***The Green Ember – Discussion Questions***

**Prologue:**

1. What do you think about Galt’s statement, “You’re only a traitor if you betray yourself”? Could someone use this argument to justify the actions of Judas, the famous Biblical traitor?

**Chapter 1:**

1. Picket has a fear of heights. Heather’s advice was to just get over it. Was this good advice? Why or why not?

**Chapter 2:**

1. What are some things about the rabbit’s home in the hollow that makes it seem like a good home?

2. Picket’s father said that fainting was a weakness that Picket shared with rabbitkind. What are a few of your weaknesses?

3. Picket’s father said that most of his regrets were caused by making fear his master? Would you say this is a generally true statement?

**Chapter 3:**

1. If you were asked, like King Jupiter, what is your greatest joy, what would be your answer? Why?

**Chapter 4:**

1. What do you think it would be like to live under the rule of a good king like King Jupiter? Does the idea of waiting for a good king remind you of waiting for Christ and His reign? What will His reign be like?

2. Their guest asked Heather and Picket, “Would you like to think there was such a king in this world as Jupiter Goodson?” Why are the parents praised after they answer by saying, “With all my heart” and “More than anything, lady”?

**Chapter 5:**

1**.** Describe a situation in which looking out for your sibling would be a good thing? Can you think of a situation in which it could turn into a bad thing?

**Chapter 6:**

1. Heather told the wolves that, “Your pride is your weakness.” How can pride be a weakness? Can you think of an apt Bible verse?

**Chapter 7:**

1. What should Picket do – obey his sister, not look back, and go to safety or turn back to help her if he could?

**Chapter 8:**

1. Have you ever felt like you were in stuck in a situation with no way out? What happened?

**Chapter 9:**

1. Picket bristled when the other rabbit called him, “lad”. Was he justified in this or prideful?

**Chapter 10:**

1. We all have different skills to bring to the table. Picket is strong in math and helps solve the labyrinth problem. What are your skills?

**Chapter 11:**

1**.** Have you ever had to keep your head in a stressful situation? How did you do?

**Chapter 12:**

1. Have you ever felt lost like Heather as she sailed away from Nick Hollow? What happened?

**Chapter 13:**

1. “Picket imagined himself like a magnet and Smalls as another magnet, turned the wrong way.” Picket felt a dislike for Smalls that wasn’t rooted in anything of substance. Have you ever met someone like that? How should we handle those situations?

2. “If you aren’t angry about the wicked things happening in the world all around, then you don’t have a soul.” What evil in the world makes you angry? What can you do to help?

**Chapter 14:**

1. Picket kept looking behind him at the wolves instead of obeying and running ahead. It cost him a hurt foot, but the cost could have been much higher. In life, we tend to look behind us at the fears chasing us instead of keeping our eyes on God and His directions. In fearful situations, how can we remember to do this?

**Chapter 15:**

1. Picket refused to apologize: to make it right with Smalls. What is a Bible verse Picket should memorize and heed?

2. Uncle Wilfred was right in saying that, “resentment and pride … have been the undoing of many a great rabbit.” Can you come up with another example of that truth?

**Chapter16:**

1. Picket was taking his anger out on Smalls who really hadn’t done anything. We’ve all been guilty of that. What can we do to help get out of that cycle when we find ourselves wanting to take our anger out on someone who’s innocent?

**Chapter 17:**

1. Why was the cry for “The Mended Wood” comforting to the rabbits in their grief? How are Christians comforted in their grief?

**Chapter 18:**

1. ‘Tale-spinners,’ artists and craftsmen are highly valued at Cloud Mountain. What gifts are valued in your culture? Is this right or wrong or indifferent?

**Chapter 19:**

1. Heather is afraid to share her gift of storytelling. What would you tell her that may help her overcome her fear?

**Chapter 20:**

1. Two troublemakers by Emma’s admission: Kyle and Helmer. Both give a bad first impression. How are these two rabbits the same and how are they different?

