

Faith-Based Discussion Guide

God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours

by Regina Brett

1. Why do you think Regina chose the words “God Never Blinks” as the title of the book? When did she think God blinked in her life? When in your life did it feel like God blinked?
2. Regina addresses envy in Lesson 44: “Envy is a waste of time. You already have everything you need.” How does envy interfere with being happy? When have you struggled with envy? How did you let go of it?
3. In Lesson 13, Regina writes that we all have a spiritual assignment and quotes author and minister Frederick Buechner who said this about vocation: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Is there such a place? Where is that place for you? What is your vocation?
4. How do you think having cancer deepened or diminished Regina’s faith? How has dealing with a difficulty or disease deepened or diminished your faith?
5. What elements of your own faith journey did you see reflected in this book?
6. Regina learned various lessons from priests and monks at retreat houses and monasteries. Why do you think she ventured to those places so often? Do those people have something different or deeper to offer us when it comes to understanding God? Who are the spiritual guides in your life?
7. Do you consider Regina to be a religious person or a spiritual person? Is there a difference? What do you consider yourself to be?
8. Discuss the concept of forgiveness: It comes up in Lesson 3: “Life is too short to waste time hating anyone” and in Lesson 28: “Forgive everyone, everything.”
Are there people who are outside of the bounds of forgiveness? Should we forgive everyone everything? What do you want to be forgiven for?
9. Is it ever okay to get angry with God? What does she mean by that? Have you ever been mad at God?
10. Regina finds great solace in the Psalms. Which Psalms speak to her the most? Which ones speak to you?
11. Lesson 33 states: “Believe in miracles.” Lesson 39 says: “Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting for you to discover.” What events does Regina consider to be miracles?
12. Do you believe in miracles in your own life? Share what you believe to be a miracle in your life.
13. A priest named Joe Zubricky once told Regina that at the end of it all, at the end of your life, God asks just one question: “Did you love?” How would you answer that question right now?
14. In Lesson 31, Regina quotes Pastor Rick Warren who said life is a series of problems; we’re in one, coming out of one or ready to go into another one. Do you believe that? He also said God is more interested in our character than our comfort. Do you agree?
15. Regina reads the prayer of Saint Francis every morning as her personal mission statement. What prayer guides you through the day?

16. Lesson 34 states, “God loves you because of who God is.” What does the author mean by that?

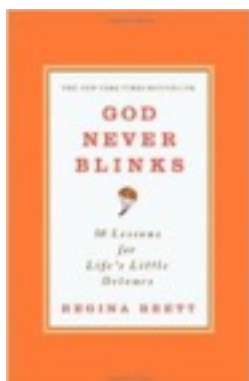
17. Regina quotes Saint Augustine who said, “In my deepest wound I see your glory and it dazzles me.” To God, they aren’t wounds, they are gifts, Regina writes. What wounds in your life turned into your greatest gifts?

18. In Lesson 45, Regina writes about her mother, who had 11 children. Even though she didn’t feel close to her mom, she wrote down a list of 75 things

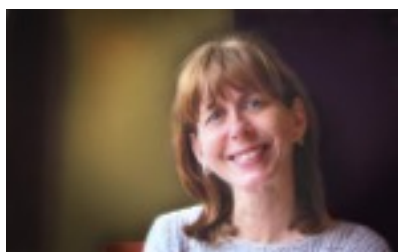
she loved about her mom for her 75th birthday. What would you put on a list for your mom? Your dad?

19. Meditation is a central part of the author’s life. How does meditation fit into your own faith journey? Is there any right way to meditate? Any wrong way?

20. What is the most important life lesson you want to pass along to your loved ones?



God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours is a New York Times bestseller that has been published in more than 24 languages. It is a collection of stories and essays inspired by Regina’s journey as a cancer survivor, single parent and journalist. She wrote it to remind people that life isn’t tied with a bow, but it’s always a gift. It was published by Hachette Book Group in 2009. You can read more about the book at www.reginabrett.com



Regina Brett is the New York Times bestselling author of ***God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours***, which has been published in more than 24 languages. Her inspirational columns appear regularly in Ohio’s largest newspaper, The Plain Dealer, where she was a finalist in 2008 and 2009 for the Pulitzer Prize in Commentary. She also writes for the Cleveland Jewish News and is syndicated by Jewish News Service. She has a master’s degree in religious studies from John Carroll University and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Kent State University. You can find out more about her at www.reginabrett.com