

RESOLUTE

Discussion Guide

- Knowing Doug's background and the fact that he is a self-made man, how is the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease especially difficult?
- Early in the book, Doug reads the story of Abraham as he is faces the difficult challenge of obeying God when God requires the sacrifice of his son, Isaac. Mark tells him, "Everything we offer God is already His, but what matters is our heart, and our willingness to surrender. God can take it, and be justified in doing so, or we can give it freely, and in doing that, it becomes a supreme act of worship." Do you agree with Mark's ideas about sacrifice? Has God ever asked a difficult sacrifice of you? What helped you decide to give it up?
- Doug often reads from Psalm 139. Take a moment and read through the Psalm. What does it tell you about God and His sovereignty? Why do you think it brought particular comfort to Doug?
- The doctor initially tells Doug and Cass that the disease will be harder on her. Was he right? Why or why not?
- In spite of the difficult story, one of the beautiful aspects is the love story Doug and Cass share. Discuss their relationship. What is it built on? Has it changed over the years? Compare it to Mark and Julie's relationship (especially in light of the fact that Mark and Julie have been married longer).
- How has Doug's relationship with Mark grown and changed? Has their respect for each other deepened? Why or why not? Did you see any shadows of how things used to be?
- Doug suffered for years under the dual weights of false guilt and bitter unforgiveness. How did each of those burdens shape him as a man? Why do you think he couldn't (or wouldn't) share them, even with Cass until Alzheimer's disease forced them into the open?
- Why is it sometimes easier to show grace than to receive it? Which of the characters struggle most with showing grace? With receiving grace?

- Doug ultimately views Alzheimer's disease as an opportunity to obey God in something very difficult, in some ways redeeming himself for all the years he spent embittered toward God. Discuss this perspective. Is it valid? Does it help him cope?
- The idea of the legacy fathers leave for their sons runs throughout the book. Discuss each of the following relationship in terms of what the father passed on to the son and how it impacted the son.

John Bolling and Doug
Doug and Mark
Doug and Jonah
Doug and Noah

- What is Doug Bolling's legacy?