

Discussion questions for

SAFELY HOME

by Randy Alcorn

1. Describe Ben Fielding's life and goals prior to coming to China. Compare his life and goals to Li Quan's. Were the goals met?

2. Ben tried to explain to Ming why his marriage had fallen apart. Ming didn't understand. She asked Ben, "Do you not face difficulty together, hostility from the world, persecution that makes you stand together?" Ben stated that they had hard times, but that hostility and persecution aren't that common in America. Ming responded, "Perhaps that was problem." What do you think of her response? Do you agree with it? Disagree?

3. In prison Quan prayed for God to give him a ministry. He didn't pray to be released, to be healed from his physical pain. He didn't ask God, "Lord, don't you know my family needs me?" What can we learn from this?

4. How did Ben Fielding come to faith in Christ?

5. Why the title, *Safely Home*?

6. How did Quan honor Jesus tangibly? Did it make an impression on Ben? In your life, how could you honor Christ in a courageous and tangible way? Be creative.

7. What is it like being a persecuted Christian? Why has China been intolerant of Christianity? Has it always been that way? In other words, why does God allow it?

8. What would you say to someone who asks why God allows his children to suffer?

9. Which character did you relate to the most? Why?

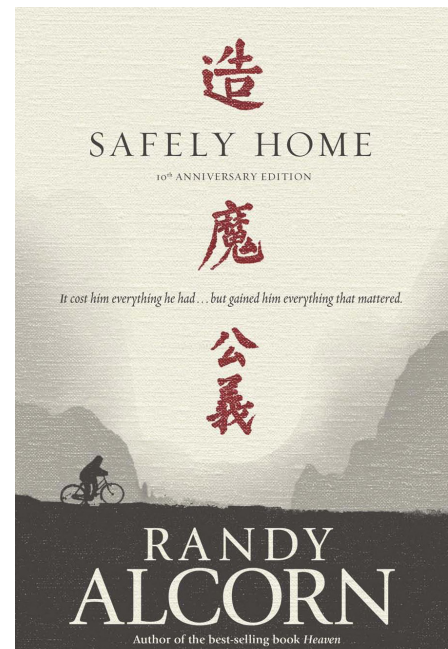
10. Compare Li Quan's funeral with his reception into heaven. Should we mourn at Christian funerals? Should we also rejoice? Have you ever been to an unusually happy Christian funeral? If it's not too morbid to think about, what would you want to happen at your funeral?

11. What did you think of the author's interpretation of heaven? What was a new "view" for you? What was most impressive to you about Alcorn's depiction of Jesus? Heaven? Angels?

12. In the book, we are told by the King that, as his children, our dreams are too small. Do you agree?

13. Would you recommend *Safely Home* to a non-Christian? Why or why not?

14. Has this book opened your eyes to persecuted Christians in China and elsewhere? Visit the Voice of the Martyrs website (www.persecution.com) and see if you are moved to pray for someone or some place. If you did this, share what you discovered.



Resources on the PERSECUTED CHURCH

Books author Randy Alcorn would recommend to read about China and Persecution

The Discovery of Genesis: How the Truths of Genesis were Found Hidden in the Chinese Language, by C. H. Kang (and Nelson)

Refiner's Fire by Sylvia Bambola (a novel)

Understanding China by John Bryan Starr (secular but good information)

By Their Blood by James & Marti Hefley

China: The Hidden Miracle by Ross Paterson & Elisabeth Farell

Their Blood Cries Out by Paul Marshall

The Coming Influence of China by Carl Lawrence

Thirty Years in a Red House: A Memoir of Childhood and Youth in Communist China by Xiao Di Zhu



How can I get involved?

Be informed. Randy collected many of his stories to write *Safely Home* from Voice of the Martyrs (www.persecution.com) and The Bible League (www.bibleleague.org) newsletters. If you don't subscribe to them, he would recommend you do so. EPM also offers a handout with resources on the persecuted church for pastors and group leaders, available at www.epm.org/resources/persecutionpastors.

You can also read about your brothers and sisters currently imprisoned for their faith at Voice of the Martyr's www.prisoneralert.com. This site enables you to write an encouraging letter and have it immediately translated in the prisoner's native language. You may also subscribe to the site's email alerts, and every month you will be notified of a new prisoner to write.

Pray. EPM also has a resource on "How to Pray for the Persecuted Church": www.epm.org/praypersecutedchurch.

Give to organizations that help the persecuted church and send Bibles to China. EPM recommends Bible League (www.bibleleague.org), Open Doors (www.opendoorsus.org), and Voice of the Martyrs (www.persecution.com).

For more resources, including interviews with author Randy Alcorn and Scriptures on Persecution, and to print more copies of this discussion guide, go to www.epm.org/safelyhomebook.

 eternal perspective ministries
with author Randy Alcorn

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