

Discussion questions to be used in conjunction with *Chop, Chop*, a novel by L.N. Cronk.

Selected questions, marked with a pair of scissors (✂), have been answered at the end by the author.

Relevant verses from Scripture are included for additional study value.

Matthew 6:2-4 – So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Questions 1, 2 and 3 – See Page 4 in Chop, Chop

✂1. Is David correct in what he is saying?

2. Do you think God is pleased with what Laci is doing, even though she does not do it in secret?

3. Laci's continual growing out and donation of her hair is an unusual way of giving to others. What are some other uncommon ways of giving?

*Psalm 96:1-3 – Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all
peoples.*

Questions 4, 5 and 6 – See Page 11 in Chop, Chop

4. Why does David go on the roller coaster even though he knows it is going to make him sick?

5. Have you ever done something similar?

6. David seems to be the only one who is not familiar with contemporary Christian music. How do you think this makes him feel?

Proverbs 31:30-31 – Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Questions 7, 8 and 9 – See Page 17 in Chop, Chop

✂7. At this point, how would you describe Greg?

8. How would you describe David?

9. Based on these descriptions, would you anticipate that they would one day become best friends? Why or why not?

Matthew 6:5-8 – And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father know what you need before you ask him.

Question 10 – See Page 20 in *Chop, Chop*

10. What is the purpose of prayer?

Proverbs 17:27-28 – A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Questions 11 and 12 – See Page 22 in *Chop, Chop*

11. Why do you think Greg brought up the fact that he thought David liked Laci when they were at the carwash?

12. Why do you think David confides in Greg that he likes Samantha even though he has never told Mike or Tanner?

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 – So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Question 11 – See Page 24 in *Chop, Chop*

✕11. What do you think is the significance of the fact that Greg and Laci share a secret hand signal?

Luke 12:33-34 – Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Question 12 – See Page 38 in *Chop, Chop*

12. At this point, how would you describe Laci?

Ecclesiastes 3:12 – I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live.

Question 13, 14 and 15 – See Page 52 in *Chop, Chop*

13. Why do you think Laci agreed to help David play a prank on Greg?

14. Have your ideas about Laci changed any?

15. Do you think David's attitude toward her has changed?

Luke 17:3 – So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

Question 16 – See Page 53 in *Chop, Chop*

16. Should David apologize to Laci?

James 3:9-10 – With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Question 17 – See Page 55 in *Chop, Chop*

✕17. Why do you think David always gives Laci such a hard time?

Deuteronomy 5:11 – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Question 18 – See Page 67 in *Chop, Chop*

18. Why does Greg say “*Oh, my God...*” when that is not something he usually does?

Luke 14:12-14 – Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Questions 19 and 20 – See Page 70 in *Chop, Chop*

19. Discuss how David is different at this point than he was when he met Greg a year ago.

20. What do you think has caused this change?

Jeremiah 29:11-13 – For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Questions 21 and 22 – See Page 72 in *Chop, Chop*

21. What do you think Laci had imagined their trip was going to be like?

22. Why is David nice to Laci at this point when in the past he has been mean to her?

Luke 12:2-3 – There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

Questions 23 and 24 – See Page 73 in *Chop, Chop*

23. Why do the boys go ahead and try to fix up Miguel's place even though Aaron told them not to?

24. Do you agree with Greg when he says that one day they'll know if they did any good?

1 Corinthians 12:11 – When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

Question 25 – See Page 76 in *Chop, Chop*

✕25. Why does David make a conscious decision at this point to not be mean to Laci anymore?

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Question 26 – See Page 79 in *Chop, Chop*

26. What are some ways in which the White's have impacted David's life at this point?

1 John 4:7 – Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Question 27 – See Pages 85-86 in *Chop, Chop*

27. What does this scene indicate about David's relationship with Mr. White?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 – Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Question 28 – See Page 96 in *Chop, Chop*

28. Remembering that this story begins with David and Laci on their way to an execution, what do you think is perhaps being foreshadowed here?

Hebrews 10:25 – Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Question 29 – See Pages 97-98 in *Chop, Chop*

✕29. Do you agree with what David tells Laci in the hot tub?

