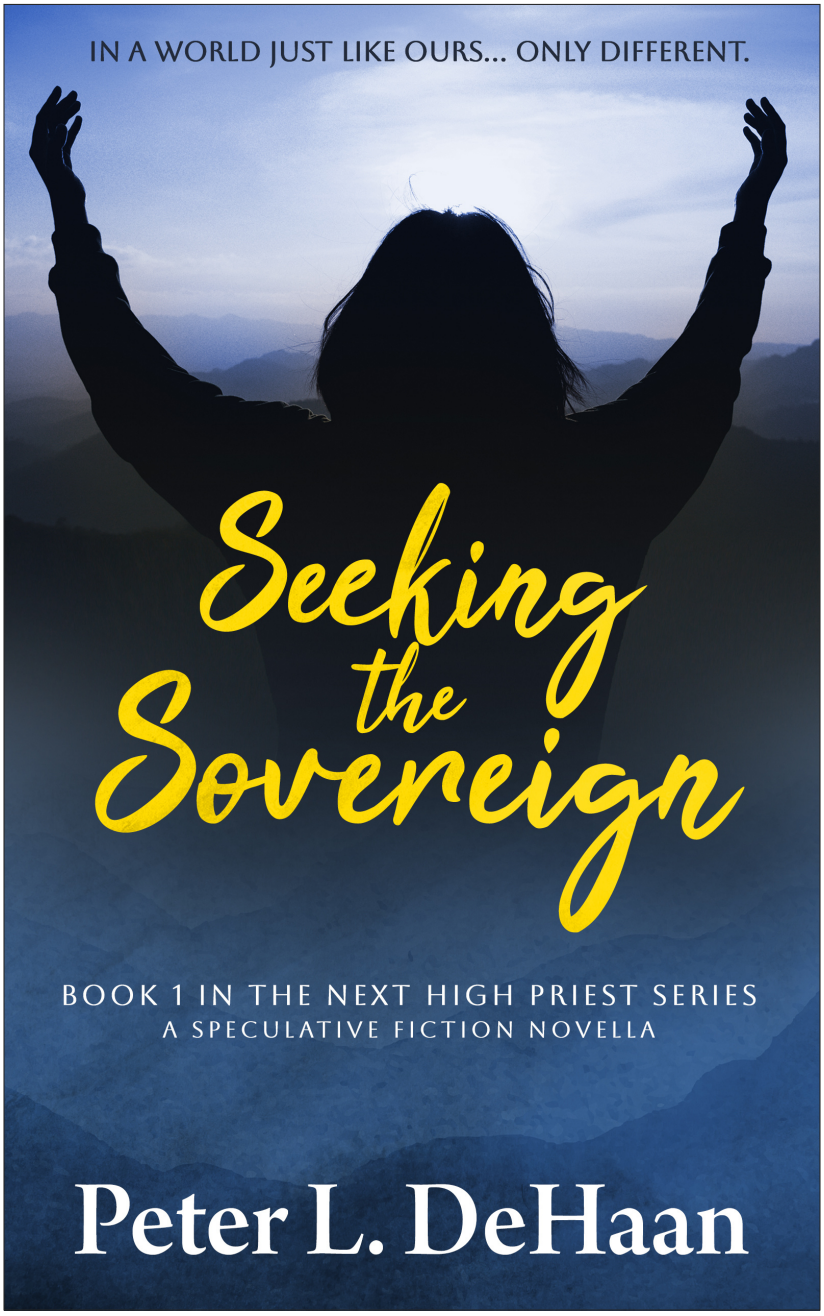


Discussion Guide for

Seeking the Sovereign

by Peter L. DeHaan

For homeschool and co-op 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 homeschool and co-op classes. Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your day. 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 1–2: Emma Steps Out

Emma defends a new girl at school, gives money to a homeless man, and asks her parents to read the Holy Text at dinner—choices that surprise everyone around her.

1. Why does Emma shove the jock away even though she knows it could cause trouble?
2. How does Chloe react to Emma's bravery, and what does that show about their friendship?
3. What does Emma's family think about reading the Holy Text? Why does her mom call it "heretical"?
4. Emma feels the Sovereign wants her to bless others. What small action does she take that shows this?
5. Have you ever done something kind that felt scary at first? What happened?
6. Why do you think the homeless man's words stick with Emma?

Chapters 3–4: Secret Study and Hard Choices

Emma studies the Holy Text every night, sees the Sovereign's hand in her classes, and begins to wonder how much she might have to give up.

