

Discussion Questions for *Set All Afire*

1. Describe the character of young Francis Xavier.
2. How does his family react to his behavior? How does his sister, the Abbess, intercede for him?
3. What is Francis's first impression of Ignatius? How does Ignatius's influence change him?
4. Who were Ignatius's first band of followers? What were they like?
5. What were the plans of the order after their vows? Did those plans happen?
6. Who were Miguel Landivar and Vanozza Morini? Why do you think their characters were added to the story?
7. What accusations did the Jesuits face in Rome? How did they respond?
8. What was Francis's relationship like with Ignatius? Why do you think he waited so long to send Francis on a mission overseas?
9. What challenges did Francis encounter on the voyage to India? How did he lead by example?
10. What does Francis do when he gets to Goa, India? How do people react to him? What are politics like there and how does Francis handle them?
11. Where did Francis travel along the coast of India? What were the people like? What challenges did he encounter with paganism and the caste system?
12. What was Francis's relationship like with his fellow Jesuits? Did any of the other Jesuits inspire you?
13. How did Francis struggle with loneliness during his travels and work?
14. One of Francis's greatest struggles was with the Christians in India who worshiped mammon. How did Francis react to this?
15. Why did Francis decide to go to Japan? How successful was he there? What were some of the obstacles to evangelization in Japan?
16. Why did Francis want to go to China? How did he die?
17. What can we learn from Francis about how to do missionary work?
18. This is a historical novel—did you do any research to see how much of the story was factual versus how much was artistic license by the author?

