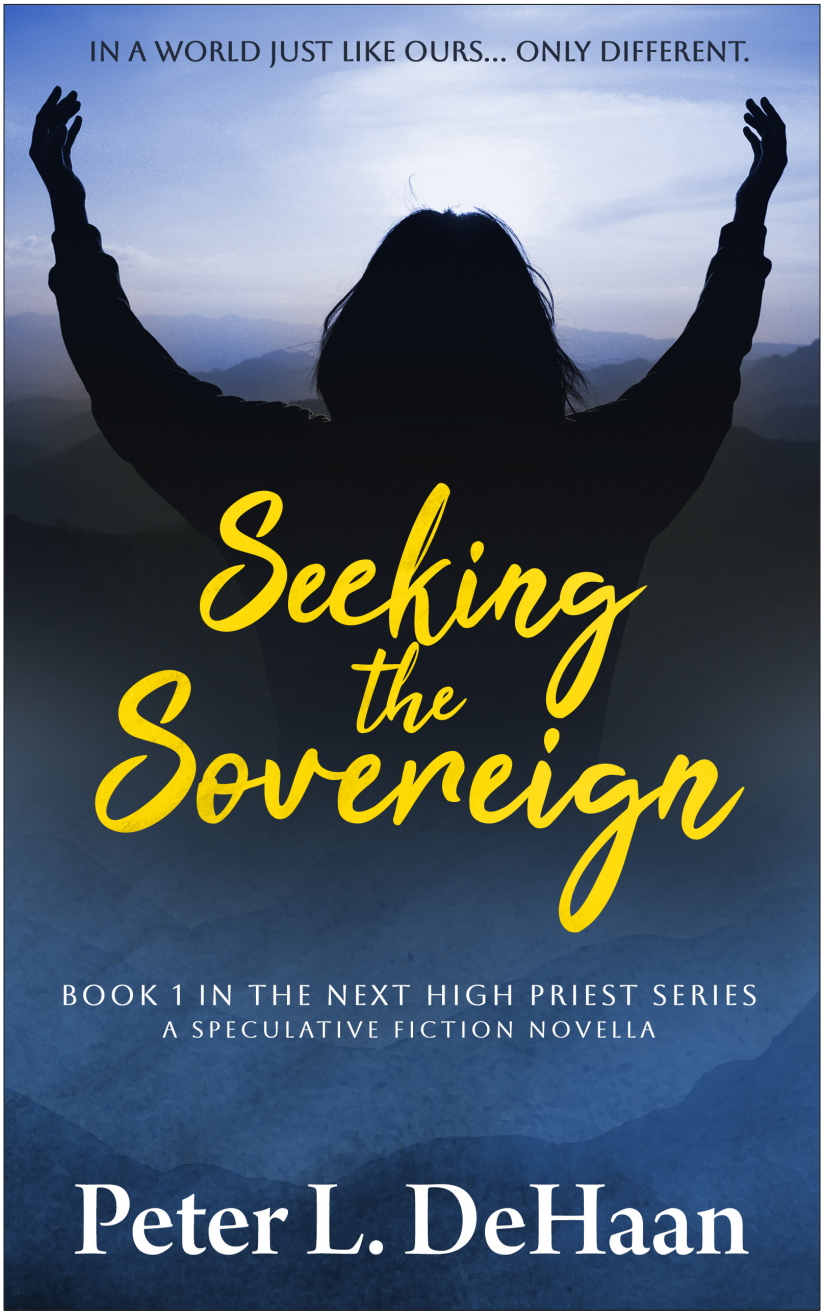


Discussion Guide for

Seeking the Sovereign

by Peter L. DeHaan

For book clubs

PeterLDeHaan.com

How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your meeting. There are no right or wrong answers—share what stood out to you. Save the whole-book questions for the end of your discussion.

Chapters 1–4: The Spark of Faith

Emma begins reading the Holy Text in secret, stands up for a bullied girl, gives money to a homeless man, and starts questioning why ordinary people cannot approach the Sovereign.

1. What first prompts Emma to read the Holy Text despite the danger?
2. How does Emma's family view the Holy Text compared with the way she begins to treat it?
3. Why does Joshua's knowledge of Scripture surprise both Emma and Chloe?
4. What early signs show Emma's faith is already changing how she makes daily choices?

Chapters 5–8: Danger and Decisions

A SWAT team arrests Joshua, Emma escapes through alleys guided by an inner voice, and she begins to wonder how much she will have to give up for the Sovereign.

1. How does the arrest of Joshua shift the mood of Emma's friend group?
2. What does Emma's one-word prayer "Please" reveal about her growing trust in the Sovereign?
3. Why does Emma feel responsible for Joshua even though she finds him annoying at times?
4. How do Emma's parents respond when she suggests reading the Holy Text together?

Chapters 9–12: Guidance and Protection

Emma hides at the library, meets Gabe, receives supernatural direction, and finds sanctuary in a tree house while the police search for her.

1. What does Gabe's ability to remove his own odor and later guide Emma reveal about his role?
2. How does the healing of Emma's head wound affect both her and Chloe?
3. In what ways does the tree-house vision from earlier come true, and why does that matter to Emma?
4. How does Sarah's family show quiet courage by helping Emma?

Chapters 13–16: The Temple Encounter

Emma enters the Temple at night, meets the Sovereign, is chosen as the new High Priest, and returns to face the SWAT team with miraculous protection.

1. Why does the Sovereign choose Emma instead of someone older or more experienced?
2. How does Emma react when the priests bow to her, and what does this show about her character?
3. What changes in the crowd's response once the bullets fall harmlessly to the ground?
4. How does the final confrontation with Captain Hernandez test both Emma's faith and her new authority?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does the story portray the difference between displaying the Holy Text and actually reading it?
2. In what ways does Emma's character grow from the first chapter to the last?
3. What hard choice does Emma face most often, and how does she resolve it?
4. How does the novel show the cost and the reward of obeying the Sovereign's voice?
5. What role does Gabe play in helping Emma understand her calling?
6. How does the story explore the idea of a "pure heart"?
7. Which relationship changes the most for Emma by the end of the book?

8. What does the novel suggest about who is qualified to lead God's people?

9. How does the world of the story feel both familiar and unsettling at the same time?

10. What theme stood out most strongly to you—courage, faith, or calling—and why?

11. If Emma's story continued, what do you hope happens next with her family or friends?

12. Which scene would you most want to discuss again with the group?

About the Author

Peter L. DeHaan is an adult who dreams of being a teenager. When he's not contemplating grown-up thoughts, his mind retreats to the domain of invented worlds with his loyal and most real, yet still imaginary, friends.

His first published adventures come to life in The Next High Priest Series—a faith-friendly speculative fiction adventure in a world just like ours . . . only different.

Read the Rest of The Next High Priest Series

Seeking the Sovereign is book 1 of The Next High Priest Series. The full series:

1. Seeking the Sovereign
2. **Confronting the Chaos**
3. Dueling the Devil
4. Reforming the Religion
5. Freeing the Prisoners
6. Fighting the Fanatics
7. Perfecting the Priesthood
8. Pursuing the Politicians
9. Restoring the Repentant

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