

**Questions to use in a book group to discuss**

**“Finley’s Tale – Book II: Heaven on Earth”**

**For Fun . . . For Real . . . From God . . .**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day – May 10 (page 3)**

**For Fun** – How do human situations – family, finances, and limitations – make us laugh?

**For Real** – Why do human limitations block out God’s Word and yet are the reason for God’s Word?

**From God** – How does having the Lord as our Shepherd (Psalm 23) make a difference to a group of people?

**The Ascension of Our Lord – Thursday, May 14 (page 6)**

**For Fun** – Have you ever lost something you needed?

**For Real** – Why can’t church budgets cover every expense?

**From God** – Since Christ ascended, how does His presence fill our troubled places, too?

**Friday, May 15 (page 8)**

**For Fun** – Without naming names, do you ever notice rude behaviour?

**For Real** – Why does rude behaviour, even in trivial cases, bother us so?

**From God** – Is a little bit of faith enough to move mountains of rudeness?

**Saturday, May 16 (page 10)**

**For Fun** – Can we feel different about members of our Christian family at different times?

**For Real** – Why does it help to know each other well?

**From God** – Does it take a lot to pray in public? Why?

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 17 (page 14)**

**For Fun** – How do our chosen names match up to who we think we are?

**For Real** – When we rebuke someone, how should we do it?

**From God** – What guidance does 1 Timothy 5:1-2 give?

**Tuesday, May 19 (page18)**

**For Fun** – Are all our prayers answered with a “yes”?

**For Real** – Have you ever lost someone or something suddenly?

**From God** – What kinds of words from the pastor comforted the family, or have comforted you?

**Wednesday, May 20 (page 19)**

**For Fun** – Is everyone’s life an open book? Should it be?

**For Real** – Does knowing each other’s stories increase mercy or condemnation?

**From God** – What does Scripture say to you about love covering over sins in Proverbs 10:12 and 1 Peter 4:8?

**Thursday, May 21 (page 22)**

**For Fun** – Why does the appearance of the money trees bother Pastor Clement?

**For Real** – Why do churches always seem to need more money?

**From God** – Why, according to Philippians 4:12 &19, should churches and pastors not let money issues trouble them?

**Friday, May 22 (page 24)**

**For Fun** – How do we short change our sense of small?

**For Real** – What is your favourite fragrance?

**From God** – How does St. Paul compare those who share the Gospel to fragrance in 2 Corinthians 2:15?

**Saturday, May 23 (page 25)**

**For Fun** – What is your favourite flower?

**For Real** – Why is nature so beautiful when viewed up close or from a distance?

**From God** – How does Psalm 104:13-16 credit God for nature’s beauty?

**The Day of Pentecost – May 24 (page 28)**

**For Fun** – What is one of the first things you like to do when summer returns?

**For Real** – How did you feel if you were asked to do something you thought you couldn’t do?

**From God** – How is the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) like the first weekend of summer?

**Friday, May 29 (page 32)**

**For Fun** – How important is the outdoor appearance of your church?

**For Real** – What do volunteers do to keep it looking nice?

**From God** – How did Jesus and His disciples receive the willing help of others, according to Luke 8:1-4?

**The Holy Trinity – May 31 (page 34)**

**For Fun** – What was your best time at a church picnic?

**For Real** – Why is play (like children do) an important part of togetherness?

**From God** – How is Jeremiah 31:12-14 partly fulfilled when the church is joyful together?

**Monday, June 1 (page 37)**

**For Fun** – Why is dealing with the police potentially scary?

**For Real** – Why is no one spared being pulled over?

**From God** – Where alone is our hope of being innocent, according to Romans 3:23-24?

**Wednesday, June 3 (page 39)**

**For Fun** – Have you ever started something that became too big a task?

**For Real** – Why do people make the effort to redecorate?

**From God** – How does Revelation 3:19-20 remind us of the renovations our hearts need for God to stay there?

**Friday, June 5 (page 41)**

**For Fun** – Do you suspect it was “Griffin the Gremlin” who made the mess in the choir room or someone else?

**For Real** – Have you ever heard something spoken against the good you are attempting?

**From God** – How do Matthew 5:12, Proverbs 9:8, and Ecclesiastes 7:5 help us handle unloving acts?

**Saturday, June 6 (page 43)**

**For Fun** – Does someone you know, that is born abroad, have an advantage?

**For Real** – What kinds of wise (or foolish) things do we do to give our children an advantage?

**From God** – How does being born God’s own child and a citizen of heaven, according to Philippians 3:20, give us an advantage?       -3-