Luke 9:60 – Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.

Question 30 – See Pages 99-100 in *Chop, Chop*

30. Why do people often place items in the coffins with their deceased loved ones?

John 11:33-35 – When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept.

Question 31 – See Page 101 in *Chop, Chop*

31. When Mike steps out the door and sees that Laci is crying, he shakes his head and gives David a small, sad smile. Why do you think he does this?

2 Timothy 1:3-4 – I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

Question 32 – See Page 102 in *Chop, Chop*

32. Greg has a hard time explaining to David how things were ‘different’ when he went to Florida. What do you imagine might have been different?

1 John 3:16 – This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Questions 33 and 34 – See Page 107 in *Chop, Chop*

33. What does the fact that David, Laci and Greg have agreed upon this hand signal indicate about their relationship with one other at this point?

34. What does it indicate about their individual relationships with God?

Isaiah 6:7 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

Question 35 – See Page 117 in *Chop, Chop*

✂35. When David found out they were not going to take another mission trip to Mexico, he indicated to Laci that he was disappointed and wanted to return. Why do you think he now says to Greg that he does not want to go back?

Jeremiah 17:5-7 – This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.”

Question 36 – See Pages 120-122 in *Chop, Chop*

✂36. Is this type of goal-setting and positive thinking Biblically based or not?

Psalm 119:9-11 – How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Question 37 – See Page 126 in *Chop, Chop*

✕37. When Greg said “Oh, my God,” under his breath when they were at the landfill in Mexico, David noticed it and made note of it to the reader. Why do you think he apparently does not notice it now when Samantha does the same thing in this scene?

Ephesians 5:6-7 – Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

Question 38 – See Page 135 in *Chop, Chop*

38. What has caused David’s discontentment?

Ephesians 4:22-24 – You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Question 39 – See Page 146 in *Chop, Chop*

39. In what ways would David's life have been different at this point if Greg had not come into his life five years ago?

Psalms 17:3 – Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.

Question 40 – See Page 158 in *Chop, Chop*

40. Why do you think David does not allow himself to feel anything at this point?

Job 4:3-5 – Think how you have instructed many, how you have strengthened feeble hands. Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees. But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are dismayed.

Question 41 – See Page 164 in *Chop, Chop*

✂41. Why has David removed himself from God?

Acts 7: 59-60 – While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he said this, he fell asleep.

Questions 42 and 43 – See Page 174 in *Chop. Chop*

✕42. Do you believe that Mrs. White could really try to lead Kyle to Christ after the pain he caused her?

43. What are the reasons you think Mrs. White feels it is important for David to do the same thing?

2 Timothy 1:7-8 – For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.

Question 43 – See Pages 177-178 in *Chop, Chop*

43. Why does David schedule his visit for the last day possible and spend so much time in the bathroom?

Galatians 5:7-8 – You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.

Question 44 – See Page 179 in *Chop, Chop*

44. Why does David say ‘*Oh my God*’ when he is talking to Laci on the phone?

✂ ***Author's answers to selected discussion questions.***

1. Is David correct in what he is saying?

Like the Sunday school teacher tells David, I believe he is technically correct. I seriously doubt, however, that Laci ever donated her hair for any reason other than to genuinely give to others. In other words, I don't believe that she is doing it so that others will praise her or notice her good deed – I don't think that ever entered her mind.

7. At this point, how would you describe Greg?

Greg does not seem to care what others think of him...he is going to do what he wants to do – what he feels is right – and not worry about what other people say. Greg is also very sociable and outgoing.

11. What do you think is significant about the fact that Greg and Laci share a secret hand signal?

It indicates that Greg and Laci are developing a similar friendship similar to the one between David and Greg...one where they trust each other with their secrets.

In the sequel, Day-Day, readers find out more about the relationship between Greg and Laci.

17. Why do you think David always gives Laci such a hard time?

David is in the seventh grade at this time – he is immature and has not yet learned how to relate to others (especially girls.) For example, how do he and his friends interact most of the time? They call each other idiots or morons, smack each other, and make fun of each other. It's how they relate to one another and it's really what David knows best. Unfortunately, these methods aren't always so acceptable when interacting with girls.

