



Awake:
Doing a World of Good One
Person at a Time

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Dear Reader,

Thank you for downloading the *Awake* Discussion Guide. This document is your resource to help create the perfect environment for meaningful conversation and connection surrounding the themes in *Awake*.

Below, you'll find six separate discussion sessions that cover two chapters each. These sessions, although concise, are perfect for small groups to take on with ease. Use this guide to help address issues involving poverty, the Church, humanitarian work, and most important, the unique role each person can play in meeting the needs of a hurting world.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you begin your *Awake* discussion group:

- ✓ Each person should have his or her own copy of *Awake*. This will help when referring to page numbers and specific passages as you move through the Discussion Guide. You can purchase copies of *Awake* by visiting awakebook.org.
- ✓ Introduce each discussion session by showing the accompanying chapter video. These are short clips specific to each chapter, providing the perfect segue for your discussion. You can download these videos and other resources on awakebook.org.
- ✓ Remember, as a facilitator, you don't have to limit yourself to the discussion questions provided. Add your own.
- ✓ Discussion about *Awake* doesn't have to conclude when a session ends. Take it to Facebook by creating a group and inviting the members of your discussion team to join. Twitter (create your own personalized discussion group hashtag, e.g. #AwakeAtlanta), personal blogs, and emailing are other great ways to continue the conversation.
- ✓ Commit to getting involved. The purpose of *Awake* is to move everyday people into action. Decide as a group to adopt a cause or a project to invest in. You can find the causes I personally support on awakebook.org. I would love for you to join me.
- ✓ Let me know what you think. I would be thrilled to hear about how your discussion groups are going and what you're planning to do together as a result. Send a tweet my way @nyeatts, or leave a comment on my Facebook page.

Now that you're ready to begin, I want to encourage you to approach all discussion with an open mind and teachable heart. These sessions are designed to develop relationships and foster personal growth. I hope you will take full advantage of this opportunity to invest in one another and the world . . . one person at a time.

Blessings and hope,

Noel Brewer Yeatts

Session 1: Chapter 1: *The Lucky One*, Chapter 2: *Comfortably Numb*

1. What stood out to you the most about Nildo's story? How would you have responded if you were in Noel's shoes?
2. Discuss the difference between good intentions and good investments and how Noel discovered the meaning of both through her experience with Nildo.
3. Think about your own standard of living. Have you ever considered yourself lucky? Why or why not?
4. Read Anderson Cooper's quote on page 26. Can you relate to the feeling of culture shock that he and Noel describe? Discuss what it means to be "comfortably numb." Give examples from your own life.
5. "The poor do not need our sympathy and our pity; the poor need our love and compassion." How does this statement by Mother Teresa resonate with the story of Margarita?

Session 2: Chapter 3: *Eyes Glued Shut*, Chapter 4: *The Meaning of Enough*

1. Have you ever encountered the same "Debbie Downer" dilemma Noel describes on page 39-40? How do you engage people in conversations about the needs of the world?
2. Noel makes the statement on page 42 that begins with ". . . if we really want to know God, we have to be willing to know everything about Him . . ." Do you agree? Explain why or why not.
3. What does "enough" mean to you? How would you define poverty?
4. Reread the illustration Noel shares from Jacqueline Novogratz's book *The Blue Sweater* on pages 58-59. What do you think about the author's way of reconciling her own lifestyle with the lifestyle of the rest of the world?
5. What can we learn from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah as it relates to addressing poverty?

Session 3: Chapter 5: *I Knew You Would Come*, Chapter 6: *The Ripple Effect*

1. Discuss the idea behind the featured quote by Mother Teresa on page 70. What are the implications of such a statement and what do they mean for the Church?
2. What is your definition of compassion?
3. Discuss the significance of women's issues in the struggle to overcome poverty.
4. Chapter 6 shares the stories of several women and girls who have been victims of oppression, poverty, and disease. What would you say to these women if you met them?
5. Why do you think the mistreatment of women is so widely practiced and accepted around the world? What can we do to change this?

Session 4: Chapter 7: *Crystal Clear*, Chapter 8: *Saving a Dead Man*

1. The tragedy of unsafe water affects approximately one billion people around the world, yet it seems to be a problem that escapes the public eye. Before reading *Awake*, were you aware of this issue?
2. How does clean water change everything? Why is it so important?
3. Revisit the "warehouse" scenario on pages 104-106. What option would you choose? Explain.
4. Why do you think so many Christ followers struggle finding the balance between meeting physical needs and evangelism? Why is this balance so crucial?
5. Discuss the example of Jesus. How did he approach the physical and spiritual needs of the poor?

Session 5: Chapter 9: *Boring, Safe, or Significant*, Chapter 10: *Let's Roll*

1. Discuss the story of the research experiment involving Princeton students in the 1970s (pages 116-118). What is the difference between intellectual investment and personal investment, and how can the latter be achieved?
2. Throughout Chapter 9, Noel describes the tension between remaining comfortably numb and choosing to live a significant life, concluding that the key is being willing to take risks. What fears keep you from taking risks to live “significantly”?
3. How does looking at your life in the context of being a “great story” change the way you hope to live in the future?
4. How do you define justice? How does the world define justice? How does God define justice?
5. Do you consider yourself to be a “restorer” (pages 135-136)? What do you think would happen if more Christ followers took up the cause of restoration?

Session 6: Chapter 11: *Outraged, Loud, and Bold*, Chapter 12: *Do Good Now*

1. Share a time when injustice, corruption, or the effects of poverty made you angry. Did this motivate you to do something or get involved in making a change?
2. Read and discuss Proverbs 31:8-9. What does this mean for Christ followers?
3. One of the themes of *Awake* is heavily discussed in Chapter 11: The idea that God’s plan for redeeming the world includes a partnership with those who choose to join Him in acts of restoration. Do you agree?
4. What issues are you most passionate about? How do you plan to use your time, talent, and resources to get more involved?
5. What do you plan to do together as a group to begin meeting the needs of the world? Discuss a plan of action.