

Discussion Questions



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DOVE STRONG

Dove Strong Trilogy #1

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About the Book

Dove Strong loves God. She loves standing chin up and fists clenched when facing Satan's attacks. But there's one thing she doesn't love—other people. So when this spiritually-gifted, antisocial teenager is chosen to join other believers in a trek across Satan's territory, rattlesnakes and evil-intentioned Heathen aren't her biggest challenges.

But failure isn't an option. In a month, the Christian Councils will decide the Reclaim, a vote on whether there'll be a war between Christ's followers and Satan's to take back America. It is up to Dove, God's messenger for peace, to reach her Council in time. Because if she doesn't, things could get bloody.

TITLE: Dove Strong
Discussion:

Question 1: What does Dove Strong believe the symbolic red color to be that will spread across the nation? Do you agree with her?

Answer 1: Dove Strong believes the symbolic red spreading across the nation is Christians' shed blood. She assumes this will be the result of nonbelievers fighting against believers in the Reclaim.

Question 2: In your opinion, should Christians, such as Dove's grandparents, have gone 'off the grid' during the persecution of the Purge? Why or why not?

Answer 2: In Dove Strong, God did not command Christians to hide, so they should not have gone 'off the grid.' Jesus has commissioned every Christian to share the gospel with those who don't know it, even if persecuted. Believers can't obey if they totally separate themselves from those who don't believe. Jesus' followers must live in this world, but Romans 12:2 reminds us "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world."

Question 3: Does Dove's attitude towards others change from leaving her Ochoco property in August to returning in September? How and why?

Answer 3: Yes, Dove's attitude towards others does change. In August, she is annoyed to be sidled with traveling partner, Melody Brae. She is obedient but only cares about her own family. She continues to be irritated throughout her journey until near the end, when God softens her heart and opens her eyes. She discovers she cares about Melody Brae. She is touched by Rebecca's, Hunter's, and Joshua's kindnesses. And her heart begins to ache for Wolfe and Jezebel as she broods over their eternities.

Question 4: What are the 'sides' Dove believes she needs to choose between at the end of her story? List the possible consequences of each choice.

Answer 4: Dove believes she must choose between following the Christians into the war the Councils have chosen, or she must defy her people and stand with the nonbelievers who know nothing yet of this war. By choosing to side with the Christians, she risks ending her relationship with Jezebel and Wolfe Pickett as well as possibly disobeying God, who wants peace. In choosing to side with the nonbelievers, she risks estrangement from her family and persecution from other Christians.

Question 5: Explain, using examples from the story, whether or not you believe Melody Brae has a strong relationship with God.

Answer 5: Melody Brae seems to have a relationship with God since she is aware of her spiritual gift of recognizing danger, something she has received from the Holy Spirit. She also calls out to God for help at least twice when she is afraid. Yet Melody reveals her relationship with God is

not strong when she relies so much on Dove to guide them. While Dove turns to God when they face difficulties in their journey, Melody turns to Dove.

Question 6: Dove Strong lives in the future. Do you believe that in this future where she lives, God is gifting more Christians than He does now, or do you think that the future Christians are better at recognizing their gifts? Why? What talents or attributes has God gifted you, and how are you using them?

Answer 6: In the future where Dove Strong lives, these Christians are better at recognizing their gifts. Since the Purge, these believers are less distracted by the world and more strongly value their relationships with God. But God is also responsible, since in Acts 2:17, He promises, “‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.’”

Question 7: Why do you think God guides Dove’s path to coincide with Wolfe and Jezebel, nonbelievers with worldly morals?

Answer 7: In Dove Strong, God guides Dove to meet these two nonbelievers because He plans to soften Dove’s heart toward people who don’t know Him. This first contact causes Dove to question her people’s abandonment of the Great Commission.

Question 8: Reed Bender uses scripture from the Old Testament to support his argument for proviolence. Explain why the Reclaim is not Biblical.

Answer 8: Jesus’ life on earth is the perfect example of why the Reclaim is not Biblical. Jesus did not use his time on earth to overthrow the ruling government and become a ruler or King of this world. He lived His perfect life teaching about God as well as teaching us to love God and each other.

Question 9: If you were forced into temporary hiding to save your life, choose whether you’d conceal yourself underground (like Micah) or in a forest canopy (like Gilead). Explain the pros and cons of your decision. How would you protect yourself? Bonus: What would your residence look like?

Answer 9 The pros of living underground would be the following: A greater sense of security since the likelihood of being discovered underground is less, the entrance tunnels that are easier to defend against an attack, a fresh supply of grubs and moles to eat daily, and as big of a shelter as you desire as long as you can dig it and prevent it from caving in. Cons would be: The darkness, cave ins, no fresh air, and limited provisions. The pros of living in the forest canopy would be the following: Fresh air and sunshine, birds—a food source as well as their songs, and the ability to see an attack coming. The cons would be: Less security since the likelihood of being discovered is greater, the threat of fire, the risk of falling, and home construction is dependent on the availability and condition of nearby trees.

Question 10: In Dove Strong, God calls messengers every seven years to make a dangerous journey. What has God called you to do this year? Are you obeying Him, and how could you do your calling better?

Answer 10: The answers will vary. God often does not send us on a journey to do His will, but He will use us where we are. No matter what, He calls every follower to be brave and speak truth in love for Him.

