

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading Discussion Questions for *The Hiding Place*

After reading *The Hiding Place*, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Create a new document to type your answers. While there is not a certain length required for each answer, remember that quality is more important than quantity, and it is important to answer each question completely.

Be sure to include your name both on the document and in the file name when saving to your computer. Upload your completed assignment online by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 5. For more information about summer reading assignments or to submit your completed assignment online, visit www.stpatrickhighschool.net/summer.

Also, be sure to avoid plagiarism of any kind. Answers which are found on the internet, in other publications, or in other students' work will receive no credit.

This summer reading assignment will be awarded a grade in your religious studies, English, and social studies classes, so be sure to submit quality work. Students enrolled in AP courses should complete this assignment in addition to the course-specific assignment for the AP class in which they are enrolled.

Summer Reading Discussion Questions:

1. Corrie's father tells her that he pities the Nazi's: "They have touched the apple of God's eye." What does he mean by that statement? Consider the strength of character it takes to feel pity for a people and a system that means to do harm to fellow beings.
2. What are the various hiding places, real and symbolic, to which the title of this book refers? How, for instance, do fleas help lead to a "hiding place" for Corrie and Betsie while they are imprisoned?
3. In addition to the extraordinary kindness and courage of the ten Boom family, what are some of the smaller acts of kindness shown by others in this memoir? Are people inspired to greater compassion, or less, in dire situations? What motivates acts of kindness—in other words, what makes people kind? What makes some people kinder than others?
4. Discuss the kind of woman Corrie Ten Boom and her sister Betsie were. What sustained them during their ordeal in the concentration camps? To what do you attribute Corrie's courage and survival in the face of so much death and hardship?
5. Stories like Corrie's always beg comparison to us and our own lives. We wonder how each of us would behave under similar horrific circumstances. How would you? What inner strengths and

courage and compassion would you draw on? Would you have risked your life and the lives of your family (especially, if you have children) to help the Jews or any others subjected to brutal persecution? We know what we are called upon to do, but would many of us find the courage needed to do what is right?

6. Comment on what Betsie said to Corrie: "I pray every day that we be allowed to do this! To show [the Nazis] that love is greater!" What do you find extraordinary in that statement? How are they living the Greatest Commandment? What is the Greatest Commandment?
7. Discuss the incident after the war in which Corrie comes across one of the former SS men at Ravensbruck. How did she respond to him at first, and how did she change? What does this say about the principle of forgiveness—its difficulty and its healing power? Be specific and use examples.
8. What do you find most surprising or inspiring in this account of the Nazi era? Did this book change you in any way? Did you come away having learned something about history, about faith, or about yourself? Explain why or why not.