Discussion Questions

*Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham* by Jess Archer

*Friends, feel free to pick and choose from this list of questions. Use Archer’s book as springboard for genuine, honest conversation. Peace to you!*

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1. Every single person on the planet is searching for that ultimate home. In Archer’s book, she realizes that her true home is both a person and a place she will embrace both now and after death. Where, what or who is home to you?
2. A big underpinning message of *Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham* is that your life is made up of seemingly incongruous influences. (For Archer it was, The Beatles + Bob Dylan + Billy Graham.) What were the big cultural influences, however seemingly random, in your childhood?
3. Children suffer for their parents’ choices, even when those are good choices. What choices, maybe a calling of your parents’, did you suffer for as a child? What choices are you making in faith that your children will have to wrestle through as they grow up?
4. How does reading Chapter 5 encourage you to be grateful for the small things in life which God is giving you in the midst of a discouraging time?
5. Archer struggled with acute anxiety. Did her descriptions in the chapter, “Panic” compare to your own experience of anxiety? If you’ve struggled with anxiety at times in your life, describe it.
6. Children often suffer from anxiety that stems from major life transitions (examples: moving homes, parental divorce, death). We can’t shield our children from every trauma in life, but how can parents steer their children better through life’s anxieties? Practical tools?
7. Did you have a stationary childhood or a transitory one? Did you live in the same town throughout your childhood? Or did you move a few times, maybe as many times as Archer?
8. There are innate truths found even in secular lyrics, poetry and stories, written by men and women created in the image of their Creator. Describe a piece of art that gave your peace and reminded you of God’s truth.
9. To what degree does music from another generation affect you? Which music? What does it stir in you? Why?
10. What fears did you struggle with as a child? How did they dissipate over time? Or are those fears still breathing down deep inside? How does a faith in God inform your experience of fear?
11. Describe a difficult time in your past where you can see now, in retrospect, that God was teaching and preparing you, ultimately blessing you and giving you a future and a hope. Or, share about a difficult situation you are in now, and how you can draw hope from Jess’s story, trusting in God’s perfect plan.
12. Throughout the book, Archer details Billy Graham’s style of large-scale evangelism. What’s your feeling about this kind of organized evangelism? Do the methods offend you? Do his methods inspire you? When it comes to sharing your spiritual beliefs, what is the perfect scenario to you?
13. A major theme in Archer’s memoir is that for good or for ill we are shaped by our fathers. Can you describe your father?
14. Did you have a consistent place where you vacationed during your childhood summers? Describe that place and its affect on you.
15. Dylan sang,

“And I walk out on my own

A thousand miles from home

But I don’t feel alone

‘Cause I believe in you.”

Jess tells her story about arriving in PA, not having any idea that it would be where God would finally plant her family for a long time. Read Numbers 13:21-31 and compare this story of the children of Israel longing for a promised land, and their first news of Canaan. Where have you taken steps of faith, like Joshua, like Dylan, like the Marshall family and have chosen to trust God over the world’s pessimism?