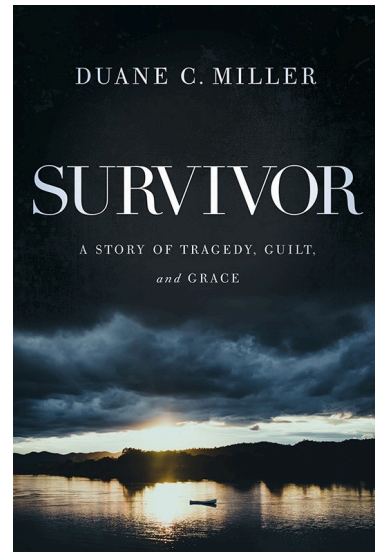


# Discussion And Bible Study Guide

## *Survivor*



There are many Biblical principles and doctrines presented throughout the book *Survivor*. This guide provides a tool that can be used in small group discussions or for individual study growing out of the story shared in *Survivor*.

Additional Bible passages are included in this study guide that are not in *Survivor*. This is to provide you and your small group an opportunity to dig deeper into the various topics presented in the book.

It is important that each person in your small group have access to *Survivor* so they can understand the dynamics of how the Bible relates to everything that occurred in the book.

It is my prayer that as you dig deeper into God's Word throughout this study, your eyes will be opened to the reality of how God is personally active in the world and in the lives of those who have a personal relationship with Him by trusting in Jesus alone for their salvation.

Keep Paddlin',  
Duane C. Miller

# “Man of the Star”

## Chapter 1

1. On pages 16–17, we learn of the hunting accident Don Enzor was involved in when he was 15 years old. One day he fired his rifle at a predatory bird but missed. The bullet came down half a mile away, striking an 8-year-old neighbor child in the head and killing him. Even though it was ruled an accidental shooting, Don still carried the weight of feeling responsible for his neighbor’s death.

His is just one example of the reality that accidents do occur—whether they are auto accidents, hunting accidents, work related, or in the home. Whatever type of accident it is, if someone dies or is permanently disabled, many lives are affected. For the person who feels responsible for the accident, they often suffer alone. The weight of guilt and shame for what happened can become overwhelming and destructive.

a. What are some ways people deal with the guilt that is often inherent with the responsibility of a serious accident?

b. What counsel would you give a person who struggles with carrying the burden of responsibility for someone’s injury or death due to an accident?

c. What principles do you find in the Bible passages below that could be used to give encouragement to someone who is walking through the dark times of guilt and help them experience the healing of their conscience?

Psalm 32:1–5

Psalm 55:16–17

Psalm 69:1–3, 14–17

Psalm 77:1–4, 10–12 (Use the NASB translation with this passage)

2 Corinthians 7:10

2. On pages 14–15 and 18–19, the author shares his experience of receiving the “Man of the Star” award at Trail To Life Camp.

a. Is it wise to identify and set apart teenagers for spiritual leadership? Why or why not?

b. What examples in the Bible can you think of where youths were chosen for godly leadership?

c. How was Timothy chosen and encouraged to become a leader in the early church? How can young people be identified and allowed to serve in ministry leadership today?

1 Timothy 4:7–8, 12–16

2 Timothy 1:6–7

# “Exercising ‘Stug’ ”

## Chapter 2

1. On page 23, the definition of “stug” is given as a description of the kind of perseverance that is required when faced with a strong headwind.

Describe a time when you felt like you were facing the strong headwinds of a storm of life—a storm of pressures, problems or pain—and knew that quitting was not an option.

a. How were you able to persevere?

b. How did you see perseverance pay off?

c. What is the value of the principle of “Stug” in dealing with the headwinds of life (Romans 5:3–4—some translations use “steadfastness” or “endurance” instead of “perseverance”)?

d. How do you think 1 Corinthians 10:13 is the key to persevering through life's storms?

i) How is it vital to understand that the way of escape is provided so we can endure the storm in exercising "stug"?

ii) How does Hebrews 13:5-6 encourage "stug"?

2. A second fundamental principle for canoeing, presented on page 24, is to keep your eyes on your destination. How can leaning to do this help you paddle through the relentless barrage of temptations, stress, desires, and pain that continually come at you?

a. How does Hebrews 12:1-2 relate to this principle?

b. Do you believe that Jesus is the only true destination that can get us through the challenges of life? Why or why not?

3. What practical application do these two principles have in your life?

# “Things Don’t Go Wrong, They Only Go Different”

## Chapter 3

1. What was your initial reaction when you first read the title of this chapter?
2. How do the following verses relate to the principle that “things don’t go wrong, they only go different”?

Isaiah 55:8–9

Genesis 50:20

Psalms 135:6

Proverbs 16:33



1 Peter 1:6–7

3. Using the above verses, how would you explain this principle to someone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. On page 32, an interesting distinction is made in how Tim Meadows came to faith in Jesus as compared to how his dad did.
  - a. What do you think is meant by his dad coming to Jesus in a “black and white understanding of the gospel”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What do you think is meant by Tim meeting Jesus in “full living color”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What are examples of both ways that are given in the New Testament?

