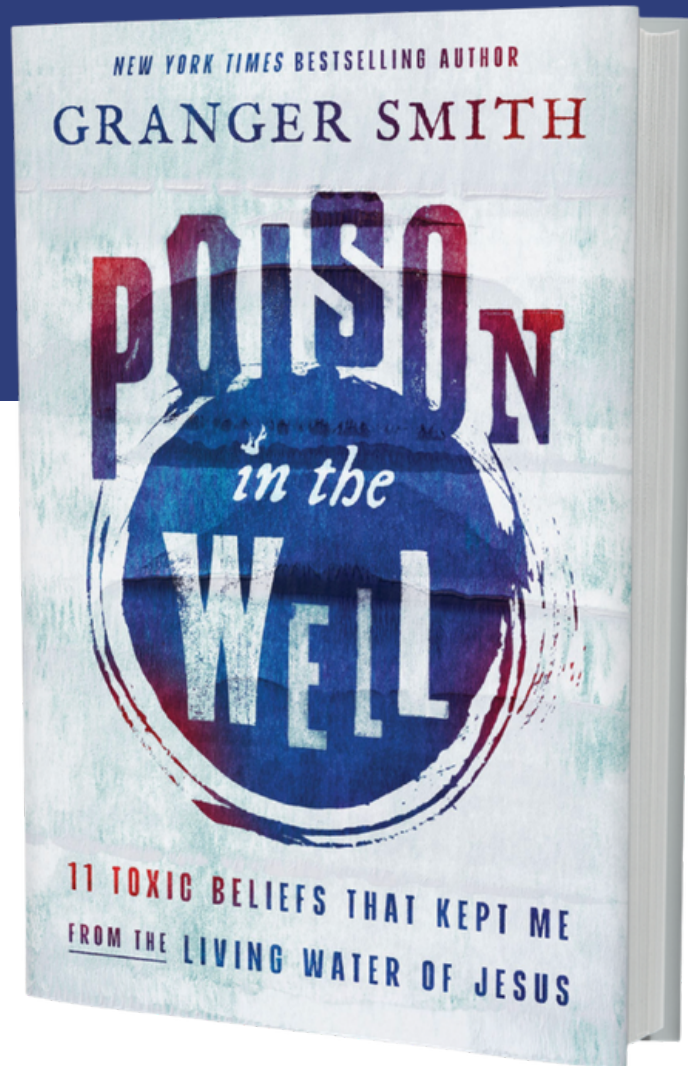


EXCLUSIVE DISCUSSION GUIDE



FOR INDIVIDUALS, SMALL GROUPS,
AND BOOK CLUBS

ABOUT THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Poison in the Well is an invitation to examine the beliefs, assumptions, and habits that can quietly keep us from truly knowing and following Jesus. Through personal stories, biblical truth, and hard-won lessons, Granger Smith challenges readers to move beyond nominal Christianity and into a genuine relationship with Christ.

Whether you're reading alone, with friends, in a small group, or with your church, these questions are designed to encourage honest reflection, meaningful conversation, and practical application. Don't rush through them. Take time to consider how each chapter connects to your own faith journey and where God may be inviting you to deeper trust, surrender, and transformation.

INTRODUCTION

KEY QUOTE

"We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

The Christian life is not about trying harder but about looking to Christ and allowing His grace to transform you from the inside out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What drew you to this book, and what are you hoping God might reveal through it?
2. How have you personally experienced the difference between "doing more" and trusting Christ more?
3. In what areas of your life do you see evidence of God's grace changing your desires?
4. What makes self-reliance so appealing, even for Christians?
5. As you begin this book, what spiritual assumptions are you willing to reexamine?

CHAPTER 1: TESTING THE WATER

KEY QUOTE

"Eleven toxins that poisoned my well and kept me from the living waters of Jesus."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Nominal Christianity can look convincing on the outside while leaving a person spiritually empty on the inside.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some signs that a person may be near Christianity without truly following Christ?
2. How does Granger's analogy of a poisoned well help you understand spiritual deception?
3. Where do people commonly turn for answers before surrendering to God?
4. What makes surrender more difficult than self-improvement?
5. What would it look like for you to pursue the "living water" Jesus offers more intentionally?

CHAPTER 2: THE NIGHTMARE

KEY QUOTE

"When we tie our identities to anything or anyone other than God, we're setting ourselves up for heartbreak."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Our deepest identity must be rooted in Christ rather than success, relationships, achievements, or possessions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What identities have been most important to you throughout your life?
2. How can success become an idol even when it begins as a good goal?
3. What is the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing Him?
4. How do painful experiences often expose misplaced priorities?
5. What would change if your identity was fully anchored in Christ?

CHAPTER 3: I'M AN AMERICAN

KEY QUOTE

"When everyone around you calls themselves Christian, it's easy to wear the name but never actually follow the person."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Nominal Christianity can make it easy to confuse religious familiarity with genuine faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has your culture shaped your understanding of Christianity?
2. What benefits and dangers come with living in a society where Christianity is widely accepted?
3. How can patriotism become confused with discipleship?
4. Where do you see pressure to conform spiritually rather than truly follow Jesus?
5. What practical steps help believers maintain their primary allegiance to Christ?

CHAPTER 4: I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A CHRISTIAN

KEY QUOTE

"Nominal Christianity is what happens when the cost of discipleship disappears and the crowd gets comfortable."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Faith cannot be inherited; every person must personally respond to Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has your family background influenced your faith journey?
2. In what ways might nominal Christian identity differ from a personal relationship with Christ?
3. How does true faith in Christ transform our hearts and lives beyond outward actions?
4. How can comfort become a barrier to genuine faith?
5. What evidence gives you confidence in your relationship with Jesus?