1. What ritual does Emma do before reading the Holy Text? Why does she think it helps?
2. How does Emma see math, science, and history pointing to the Sovereign?
3. Why does Emma decide to skip the musical? What does this cost her?
4. Chloe signs them up anyway. How does this moment show their different priorities?
5. Emma asks, "Just how much will I need to give up for the Sovereign?" What would you answer?
6. When have you felt God asking you to choose between two good things?

Chapters 5–6: Danger and the One-Word Prayer

A SWAT team arrests Joshua right in front of Emma; she barely escapes and prays one desperate word.

1. Why do the students scatter when Joshua is taken? What does this show about fear?
2. How does the homeless man help Emma without saying much?
3. What does Emma's one-word prayer "Please" teach us about talking to God?
4. The Sovereign guides her through alleys and danger. What does this tell you about God's care?
5. Emma keeps asking the Sovereign for protection. How does she show trust even when she is scared?
6. Have you ever prayed a very short prayer in a hard moment? What happened?

Chapters 7–8: Family Talk and Big Dreams

Emma's parents warn her about danger; she later dreams of rescuing Joshua and wonders if she should spend the night in the Temple.

1. Why does Emma kick her sister under the table at dinner?
2. How do her parents feel about the idea of a new High Priest?
3. Emma imagines dramatic rescue plans. Why do these ideas feel impossible to her?
4. What does Emma mean when she wonders if she is "crazy or consecrated"?
5. The voice tells her to go to the Temple. How does she decide whether to obey?
6. When have you felt God asking you to do something that seemed too big?

Chapters 9–10: Gabe Appears

Emma hides at the library, meets Gabe, and learns the key verse about approaching the Sovereign with a pure heart.

1. How does Gabe make the bad smell go away? What does this show about him?
2. Why does the librarian want Gabe to leave? How does Emma stand up for him?
3. What does the verse “Approach the Sovereign with a pure heart and live” mean to Emma?
4. Gabe asks if Emma is “the One.” How does she answer, and why?
5. Gabe says a childlike faith is key. What does that look like in Emma’s life?
6. Who in your life helps you understand the Bible better?

Chapters 11–12: Safe Place and New Friend

Emma hides in a tree house, meets Sarah, and receives food and a sleeping bag.

1. How does the tree house match Emma’s earlier vision?
2. Why does Sarah’s family help Emma even though the police are looking for her?
3. What does Sarah tell Emma about Joshua? How does this change how Emma sees him?
4. Emma prays for healing and the wound closes. What does this moment show about faith?
5. Sarah says her mom saw Emma and said, “We have to help Emma.” Why does that matter?
6. When has someone helped you when you were in trouble?

Chapters 13–14: New Skills and Arrest

Emma learns to see the Sovereign's light in others, then is arrested at school while trying to protect Chloe.

1. What color light does Emma see around Gabe and Sarah? What does it mean?
2. How does Emma get out of the handcuffs? Who really frees her?
3. Why does Emma walk straight toward the SWAT team instead of running?
4. Hernandez threatens Chloe. What does Emma choose to do?
5. The bullets fall to the ground before they reach Emma. How does this show God's protection?
6. Emma says, "This isn't the end. This is the beginning." What does she mean?

Chapters 15–16: The Temple Night and the New High Priestess

Emma spends the night in the Temple, meets the Sovereign, and is chosen as the new High Priestess.

1. Why do the priests bow to Emma when they see her in the morning?
2. What does the Sovereign tell Emma about having a pure heart?
3. How does Emma feel when the Sovereign chooses her? Why is she surprised?
4. The Sovereign says Joshua will be all right and that Emma will have a chance to kiss him. How does this promise affect her?
5. Emma tells the crowd, "All praise belongs to the Sovereign." Why is this important?
6. At the end, Emma wonders if the High Priestess role will work out. Do you think it will? Why?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Emma change from the first chapter to the last?
2. What does the story teach about obeying the Sovereign even when it feels scary?
3. Why is a pure heart so important in this book?
4. Which moment of the Sovereign's protection surprised you most?
5. How does Emma's friendship with Chloe grow or change?
6. What does the story say about reading the Holy Text for yourself?

7. How does the Sovereign guide Emma through voices, visions, and circumstances?

8. Why do you think the Sovereign chooses a teenage girl to be High Priestess?

9. What lesson about faith will you remember longest?

10. How does this story make you want to talk to the Sovereign more?

11. Which character would you most like to meet and why?

12. What would you tell a friend who is afraid to obey God?

13. How does the ending give you hope for the next book?

14. What one thing from Emma's example do you want to try this week?

15. How does this story help you trust that the Sovereign is in control?

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
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9. Restoring the Repentant

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