# The Day My Life Changed

## Chapter 4

1. On page 41, the author makes the statement, “respect the waves and have fun, disrespect the waves and go swimming.” Are there times when we are to exercise wisdom instead of “stug”?

a. How do these verses relate to this question?

Psalm 56:3

Proverbs 14:16

Proverbs 17:24

Ecclesiastes 9:18

Matthew 10:16

Hebrews 5:14

2. Have you ever faced a life-or-death situation? How did you handle it?
  - a. Looking back at that situation, how did Jesus meet you at your time of need?
3. What questions about God do you have that grow out of the description of the canoeing accident?
4. At the end of the chapter, the author raises several questions. Are these legitimate questions? Is it okay to question God or to ask such pointed questions of God?

a. How do the following verses relate to the above question?

Job 23:3–4

Psalm 4:1

Psalm 55:17

Psalm 69:1–3, 14–16

Psalm 139:1–4

Psalm 142:1–2

b. Is there something in your heart that you have been afraid of asking or saying to God? What is keeping you from having a heart-to-heart talk with God about it?

# Where Was God?

## Chapter 5

1. How does Romans 8:28 relate to what the survivors had experienced?
2. On page 58, first paragraph, the author asks some hard questions. How would you answer if you were asked these same questions?
3. How do people treat their salvation like a life insurance policy—"good to have but not really relevant to everyday life" (p. 58)?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the author's explanation of the need to view life from an eternal perspective? Why or why not?

5. What insights have you gained from the scriptures quoted in this chapter that have deepened your understanding of how God uses the pain and suffering that are a normal part of life on planet earth?

6. How do the principles taught in this chapter relate to your life?

# Peace

## Chapter 6

1. Society defines peace as the absence of war or turmoil. How is the peace of God different than this?

a. How is it possible to experience peace in the midst of turmoil, grief, or pain? How do the following verses provide insight into the answer to this question?

Isaiah 26:3

Isaiah 32:17

John 14:27

John 16:33



Ephesians 2:14

Philippians 4:6–7, 9

b. How does someone experience this peace of God?

2. How does prayer bring about peace in the midst of all the pain and turmoil?

Psalm 4:1

Psalm 18:6

Psalm 40:1–3

3. On pages 67–68, the author states, “It wasn’t their prayers that made a difference, but who they prayed to.” This distinction flies in the face of the popular saying, “Prayer changes things.”

a. Does who we pray to make a difference? Explain your answer.

b. What is the Biblical basis for your answer?

# Heartbreak

## Chapter 7

1. On page 72, Pastor Gaskell is quoted as saying, "With the Lord there are never accidents, only incidents that draw us closer to Him." How could these words bring comfort to people who are grieving?

a. How does Romans 8:28 explain this quote?

2. What evidence was there in Chuck's life that Galatians 2:20 was his life verse?

a. How would having this verse be the foundation of a person's life change the way they go about their everyday life?

b. In what ways would your life change?

3. How did Pastor Gaskell's presence speak more to Uncle Bill than words ever could (p. 75)?

a. How does the presence of friends and family speak to our hearts when we are grieving or going through a very difficult time?

b. What insight do you get into why this is so, as well as our responsibility to be there for people when they are suffering?

Romans 15:1-2

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Galatians 6:2

Philippians 2:4

# Full Disclosure

## Chapter 8

1. Why was it important to Uncle Bill's and Aunt Mim's healing for them to know all the facts surrounding Chuck's death?

2. What do you think was meant by the term "crisis of the soul" on page 77?

a. How did it lead to Uncle Bill's total surrender to Christ?

3. How do these verses bring comfort and hope in times of grief?

2 Corinthians 5:8

Philippians 1:21

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Hebrews 4:14–16

4. From what you have learned in your study of chapters 7 and 8, what are some principles to keep in mind when you are helping a friend go through the deep waters of grief?

# Joy

## Chapter 9

1. How do you explain what the diver witnessed when he discovered Don's and Chuck's bodies?

a. How was this an answer to Aunt Mim's prayer (p. 74) when she first learned of the accident?

b. How would you answer someone who claimed that God is not active in tangible ways in our lives? What scriptures would you use?

2. What is the foundation for the assurance that when you die that you know that you will be spending eternity with Jesus?

3. Summarize the following verses into a two- or three-sentence definition of Biblical salvation:

Ephesians 2:4–9

1 John 5:12–13

Romans 3:22–24

John 14:6

Romans 10:9–10, 13

a. How do these verses help answer question #2?



4. Do you agree or disagree with the author's conclusion about prayer on page 86 that the Lord's answer to our prayers is always "Trust Me"? Explain your answer.

a. How do the following verses shed light on your answer?

