

**The Sacred Romance** study questions

As you read through this book, I want you to note several things as well as be able to answer the following questions. Anyway, as you read through record the types of imagery used, examples of allusions used, examples of passages that engage the reader. I also want you to note what type of “story” this book is talking about. Whose story is this book about? Who all is included in this story? Finally, be ready to tell me what you found in this book that personally applied to you (yes, you must have an application.)

Chapter 1

1. “ Art, poetry, beauty, mystery, \_\_\_\_\_: These are what rouse the heart. Indeed, they are the \_\_\_\_\_ that must be spoken if one wishes to \_\_\_\_\_ with the heart. It is why Jesus of often taught and related to people by telling stories and asking questions. His desire was not just to engage their \_\_\_\_\_ but to capture their \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. “The truth of the gospel is intended to \_\_\_\_\_ us to love \_\_\_\_\_ and others with our \_\_\_\_\_.”

Chapter 2

1. “ If we are going to begin the journey toward the recovery of our heart, we must follow Frederick Buechner’s advice and \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. “Philosophers call this Romance, this \_\_\_\_\_ set within us, the longing for \_\_\_\_\_; the desire to be part of something \_\_\_\_\_ than ourselves, to be part of something out of the \_\_\_\_\_ that is \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. “Romance has most often come to us in the form of two deep desires....” What are they?

Chapter 3

1. According to Simone Weil, what are the “only two things that pierce the human heart”?
2. Explain what the message of the arrows is.
3. “The Romance seems to promise a life of wholeness through a deep connection with the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the universe. The Arrows deny it, telling us, “ what?

4. "The Romance says, ' This world is \_\_\_\_\_.'"
5. "The Arrows mock such naivete warning us, 'Just watch yourself -- \_\_\_\_\_.'"
6. "The Romance invites us to \_\_\_\_\_. The Arrows intimidate us into \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Chapter 4

1. "The deepest convictions of our heart are formed by \_\_\_\_\_ and reside \_\_\_\_\_ there in the images and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Eugene Peterson said, " We live in \_\_\_\_\_, we live in \_\_\_\_\_. Existence has a \_\_\_\_\_ shape to it. We have a \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_, we have a \_\_\_\_\_, we have \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "For centuries prior to our Modern Era, the church viewed the \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_, a cosmic \_\_\_\_\_ whose themes permeated our own \_\_\_\_\_ and drew together all the random \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ wholeness."

#### Chapter 5

1. Explain Blaise Pascal's statement: "The heart has its own reasons that reason knows not of."
2. Summarize the points made under the subsection called "A Part Too Large".
3. "Genesis gives us an in-depth account of God using both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ over the years of the patriarch Jacob's life to show him that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were in a more redemptive \_\_\_\_\_ than his own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ could create; one that God was authoring."

#### Chapter 6

1. Explain how "many professing Christians" live life as " practical agnostics".
2. "The Scriptures are written from the perspective that God is \_\_\_\_\_."
3. What is Act I of the larger story?
4. "The story that is the Sacred Romance begins not with God alone, the Author at his desk, but God in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ beyond imagination, \_\_\_\_\_."
5. What is Act II?
6. What is Act III?

7. “Finally, if we try to relate to God primarily as \_\_\_\_\_, we will go \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ ---pretty much the same thing. . . But when we see God as the \_\_\_\_\_, and consider what he wants \_\_\_\_\_, we know one thing for certain: \_\_\_\_\_.”
8. Neil Anderson says that what is the most important thing we have?

### Chapter 7

1. “The gospel says that we, who are God’s beloved, created a \_\_\_\_\_. It says we, too, were stolen from \_\_\_\_\_ and that he launched the \_\_\_\_\_ in the history of the world to \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. “The reason we enjoy fairy tales –more than enjoy them—the reason we \_\_\_\_\_ in some deep part of us is because they rest on two truths.” What are the two truths?
3. List 3 metaphors that Scripture uses to “capture the many facets of our relationship with God.”

### Chapter 8

1. “We are sons and daughters of God, even more, the Beloved, \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. What are the two times Satan has lost the battle?
3. What is Satan’s grand strategy?
4. “The point is: We do not experience the story of our lives on \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ ground.”
5. Which C. S. Lewis novel deals with Satan’s destiny for our souls?

### Chapter 9

1. Solzhenitsyn’s quote: “The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between political parties either—but right through \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. “We don’t stop to consider that the curse God announced to Adam and Eve dictates that we will never be \_\_\_\_\_ either in our vocations. . . not our relationships.”

### Chapter 10

1. “Every great story involves a \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Briefly discuss the quests in The Hobbit and Pilgrim’s Progress.

3. "Our Story is written by God who is more than author, he is the \_\_\_\_\_ in our \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Explain what dragons and nits are.
5. "Self-preservation, the theme of every \_\_\_\_\_, is so deeply wrong because it violates the \_\_\_\_\_, who members live to bring \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Chapter 11

1. "C. S. Lewis, once again, captures the final condition of those who \_\_\_\_\_ in his novel \_\_\_\_\_. When the busload of citizens from hell go to \_\_\_\_\_ and step out of the bus, heaven's grass is so substantive that it \_\_\_\_\_ to walk on it. They have become shadowy wraiths who are forced to expend tremendous amounts of energy just to take a step across heaven's meadows. Most of them return to the bus, preferring the \_\_\_\_\_ of hell."
2. Thomas Merton says, "Society was regarded as a \_\_\_\_\_ from which each single individual had to \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Chapter 12

1. Gabriel Marcel: "\_\_\_\_\_ is for the soul what \_\_\_\_\_ is for the living organism."
2. Thoreau says that most men "live lives of \_\_\_\_\_."
3. According to Eldredge Act IV takes place in \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Epilogue

1. Define "epilogue"
2. Jonathan Edwards: "This life ought to be spent by us only as a \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Why does Liddell run? Why does Abrams run?
4. "The cross of Christ is, as T. S. Eliot said, ' \_\_\_\_\_ Everything before leads \_\_\_\_\_; everything that follows \_\_\_\_\_."
5. "As Jenson says, 'The story about Jesus is gospel because it is the \_\_\_\_\_'"