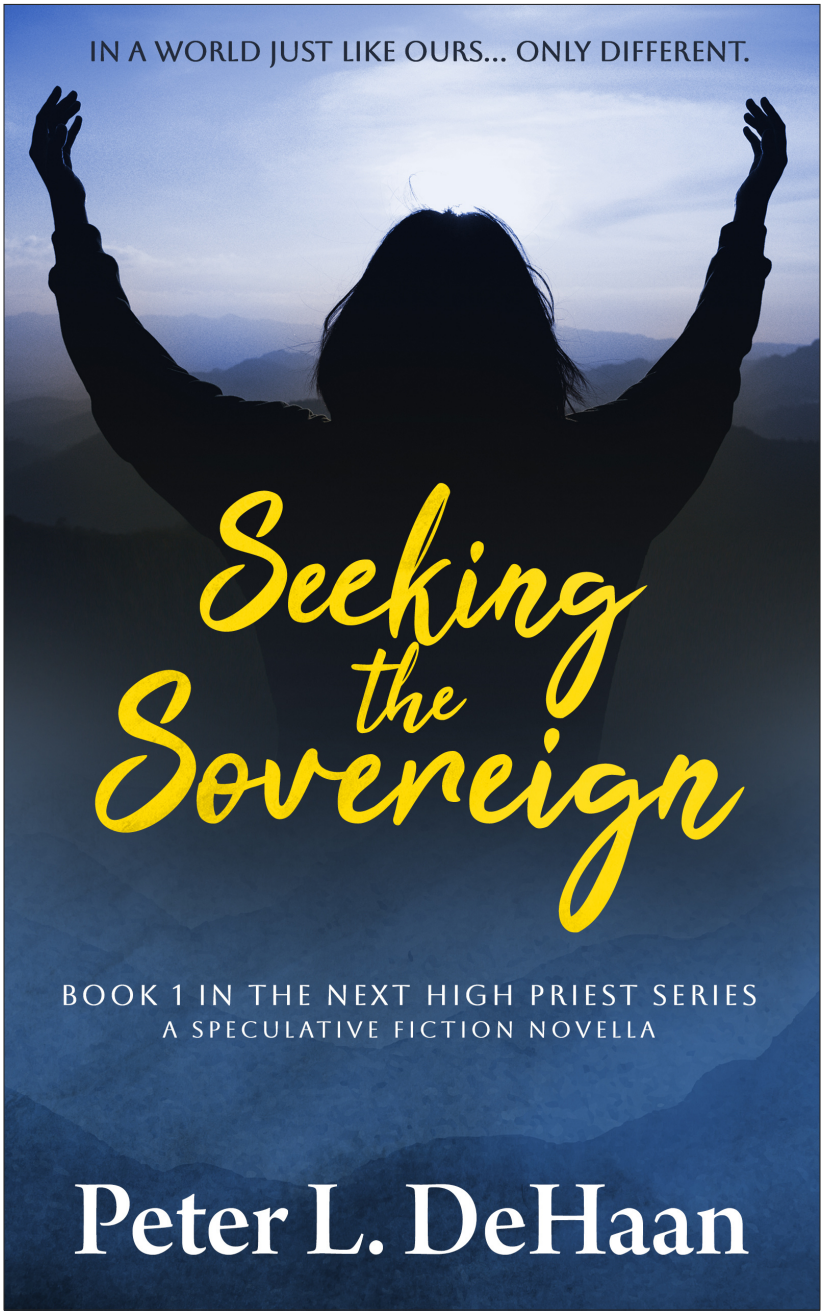


Discussion Guide for

Seeking the Sovereign

by Peter L. DeHaan

For high school classes

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How to Use This Guide

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

This guide is for high school classes. Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit a class period. There are no right or wrong answers—invite students to share what stood out to them. Save the whole-book questions for the end of your discussion.

Chapters 1–2: Forbidden Courage and Family Tension

Emma's bold intervention at school and secret desire to read Scripture at home reveal her growing hunger for the Sovereign amid a restrictive society.