On a deeper level though, I think that Laci's continual efforts to help others bothers David because (even though he doesn't realize it) he views these efforts to be at his expense. He loved playing with her when she was little and appreciated her physical beauty even then, but Laci chopped off all of her hair without ever giving a moment's thought to David and how he might react. When Laci convinced the Sunday school class to go to the nursing home with untrained dogs, disaster resulted, and now she wants to go to Mexico instead of skiing. In David's subconscious mind, Laci always puts the needs of others not only above her own desires, but above David's as well. Subconsciously, he resents her for this.

25. Why does David make a conscious decision at this point to not be mean to Laci anymore?

I think he's maturing and growing closer in his relationship with God. I also think that he is starting to appreciate Laci's heart instead of resenting it. Greg's continual harping on David to 'be nice to Laci' all the time didn't hurt any either.

29. Do you agree with what David tells Laci in the hot tub?

Yes, I personally do. God does not need us or our money. In my opinion, the most important thing we can do is develop our personal relationship with God and I think Laci sometimes underestimates this. She is so busy trying to help others (and she feels so guilty if she thinks she's not) that she doesn't take the time to worship God and to share in Christian fellowship. It is very significant that they three of them are sharing this experience together, but she is not appreciating the opportunity the way she should.

35. When David found out they were not going to take another missions' trip to Mexico, he indicated to Laci that he was disappointed and wanted to return. Why do you think he now says to Greg that he does not want to go back?

The experience was life-changing for him and he came back from Mexico excited about the changes in his relationship with God. But after the excitement wore off, David was left with depressing memories of what it was like to be there. Now it's not really something he is anxious to be a part of again.

36. Is this type of goal-setting and positive thinking biblically based or not?

Perhaps it can be, but in this particular instance the teacher was presenting the methods in a very secular manner and I think that can be dangerous. I think it teaches that we are in total control of what we get in our lives (in other words it keeps us from relying only on God) and it also encourages us to not be satisfied with what we have.

37. When Greg said “Oh, my God,” under his breath when they were at the landfill in Mexico, David noticed it and made note of it to the reader. Why do you think he apparently does not notice it now when Samantha does the same thing in this scene?

It was very out of character for Greg to say ‘Oh, my God’, but it is not out of Samantha’s character at all. That is one reason that David doesn’t notice it...he’s used to hearing her say it. As we soon find out, David thinks that Christians should not say this, but he has blinders on right now when it comes to Samantha.

41. Why has David removed himself from God?

I think David loves God very much and tries to put Christ first in everything he does. He does not want to sin...he does not want to do anything that will displease God.

That being said, however, David is very upset that Greg would be taken from him. I think David removes himself from God because if he allows himself to

feel anything at all then he will feel anger and David does not want to let himself be angry with God.

42. Do you believe that Mrs. White could really try to lead Kyle to Christ after the pain he caused her?

I don't think that many people would do what she did, but that is why she is such an important character in the book. Her ability to not only forgive Kyle, but to be concerned with his eternal welfare, exemplifies what Christ wants us to do.

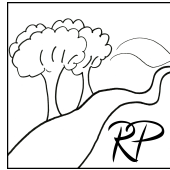
A little bit of research quickly proves that many people have been able to forgive others for horrendous wrongs.

44. Why does David say 'Oh my God' when he is talking to Laci on the phone?

Christians who would not normally say this (because they feel it is a sin) sometimes do so when they are under extreme duress (pain, fear, sorrow, etc.).

At this point, David is very upset for several reasons. He wanted to somehow let Greg know that he was still being faithful to Christ, but feels that he has blown that opportunity. He also wanted to forgive Kyle, but his gut reaction to seeing Kyle replicate their hand signal made it clear that he had not completely done that. Finally, he wanted to have a part in leading Kyle to Christ, but fears that his behavior may have actually prevented Kyle from accepting Christ instead.

Because David was so upset about what transpired at the prison, he unwillingly took the Lord's name in vain in the same way that someone might curse when they normally would not. Just because he does it does not mean that he feels it is 'okay' to do, by any means.



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