

SUPERMAN RETURNS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- [Q] Why do you think people desire these superhero myths with powerful, enduring beings?
- [Q] Is Superman a saviour? Is Superman an effective saviour? Why or why not?
- [Q] In what ways does the world cry out for a saviour?
- [Q] Superman is received with applause and adulation. How is Jesus received? Is it different? Why?
- [Q] Compare and contrast Jesus and Superman. In what ways are they similar? Different?
- Read Colossians 1:13–23.**
- [Q] List all the qualities of the Saviour as described here. How could this description motivate you in your daily life? In your worship?
- [Q] According to this passage, what does this saviour, or rescuer, accomplish?
- [Q] What would it look like to live under the reality of this passage?
- [Q] In what ways are people crying for a saviour around you? In what ways can you help point them toward Christ?

SPIDERMAN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- [Q] What makes a hero? Is it simply courage? Fearlessness? Great power? Good looks? Is it a mindset, an attitude? What makes one person a hero and another person ordinary?
- Read Hebrews 11:1–40.**
- [Q] Who are the real heroes in the passage? What made them heroes?
- [Q] In what ways are these biblical heroes like—and unlike—Spider-Man?
- [Q] How do choices shape character? If choices shape character, how does that affect culture?
- [Q] What about intentions? Can you just intend to do the right thing? If you do bad things and feel remorse about it, is that okay?
- [Q] Do choices involve more than external behaviour? Must we make choices regarding our internal state as well? (Read Romans 12:1–2 and Philippians 4:8–9.)
- [Q] How does Uncle Ben’s warning to Parker compare with Christ’s warning in Luke 12:48?

BATMAN BEGINS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Justice is a nebulous term. In the name of justice people have done some patently unjust things, and ethicists have effectively argued that morality sometimes compels us to violate the laws of an unjust society. In fact, Batman’s own heroism has often been called into question, and the justness of his tactics has been hotly debated—both in his mythical universe and in the culture surrounding his audience.

[Q] How do you define justice?

Read Proverbs 28:21

- [Q] What social factors do you see as major contributors to crime?
- [Q] How should an awareness of such factors impact a society’s execution of justice?
- [Q] What about Batman makes him seem heroic to you?
- [Q] What about Batman’s tactics or worldview cause you concern?
- [Q] How would your community change if its criminal justice system were inspired by Batman’s example? What’s improved? What’s sacrificed?

Read Micah 6:8

- [Q] How does a love of mercy impact our pursuit of justice?
- [Q] Where does humility fit in a conversation about justice and mercy?

X-MEN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Q] X-Men is really about outcasts. What groups of people in our society may feel the burden of oppression or prejudice today?

Read Psalm 12 and Deuteronomy 10:14–22. These passages describe God’s heart for the oppressed and our responsibility to them.

- [Q] What do these passages tell you about God and his attitude towards those who are oppressed? What does it do for your faith to see his heart on this issue?
- [Q] Although God’s heart is for the oppressed, justice is not always immediate. How does your faith deal with this?
- [Q] In **Deuteronomy 10** God describes himself as loving the alien. On what basis were the Israelites to love aliens, or outcasts (v. 19)?
- [Q] Who are aliens in our midst? In what practical ways can you love the aliens around you (vv. 18, 19)?

Read Matthew 5:43–48. The tables are turned here. Jesus, in this passage, gives commands to those who suffer under persecution.

- [Q] What does this passage tell you about God’s heart for his enemies?
- [Q] In what ways are Christians persecuted or oppressed? How have you experienced this?
- [Q] What are Christ’s commands for those who are persecuted?
- [Q] In what practical ways can you love your enemies and persecutors?