

Discussion Questions

Blood and Bone by Don Hoesel

1. McKeller's motivation for the kidnapping of Jack's sons is deeply personal—the imminent death of his wife. How does that influence your view of his actions during the story?
2. The bones of Elisha are mentioned only briefly in the Old Testament, in a single account of a dead man restored to life after having contact with them. What do you think might have happened to relics of such power after the biblical account ended?
3. An admitted skeptic, Jack values empirical experience over faith. How does your process for evaluating the claims of Christianity compare to Jack's?
4. Jack and Esperanza have different ways of practicing their faith. How do these differences affect how each of them deals with the challenges he or she faces in the story?
5. How did the story's different settings enhance or detract from the story for you?
6. Even after years as a believer, Jack is still a man with a great many character flaws. How does Jack's experience with growing in his faith mirror your own?
7. The novel has several scenes featuring people and/or places of historical significance. What did you learn about these people and places that you didn't already know?
8. Jack and Esperanza chose not to call McKeller early on, despite their knowing he held their children. Do you agree with that decision?
9. The Priests of Osiris is described as an ancient organization whose existence has been hinted at through the works of various artists, scholars, and leaders. Have you given any thought to the use of art, literature, and even building construction, as a means of passing down secret knowledge throughout history?
10. An accomplished archaeologist, Jack did a good portion of his most notable work before the pervasiveness of the Internet. How do you think technology has changed the way archaeologists carry out their work?
11. Romero broke Jack and Esperanza's trust when he sought out Elisha's bones for himself. Why do you think Jack so readily forgave Romero?
12. Jack and Esperanza have vastly different cultural and religious backgrounds, different personalities, and also a tempestuous history. With all these things working against them, what do you think are the key reasons their marriage hasn't fractured?