2 Corinthians 1:19–20

Ephesians 3:20

Matthew 6:8–11

Isaiah 55:8–9

# Deceived

## Chapter 10

1. Often, when people are grieving, the emotions of the moment can cause people to say things that they shouldn't say and they later regret. How should situations like this be handled?

a. What can be learned from the example of how the author and his parents handled such a situation?

b. What do these verses teach about forgiveness?

Matthew 5:23–24

Matthew 6:12

Matthew 18:15

Colossians 3:13

2. How did the author walk into the trap of Satan's temptation by misusing Romans 8:28?

a. What other examples can you think of where people have misused scriptures to justify their sinful decisions?

3. Is the metaphor of pebbles being dropped into the heart a good description of how guilt and shame can destroy a life? Why or why not?

# Set Free

## Chapter 11

1. Does time heal all wounds? When might time heal wounds? When does time not have any effect on the healing of wounds? What makes the difference?

2. Why is honest confession an important part of repentance?

3. How did pride become the undercurrent of the sin that the author was struggling with?

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 16:18

4. How is pride something we all struggle with?
5. Discuss the difference between worldly sorrow and godly grief that is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 7:10.
6. How is the apostle Peter an example of the right way to handle guilt and shame?
7. When have you needed to hear the words “and Peter” spoken to your heart?

# Details Matter

## Chapter 12

1. How does this chapter's teaching fly in the face of the popular teaching that truth is what you make it—that what is true for you may not be true for me?

2. Why is it important to verify the facts when determining what is or is not true?

3. How did the author verify the details of this account of the canoeing accident? (also see Acknowledgments)

4. How are the facts of the Bible verifiable?

Luke 1:1–4

1 Corinthians 15:3–8

2 Timothy 3:16–17

2 Peter 1:16–21

1 John 1:1–4

5. What evidence is there, outside of the Bible itself, that the Bible is accurate and true?

# The Big Picture

## Chapter 13

1. Why is it important to “not interpret the Bible in light of my experiences, but rather . . . to interpret my experiences in light of the Bible” (p. 116)?
  
2. Why is it vital that we have an understanding of the doctrines of the sovereignty of God and the free will of humanity?
  
3. How did this chapter help you gain a deeper understanding of the sovereignty of God?
  
4. How does prayer fit into the sovereignty of God?
  
5. Is the illustration of the heads and tails of a coin to explain how the sovereignty of God and free will of humanity work together a valid explanation? Why or why not?



6. What are your thoughts on this quote on page 121: “When I go to Him in prayer, I am accepting an invitation to enter into a conversation that they (Trinity) were already having on my behalf”?

7. “Things never go wrong, they only go different” is a catchy phrase, but how does it play out in everyday life in light of God’s sovereignty and humanity’s free will?

# The Story Continues

## Chapter 14

1. What do you think it means to surrender your life to Jesus?

2. Read the Scripture passages below and develop a 2–3 sentence definition of what it means for a person to surrender their life to Jesus. Share your summary statement with the rest of the group and discuss.

Mark 8:34–36

Romans 12:1–2

Galatians 2:22

3. In light of what you have already read in the book, what tangible difference did surrendering their lives to Jesus make in the lives of . . .

a. Don Enzor?

b. Chuck Schnittker?

c. Tim Meadows?

d. Duane Miller?

e. Bill and Miriam Schnittker?

4. In what ways have you “relegated Jesus to the back seat” of your life (p. 128)?

# More Than A Pile Of Rocks

## Chapter 15

1. What is the value of having tangible reminders—“stones of remembrance”—in our lives?

2. What are some things that our pile of rocks can remind us of?

Genesis 31:51–54

Genesis 35:9–15

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

3. How can these piles of rocks be used as teaching tools or to tell others of the mighty works of God in our lives (Joshua 4:4–7)?

4. How can returning to the scene of a traumatic experience help bring closure and healing to our hearts and souls?

a. Is it always necessary to return to the scene in order for healing to take place? Explain your answer.

5. How has *Survivor* reminded you of your own “pile of rocks”?

a. What stones of remembrance make up your pile of rocks?

# Afterword: A New Journey

1. How has this book opened your eyes to the principle that things don't go wrong, they only go different?
  
2. Read the paragraph that begins on the bottom of page 145 and continues on page 146.
  - a. In what ways has faith in Jesus been allowed to slide away from being a life-transforming journey into a relationship with the God of the universe, and into being a religion?
  
  - b. What do you think is meant in the statement, "It is a journey that begins with Jesus, ends with Jesus, and is all about Jesus"?
  
3. How have you experienced the life-transforming power of a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ?

4. If you honestly haven't experienced this life transformation, what is keeping you from trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation and surrendering your life to Him?

If you want to personally know and experience the peace and power of God in your life that was described throughout *Survivor*, read pages 146–148 and, in faith, call out to God from your heart, using the verses mentioned to give you understanding and to serve as a guide. If you do, you will begin your own journey of walking with Jesus, and what an adventure it will be! Remember to keep exercising “Stug” and stay focused on your destination (p. 24).