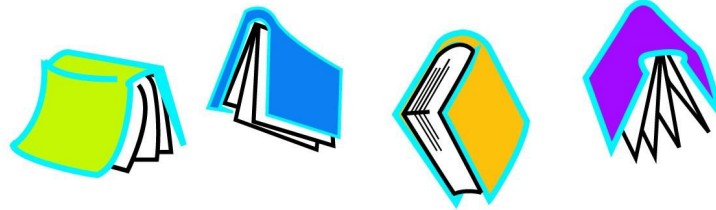


Midday Book Club



Here are the study questions from the back of *The Confessions of St. Augustine*:

1. In Book One, Augustine asks a series of questions at the opening of the first five chapters. Look at them carefully, and see if these are questions you have also asked. What conclusions does he come to?
2. In Book Two, Augustine paints a vivid and honest picture of sin and the wasted years of his adolescence, using many metaphors and images. As you read, write these down. How does such language help to bring the message home in a way that straight home how-to principles do not?
3. In Book Four, Augustine writes a poignant one on the death of one of his dearest friends. How does the loss affect him, how does he work through it, and what are his conclusions about the role of love and grief in our lives, and the relationship between people we love and our God?
4. Augustine's conversion experience occurs in Book 8, Chapter 12. Read it carefully and note the way he expresses his change. Trace the elements that lead up to this moment. What are the people, readings, and experiences that brought Augustine to finally surrender to God? What does this tell you about God's work in the individual's life?
5. The *Confessions* are a product of memory, something that Augustine discusses at length in Book 10. What is Augustine's motivation for this long record of his life and coming to God? How does it differ from many modern-day Christian autobiographies?