1. How would you define the word *heresy*? Who defined heresy
   during Kate's time, and who defines it today?

2. Who is the heretic of the novel? Are there more than one?

3. The word *martyr* has gained a negative connotation in recent
   years. Do you think there is such a thing as false martyrdom?
   What is the difference between being a martyr and being a
   victim? How does Kate's attitude about martyrdom change
   when she becomes a wife and mother to be?

4. How do you feel about John Frith's decision not to flee his
   captors when given the chance?

5. Is dying for one's belief the only heroic choice when faced
   with oppression? Is Kate Frith made of "the stuff of martyrs?"
   What about Captain Lasser?

6. Why do you think popular history has not dealt more
   objectively with the dual nature of Sir Thomas More?
   Can an individual be both a hero and a villain? Although
   Sir Thomas More persecuted the Bible men mercilessly for
   their beliefs, he was later to die for refusing to sign the
   king's *Act of Supremacy.* Would you characterize his
   death as heroic?

7. Do you think there is ever an instance when the burning of
   books might be appropriate?

8. Kate Frith suffers great emotional distress as well as physical peril because of her husband's decision to die for his beliefs. Did women in centuries past suffer more and face more persecution because of the beliefs of their husbands than today's women?

9. What other women in the novel suffer because the men they love act rashly or hold unpopular beliefs?

10. What do you think of Kate's decision to marry a man so different from her first husband? Were there any similarities between the two men?

11. How is Endor's love for the captain different from Kate's love for John Frith? Does Meg Roper love her father any less when she finds out he is not the man she believed him to be?

12. Does history have any lessons for us about the separation of church and state? How can we safeguard our freedoms and yet preserve our cultural heritage and values?