

Piercing the Darkness Book Discussion Guide

What are some attributes of the fictional Bacon's Corner that make it an ideal setting for this book?

Which of the human characters did you like best? Explain why. Which of the human characters did you like the least? Explain why.

Was there a particular angel that you enjoyed, or a demon you especially didn't like? If so, which one and why?

It took many years for evil to take root in Bacon's Corner. Discuss how it progressed. Looking at our society today, do you see any parallels?

Discuss the impact of our current culture on living a moral, Christian life. What are some practical ways to handle living "in" this world while not becoming "of" this world?

Sally Beth Roe had a long, hard journey. Review her life and discuss the influence of both evil and good. Sally's early years included exposure to the Christian life. How did evil take root?

Look at your own life and think about a time when you may have strayed from the path. What brought you back? If you're currently struggling with an issue, what is holding you back from doing what is right?

It is not always easy to see things clearly in our own lives. Discuss the importance of being surrounded by a group of strong believers. How can we hold each other accountable?

Marshal and Kate Hogan are a strong couple and obviously work well together. If you read *This Present Darkness*, discuss the change in their relationship over time. If you did not read the previous book, discuss the qualities each partner possesses and how working together for God shapes their marriage.

Tom Harris is wrongly accused of abuse, and his children are inappropriately removed from him. Discuss how he handled the entire situation. How do you think you would have reacted?

The ACFA knew exactly how to manipulate and use sensational press to cover their real purpose. Discuss how the ACFA used fear, prejudice, and gossip to their advantage. Why do so many people prefer to believe the sensational and disbelieve the truth?

In today's instant, sound-bite society, do you think the press "reports" the news or "makes" it? Has society become more superficial over time? Discuss how the truth is often overlooked in the quest for ratings. How does such manipulation help evil to grow?

Satan takes great pains to disguise himself when trying to get us to follow him. How can we guard against being led astray? Why is it sometime easier to follow the crowd and ignore the righteous voice telling us we are doing wrong? What do you do to maintain your closeness to Christ and, therefore, listen to his guidance?

Once a person crosses the line from good to evil, it can become easier to do it again. For example, look at Lucy Brandon and how Sgt. Mulligan was able to get her to commit a federal offense by re-routing Tom Harris's mail. Discuss an example that has occurred in your life or the life of someone you know.

Ben Cole was willing to lose his job due to his search for the truth and desire to do the right thing. Do you think you would have done the same thing? Why or why not? Is there any difference between what you would *want* to do and what you would actually be *willing* to do?

Wayne Corrigan is a Christian attorney who, at first, does not want to take Tom's case. Discuss why Corrigan hesitated and why he changed his mind. Do you think it is difficult to be a Christian attorney today? What conflicts can you envision?

The Omega Center for Educational Studies' alleged mission was "the unity of all mankind." What was the *actual* goal?

Please share any other lessons or insights you gained from reading *Piercing the Darkness*.