

Questions for discussion

Chapter 12: Hiding

1. Do we hide in and from relationships?

We will hide in a group or relationship. People also hide from people. I can understand why. Being hurt is no fun. Being loved and accepted is good. Yet, we hide in these things sometimes. Hiding from ourselves.

“I talk about religion and relationships in the same breath because both claim to have a market on people. Yet, people run to and from religion. They also accept and reject relationships. Both institutions have had their share of folly and happiness.” Chapter 12, p, 3

2. What things are you hiding?

Relationship bombs. They are those things we hide. It’s baggage unaddressed. It’s the crud that affects us. Unfortunately, these hidden things usually surface in relationships.

“We begin by hiding our hearts. One way or the other it will grow into deceit, ignorance, and hiding. From there it will birth into lies. Then further on we become defensive, bitter, and angry. What does that lead to? The death of a relationship.” Chapter 12, p, 7

Chapter 13: Crud

1. What kind of crud did you bring into your relationships?

What crud has affected you? The stuff like heartbreak. Maybe you made a mistake. Whatever your crud is, it will seep into other peoples lives.

“It’s about all that crud we put on a relationship burger. What I’m finding is that we gather it up over time. An incident that happened 20 years ago. A breakup. A harsh word from a loved one. It’s all of it. Those life experiences affect us. They become crud that we carry on in our soul.” Chapter 13, p, 3

2. What are you doing with your crud?

Knowing your baggage or crud is the answer. What made you this way? It’s not about getting rid of it. It’s about understanding and dealing with it. Sometimes crud is part of who we are.

“I believe we have the ability to make a better relationship burger. At-least our half could be tasty. The alternative is much, much worse. Who wants to wake up one day and realize your burger is empty? What happens when there is too much crud? People are people and that’s a tiger on its own. Why make it worse by adding crud we did not have to.” Chapter 13, p, 8

Chapter 14: Dumb luck

1. Is our relationships dumb luck?

I don't think relationships are dumb luck. It sure looks that way sometimes. Yet, not knowing ourselves will push us down foreign paths. Not knowing the right traits in a spouse could be a recipe for disaster. There seems to be a lot more of dumb in relationships than luck.

"I was asked by a friend to make a list of what I wanted in a woman. I did not add "no baggage" to that list. Would you? You would think it should be near the top. Instead we write down the perfect stuff. The things that are more than just dumb luck. They are near impossible." Chapter 14, p, 4

2. Are we our own victim?

A list is good. Being in the right place is good. Knowing "me" and knowing what I want in "you" is the ticket. Otherwise we might make ourselves a willful victim.

"I think we secretly want dumb luck. What a great story. It's magical, mysterious, and balks against fate, murphy, and predestination. That excites the reckless side of us. I also think it makes us blind to the warning signs. Are we our own victim?" Chapter 14, p, 6