

Discussion Questions

1. After a negotiation goes wrong, Agent April Ramos struggles to find peace in forced platitudes and rote words. In what ways does her partner's encouragement help or hinder her as she wrestles with guilt? If you were in Simon's shoes, what would you say to April?
2. When Jason Snyder is first introduced, did you believe his claim of innocence? Why or why not? What finally convinces April to trust Jason? At what point did you believe him?
3. As Jason alleges that the county sheriff is involved in corruption, April reminds him, "No one is above the law." How does this play out for the characters, especially when Jason seems bent on taking the law into his own hands? Is he justified in doing so? Why or why not?
4. Before her death, Lily reminded Jason that "The darkest moments of our lives are intended for God to use in a mighty way." Give some examples from the story of ways in which this proves true for Jason and April. Have there been times in your own life when God has shown His mighty power in your darkest moments?
5. According to Jason, Sheriff Lennox is operating a reign of terror in Sweet Briar, Texas. What makes people so reluctant to stand up to him? Consider the story of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3. Under what circumstances is defying authority the right thing to do?
6. After meeting Miss Ella, April wonders, "How did one person think of so many things to say to God?" Do you know a prayer warrior like Miss Ella? Or are you that person? Since 1 Thessalonians 5:17 encourages us to "Never stop praying," what steps can you take to increase your prayer life?
7. Ted Snyder tells April how he became a Christian, a testimony that includes his dementia-stricken friend John still being able to recognize Ted. How does April respond to this story? Were you affected by it? When you encounter things that don't necessarily make sense, what do you attribute that to? A miracle of God? Coincidence?
8. When Jason finds his house torn apart, he releases his anger and prays, *Help me to honor You*. Does this feel like a genuine prayer to you? Or does it seem like he is merely paying lip service to God while still fighting for control of the situation? What steps should he take to honor God?
9. As April and Jason struggle to uncover the proof that will put the sheriff behind bars, Jason reminds his friend, "The right thing to do is seldom easy." Think about a time when that was true for you. What happened? Did you do the right thing in the moment or back down?

10. Both April and Jason struggle with the idea that “Regrets keep us chained to guilt.” What does April regret? What does Jason regret? Do you have regrets that leave you with guilt? Can there be such a thing as “good guilt”?
11. After April gets thrown out of Brenda Krew’s office, she feels compassion for the Realtor and thinks, “Sometimes the bad guys were as much victims as the innocent.” Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not? How much should a person’s circumstances—upbringing, financial status, etc.—be considered a factor in their culpability?
12. Near the end of the story, Jason is prompted to forgive those who conspired against him, his family, and his town. Do you think he could have done so even if justice wasn’t served? If you were in that position—waiting for justice—what would it take for you to find true forgiveness?
13. Early in the story, Miss Ella tells April, “Before this is over, you’re gonna see the power of Jesus.” In what ways does April realize this? What stands out most to you?
14. Simon warns Jason that a relationship born in “danger and supercharged emotions” won’t last. How much truth do you give that statement? Where do you think April and Jason will end up?