### **The Second Sunday after Pentecost – June 7 (page 44)**

**For Fun** – Who do you think was most surprised with the middle-of-the-night phone conversations?

**For Real** – How did Aia’s conversations compare to Hebrews 12:1-4?

**From God** – How is hearing God’s Word or talking to a Christian like phoning home?

### **Tuesday, June 9 (page 47)**

**For Fun** – Where is the joy in cleaning up other people’s messes?

**For Real** – When is it important to take the risk to confront someone?

**From God** – How does Matthew 7:5 help us be less judgmental?

### **Friday, June 12 (page 51)**

**For Fun** – What will Hiram’s and Carlton’s wives say to them if they find out?

**For Real** – Why do people dress less modestly than they used to?

**From God** – How does 1 Peter 3:3-5 describe where to look for beauty?

### **The Third Sunday after Pentecost/The Holy Trinity – June 14 (page 53)**

**For Fun** – Have you saved any money using coupons or by another method?

**For Real** – What head-scratching, “*Uff da*” behaviour have you experienced?

**From God** – What is the strength of the congregation in Nehemiah 8:10?

### **Tuesday, June 16 (page 55)**

**For Fun** – Why is it easy to go overboard in our criticisms?

**For Real** – When does an “eye for detail” disturb our love for God and each other?

**From God** – What wordless tool for change does Philippians 4:9 allude to?

### **Wednesday, June 17 (page 60)**

**For Fun** – Whom do you know who gets weary of beige and boring?

**For Real** – Why are we so often afraid to take risks?

**From God** – How risky is it to do things God’s way, according to Proverbs 3:3-6?

**Thursday, June 18 (page 62)**

**For Fun** – Have you ever been tempted to use bad language?

**For Real** – What did you think of Annette approaching Aia like this?

**From God** – What prayer is offered in Psalm 141:3?

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day – June 21 (page 65)**

**For Fun** – What kind of dishwasher are you – reluctant or diligent?

**For Real** – Why are special places so important?

**From God** – How does Titus 2:14 encourage us to be diligent?

**Wednesday, June 24 (page 67)**

**For Fun** – What made the extended family all miss lunch?

**For Real** – Have you ever been too busy to eat?

**From God** – In Luke 17:11-17, what was missing in the nine lepers?

**St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles – Monday, June 29 (page 68)**

**For Fun** – Why are delivery stories so memorable?

**For Real** – Why does having a baby require faith? Hope? Love?

**From God** – According to Titus 3:5-7 and 1 Corinthians 11, does God remember both our birthday and our baptismal birthday?

