

## Book Club Study Questions

*A Son Comes Home*

by Joseph Bentz

Randall House Publications, 2007

1. Of the three alternating narrators who tell this story, which one do you relate to most, and why?
2. If the author had chosen to include a fourth narrator in addition to Chris, Jack, and Robin, whom should he have chosen? Bobby? David? Helen? In what ways might that person's perspective have been significantly different from the others? Are there any characters who definitely should *not* be included as a narrator? Why?
3. Brainstorm some ideas for an epilogue to this book. What will these characters' lives be like a year from the end of the book? Five years? From whose point of view should the epilogue be written, and why?
4. *A Son Comes Home* has a number of connections to the biblical parable of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32. Ask someone from your group to read it out loud.
  - What are some key elements that make a story a "prodigal son" story?
  - Who are all of the possible "prodigals" in this novel?
5. What is the symbolic significance of the following objects and places in this novel?
  - Jack's '51 Chevy
  - Helen's photo album
  - Chicago (What does the city symbolize for David? For Robin? For Bobby? For Chris?)
  - What other objects or places in the novel could be considered symbolic?
6. What do you think of how Chris handles Cheryl's demands for more information about David? Would you have responded to her differently?
7. Is David an evil character, or would you explain his actions in some other way?
8. Cast this book as a movie. Who would play the major roles and why? Who is easiest to cast? Who is hardest? What do your decisions indicate about how you view these characters?
9. Why does Robin want to marry Bobby? Is she motivated by love or something else?