

KINGDOM HERITAGE PRESS



THE LION HEIR SERIES · BOOK ONE

# Prince Justin

## *& The Black Duke of Thornmoor*

---

A FAITH & ADVENTURE

## Discussion Guide



*For families, classrooms, and reading groups  
discovering Book One together.*

BY R.C. JAMESON

[rcjameson.com](http://rcjameson.com)

★  
Welcome, Reader.

When I wrote *Prince Justin & The Black Duke of Thornmoor*, I wanted to give young readers a story that took them seriously. A story with real danger, real choices, and a hero whose biggest battle is the one happening inside his own heart.

This little guide is meant to help you go a step further than just reading the book. The questions inside are written for two people at once — the young reader who just finished a chapter, and the parent, teacher, or grandparent reading along with them.

You do not have to use every question. You do not have to use them in order. Pick the ones that fit your family, your classroom, or your reading circle. Some are easy. Some are not. The hard ones are the ones worth sitting with.

“

*Doubt, when examined,  
was more honest than conviction.*

— FROM CHAPTER NINE

That line from the book is the heart of this guide. Real faith is not the absence of questions — it is the willingness to hold them honestly. I hope the conversations these pages spark are good ones.

*Walking with you,*

**R.C. Jameson**

PASTOR · AUTHOR · STORYTELLER



# The Big Themes

*Four threads that run through every chapter of Book One.*

I

## Faith vs. Fear

Highstone is ruled by faith — patient, slow, sometimes frustrating. Thornmoor is ruled by fear, dressed up as strength. Justin has to learn the difference, and that the difference matters more than it looks.

II

## Patience vs. Action

Justin wants to do something. His father wants to wait. Both can be wisdom and both can be cowardice. Knowing which is which is one of the hardest things any young person ever learns.

III

## Power & Control

The dragon beneath Thornmoor is exactly the kind of power the Duke believes he can use. The book quietly asks: when you try to control something dark, who is really in control of whom?

IV

## Honest Doubt

Justin does not return home because he is suddenly sure. He returns because he is honestly unsure. The book argues that faith with questions is stronger than confidence without them.



# Two Kingdoms

*Every detail in the book — the stone, the light, the bells — tells you which world you are in.*

## HIGHSTONE

### GOVERNANCE

Faith, patience, virtue

### THE SENSES

- Warm stone
- Chapel bells
- Lion banners
- Open courtyards
- Daylight, candles

### JUSTIN'S FATHER, ROLAND

Rules through prayer and patience. Strong, but slow to use it. Loves his son more than he can say aloud.

### WHAT IT STANDS FOR

*Power held in trust.*

## THORNMOOR

### GOVERNANCE

Fear, control, efficiency

### THE SENSES

- Black basalt
- Iron and silence
- Narrow windows
- Cold corridors
- An unlit chapel

### THE BLACK DUKE, MALRIC

Speaks softly and almost never lies outright. Offers a worldview that sounds reasonable — until you see what it costs.

### WHAT IT STANDS FOR

*Power held by force.*

*Ask your reader: which place feels safer at first? Which one really is?*



# Setting Out

Questions for after Chapters 1–4. · No spoilers ahead.

## 01 The Prologue

The book opens with the line, “Something moved where nothing should have been.” What did you think was happening before you knew about the dragon? Were you scared, curious, or both?

## 02 Two Brothers

Justin is twelve. His little brother Lawrence is eight. How do they treat each other in the early chapters? What does Justin's behavior toward Lawrence tell you about who he is?

## 03 The Council Room

King Roland listens, prays, and decides slowly. Does that feel strong to you, or weak? Why?

## 04 Justin's Restlessness

Justin wants to do something about the danger in the north. Is that a good thing, a bad thing, or both? When have you wanted to act, but adults told you to wait?

## 05 The Fountain Scene

Justin talks with Elayne by the fountain. She is sharp with him without being unkind. Why do you think the author put this scene right before Justin leaves for Thornmoor?

