

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Godsend Curriculum

This curriculum is written to extend the ideas of *Godsend* and sharpen the language skills of the reader. *Godsend* is a fun book with deep Spiritual lessons. I hope that taking a closer look will make the book more meaningful to the reader. It should be used as a springboard to many exciting discussions.

This is the teacher's Key Edition. The possible responses to the questions are in red. Although these are acceptable answers, each child should be allowed to respond through their own lens and to explain the story as they understand it.

It is my hope that this curriculum will help make literature learning more fun. Enjoy!

Mike Apodaca

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Read Chapter 1

In the beginning of any story characters and settings are introduced.

Story Questions:

1. Why does the book begin with the verse Ephesians 6:11?
Godsend is about fighting for God while wearing the Spiritual armor He provides.
2. What do we learn about Alex in the first chapter?
Alex is a teenager. He's a little unfocused. He has bad dreams about being attacked by demons. He is not too concerned about his hygiene (putting on the dirty shirt). He is comfortable with his mom, but doesn't give her his full attention. Alex is running late. This is probably a common part of his life. He rides a bike, which means he doesn't drive and probably doesn't have a car. When he saves the little girl, we see that Alex has a hero's heart. He is also humble, not making a big deal about it. He is willing to take risks to save others.
 - a. What is a protagonist?
A protagonist is the main character in a story. Alex is the main character in Godsend. This is why he is introduced first.
3. What do we learn about Alex's mom?
His mom wears scrubs. She is a nurse. She is in the kitchen making toast for Alex. She knows him very well. The way she puts the toast in his mouth shows they have a routine that works seamlessly.
4. What settings are introduced? Describe them.
The story starts in a **dream. The place is a large space with a rock pedestal in the middle. The place is dreary and barren.**
Alex's house. It is a two-story house with **Alex's bedroom** on the top floor. He has a **bathroom** on his floor. His room is pretty messy. Alex leaves through the **kitchen**. We are not told much about it. The **neighborhood** he lives in is a common community neighborhood with curbs and houses with driveways. The **school** is a converted hotel with a large clock tower between the two main wings of the building.
5. Who is the mysterious man in the white suit:
Answers will vary.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

wiles	cacophony	pedestal	clanked	morphed
fatality	rhythmic	fluidity	barricade	lathered
hurtling	inexorably	Grazed	Vanish	Fish-tail

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Going Beyond the Text:

Alex is in a rut. He mindlessly goes through his morning routine. He gets up and goes to school the same way every day.

What things do you do mindlessly? Try to list six things you do without thinking about them (e.g. eating, getting dressed, etc.). The next time you do these activities, try to do them with your mind engaged. Think about what you are doing. Take your time and enjoy each part of the experience. For instance, when you eat, take time to enjoy the taste of the food. Focus on the textures and flavors.

How did focusing on the actions change the experience for you?

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Read Chapter 2

Every story begins with a problem. What is the problem in this story? What is the solution?

Story Questions:

1. What do we learn about Alex's high school?
Kingman High was once a fancy hotel which catered to rich celebrities. The rooms have been turned into classrooms and laboratories. It is an old brick building. It has a prominent clock tower in the middle of the main building.
2. What do we learn about Conor?
He is Alex's closest friend. They are inseparable. He wants to be noticed (he wants to be taller). He pushes Alex to do things he is not comfortable with. Conor's appearance is disheveled.
3. What do we learn about Katie?
Katie dresses like a model. She is concerned with her looks. She is friends with Alex and Conor. She wants to be popular (her cheerleader dream).
4. What does Conor pinching his finger and thumb together represent?
Conor does this to tell Alex that time is short to ask Katie to the dance.
5. What are the shadows in the story?
The shadows are demons. We saw one distracting the truck driver and the one here torturing the teacher, Mr. Addison.
6. Why does DeShawn attack Alex?
DeShawn attacks Alex because the demon inside of him can tell that Alex sees them. He is a danger to them.
7. What do we learn about the man in the white suit?
He is an angel. He saves Alex from DeShawn.
8. Why does Alex think he has fallen asleep again in Spanish class?
The event with DeShawn is beyond his comprehension. He has to make sense of it somehow. It makes sense that the whole thing was a dream.
9. Why did Sariel freeze everyone in the mall?
Sariel had to talk to Alex and to tell him what God had called him to do.
10. What does Sariel say about telling God what to do? What does that mean to us?
Sariel says that we do not instruct God, we listen to him. This means that God is our boss. We are His servants. When he says jump, we ask, "How high?"
11. How does Sariel respond when Alex tells him he is too young to do anything for God?
Sariel points out that David and Timothy were both young when they assumed important roles in God's plans. Youth is no excuse for not performing well for God.
12. What happens to Alex once he goes to talk to Katie? What does this tell you about his Spiritual focus?
Alex completely puts the Spiritual out of his mind when he talks to Katie. All he cares about in that moment is asking her to the Homecoming Dance. Alex is focused on his life in this world and not his life in Christ.