**Tuesday, June 30 (page 71)**

**For Fun** – Do you believe in the benefits of “Vitamin G?”

**For Real** – Why do you think naming a child is worth extra thought?

**From God** – In Luke 2:21 what reason is given why Mary and Joseph did not get to choose the boy's name?

**Canada Day, Wednesday, July 1 (page 72)**

**For Fun** – What other countries' independence days do you know about?

**For Real** – How do Arni and Juliette make the day a celebration?

**From God** – What does Psalm 33:12 say about faith and citizenship?

**Independence Day, Saturday, July 4 (page 73)**

**For Fun** – How did the mice share in the holiday festivities?

**For Real** – How do you celebrate your freedom on July 4<sup>th</sup>? In a democracy? In Christ?

**From God** – How does Galatians 5:1 urge us to guard our freedom?

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 5 (page 76)**

**For Fun** – Can people serve in the church even though they aren't perfect?

**For Real** – Why do people hide and despise their short comings?

**From God** – How does Pastor imitate the description of Christ in Hebrews 4:15?

**Wednesday, July 8 (page 77)**

**For Fun** – Why do some people assume the worst?

**For Real** – What do you think of the quote from Mr. Rogers?

**From God** – How does Psalm 46:2 help in panicky moments?

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 12 (page 80)**

**For Fun** – What things do the hymns of the other traditions remind us of?

**For Real** – What do you do with foreboding premonitions?

**From God** – How are “simple gifts” reflected by Psalm 131?

**Monday, July 13 (page 81)**

**For Fun** – What do Little Bluegrass and Peter have in common?

**For Real** – What changes are happening in Rocky's life?

**From God** – What changes in Simon Peter's life are indicated in Matthew 16:18?

**Tuesday, July 14 (page 83)**

**For Fun** – How did Little Herb distinguish himself?

**For Real** – Have you ever had to pay the price for someone's immaturity?

**From God** – What does Proverbs 14:34 say about community?

**Thursday, July 16 (page 85)**

**For Fun** – Where do you suspect the painting belonged?

**For Real** – How does broken trust change many things?

**From God** – How is Proverbs 11:9 illustrated by this story?

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 19 (page 91)**

**For Fun** – Do you have a special recipe memorized?

**For Real** – Why is it important to celebrate special events?

**From God** – How do our baptismal customs reflect Galatians 3:26-27?

**Thursday, July 23 (page 95)**

**For Fun** – How do you make birthdays fun?

**For Real** – How do you make birthdays say, “Glad you were born!”?

**From God** – What does Psalm 139:13-16 say about our birth?

**Friday, July 24 (page 97)**

**For Fun** – How many different ways was this day unforgettable?

**For Real** – What about pickles do you think Clement found in Numbers 11:5 and Isaiah 1:8?

**From God** – What do Canoe and Paddle learn about visiting with Holy Communion?

**St. James the Elder, Apostle – Saturday, July 25 (page 101)**

**For Fun** – What would happen if this prank were pulled at your church?

**For Real** – On a scale of 1 to 10, how mean was the prank by Griffin?

**From God** – How does Paul indicate in Philippians 3:14-15 that we are at different points in our walk with Christ?

**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 26 (page 103)**

**For Fun** – If you have ever gotten something for free, how did it feel?

**For Real** – Why would Ellie not notice her eccentricities?

**From God** – Acts 20:35 has one of the few quotes of Jesus not in the Gospels, but does it match Jesus’ teaching?

**Monday, July 27 (page 106)**

**For Fun** – How did Clement hurt Aia’s feelings?

**For Real** – Why does school always start early for the teachers?

**From God** – According to Psalm 65:7, how does God keep us when we are overwhelmed?

**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 2 (page 108)**

**For Fun** – At last, how do you feel that Griffin the Gremlin was nabbed?

**For Real** – What (besides property) can children inherit from their parents?

**From God** – How do Exodus 20:4-5 and 34:6-7 tell how God treats generations?

**Tuesday, August 4 (page 111)**

**For Fun** – Why did the funeral home listings tickle Clement and Aia so?

**For Real** – Why is it good for Christians to patronize each other’s businesses?

**From God** – What joy does 1 Corinthians 15:22 add to our visits to funeral homes?

**Wednesday, August 5 (page 113)**

**For Fun** – What frivolous thoughts popped into Aia’s and Clement’s heads?

**For Real** – How do the simplest things (like parenting and shopping) reveal how different we are?

**From God** – What hope does Psalm 128 offer to families?

**Thursday, August 6 (page 115)**

**For Fun** – What surprised you about the reactions to the emu sighting?

**For Real** – In what ways can we use our hospitality to gather people together with Jesus?

**From God** – How does Hebrews 10:25 indicate that such gatherings are worthwhile?

**Friday, August 7 (page 117)**

**For Fun** – How did a racoon and a deer make such an impression on Gretchen?

**For Real** – Where can we go when traumatic things stick to our souls?

**From God** – How does God enter into our tragedy according to 1 Corinthians 1:3-4?



**Saturday, August 8 (page 121)**

**For Fun** – What do you think of Gretchen’s way of coping with her feelings for the deer?

**For Real** – Why does it help to talk to a counselor when we are troubled?

**From God** – What is the promise to those who suffer trouble in Revelation 7:17?

**The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – August 9 (page 123)**

**For Fun** – What special guest appears by Gretchen in church?

**For Real** – How can you repay those who help you by sharing yourself?

**From God** – How does Psalm 42:1 compare the soul’s faith to a thirsty deer?

**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 16 (page 124)**

**For Fun** – How does Aia use humour to diffuse her frustration inside?

**For Real** – In what ways do photos communicate something about us?

**From God** – In Genesis 3:7, why do Adam and Eve care how they look?

**Wednesday, August 19 (page 127)**

**For Fun** – What successful way do you have to shed some pounds?

**For Real** – How does eating less (fasting) serve a spiritual rather than physical purpose?

**From God** – What are Jesus’ guidelines for not eating in Matthew 6:16-18?

**Saturday, August 22 (page 129)**

**For Fun** – Why does the thought of visiting make Aia anxious?

**For Real** – What can be the benefits of visiting as a practice in the church?

**From God** – How does Romans 13:9-13 guide our approach to all others?

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 23 (page 132)**

