

that when all three finally lay together panting in the sun
the girls no longer felt in the least tired or hungry or
thirsty.¹⁰

It is time to find the place where the dangerous wonder of faith can be discovered—a place landscaped by risky curiosity, wild abandon, daring playfulness, quiet listening, irresponsible passion, happy terror, and naive grace.

In a day when most of us are tired, worn-out, thirsty, and starving for life and joy and peace, maybe it is time to become a child again. Maybe it is time to quit college and take a year off to go to the mission field, or give up a secure job and go back to school, or leave the corporation because the work is killing our souls, or give up the possessions that are possessing us.

Maybe it is time to live this dangerous wonder of faith, take our shoes off, roll up our sleeves, and have “such a romp as no one has ever seen.” Maybe it’s time to play in the snow once again.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. When you think back through your childhood, when did you lose your childlikeness?

2. What’s the difference between being *childlike* and *childish*?

3. Can you remember the time or incident when you stopped being a child? For example, when did you stop skipping or when did you stop playing with toy cars or dolls? Do you think we should ever lose our *childlike attributes*?

4. *I long for a faith that is gloriously treacherous.* How would you define the term “gloriously treacherous”?

5. *I long for a life that explodes with meaning and is filled with adventure, wonder, risk, and danger.* Do you think life should be lived dangerously? What would a dangerous life look like for you?

6. Can you think of someone who is dull? What words would you use to describe dullness in people? What about you — have you become dull? If so, what does it look like in your life?

7. *Sin is more than turning our backs on God, it is turning our backs on life!* Hmm. Interesting. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

8. *I'm ready for a Christianity that "ruins" my life.* In the endnotes, the term "ruins" is defined as a *holy disruption where Jesus turns my life upside-down in order to make it right-side up.* What do you think having an upside-down life would look like? Can you imagine what it would look like in your own life?

A Holy Disruption

I remember a time in my life when the organization I was working for asked me to develop a new ministry to the unchurched. The chairman of the board offered his mansion for our first meeting. At that meeting, the house was swarming with non-Christians and the room was electric with anticipation. More than a hundred-fifty kids jammed every empty space. They were loud and rude, and some of them used swear words.

After the meeting, the board chairman was furious, angrily pointing out that swear words had never been used in his house and would never be used again. The next day he quit our board and took three board members with him—along with their considerable financial support. As a result, some of us in the ministry went as many as nine weeks without paychecks and it took a year to develop new means of support.

But it was worth every unpaid minute. That man loved God, but he was wrong. He just didn't understand that sometimes following Jesus puts us right in the middle of a wild and boisterous world—not the nice predictable God world where only nice words are spoken. I'm sorry he didn't

get it, but I'm not sorry we did what we did. And I'd do it again. Because of that meeting, a national evangelistic movement called Campus Life spread like wildfire over America.

—MIKE YACONELLI

9. *We have allowed technology to beat our imaginations into submission.*

What does that statement mean to you? Do you think it's true in your own life?

10. Ask yourself these questions: When did I feel most alive today?

When did I feel least alive? What do you think would happen if you decided to focus on areas of your life where you feel most alive?

11. Can you think of something you always wanted to do, but were afraid to try? Why don't you just do it and see what happens?

12. Can you name one prominent dream stealer in your life? What

dream did that person try to steal? Did you ever realize that dream or did you lose it forever?

13. How do you feel about the statement *predictability and faith cannot coexist*? Can you think of any examples where predictability is a good thing?

14. *Tameness is not an option*. What would an untamed life look like? How have you been “tamed” when it comes to your faith?

15. *Banal. Dull. Repeated too often. Anesthetized. Tired. Burned out. Thirsty*. What’s the opposite of “banal”? Gladness? Adventure? Can you list some statements, like the ones below, that are calls to the banal life?

- Don’t rock the boat.
- Don’t upset the apple cart.
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Can you think of ways to make these into adventurous statements?

16. Do you think “dangerous wonder” is a real place? What would it look like in your life?