

## Book Club Questions for "Simon"

1. "Simon" offers a unique perspective on the life of Jesus and the political turmoil of first-century Judea through the eyes of his younger brother. How does the novel provide insight into Simon's experiences and emotions as he grapples with his allegiance to his family, his nation, and his faith?
2. Jenifer Jennings portrays Simon as a character torn between his desire for vengeance against Rome and his brother's teachings of love and forgiveness. How does Simon navigate this tension throughout the novel, and what internal conflicts does he grapple with?
3. The novel delves into Simon's relationship with his older brother, Jesus, and the impact of Jesus' ministry on Simon's understanding of power and authority. How does Simon's perception of Jesus evolve over the course of the story, and how does it influence his decisions and actions?
4. "Simon" explores themes of nationalism, violence, and sacrifice as Simon joins the Zealots in their struggle against Roman oppression. How does Simon's commitment to the cause of liberation shape his identity and choices, and what insights can readers draw from his experiences?
5. The character of Simon serves as a window into the complexities of Judean society and the diverse responses to Roman occupation. How does Simon navigate the political landscape of his time, and what insights can we gain from his perspective on resistance and rebellion?
6. Jenifer Jennings incorporates elements of historical research and cultural context into "Simon," offering insights into the tactics and strategies employed by the Zealots in their fight against Rome. What details or descriptions from the novel helped you visualize the historical setting, and how did they enhance your reading experience?
7. Simon encounters various challenges and moral dilemmas throughout the novel, from choosing between loyalty to his family and loyalty to the cause of liberation to confronting the consequences of violence and bloodshed. How does Simon demonstrate resilience and conviction in the face of adversity, and what moments in the novel highlight his strength?
8. The theme of redemption and transformation is prevalent in "Simon," as Simon grapples with the consequences of his actions and the possibility of a different path. How does Simon's journey of self-discovery and spiritual awakening unfold throughout the novel, and what lessons can readers draw from his experiences?
9. Simon's role as a freedom fighter and revolutionary leader is central to the narrative, as he seeks to bring about political change through force and confrontation. How does Simon's understanding of power and justice evolve throughout the novel, and what insights can we gain from his example as a flawed yet determined protagonist?
10. In what ways does "Simon" resonate with contemporary issues and experiences, despite being set in ancient times? Discuss how the themes of justice, violence, and redemption portrayed in the novel offer timeless lessons for readers today and reflect universal aspects of the human condition.