**Chapter 21:**

1. Do you think Smalls, Uncle Wilfred, and Lord Rake should have rushed in and risked their lives to save Helmer the Black?

**Chapter 22:**

1. When Dr. Zeiger appears to help, Heather is apprehensive. “Heather thought she wouldn’t trust him with sweeping up, let alone healing. He just looked too funny to be taken seriously.” What do you think of Heather’s judgment?

2. Smalls was quick to forgive and try to reconcile with Helmer. Uncle Wilfred, not so much. Do you find it harder or easier to forgive when the harm is toward someone you love?

**Chapter 23:**

1. During the calling ceremony, they say, “I accept you.” “I am accepted.” Why is it so important to feel accepted?

**Chapter 24:**

1. Heather finds out that some at Cloud Mountain don’t trust her or her family and it might be costing Emma something to be her friend. What cost is she talking about? Why might this be true or not true?

**Chapter 25:**

1. Picket is in drowning in self-pity. Have you ever been to that dark place? What or who helped you out?

2. Ms. Weaver says that their community is dedicated to preparing for the Mended Wood, “to be ready when once again we are free.” How does this illustrate how we should live our lives here on earth now?

**Chapter 26:**

1. What do you think changed Helmer’s mind about taking Picket as his apprentice?

**Chapter 27:**

1. Is intentional eavesdropping wrong? Why or why not?

**Chapter 28:**

1. Was Helmer being harsh or wise in training Picket in Lesson Number One: Everything is a weapon.

**Chapter 29:**

1. Is Mrs. Weaver wise in encouraging Picket to stay with his lessons with Helmer?

**Chapter 30:**

1. Children pay for the sins of their fathers. In what ways? In what ways do we all pay for our own sins? What does Deut. 24:16 say about this?

**Chapter 31:**

1. Here we discover that the Green Ember went missing. Why is this a sign of hope?

**Chapter 32:**

1. Kyle asks Heather, “If someone really changes, do you think they can be trusted again? Even if they’ve done bad things in the past?” What do you think? What if the person asks this question before doing the wrong – does that make a difference?

**Chapter 33:**

1. Helmer and Uncle Wilfred had similar tragedies. What makes one hope for the Mended Wood and the other despair? How can you live a life of hope when hard times come?

**Chapter 34:**

1. Uncle Wilfred, Heather, and Picket, were easy targets of undeserved blame for the scared and ignorant. Can you think of other examples from real life of someone or a certain group being blamed for something not their fault?

**Chapter 35:**

1. Helmer doesn’t like Uncle Wilfred but he would be willing to fight for his freedom from an unjust sentence. Why? What drives him?

**Chapter 36:**

1. Do you really trust someone when you feel you need to qualify your statement of trust with a warning?

**Chapter 37:**

1. Even though Winslow wasn’t involved in the treachery, why is accepting a token governorship under Morbin dishonorable?

**Chapter 38:**

1. Kyle is revealed as a liar, thief, and traitor. What clues were given into his true character in the prior chapters?

**Chapter 39:**

1. Heather and Picket put their fear of losing each other to the side because of the greater duty of protecting king and the Mended Wood. Our US soldiers, first responders, and their families are living this decision as well. What are some ways you can personally support these families?

**Chapter 40:**

1 Would you, like Heather, have stopped to save Jo Shanks when the future king and your brother were in danger? Why or why not?

**Chapter 41:**

1. Picket feels like he will fail for sure, feels like he has as much traitor in his blood as patriot. But the feelings didn’t stop Picket. He was determined to go down fighting. Was he right in being willing to sacrifice his life in what appeared to be a hopeless cause?

**Chapter 42:**

1. When Picket was planning his attack, he remembered what he was good at and used his skills. Why is it important to recognize your own strengths and weaknesses?

**Chapter 43:**

1. Helmer held out his hand to Picket. His action said more than a flowery speech. What actions might you use to show appreciation or love?

**Chapter 44:**

1. What do you think inspired Heather to face her fear of storytelling and enter the guild? What was the result?