility. Before they make their getaway, Buck kills one GC guard in hand-to-hand combat and Ken shoots another guard. They undertook this mission to save Hattie for no other reason than Christian love. How does Christian love inspire courageous acts? Can you think of examples?

### **Sharing Faith**

- 13) Mac is as ready to hear about God as anyone Rayford has ever talked to, but Rayford is angry, depressed, and distracted (see p. 82). He asks himself, why did it happen this way? At other times when he had been at the top of his game, listeners like Earl Halliday and Hattie had no interest in hearing about God's love. How does this imitate life? In 2 Timothy 4:2, we are exhorted by Paul to preach the Word of God no matter how we think it will be received. Share times when obedience determined your timing rather than your feelings.
- 14) Mac is practically begging Rayford to tell him what Christians believe about the disappearances, Carpathia, the moon, and earthquake (see pp. 34, 94—95). But like Jesus, Rayford looks into Mac's heart and sees that he really wants

and needs something exceedingly more important than explanations for strange supernatural events. Rayford starts by patiently sharing the story of his life with Mac. Like the people we read about in the Bible, each of us has a story about God in our life too. Describe what happened on occasions when you've shared your story with seekers.

- 15) Rayford recalls (see p. 130) how Pastor Billings left a videotape for those who would be left behind after the Rapture. Think outside the box in regard to utilizing various communication tools. What are some creative ways that you could share the gospel?
- 16) When Rayford gets to the end of his story, Mac asks him if all he had to do was believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, that this provided victory over sin and death, and that it proved that Jesus was divine. Suddenly Rayford doubts Mac's sincerity (see p. 132). In sharing your faith, recall times when some of the people you talked to responded so quickly and completely that it caught you by surprise. Discuss how God prepared your heart when you accepted Jesus Christ.

### **Prophecy**

- 17) Mac confides in Rayford, telling him that seeing the moon looking exactly as if it had turned into blood appalled him (see p. 34). The fulfillment of God's prophecies is uniquely terrifying and awesome. After reviewing chapter 6 of Revelation, why do you think God selected this symbol? How do you feel when you consider this?
- 18) On p. 205, Ken Ritz confesses to Buck that a guy would have to be a fool to think the first worldwide earthquake in the history of mankind was a coincidence after reading predictions of it in his article in *Global Community Weekly*. In the same way, making sure that people are aware of the Rapture is an important responsibility. What are some other prophecies that are being fulfilled in these days before the Rapture that could also be compelling? (chapters 3 and 4 of *Are We Living in the End Times?*)
- 19) There is a tendency in the church to think prophecy is too complicated to be an effective evangelism tool. (chapter 1 of *Are We Living in the End Times?*) Vernon Billings, the now raptured former pastor of New Hope Village Church, left a videotape that showed people how extraordinary Biblical prophecies were being fulfilled right before their very eyes. Is there a reluctance to witness to Jesus using prophecy because it is too complicated, or because, deep down inside, we are unsure about it?

## **Fellowship**

- 20) On p. 178, the doctor at Arthur Young Memorial Hospital, Floyd Charles, notices what he thinks is a bruise on Buck's forehead, and Buck sees a smudge on Dr. Charles' forehead too. Just a bit later that evening Tsion and Buck go through the same thing (see p. 193) until Tsion realizes that they have the seal described in the seventh chapter of Revelation the servants of God being sealed on their foreheads a cross visible only to other believers. Describe how a manifestation like this would transform fellowship among believers. Discuss the benefits and consider any difficulties that might arise as a result of such visible sealing.
- 21) When Tsion asked the converted Jews who read his Web site regularly to plan to attend a rally in Jerusalem (see p. 330), one of the three main purposes was fellowship, and the context was to be teaching and unction. Share experiences you've had where believers integrated fellowship with teaching and consecration as well as being together in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

## **God's Sovereignty**

- 22) Rayford was walking over to the Baghdad Airport in the aftermath of the earthquake (see chapter 1). Almost there, he encounters a mortally wounded Asian man wearing one shoe. Rayford wants to help the man, so he calls Mac in the chopper with Nicolae, but Mac needs to talk with Rayford about the gospel. Thinking only of himself, Nicolae wants his own needs met. Kneeling in the dirt sobbing, Rayford asks God why. What kind of reactions and feelings toward God have you experienced when you have been involved in overwhelming tragedies in the past? What is it, do you think, that enables some to think of others at times like these, and what is it that keeps many focused on their own needs?
- 23) Throughout the book Rayford prays repeatedly that he will find Amanda alive. Similarly, Buck also prays many times that he will find Chloe alive. Buck finds Chloe much sooner than Rayford finds Amanda, and though Chloe is badly injured and horribly disfigured, both she and the baby inside her look like they have a good chance to survive. Amanda did not survive, and Rayford and Mac had to dive to the bottom of the Tigris to find her body. The characters in this book do not get whatever they want. We, like them, must accept God's sovereignty over all things. Share times when you, like Rayford, had to accept no for answer to prayer. How about times when, like Buck, you had to endure prolonged anxiety before your prayer received the answer yes?

## **Answer Key for *Soul Harvest* Just-for-Fun Facts**

- 1) One screen hinge is cracked. (see p. 8)
- 2) It crashed right into the middle of the Tigris river. (see p. 64)
- 3) A For Sale sign is laying in the grass. (see p. 76)
- 4) The destination is the airstrip at Al Basrah. (see p. 93)
- 5) Mac goes to see Albie because he wants to buy scuba gear. (see pp. 92 and 109)
- 6) There were dozens of small spiral notebooks labeled on the front with dates. (see p. 114)
- 7) Ritz taxied into a crater while landing his plane. He climbed up onto the wing to get out, but as he was walking on the wing, his last step off flipped the Piper over and the opposite wing cut a wide gash in his scalp. (see p. 202)