1. Why does Emma act without thinking when she defends the new girl?
2. How does her relationship with Chloe and Joshua begin to shift in these chapters?
3. What does Emma's request to read the Holy Text at dinner show about her character?
4. How do her parents' reactions illustrate the tension between tradition and personal faith?
5. What risks does Emma already sense she is taking?
6. In what ways does the author contrast "normal" faith with Emma's growing convictions?

Chapters 3–5: Secret Study and Shifting Priorities

Emma's nightly ritual with the Holy Text, her decision to skip the musical, and the arrest of Joshua show her faith moving from private to costly.

1. What does Emma's three-bow ritual reveal about her desire for genuine connection with the Sovereign?
2. How does her view of school subjects change because of her Scripture reading?
3. Why does Chloe react so strongly to the idea of reading the Holy Text?
4. What internal conflict does Emma face when she considers giving up the musical?
5. How does Joshua's arrest affect Emma's sense of responsibility?
6. What does the vision of the tree house suggest about the Sovereign's care?

Chapters 6–8: Protection, Prayer, and Moral Complexity

Emma's miraculous escape through the alleys, her family's concern, and her late-night rescue fantasies highlight both divine guidance and the weight of leadership.

1. How does the one-word prayer "Please" show Emma's developing faith?
2. What does the homeless man's blessing reveal about Emma's influence on others?
3. Why does Emma feel responsible for Joshua even though she finds him annoying?
4. How does the author use the SWAT team's actions to explore questions of justice and power?
5. What moral tension exists between Emma's desire to act and her realistic limitations?
6. In what ways does Emma's family both support and limit her spiritual growth?

Chapters 9–11: Research, Allies, and Sanctuary

Emma's library research, meeting with Gabe, and night in the tree house mark her growing clarity about approaching the Sovereign with a pure heart.

1. Why does Emma decide to try the new moon instead of the full moon?
2. What does Gabe's presence and teaching add to Emma's understanding?
3. How does the healing of Emma's head wound affect Chloe?
4. What does the tree house symbolize for Emma?
5. How does Gabe help Emma begin to see the spiritual realm?
6. What does Emma learn about "childlike faith" through her conversations with Gabe?

Chapters 12–14: Unexpected Allies and Changing Plans

Sarah's help, Gabe's guidance, and the police trap force Emma to rely on the Sovereign while delivering final messages to loved ones.

1. How does Sarah's faith and support surprise Emma?
2. What does Emma's decision to leave her phone behind show about her trust?
3. How does Gabe's correction about the "One" affect Emma's sense of identity?
4. Why does Emma feel peace about delaying her Temple visit one day?
5. What does the note to Chloe reveal about Emma's growth as a friend?
6. How does the author build suspense as Emma approaches the school?

Chapters 15–16: The Temple and the High Priestess

Emma's night in the Temple, her encounter with the Sovereign, and her public emergence as High Priestess bring the prophecy to fulfillment in an unexpected way.

1. What does the passage "Approach the Sovereign with a pure heart and live" mean for Emma's survival?
2. How does the Sovereign's choice of Emma challenge cultural and religious expectations in the story?
3. What does the glowing light on Emma's head symbolize?
4. How does Emma respond to the priests' reverence, and why is that response significant?
5. In what ways does the confrontation with Captain Hernandez test Emma's new role?
6. How does the story's ending leave you feeling about leadership and faith?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Emma's character arc move from secret seeker to public High Priestess?
2. What does the story suggest about the cost and reward of obeying the Sovereign?
3. How does the theme of a "pure heart" develop throughout the book?
4. In what ways does the author use light as a recurring symbol?
5. How does Emma's relationship with Joshua change (or stay the same) by the end?

6. What moral complexity does the story explore around authority, tradition, and personal conviction?

7. Which scene best captures the tension between fear and faith for you?

8. How does the prophecy in the book's opening shape your reading of the entire story?

9. What does the story teach about hearing from the Sovereign in everyday life?

10. How does Emma's view of the homeless man and other "outsiders" evolve?

11. If you could ask the Sovereign one question after reading this book, what would it be?

12. Which supporting character most helped Emma grow, and why?

13. How does the story balance adventure with spiritual depth?

14. What lasting impression does the book leave about what it means to "seek the Sovereign"?

15. Who would you recommend this book to, and what would you want them to notice?

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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