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# THE PLACE OF VOICES

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Psalm 46:10, God reminds us to: “Be still, and know that I am God.” Do you have a state of mind that is like “The Place of Stillness,” where you can be quiet and listen for God’s leading?
2. In a study conducted by the Barna Group (April 2009), most American Christians surveyed did not believe that Satan exists. Most believe that Satan is not a living being but a symbol of evil. Do you believe in a literal Satan? Why or why not?

In *The Place of Voices*, an evil being works against them behind the scenes. If you are among those who believe in a literal Satan, do you have an image of him in your mind? What do you think he is like?

*Read the following Bible passages and make note of any thoughts that apply.*

- “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8
  - “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” 2 Corinthians 11:14
  - “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44
  - “And He (Jesus) was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.” Mark 1:13
3. Tzutz Nik came from a culture that actively engaged in bloodletting as a sacrifice. What sort of sacrifice are modern Christians called to?

*Read the following Bible passages and make note of any thoughts that apply.*

- “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1)
- “Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before

the throne.” (Revelation 8:3)

- “Continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” (Hebrews 13:15)
- “Indeed, I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, a sweet aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:18)
- “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:13-15)

4. In *The Place of Voices*, Anna, Brendan and Tzutz Nik discover they are stronger when united in friendship. *Read the passage below and think about how it applies to your own life.*

- “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

5. Romans 5:3-4 tells us that we can glory in our sufferings “because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” How did Anna, Brendan and Tzutz Nik find hope through perseverance? How can you apply these verses to your own life?

6. Read the following Bible passages. What do they say about faith? What do these truths mean to you?

- “And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)
- “So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-7)
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

7. In *The Place of Voices*, Anna learns to confront her fears. Psalm 23:4 reminds us that we do not need to fear. What could you accomplish without fear to hold you back? What kind of fears keep us from taking a leap of faith?