

Small Group Discussion Questions for *Free to Fall*

1. In Chapter One of *Free to Fall*, Rory and Beck encounter a homeless woman holding a sign that reads "I don't want your money. Just look at me, so I know that I exist." What do you think she meant by this? Read the story of Hagar found in Genesis 16:1-14. Hagar calls God a "God who sees." What did she mean by this? Consider Psalms 139 and 1 Samuel 16:7. What does God see when he looks at you? Do you feel "seen" by God?
2. The night before she leaves for Theden Academy, Rory learns that her mother left her a note with three lines from John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*.

*I formed them free, and free they must remain,
Till they enthrall themselves: I else must change a
Their nature*

In the poem, these lines are spoken by God, referring to man, His creation. What is God saying here? Note that the word "enthrall" as used by Milton here means "enslave." Consider Genesis 4:6-7, 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13-16.

3. When Rory and Hershey walk through the Theden Cemetery for the first time, Rory sees a tombstone that reads "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour – 1 Peter 5:8." What do you think Peter meant in this verse? Do his words still apply today?
4. As Rory's classmates watching Griffin Payne introduce the new Gemini Gold smartphone, one girl references the Golden Calf narrative in Genesis. Read Exodus 32. In what ways might society's relationship with Lux resemble the Israelites decision to worship the golden calf? Consider Romans 1:25.
5. During her first Plato Practicum, Rory does a simulation of a classic ethics problem known as the Trolley Problem. (For more details, read the Wikipedia description of the problem.) Discuss Rory's decision. What would you do in that situation?
6. What do you think the Doubt is? Consider Matthew 11:15, John 14:16, 1 John 2:1, Micah 3:8-10, and Acts 2:1-5. Why are the Few so threatened by the Doubt? What is the "still small voice"? Consider 1 Kings 19:11-13. Why does God speak to us quietly? What do you think it means to be led by the Spirit?
7. When Rory is in the secret society's tomb for the first time, she hears the Doubt say, "choose today whom you will serve." Read Joshua 24:15. Joshua chose to serve the Lord. Who do you serve? Is this a choice you only have to make once, or do you have to make it daily? What choice did Rory make? What did it cost her?

8. The night before midterms, Rory helps Hershey study for her exams. Was Rory's decision irrational? Was it wise? Is there a difference between Reason and Wisdom? Where does Wisdom come from? Consider Colossians 1:9, James 1:5, James 3:17 and Proverbs 1:7.
9. Dr. Tarsus tells Rory that the symbol on Rory's necklace, an upsilon (the 20th letter of the Greek alphabet), is also known as the Pythagorean Letter, because Pythagorus, the philosopher and mathematician, saw the letter as an emblem of the choice between the path of virtue (which is steep, narrow, and difficult to travel, but in the end you'll reach a high plateau) and the path of vice (which is wide and easy to travel, but in the end will hurl you into a pit). Is this a biblical idea? Consider Matthew 7:13. What is Jesus saying here?
10. Read the account of the Fall in Genesis 3. Why did Adam and Eve disobey God? What did they want? Did they get it? Then, apply your answers to these questions to the narrative of Free to Fall. Why do so many people use Lux? What do they want? Are they getting it? How might Lux be considered a modern day Tree of Knowledge? How are The Few behaving like the serpent in the Garden?
11. The Lux app is supposed to make its users "happy." What is Lux's definition of happiness? Is this the same as the Bible's description of joy? Consider 1 Peter 1:8-9, Proverbs 16:20, and Philippians 4:6-7. Do you think God wants you to be happy above all? Consider James 1:2-8, Romans 5:3, John 16:24 and Galatians 5:22. If not, what do you think God wants for you?
12. Lux is designed to keep its users away from transcendent experiences. What does transcendent mean? (If no one knows, look it up in a dictionary!) Why would transcendent experiences be dangerous to The Few's agenda in Free to Fall? Have you ever had a transcendent experience? What effect did it have on you?
13. The dove is a reoccurring symbol in Free to Fall. We see it three times in the story: on the necklace North gives Rory, on the wall of the mining tunnels, and in the sky at the end. What does the dove represent in scripture? Consider Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10 and Luke 3:22. In light of these verses, discuss the appearance of a dove in the sky during the aurora at the end of the last chapter of Free to Fall? What is the significance of this moment? Consider Matthew 25:21.