

Discussion Questions for *The Spear*

1. Describe the character of Cassius. Is he a likeable character?
2. Who is Claudia and what role does she play in the story?
3. Who is Seneca? What do you think of his description of the stages of sevenfold love?
4. How does Cassius end up in the service of Pontius Pilatus?
5. Who are Boz bar Sebulun and Naomi? What roles do they play in the story?
6. What is going on politically with the Jewish “Freedom party”? Who is Bar Abbas? Why did some Jews think the Messiah was coming to lead an earthly kingdom?
7. Describe the character of high priest Joseph Ciaphas. Does this help you to understand why Jesus was critical of him? What was the difference between the Pharisees and Sadducees?
8. What happens to Achim bar Simeon on his deathbed? How did he react to the parables of Jesus?
9. Did this book make you think about the characters in the Bible in a different way?
10. Were you surprised at who Naomi turned out to be? What happens to her? Did this help you to understand the parable of the “woman caught in adultery” in a deeper way?
11. In the passion scenes there are no direct accounts of Jesus suffering, only narratives about how his death affects others. Did this help you think about the passion in a different way?
12. How did Jesus affect Pontius Pilatus and his wife Claudia?
13. What happened to Abenadar, who led the soldiers who crucified Jesus?
14. What happened to Cassius when he pierced the heart of Jesus? Why does he go to the desert? How does this desert experience help him find forgiveness?
15. What did you think about the events after the resurrection, especially the change in Jesus’ followers?
16. At the end, the relationship between Cassius and Naomi is re-opened. What did you want to happen with them?