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Vocabulary: Define the following words

Heyday	Posh	Spire	Impression	undaunted
Retarded	A-list	Resolve	Sheepishly	syncopated
Coalescing	Substantial	international	Emanated	marathon
Pathetic	Marionette	fetal position	Dispassionately	Instinctively
Theatrics	Leprous	Impishly	Unceremonious	

Going Beyond the Text:

Sariel tells Alex that his problem is that he thinks everything is about him. He has not realized that the universe, including him, was all created for the pleasure and glory of God.

Why is it that people tend to think that everything is about them? Why is it that we tend to believe that things are only important as they affect our personal lives? What is important to God? What can we do to develop a different, more Godly, understanding of our lives and their purpose?

Read Chapter 3

As the story progresses, we see the problem more clearly.

Story Questions:

1. We see a new setting—Alex’s church. Explain the description of the church? What does that tell you about it? **The church Alex attends is quite a show. They have put a lot of money into the performance on the stage. This could mean that they are focused on entertaining their people. Alex is impressed with the elaborate show, but is not affected Spiritually.**
2. What do we learn about Alex and the Homecoming Dance? How does he feel about this?

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Katie has agreed to go to the dance with Alex. He is excited.

3. What do we learn about the world Alex lives in from the radio messages we have heard? How is this like or different from the world you live in? Why is the world like this?

The world Alex lives in is full of crime, drugs, and violence. This is very similar to the world we live in. There is much evil in the world. This is not the world as God originally made it (He made it good). It has been changed by sin, as has mankind. We will not see the world as God designed it until Christ returns.

4. Mr. Addison is in distress. What is the cause of this?

Mr. Addison is possessed by a demon. This is what Alex saw at the school. It is tormenting him and making him think he is losing his mind.

5. What is wrong with Alex's mattress? How would you feel if this happened to you?

A demon dropped into Alex's mattress. He is not sure if it is still there or not. He is confused and frightened.

6. How do you predict Alex will respond to the demons?

Answers will vary.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Sanctuary	Pulpit	Pews	projected	Illuminated
Vaporous	Piqued	Volumes	reprobate	solidified
Possessed				

Going Beyond the Text:

We have seen several demonic encounters in this story (DeShawn, Mr. Addison, and Alex's mattress). Do you think demons really exist? Why do you think this? Try and prove your position with evidence. If you believe that demons really exist, what do you think they doing now? How can you respond to the reality of demons in our world?

Read Chapter 4

Stories are a series of choices. When we watch characters struggle with choices, we struggle with them.

Story Questions:

1. Why has Alex's mind now turned back to the guy in the white suit?
Alex is in over his head. He is experiencing demons and has no ability to cope with them. He saw that Sariel could handle them, so he wants his help.
2. Why do you think Mr. Addison acts so differently throughout the day?

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It is possible that the demons are still with him. At times they are tormenting him, and at other times they are leaving him alone.

3. Why does Alex think he has lost his mind?

Because the things he is experiencing are outside his normal field of experience. He can't make sense of what is going on.

4. Why do you think Alex has such a hard time believing that God has called him to a special task?

Alex doesn't see anything special about himself. He's a poor student with few social skills. He hasn't achieved anything great in his own life.

5. Why would each person see the picture of the armor with their own level of technology?

God wants to be understood. He will present to people in a way that makes sense to them.

6. What two choices does Alex have? What will be the consequences of each of the choices? What would be the consequence if we followed God? What might be the consequence if we didn't?

Alex can become an Athleta Christi, or not. If he does, he might stop Satan's plans in his community. If he does not, Satan will win and many will perish. When we choose to follow God, we thwart Satan's plans. People will be saved from Satan's clutches and will enter the light and become children of God through us. The society will improve when there is revival. People will be more kind and compassionate, and there will be less crime. When we do not respond to the call of God, evil grows and the darkness spreads.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Cautiously	Apparitions	Gangly	pixels	apocalypse
Exasperated	Immeasurable	Clutched	trigonometry	tortured
Banter	Anecdotes	Engaged	plaguing	Asylum
Delusion	Scoffed	Reassuring	irate	Plated
Righteousness	Athleta Christi			

Going Beyond the Text:

Every day we are given the chance to follow God, to live in His presence and in obedience to Him, or to live for ourselves and to pretend He is not there. In Luke 9:23 Jesus calls us to die daily for Him. What are you choosing right now for your life? How can you live your life more for Christ and less for yourself?

Read Chapter 5

Settings are important in stories. Consider the settings in this chapter and how they help to tell the story.

Story Questions:

1. What do we learn about Alistair Cain in this chapter?

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Cain is an executive of a large international company. He is efficient and is in control of his people. He only hires the best. He is also a demon who takes on human form. Cain is in command of other demons.

