

Peacebunny Island Discussion Guide

1. Caleb considered his bunnies to be mentors, claiming that humans can learn a lot from them. He says, "I'm not saying bunnies are smarter than people. It's just that emotionally they seem to be a little better at certain things, like listening and being patient." What lesson from the rabbits would you want to apply to your own life and relationships?
2. Sometimes animals have a way of breaking through to people in a special way. As Caleb puts it, the rabbits "seemed to have insight that enabled them to understand people better than we understand ourselves, or perhaps the way some people want others to understand them." Have you ever experienced or witnessed an animal helping someone feel loved or understood?
3. Caleb says that animals can "help people become more human." Have you ever had a pet that showed you something about human nature or the character of God?
4. Caleb sees everything he has as gifts that have been entrusted to him by God rather than things he is entitled to: "I still see myself as a bunny guardian rather than an owner. I'm a steward." What are some of the gifts God has entrusted to you? How might your perspective shift to see yourself as a steward rather than an owner of those gifts?
5. The neighborhood Caleb grew up in was a special place. He says of his neighborhood friends, "I know it sounds too good to be true, but all of us really did get to a place where we agreed that play was more important than fighting. If an argument broke out or another problem arose, someone shouted our rule: 'Say you're sorry. Then we hug and then we play.'" How does this environment compare to the place you grew up? What factors make a neighborhood like Caleb's possible?
6. The bunnies play an important role in bringing healing to people who have experienced trauma, such as veterans and students dealing with the aftermath of a school shooting. What do you think makes the rabbits uniquely qualified to offer the "ministry of presence"?
7. Caleb's faith was a driving force in motivating him to help others. In the wake of the Newtown tragedy, he prayed, "Help us to see people how You see them. Help us to love people how You love us. Help us to serve people who need extra love right now." When you are confronted by tragedy, how do you typically respond? You may not be able to share comfort rabbits, as Caleb did, but what do you have to offer?
8. After facing some disappointing setbacks, Caleb started asking God to quickly close any doors that weren't right for him. He says, "If things were going to fall apart, I didn't want to waste any more time, energy, and resources than I needed to." Have you ever experienced a disappointment, only to recognize in retrospect that God used that closed door to protect you?
9. Of all the obstacles Caleb faced in trying to find a home for his bunnies, which one seems the most daunting? What do you think helped him persevere in reaching his goal?
10. What dreams did you have as a child? As you've grown older, what has changed about your dreams? What might it look like to pursue an island-sized dream of your own?

11. Caleb's parents, grandparents, and mentors supported his dreams all along the way, even when his ambitions were inconvenient or seemed downright impossible. What might it look like to fuel the dreams of a young person in your own life?