**For Fun** – When have you heard said, “*Uff da*”?

**For Real** – Why do you think the mouse family wants to move?

**From God** – “The best-laid plans of mice and men” fail, but in what way does Proverbs 16:3 encourage us?

**St. Bartholomew, Apostle – Monday, August 24 (page 137)**

**For Fun** – What doesn't Stacey understand about music photocopies?

**For Real** – In what ways does she show deep dedication to the Lord?

**From God** – What is there in our hearts as we sing to Christ according to Colossians 3:16?

**Tuesday, August 25 (page 139)**

**For Fun** – Why is Philippians 4:6 so hard to follow?

**For Real** – Why does something that upsets someone not bother someone else?

**From God** – Does 1 Corinthians 10:31 say something about worry?

**Wednesday, August 26 (page 141)**

**For Fun** – How are the people trying to cope with the power outage?

**For Real** – Can you give examples of being “unplugged” and enjoying it?

**From God** – In what ways is God our power supply, according to 2 Corinthians 4:6?

**Saturday, August 29 (page 144)**

**For Fun** – How true is the saying, “The real meeting is out in the parking lot”?

**For Real** – Why did the families go to a smaller church?

**From God** – Is the division described in Matthew 10:34 as much or more helpful as it is painful?

**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 30 (page 146)**

**For Fun** – What's one of your favourite songs at church?

**For Real** – Why is God's gift of music so widespread and varied?

**From God** – How does musical variety allow each believer to sing a new song, as Psalm 96:1 says?

**Tuesday, September 1 (page 149)**

**For Fun** – What is the most fun for you – catching, cleaning, or eating fish?

**For Real** – What do you think of Clement's new sticky-note system?

**From God** – How was Aia singing a new song because of her new activity, as Psalm 98:1 suggests?

**Thursday, September 3 (page 153)**

**For Fun** – Which of these excuses have you heard?

**For Real** – Why do people make excuses instead of saying they don't want to do something?

**From God** – According to Luke 14:15-24, why is it not wise to postpone doing good?

**St. Phylisis Day – Friday, September 4 (page 162)**

**For Fun** – What do you think of the mice choosing a saint?

**For Real** – How do you think they celebrated, since Finley omits the details?

**From God** – How does 1 Thessalonians 5:18 encourage us to compile a “gratefulness list”?

**Saturday, September 5**

**For Fun** – Why is it so easy (and even fun) to “X” people off our list?

**For Real** – How do we gain the courage to keep including people in our lives?

**From God** – 1 John 4:7 insists that what action do God and people have in common?

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6 (page 165)**

**For Fun** – How does Miss Virginia's lack of experience show?

**For Real** – How does her class compare with a Sunday School class you attended?

**From God** – How does the Sunday School compare with what Jesus says in Luke 13:45?

**Labour Day – Monday, September 7 (page 169)**

**For Fun** – What good is a nickname, appropriately chosen?

**For Real** – Why is getting a person's name so important?

**From God** – What description of a Christ-like leader is in John 10:3?

**Wednesday, September 9 (page 171)**

**For Fun** – How did Clement's attempt at “multi-tasking” not work out?

**For Real** – How can this chapter show that we all are individuals with our own desires?

**From God** – Where does 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 say our capability comes from?

**Saturday, September 12 (page 175)**

**For Fun** – Why did Mrs. Sorensgaard give Aia back only \$5?

**For Real** – Why must we be prepared when we reach out to others?

**From God** – What attitude toward helping others is in Deuteronomy 15:11?

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 13 (page 177)**

**For Fun** – How did the Board of Elders save the dinner by great teamwork?

**For Real** – Why do we have trouble working as a team to save souls?

**From God** – What does Luke 10:1-2 say it was like when Jesus' disciples worked in teams?

**Holy Cross Day – Monday, September 14 (page 181)**

**For Fun** – What is one of your favourite vacations?

**For Real** – Why is looking forward to a trip similar to the trip itself?

**From God** – According to Exodus 20:11, why is desiring rest important?

**Wednesday, September 16 (page 184)**

**For Fun** – Why are Fred and Nancy so tired?

**For Real** – Is Finley's tiny entry a good example for those who need rest?

**From God** – According to Hebrews 4:9-11, what is the difference between work and rest?

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 20 (page 185)**

**For Fun** – How did Fred give Nancy a Sabbath?

**For Real** – How does the Word of the Gospel relieve us of work, according to Romans 4:5?

**From God** – What does Psalm 90:11 pray as we get ready to lay down our work?

**St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist – Monday, September 21 (page 187)**

**For Fun** – What have you gotten to know better about the characters in Book II?

**For Real** – When we know characters better, how do we better understand ourselves?

**From God** – How do the Osterhagens and the mice live by Proverbs 1:10?



