

THE KITE RUNNER-discussion questions

Note: There are only a few questions since there are already many good questions that can be found in the back of the book.

1. Catholics are privileged to be able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - a. How do you think the story might have changed if Amir had confessed his sins to Hassan? To Baba? To Rahim? Do you think Amir would have received forgiveness? Would confession to any of them make his life better or worse?
 - b. How do you think it might have affected Amir if he could have confessed his sins to a priest (if he were Catholic) or another person of God who could have assured him of God's forgiveness?
2. On page 38, Amir describes Assef as a sociopath. Sociopaths often derive pleasure from hurting or killing people with no remorse.
 - a. What should the Christian response be to people who exhibit sociopathic behavior?
 - b. How should we protect society from people who derive pleasure from doing harm? Do we do an adequate job?
3. Amir was aware of the double standards that benefited him. Amir grew up as a child of privilege, whereas Hassan was a servant. Amir knew he was lucky to have Baba as his father because this stopped Assef from harassing him too much. Amir also received many presents for his birthday because of his father's popularity. Later in the book, Amir refers to the "*Afghan double standard that favors his gender.*" His wife-to-be, Soraya, was held to a different standard than the men of the culture and was considered to be a woman with a "*history.*"
 - a. Do we still have double standards for the "people of privilege" versus the poor in our society? For men and for women? What are some other double standards that exist?
 - b. Have you ever been a victim of a double standard? Have you ever benefited from one? Have you ever helped to perpetuate one?
 - c. How did being a child of privilege shape Amir's behavior? How did he feel about himself and his actions?
 - d. How did being a servant shape Hassan's behavior? How did he feel about himself and his actions?