

JODY HEDLUND'S BOOK CLUB COLLECTION

He has been pleased in loving kindness to draw us to himself, and to be found by us when we sought him not.
~John Newton



BACKGROUND TRIVIA QUESTIONS ON JOHN NEWTON

How well do you know Newton's story from depravity to amazing grace?
Take this five-minute quiz to find out!

1. When John's mother was still alive, she had aspirations for John to become:

- A. A watchmaker
- B. A lawyer
- C. A minister

2. A major life-changing incident happened when John was only seven years old:

- A. His mother died of consumption
- B. He became fluent in Latin
- C. He was impressed in the royal navy

3. Captain John Newton Senior had plans for John to become:

- A. A minister
- B. A sailor
- C. A sailmaker

4. Days before John was to set sail for a five-year job in Jamaica on a sugar plantation, he was delayed because:

- A. He lost his horse and couldn't make it to the ship on time
- B. He found another job as a custom officer
- C. He fell in love with Polly Catlett and didn't want to leave her

5. Polly Catlett's s real name was:

- A. Mary
- B. Pollyanna
- C. Anna

6. In February of 1744, John overstayed his time at the Catlett's which had disastrous ramifications because:

- A. He missed his father's birthday celebration
- B. He was captured by a naval press gang and impressed in the royal navy
- C. He caught smallpox

7. Press gangs roamed the countryside. Often using brutal force, they captured men to fill positions on the king's naval vessels. Press gangs were:

- A. Completely legal
- B. Illegal
- C. Uncommon and ineffective

8. Desertion from naval duties was a crime punishable by:

- A. A hundred pound fine
- B. Ten year prison sentence
- C. Death

9. John sank so low that he said, "I was exceedingly vile. I not only sinned with a high hand myself but made it my study to tempt and seduce others upon every occasion." As a result, his shipmates:

- A. Loved and adored John
- B. Couldn't stand him
- C. Wanted to give him a promotion

10. When John arrived in Africa, he began working for Amos Clow as a slave trader. After being accused of theft, Clow punished John by:

- A. Making him a slave and starving him
- B. Selling him to an African tribe
- C. Forcing him to return to England without any money

11. Eventually Newton became not only a slave trader but a slave owner. He became hardened to the gruesome lifestyle involved in hunting, capturing, buying, and selling slaves. While living in Africa, Newton did all of the following, except:

- A. Dabbled in witchcraft
- B. Went to church
- C. Was sexually promiscuous with African women

12. When Captain Swanwick of the *Greyhound* found John in Africa, he got him to leave his slave trading by:

- A. Convicting him of his evil ways
- B. Tying him up and forcing him onto the waiting ship
- C. Lying to him about an inheritance he would receive at home

13. By the time the *Greyhound* left Africa for its journey back to England, the ship was heading into danger because:

- A. Fifteen months in equatorial African waters had rotted the ship's timbers, worn out her sails, and frayed her ropes
- B. Another war had erupted between France and England and the Atlantic Ocean was crawling with dangerous pirates
- C. Icebergs were floating in the waters around Greenland and there was the possibility of hitting one

14. After facing storms and starvation, the ship finally limped into port in Ireland. Once there, John:

- A. Stopped swearing, went to church, studied religious books, took Communion
- B. Considered becoming a monk
- C. Became a preacher right away

15. John wrote the hymn *Amazing Grace*:

- A. Shortly after he arrived in Ireland
- B. Not long after he married Polly
- C. Decades later during his time as a pastor at his church in Olney

ANSWER KEY:

1. Answer: C. A minister
2. Answer: A. His mother died of consumption
3. Answer: B. A sailor
4. Answer: C. He fell in love with Polly Catlett and didn't want to leave her
5. Answer: A. Mary
6. Answer: B. He was captured by a naval press gang and impressed in the royal navy
7. Answer: A. Completely legal
8. Answer: C. Death
9. Answer: B. Couldn't stand him
10. Answer: A. Making him a slave and starving him
11. Answer: B. Went to church
12. Answer: C. Lying to him about an inheritance he would receive at home
13. Answer: A. Fifteen months in equatorial African waters had rotted the ship's timbers, worn out her sails, and frayed her ropes
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