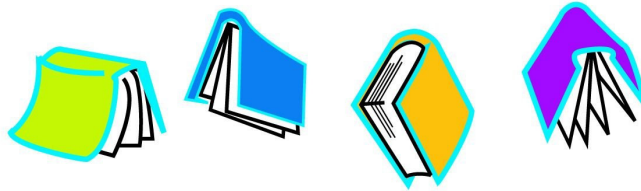


Midday Book Club



Crime and Punishment

Questions for Midday Connection Book Club

By Rosalie de Rosset

1. Why does Raskolnikov plan to murder Aliona? Trace Dostoevsky's disclosure of Raskolnikov's motives and excuses. Compare Raskolnikov's motives to those given for plots and murders in scripture.
2. Sonya claims that Raskolnikov has renounced his faith in God. But has he really? Note his superstition and beliefs in the Devil and a presence that urges him to confess, and his concern with the Lazarus theme.
3. What function do Raskolnikov's dreams serve; what do we learn about him from them; how does Dostoyevsky use them to reveal Raskolnikov's state of mind. Compare the use of dreams in scripture (Gen. 28:10-22; 37:1-19; Dan.2; Joel 2:28; and warnings in Jude 8, I Samuel 28).
4. Discuss Sonia and Svid as characters who "mirror" opposing aspects of Raskolnikov's personality. Svid's evil nature is well described in Scripture (Jude; I Co. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:28-32)
5. Raskolnikov must confess his crime before he can be rehabilitated, a very biblical idea. Trace his intentions to confess and discuss his excuses.
6. Be aware of the resurrection motif throughout the novel.
7. Does Raskolnikov suffer enough? What is the nature of his punishment?
8. How is Sonya, in spite of what she does to save her family, a Christ-type (as we have discussed before in this book club)?
9. Is Dostoyevsky a Christian writer? Consider tone, themes, symbols, conclusions, as well as what constitutes a Christian writer, also an ongoing discussion in this book club.