

## Book 5 Why Did You Hurt Me Discussion Questions

1. Johnny feels responsible for his mother and siblings, which contributes to his reasons for aligning himself with Josh and the SKULLS. Have you ever felt like everyone was depending on you for something? (At home, work, school, on a team, etc.?) How did you deal with the pressure that comes with that?
2. How do Martin's frustrations affect the way he interacts with other people? (Jennifer, his father, Johnny, etc.)
3. Max's move to Mogis Hills is filled with difficult challenges. What are some ways he copes with these changes? What are some strategies you might use to cope with difficult situations?
4. Martin tries to pray about his problems, but that doesn't make them go away. In difficult moments when answers don't seem obvious, what might you do?
5. In chapter 8, Max finds himself in a volatile and violent situation on his way home. What should you do if you find yourself in a dangerous situation? If you or someone you know has ever been the victim of violence, do you know what resources are available to you? (a list of resources can be found at the end of this guide)
6. Max is tempted several times to fall back into old habits. What strategies does he use to help steer clear of those pitfalls? What strategies might you use?
7. Johnny's mother responds very differently to Johnny's abuse compared to Jennifer. What differences do you see? How might you react if someone you know shared their story of abuse with you? What ways could you show support to someone who has experienced abuse?

8. Many of Martin's poor choices are driven by his emotions and temper. Have you ever followed your feelings into a bad situation?
9. Johnny has a lot to say to his stepfather, but when he's in the hospital, Johnny can't bring himself to say anything. What are your thoughts on his predicament? Can you relate to his pain?
10. How does the pain each character experiences affect the way they relate to others? How does it affect the way they relate to God? How does pain affect your own perspective?

If you or someone you know has suffered from abuse or addiction, there are numerous resources available. In addition to providing assistance and practical steps, they are also a great educational resource for family, friends, and loved ones who wish to provide a better support system. A few of those resources are listed here:

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

(<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>)

National Hotline 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

(<https://www.thehotline.org/>)

Youth.Gov

(<https://youth.gov>)

American Addiction Centers

(<https://www.alcohol.org/rehab-centers/teen-treatment/>)