

Discussion Questions for LONG WALK HOME

1. Paul Farid could have donated money to Feed the World, but instead he takes an active role in working with the organization. What challenges does he face as a result of this decision? How do you think God looks on people like Paul who serve others in this way? Describe a time when you volunteered. What did that feel like? Did you or your team make a significant difference?
2. Why is Larson Kerr so drawn to the people of Sudan? What drives her to remain in the country? Have you ever felt called to a particular mission? What's behind your passionate cause?
3. Like Paul, Ben Alier is a man of action, but his tactics wouldn't necessarily qualify as peacemaking. What route is Ben most likely to choose when faced with a problem? When might violence be justified? Are you more likely to fight your way out or to turn to God? What do you think He wants us to do?
4. Why does Nyok feel he's responsible for Larson's and Rachel's safety? How might the events from his past have colored his desire to protect these women? Why does he want to join the SPLA, and why does Larson so desperately want to keep him from fighting?
5. In the early 2000s, the people of Sudan were locked in a decades-long civil war rooted at least in part in religious conflicts. How much did you know about this war before reading Long Walk Home? What did you learn about the conflict? If you still have questions, take some time to look up information about Sudan. Should we champion certain rights like freedom of religion in countries outside our own? How?
6. Rachel's abduction forces Paul, Ben, and Larson to put their differences aside and work together. What assets does each bring to the table? What blind spots do they have? Describe a time when you worked with someone you struggled to agree with. How successful were you? What did you learn from that experience?
7. To what (or whom) does Nyok credit his encounter with a lion? Have you ever experienced, or known someone who has, something seemingly unexplainable or impossible? How do you explain it?
8. Ben has strong feelings for Larson. Considering their spirituality and temperaments, do you think a marriage between the two would have worked for good? Why or why not?

9. Why does Paul hide his past and his family connections from Larson? Have you ever felt ashamed of something in your past or someone in your family? What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say about how God regards us?
10. As Larson considers Paul's history, she begins to examine her own life and is reminded of something her granddaddy used to say: "Sin is sin. No matter how big or small, if what you're doing is against God's laws, then you've offended Him. The longer you wait to confess and repent, the longer the walk home." What does Larson need to repent of? Is there anything in your own life that might be offending to God?
11. Several weeks of captivity have brought about a change Rachel that her brother cannot fathom. Do you think she is being sincere in what she says and how she acts, or is she under some other influence? What will happen with her in the coming months?
12. What's behind Paul's attitude toward life that prompts his willingness to sacrifice everything to save another? Would you be willing to lay down your life for another person?