## 06 Faith Quietly Shown

Roland kneels alone in the armory chapel to pray. Justin doesn't see him do it. Why might the author show us something the main character never sees?

# Inside Thornmoor

Questions for after Chapters 5–7. · Some surprises ahead.

## 07 First Impressions

Malric is polite. He compliments Justin. He doesn't yell or threaten. Why is that more dangerous than if he did?

## 08 The Punishment

Justin watches a man punished in Thornmoor. His stomach turns — then later, it doesn't. What changes inside him? What changes inside you when you stop being shocked by something wrong?

## 09 The Chapel Vision

The Thornmoor chapel is abandoned. Dust on the altar, unlit candles. What does an empty chapel say about the people who live there — without anyone having to say it?

## 10 Dinner With the Duke

Malric tells Justin that strength is what keeps a kingdom safe. He's not wrong, exactly. Where does his argument almost sound right? Where does it quietly turn?

## 11 Coming Home Changed

When Justin returns to Highstone, Elayne sees something different about him before he says a word. Has anyone ever noticed a change in you that you hadn't noticed yet?

## 12 The Hardest Question

Is Justin a bad person at Thornmoor? Or a good person being slowly pulled? What's the difference?

# The Gate, The Choice, The Dragon

Questions for after Chapters 8–10. · Major spoilers from here on.

FINISH THE BOOK FIRST · THESE QUESTIONS REVEAL THE ENDING

## 13 Whitethorne

Thirty-seven people are killed at Whitethorne. The book tells you the number quickly. What does it feel like to hear a number like that? Why is it harder to picture thirty-seven faces than one?

## 14 Roland Forbids It

Justin's father bans him from going back to Thornmoor. He says it in anger — but he means it in love. Have you ever been told no by someone who loved you, and only later understood why?

## 15 At the Gate

Justin almost leaves Highstone. He stops. He stays. He does not stay because he is sure his father is right. Why does he stay?

## 16 The Sentence That Changes Things

“Doubt, when examined, was more honest than conviction.” Read it twice. What do you think it means? Do you agree?

## 17 The Dragon Beneath

Malric thinks he controls the dragon. The dragon thinks otherwise. What in your own life have you tried to control — anger, a friendship, a habit — and slowly discovered was controlling you?

## 18 And in the Dark, the Dragon Did Not Sleep

The last line of the book. Why end there, instead of with Justin? What promise is the author making for Book Two?



# Scripture & Practice

*For families and groups who want to take the conversation past the page.*

---

SCRIPTURE THAT WALKS BESIDE THE STORY

---

**Faith vs. Fear**

*2 Timothy 1:7 · Psalm 27:1 · Isaiah 41:10*

*Highstone trusts. Thornmoor controls.*

**Patience That Looks Like Weakness**

*James 1:19–20 · Psalm 27:14 · Romans 12:19*

*Roland's slowness, God's slowness.*

**Power Held Wrongly**

*Mark 8:36 · Proverbs 16:18 · 1 Peter 5:5–6*

*The dragon, the Duke, and the cost of control.*

**Honest Doubt**

*Mark 9:24 · Psalm 13 · John 20:24–29*

*Justin at the gate.*

---

LIVE IT OUT

## Three small challenges for this week.

**I. Notice a Highstone moment.**

Catch one moment this week when patience looked like wisdom — yours or somebody else's. Tell the family at dinner.

**II. Spot a Thornmoor whisper.**

Notice once when something feels powerful but costs more than it gives. Name it out loud, even just to yourself.

**III. Pray honestly.**

Pray one prayer this week with a real question in it. “God, I don't understand why —” and keep going. He is not afraid of doubt.



KEEP READING

*Book Two of The Lion Heir Series is in development.*

Join the newsletter at [rcjameson.com](http://rcjameson.com) to be the first to know when it's ready.