CHAPTER 5: I REPEATED THE SINNER'S PRAYER

Key Quote

"The call of the gospel isn't 'Repeat after me.' It's 'Repent and believe.'"

What You'll Learn

Salvation is not based on a momentary response but on God's transforming work in a person's life.

Discussion Questions

1. What messages about salvation did you grow up hearing?
2. How would you explain the difference between religious activity and spiritual transformation?
3. Why is repentance often missing from modern conversations about faith?
4. How can someone examine whether their faith is genuine without becoming fearful?
5. What signs of transformation have you seen in your own life?

CHAPTER 6: I DIDN'T ATTEND CHURCH

KEY QUOTE

"God gave us the church to protect us from believing our own lies."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

The church is not optional for believers; it is one of God's primary means of spiritual growth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has your view of church changed over the years?
2. What unique benefits come from gathering regularly with other believers?
3. How have past experiences influenced your relationship with church?
4. Why do many people prefer private spirituality over biblical community?
5. What role should accountability play in a healthy Christian life?

CHAPTER 7: I DIDN'T READ THE BIBLE

KEY QUOTE

"A heart that's cold toward God's Word will be cold toward God Himself."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Scripture is essential for knowing God, growing in faith, and discerning truth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe your current relationship with Scripture?
2. What obstacles most often keep people from reading the Bible consistently?
3. How has God's Word shaped your understanding of Him?
4. Why is occasional inspiration different from sustained engagement with Scripture?
5. What practical changes could help you prioritize God's Word more intentionally?

CHAPTER 8: I LOOKED LIKE THE WORLD

KEY QUOTE

"The things we chase, laugh at, and dream about reveal where our loyalty lies."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Following Jesus gradually changes our desires, values, habits, and priorities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you see culture influencing your thinking most strongly?
2. How do entertainment, social media, and friendships shape your spiritual life?
3. What does healthy engagement with culture look like for a Christian?
4. How have your desires changed as you've grown in faith?
5. What areas of your life still need greater alignment with Christ?

CHAPTER 9: I WAS COMFORTABLE IN SIN

KEY QUOTE

"In this broken world, Christians are never done fighting."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

True grace does not excuse sin; it empowers believers to battle against it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it easy to become comfortable with certain sins?
2. How does "cheap grace" distort the gospel?
3. What role should loving correction play in Christian relationships?
4. How have other believers helped you grow through difficult conversations?
5. What practical habits strengthen believers in their fight against sin?

CHAPTER 10: I HAD NO HOPE

KEY QUOTE

"The Bible calls hope an anchor of the soul, fastened to Christ Himself."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Biblical hope is rooted in the character and promises of God rather than circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do people commonly define hope, and how does Scripture define it differently?
2. What experiences have most challenged your hope?
3. How can grief and hope exist together?
4. What does it mean for Christ to be an anchor for your soul?
5. How can believers help one another persevere through seasons of despair?

CHAPTER 11: I THOUGHT I COULD SAVE MYSELF

KEY QUOTE

"The only hope—for me, for you, for any of us—is Christ alone."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Salvation is entirely God's work and cannot be earned through human effort.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What messages does our culture send about self-sufficiency and success?
2. Why is self-reliance so attractive?
3. How does understanding God's grace change the way we view good works?
4. What areas of your life are hardest to surrender to God?
5. How does dependence on Christ bring freedom rather than weakness?

CHAPTER 12: THE BEST THING ABOUT HEAVEN IS SEEING LOVED ONES

KEY QUOTE

"When the Bible describes heaven, the spotlight is on the glory of God."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

The greatest joy of heaven is not reunion with loved ones but perfect fellowship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about heaven, what comes to mind first?
2. How does Scripture's picture of heaven differ from popular cultural ideas?
3. Why is God's presence the greatest gift of eternity?
4. How does a proper view of heaven affect life on earth?
5. How can longing for God shape the way we process grief and loss?

CHAPTER 13: MY GOD WAS SMALL

KEY QUOTE

"A small God produces small worship, small repentance, and small faith."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Many spiritual struggles stem from an inadequate understanding of God's greatness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe your current view of God?
2. What circumstances tend to make God seem smaller in your mind?
3. How does a bigger view of God change the way we approach suffering?
4. Which biblical descriptions of God's power and holiness impact you most deeply?
5. How can growing in awe of God strengthen your faith?

CHAPTER 14: THE DREAM THAT AWAKENED ME

KEY QUOTE

"God is big. I am small. And that is very good news."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

A right understanding of God's greatness leads to humility, surrender, and worship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of Granger's dream and awakening impacted you most?
2. Why is the fear of the Lord often misunderstood today?
3. What areas of life are hardest for you to place in God's hands?
4. How has God used unexpected events to redirect your life?
5. What does wholehearted surrender look like in your current season?

AFTERWORD

KEY QUOTE

"Jesus is worth more than everything else you could possibly lose."

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Knowing Christ is the greatest gain, even in the midst of profound loss.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the most impactful lesson you learned from this book?
2. Which "toxin" resonated most strongly with your own experience and why?
3. How has your understanding of faith changed through this journey?
4. What practical step of obedience is God calling you to take next?
5. How would you summarize the central message of *Poison in the Well* to someone who hasn't read it?