

THE  
METHUSELAH  
PROJECT

RICK BARRY

D I S C U S S I O N   G U I D E

1. In Chapter 1, Roger was a man who rarely thought about God. Later he came to trust the Almighty despite dangers. Name people in the Bible who experienced similar transformations by trusting in Jesus Christ. Do you know someone whose life dramatically changed when he/she came to Christ?
2. When Roger's disabled P-47 is about to crash, he shouts, "God, help!" Is it realistic to portray people who normally don't give God a thought begging him for help in desperation? Why or why not?
3. Kurt Mueller finds deep satisfaction in being part of the modern, world-wide organization. If there really were a secret, global association intending to manipulate the world from behind the scenes, would that attract potential members? Even if that organization resorted to unlawful violence, like murder? If so, why?
4. After his crash landing, Roger concludes it would be futile to attempt to escape capture due to winter conditions. Have you ever found yourself caught in a situation you didn't like, but over which you had no control? What should be a Christian's response?
5. Roger becomes "Prisoner 7" in the experiment. Many people consider 7 to be a lucky number. Is there anything in this universe (rabbit's foot, special number, favorite hat, etc.) that can bring a person "good luck"?
6. If you were taken prisoner like Roger and confined for years with little contact with the outside world, would you go crazy? Would that draw you closer to God, or drive you away from him for not freeing you?
7. Katherine is frustrated she can't find the right man to love. Sometimes the same thing happens to Christians. Can you think of people in the Bible who faithfully trusted God even though they didn't understand why he allowed unhappy circumstances? Can you think of anyone in the Bible who didn't wait on God to work and took matters into his/her own hands?
8. Would you want to live on earth in your current body for a thousand years? (Remember, all your family and friends would die and leave you behind.) Why or why not?

9. Dr. Kossler is a man with one true love—science. He doesn't care about spiritual topics and won't consider anything he can't observe with his five senses. Can such a person find God, who is a Spirit (John 4:24)?
10. Sophie Gottschalk makes an interesting decision. Despite having taken an oath of loyalty to the organization, she helps Roger to escape. To him, she becomes a hero. To her colleagues, she becomes a traitor. Consider each side's point of view. Which was Sophie really?
11. Katherine Mueller is an intelligent college graduate. Yet, Uncle Kurt manipulated her without her realizing it. The organization, too, succeeded in manipulating her with lies—for a while. Do you think people in the mass media deliberately try to influence you on topics such as politics, so-called gay marriage, evolution, atheism, etc.? If so, give examples.
12. After seventy years of confinement, Roger doesn't understand many inventions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Besides examples in the story, what other modern things would confuse a person who had been locked away since 1943?
13. When Katherine sees Roger pray before eating, she considers it “quaint.” Yet, he continues to pray before meals and at other times. Are you bold enough to pray in front of non-Christians? If not, what is it you fear? Might God use the sight of you praying to point unbelievers' minds toward himself?
14. Roger declares, “Only two possibilities exist: either God created the universe, or the universe created itself—out of absolutely nothing.” Neither is completely understandable to the finite human mind. Why do you suppose some people insist on believing that all physical matter created itself out of nothing?
15. By the end of the story, Roger's Christian faith has caused Katherine to begin her own first steps in praying and trusting God. Has your Christian faith ever nudged someone else toward Jesus? If so, share about that.

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