

25 Discussion Questions for The Boy From Nain: The Man of Light

Faith & Doubt

1. Benjamin openly declares "God doesn't even know we exist." Have you ever felt this way? What circumstances most often lead people — or led you personally — to that conclusion?
2. How does Benjamin's relationship with God change throughout the story? What are the turning points?
3. The elder Hillel quietly observes that "all roads no longer lead to Rome — they lead to the Nazarene." What does this statement reveal about how faith was shifting in this world, and how does it mirror faith journeys today?
4. Paulus ben-Isaac is a wealthy, devout man who has grown disillusioned with formal religion. How is his spiritual journey similar to — and different from — Benjamin's?
5. Several characters witness evidence of a miracle and still choose not to believe. What does this say about the nature of faith? Is seeing really believing?

Identity, Shame & Healing

6. Benjamin's withered hand is a constant source of shame. How does physical imperfection shape one's sense of identity and worthiness before God? How do you see this theme in the world today?
7. When Benjamin's hand is healed, some of the first reactions he receives are doubt, mockery, and accusation. Why is it sometimes threatening to others when someone is changed or healed?

8. Benjamin hides his hand in his tunic and pledges never to look at it. What "withered hands" do people today conceal from others — or from God?
9. How does Benjamin's mother Ruth model unconditional love despite her son's rebellion? What can her example teach us about parenting, grief, and perseverance?
10. The healing of Benjamin's hand is an outward sign of an inward transformation. In what ways does the story suggest that spiritual healing is deeper than physical healing?

Sin, Consequences & Redemption

11. Benjamin, Amos, and Shem all cope with painful circumstances through different means. How do their coping mechanisms reflect real struggles people face today?
12. The story does not shy away from portraying Benjamin as a thief and drunkard. Why is it important for faith-based fiction to portray characters honestly rather than idealizing them?
13. Zabab uses religion as a weapon to attack Benjamin. How does the story distinguish between genuine faith and religious performance or hypocrisy?
14. Benjamin says he steals partly to "show God his contempt." What does this reveal about the relationship between pain, rebellion, and a hidden longing for God?
15. After his encounter with the Light, Benjamin feels "changed, like a force had swept his body clean." Describe a moment in your own life — or in Scripture — when an encounter with God produced that kind of inner cleansing.

Community, Rejection & Belonging

16. When Benjamin tries to share his miracle, he is rejected by Amos, threatened by Zabab, mocked by the village, and interrogated by the elders. Why do communities often resist the miraculous among them?
17. The character Nadab stands apart from the crowd and defends Benjamin at personal risk. What does it cost to stand for truth when the community turns against someone?
18. Shem is a victim of abuse within his own household, yet he remains one of Benjamin's most loyal friends. How does shared suffering create bonds of loyalty?
19. How does the setting of Nain — a small, insular village — reflect the social pressures that magnify or suppress faith in our own communities?
20. Paulus ben-Isaac is a stranger who shows Benjamin and Ruth unexpected kindness. What does his role in the story suggest about how God sometimes sends help from unlikely sources?

Scripture, Story & Imagination

21. The novel is inspired by two specific biblical passages — Matthew 17:1–5 and Luke 7:11–17. After reading the book, go back and read those passages. What do you notice now that you might have overlooked before?
22. Cy Young imagines a story "between the lines" of Scripture. Do you think fictional exploration of biblical characters is a valuable spiritual tool? Where are the boundaries?

23. The Transfiguration is a pivotal moment Benjamin witnesses by accident. How do you think experiencing a divine moment as an outsider — rather than as a chosen disciple — changes the impact?
24. Light is a recurring symbol throughout the novel — from the flash off the jewel box in the opening scene to the healing light on the mountain. How does the author use light to represent the presence of God?
25. If Benjamin's story continued beyond the final pages, where do you imagine his life goes? How does that reflect your own hopes for redemption and purpose?

Thank you sincerely for reading *The Boy From Nain* and sharing your thoughts with your group. Please consider leaving a review to help others discover this unique story.



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