

## Discussion Questions

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### **THE LEAST OF THESE**

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### **About the Book**

Journalist Scott Harrington sets out to write a documentary on the lives of three homeless men. He hopes to win a prestigious award and his father's respect. In the process, he uncovers stories of heartbreak, trauma, and rejection, causing him to revisit his own tragic past and the guilty secret that he holds.

Claire Bassett has been searching for her husband who went missing a year ago. The attentions of another man cause her to question if she should continue to search or move on with her life. As Scott and Claire's stories overlap, will there be restoration or rejection?

TITLE: The Least of These

Discussion:

Question 1: What was Scott's motivation for wanting to win a journalistic award? Why was it so important?

Answer 1: Scott sought his father's approval. He lived in his brother's shadow, even following his brother's death.

Question 2: What emotions did Claire experience when she packed to move from her home?

Answer 2: Claire felt powerless. Moving felt like giving up all hope of Andrew's return.

Question 3: A year had passed without any word from her husband, yet Claire was still married. What emotions did she experience when Jonathan showed interest? Was it right or wrong to allow that friendship to grow?

Answer 3: Jonathan reminded Claire what it felt like to be an attractive woman. She remained faithful, but the conflict raged internally.

Question 4: Why did Scott change his mind about using D.J. for the third bio?

Answer 4: Despite his initial concerns, D.J. was a loyal and protective friend to Pete. Scott saw D.J. reading his Bible. He was not characteristic of others living on the street.

Question 5: Stella was an anchor for Scott, yet he failed to recognize her true feelings? Why?

Answer 5: Scott was self-absorbed with his childhood, his guilt in knowing of his brother's addiction, and his father's disappointment. He couldn't see past those things to recognize the future that he could have with Stella.

Question 6: Tyler voiced his concerns about being part of the documentary. What were his concerns, and were they valid? What was Scott's reaction?

Answer 6: Tyler didn't want the worst part of his life to be written for all the world to see. He didn't want his father to be hurt by exposing his failure. He compared it to Scott's own family and asked how he would feel. Scott hadn't considered that on a personal level.

Question 7: Scott and Andrew had both failed their brothers. How were the situations alike? How were they different?

Answer 7: Both situations were catastrophic resulting in death. They differed because Scott's brother's death was a result of his own choices. Matthew's loss was an accident.

Question 8: Claire relentlessly looked for Andrew for one year. When they reunited, she needed answers before taking him back. What were the issues and why was it so important at that moment?

Answer 8: Andrew had been emotionally unstable following the accident. Claire needed to know that he wouldn't disappear each time he felt overwhelmed. She leads him back to the gospel message to help him understand that he can't atone for his sin. Christ has already done that.

Question 9: When the documentary is completed, Scott struggles with the decision to submit it. What is Stella's advice?

Answer 9 Stella reminds Scott that it's never the wrong decision to do the right thing. He also reminds him that he already knows what is right.

Question 10: Tyler shares a quote at graduation that is designed to inspire others to look beyond themselves and reach out to someone in need. Can you share a time when you have done that? What was the result?

Answer 10: Answers vary.

