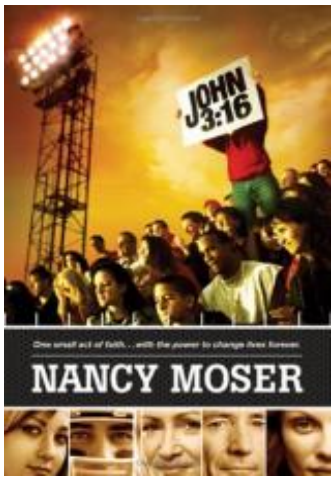
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

John 3:16

by Nancy Moser



About the Book

Five people looking for a reason to keep living are about to find it in the last place they expected. After the loss of his wife, Roman Paulson's life revolves around his son Billy. As a football hero at the University of Nebraska, Billy has a promising life ahead of him. As Billy's coach begins encroaching on Roman's relationship with his son --- especially when he brings God into Billy's life --- Roman starts to fear he'll lose Billy forever. Nothing could prepare Roman for what is about to happen. Roman isn't the only one whose life has been turned upside down. He's one of five people whose lives are about to intersect on a bright, fall day, when one of them will hold up a sign at a football game with a short message: **John 3:16.** This simple act of faith will have the power to change lives forever.

Discussion Guide

1. Have you ever seen someone hold up a John 3:16 sign at a sporting event? What did you think about it at the time? Did you know what the verse said/meant? How do you think this verse is the key to everything?

2. In Chapter 1, Maya says she is striving to be the person she wants to be. Is this goal common to all people or are some people content with who they are? Which is better: to strive for change or to be okay with who you are?

3. Maya followed her boss?s instructions toward success but went too far. Do you think she should have been held more or less responsible than she was? Have you ever experienced a situation at work where a coworker cut ethical corners? What were the results?

4. What do you think of William and Carrie?s vow to stay pure until marriage? Is this feasible in today?s world?

5. At Billy?s funeral, Agata says Billy was praying for her and cites a verse: ?The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.? What constitutes being a ?righteous? person? Who, in your life, would

you deem righteous?

6. Peter gets seduced away from the foundation of his life. When have you or those you loved been lured away from your foundation? What came of the experience? Are you better now for having gone through it?

7. Roman put all his hopes and dreams into his son. Is this inevitable for parents? Is it a good or bad thing?

8. In Chapter 10, Maya tries to close the doors on her old life --- her past mistakes --- so she can continue on a new path. When have you closed such doors? Did it help you move ahead? Or did it matter? What doors should you close today?

9. Velvet imposed punishment on herself for past sins. How do you think her life would have been different if she?d forgiven herself for her past and moved on sooner? What do you need to forgive yourself for?

10. Maya and Sal were obsessed with having a child. Their prayers were answered --- though not as they expected. What prayer of yours has been answered in unexpected ways?

11. What is Lianne?s true personality, i.e. is her tough-girl number genuine or a front? Are other characters pretending to be something they?re not? Maya? Roman? Peter? Velvet?

12. What do you think of Lianne?s decision regarding her child?

13. Velvet and Roman decide their relationship was not healthy. In what way?

14. John Gillingham wrote a book about his mistakes and what he learned from them. How is your life better --- or worse --- for the mistakes you?ve made?

15. Maya is affected by her parents? view of adoption. How have you let your parents? opinions affect your decisions? What were the results?

16. Agata believes that sometimes God waits to grant an answer to prayer until one particular person prays. What do you think about this?

17. Many of the characters receive nudges: the multiple ?Johns,? the red signs, the number 316... What nudges have you experienced? What happened when you followed them? Or when you didn?t?

18. In the end, the characters discover their true purpose. Have you discovered yours?

Author Bio

Since dedicating her writing to themes of faith and how ordinary people can discover their unique purpose, Nancy has had eleven books published --- three books of inspirational humor and nine novels. She is the author of six books with Multnomah Publishers. The *Mustard Seed* series: The Invitation, The Quest, and The Temptation; a novel about heroes

and survivors, The Seat Beside Me (a finalist in two national award contests); and two books in the *Steadfast* series: A Steadfast Surrender and The Ultimatum. Her time travel novel, Time Lottery (Barbour Publishers), came out in August 2002 and won a Christy Award. The sequel, Second Time Around, will be released in November 2004. She is currently co-authoring a series with Campus Crusade co-founder Vonette Bright. The first two books have been released in the bestselling *Sister Circle* series (Tyndale House Publishers): The Sister Circle and 'Round the Corner. Nancy teaches writing at a regional college and is an inspirational speaker.

Nancy has been married for twenty-eight years. She and her husband have three children: 26, 23, and 19, which means they have a zillion years experience in the wonders and pitfalls of parenting (or maybe it just seems that long). She's been blessed with a varied life. She's earned a degree in architecture; run a business with her husband; traveled extensively in Europe; and performed in various theaters, symphonies, and choirs. She needlepoints voraciously, kills all her houseplants, and can wire an electrical fixture without getting shocked. She is a fan of anything antique --- humans included.

John 3:16

by Nancy Moser

Publication Date: September 23, 2008
Genres: Christian, Fiction
Paperback: 416 pages
Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
ISBN-10: 141432054X
ISBN-13: 9781414320540