

ERWIN RAPHAEL McMANUS

THE
BARBARIAN
WAY

2 BOOKS
IN
1 VOLUME

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction

Each chapter of this guide is divided into two sections: Reflection Questions and Discussion Questions.

Reflection Questions are for your own growth and learning. You should feel the freedom to answer them openly and honestly without feeling compelled to share them.

Discussion Questions are what will be discussed when the group meets together. These questions, should also be answered openly and honestly, but there is some expectation that you will share your answers in a safe and trusting environment.

Every question is drawn directly from the book, so without reading, the questions may not be very clear. Each question is followed by a page number (in parenthesis).

Not every question is actually a question. There may just be a quote without a question. In this case, simply reflect on what you think about this quote.

5. “The more civilized we become the more detached from the pain of others we end up finding ourselves.” (123)

6. As the Church and as Believers, are we moving forward because of our faith in Christ or are we allowing unanswered questions to keep us frozen in fear? (138)

7. “We cannot claim to know Christ and honor Him if we refuse the path He calls us to follow.” (140)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think that the church today cares more about its “civilized religion” than about knowing God? (111)
2. Do you think that the Church spends more time playing “doctor” to the sick or the healthy? (113)
3. How often do you see yourself as a messenger of liberation to those around you who are enslaved by sin, guilt, and shame? (115)
4. Do you often find yourself doing what is right out of fear rather than love? (121)

CHAPTER ONE: THE BARBARIAN INVASION

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you hear a voice within you crying out to do something great for God’s glory? (4)
2. Do you feel that the Christianity you know is more of a “Come, follow me”/”Go” or “Come, and listen”/“No” experience? (5)

3. Do you believe and live like the call of Christ is an all or nothing proposition? (5)

4. Is your faith “raw, untamed, and primal” or has it become “domesticated” or even dormant? (12)

5. Is your life marked by love, intimacy, passion and sacrifice? (13)

6. Does your presence make “domesticated” Christians uncomfortable or do you fit right in? (16)

3. Do you spend more time serving as a “doctor” to the sick or the healthy? (113)

4. Is the News that you share through your life more often a message of love or of condemnation? (116)

5. Are there people pushing you toward safety and away from trusting God? (122)

6. Is there a specific moment that you can think of when you became a bit more civilized in your faith? (123)

7. Do you feel like you are venturing through life united with others in purpose or are you mostly wandering alone? (134)

CHAPTER FOUR: THE BARBARIAN REVOLT

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you spend more time devoted to your own spiritual development than to sharing the message of Christ with others? (109)
2. “When we choose a civilized faith, God becomes, at the very least, an irritant and, at worst, an enemy to our faith.” (112)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you moving forward in life and in your relationship with Christ? (6)
2. What do you think about the lunch conversation? Do you find yourself more often thinking like the dad or the daughter? (7-11)
3. Are you living out the definition of “barbarian faith” found in the first paragraph of p. 13? (13)

4. “What has the Almighty been saying to you lately? And when was the last time He called you to participate in a fashionable fight?” (15)

5. Do you feel prepared to do something great for God? What are you lacking? (16)

6. In the company of other believers do you feel the freedom to be yourself? (71)

7. “The civilized build shelters and invite God to stay with them; barbarians move where God chooses to go.” (78)

8. Have you died to this world and its threats or are there fears that keep you civilized? (98-99)

9. What does it mean to fear God and how does that free us from other fears? (101)

2. Is the majority of your Christian life focused more on sin management or missional service? (65)

3. Has Christian life become frustrating or restricting? (66)

4. How are you (will you) directing your children toward experiencing God rather than Christianity? (90)

5. "A civilized faith relates to right and wrong as moral obligation. A barbarian faith loves good and hates evil." (92)

CHAPTER TWO: THE BARBARIAN CALL

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. "If Jesus is not the One, we should not follow Him. But if He is the One, we should follow Him at all costs." (23)

2. How would you feel if you were in need of help/healing/saving and Jesus basically said, "I'm not coming?" (31-32)

3. How much of your life is marked by denying yourself and taking up your cross daily? (33)

4. Respond to the paragraph, “This is the sticky part of the barbarian call... My part is to lead the way.” (36-37)

5. Do you think that painful trials (illness, loss of a loved one) would pull you closer to or drive you farther from Jesus? (39-41)

6. Why is suffering and hardship ok and even expected for Paul and not for us? (46)

7. Do you live as though your citizenship is in eternity with Christ or have you set up permanent residence here? (94)

8. Is God inspiring you with dreams that are too compelling to ignore? What are they? (100)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of the idea of a “mystical faith”? (61)

3. Does your story begin and end with God? (63)

4. Is there emotional or psychological baggage that is keeping you from becoming who God has called you to be? (70)

5. Does the journey you are on require some measure of insanity? (81)

6. Is hearing God speak a normal part of your life? (83)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there someone in your life who reminds you of John the Baptist? How so? (19-22)

2. When you came to faith, was it based on one of the “domesticated” invitations in the second paragraph of p. 32? (32)

3. Is your life in Christ “filled with uncertainty, mystery, and risk?” (35)

4. “God’s will for us is less about our comfort and more about our contribution.” Which drives more of your decision making, comfort or contribution? (44)

5. “Have we become so refined and so civilized that the benefits of our faith have become more precious and valuable to us than the benefactor of our faith?” (49)

6. What risks are you taking that could cost you your life? (50-53)

CHAPTER THREE: THE BARBARIAN TRIBE

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you ever feel compelled to fit into a certain mold? (60)

2. Has your faith in God lost touch with any experience of God? (61)