

# Talk Amongst Yourselves...

## For AN ALMOST HOLY PICTURE

1. What is your personal idea of God? How would you explain God?
2. Have you ever been full of longing for something or someone? What was it that you longed for and how did you come to terms with your longing? Was it fulfilled? Did it go away?
3. Has an unrealized longing ever been catalytic for a journey—a physical journey? A spiritual journey? A philosophical journey?
4. "I'm giving God my full attention. Isn't that prayer?" If this is a definition of prayer, have you experienced prayer like this description?
5. Have you ever experienced something so painful, so profound it made it wail to God? Rail at God?
6. "But most religious answers aren't intended to ease our pain but to defend and justify God." What do you think about this statement? Do you agree? Do you disagree?
7. Are there any routine acts of service you perform that have become holy and sacred to you?
8. Pain and suffering is inevitable in life but do you think pain can be valuable? Even beautiful?
9. "There is a relationship...between our pain and what God calls us to..." If you look at the seasons in your life when there was pain or suffering, can you see anything that communicated God calling to you? Did those seasons unveil His calling for you?
10. Should parents protect their children from experiencing pain?