2. Why did Cain kill the demon?
He didn't like the answer the demon gave him. He felt the demon had failed him by not noticing who the demons were attacking.
3. Why does Alex finally agree to be trained?
He feels that this is his destiny and he cannot escape from it.
4. Why do you think Sariel takes Alex to the Spiritual training ground?
Sariel will need some concentrated time to train Alex. This is something he would not get in his world.
5. Why do you think the Spiritual Training Ground has so many animals in it?
This is like Eden, it is the creation as God intended it to be. It is a place of complete harmony where all parts of nature get along.
6. What is the flesh? Do we have a flesh now?
The flesh is everything we are outside of Christ. It is our worldly body and earthly mind. It is our identity from this world. It is our earthly world-view. We all have a flesh, that part of us that is not from Christ or part of His kingdom.
7. Why does Addison want to take his own life?
The demonic attack is more than he can stand. He is so oppressed he wants to end it all.
8. Why would Alex's flesh make it harder for him to learn to be a Warrior for God?
The flesh gets us focused on earthly things and on our lives. Alex needs to focus on God and on Spiritual things.
9. When is our battle with the flesh over? Why is this?
We will have to fight the flesh every moment of our lives until the end of our lives when we are freed from it. The things of this world tug on us, they try to capture our hearts. We must discipline ourselves to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh (See Galatians 5).
10. Why must Alex destroy the flesh? What do you think would happen if he allowed it to live?
As long as the flesh remains, it remains powerful. It will attack without ceasing. If Alex was to let it live, it would ultimately destroy him.
11. Why do you think Sariel is being so protective with the stone heart?
Answers will vary.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

sergeant	stenographer	petite	outlet	bean counter
precision	transformation	manicured	translucence	rancid
vaporized	sophisticated	condemn	disdain	imperative
rant	ravine	vulgarity	whirled	plaintively
Flail	squall	wrested	unencumbered	Feral

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unscathed	euphoric	obsidian		
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Going Beyond the Text:

The greatest battle that the Christian has is with his/her own flesh. The flesh will make us feel that we are the center of our lives and that all revolves around us. The flesh will cause us to evaluate everything (including ourselves) according to the standards of this world. The flesh is an insidious enemy, for he is us. How will you overcome your flesh and develop a Christian identity, a Christian world-view, and a Christian life before God? How will you overcome your flesh?

Read Chapter 6

In many hero stories there is a time where the hero is trained by his mentor. This is the archetype of the wizard.

Story Questions:

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1. What is the best thing a person can experience on earth? What do people substitute for this joy?
The best thing a person can experience is the joy of the Lord. People substitute all kinds of things (shopping, gaming, sex, social media, etc.) for it. But these other things never quite satisfy.
2. How does one experience the joy of the Lord?
The joy of the Lord comes from being in fellowship with God and filled with His Holy Spirit.
3. Why is it that Alex can stay in this Spiritual realm for months and not lose any time in his realm?
The Spiritual realm is on its own timescape. The time there is not affected by the time in our realm.
4. How is Alex to align himself with the universe? How does he do on his first attempt? What does Sariel show him?
Worship puts us in line with the universe. It is always praising God. Alex doesn't do very well. He tries to go through the motions of what he knows as worship. Sariel knows worship as experiencing the presence of the living God.
5. What are demons?
Demons are fallen angels. They have the same ability as angels, but they serve Satan rather than God.
6. What do we learn about Sariel's past in this section?
Sariel has been present for many important events in the Bible: things like, the birth of Jesus, the call of Abraham, and the calling out of Lot from Sodom. He was also with Balaam, son of Beor.
7. How does Sariel complete his assignments?
Sariel lives the life of a human. He has lived hundreds of lives in all different countries. He goes wherever he is told to go.
8. How will Alex be able to break the rules of the Spiritual realm?
With focus and practice, Alex will be able to move through physical objects. When he becomes talented at breaking the rules, he will even be able to fly.
9. How did Alex show that he had become the master of the rules in the Spiritual realm and that this portion of his training was complete?
Alex was able to make the pear pass through his hand. This showed that he had developed the focus needed to have power over the things of the Spiritual realm.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Activated	addictive	by-product	horizon	timescape
Terrain	align	harmonize	giddy	relinquishing
Unfurled	Spandex	grotesque	anchored	despicable
Budge	barrage	maw	hemispheres	chronologically

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Protracted	reminisced	brimstone	deftly	opaque
Daunted	relief	exposed	orifice	Innovating
Superseded	levitate	acclimated	portal	

Going Beyond the Text:

Alex had to be trained in Spiritual things. Sariel was his mentor and guide. Who is your Spiritual mentor? Who is training you in the things of God? How is this going? What can you do to make your training more effective?

Read Chapter 7

When a character changes in a story, their relationships also change.

Story Questions:

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1. What things does Alex do differently, now that he is back from his training?
He is seeing things differently, noticing their colors and superstructure. He worships in the shower. He walks down the stairs. He treats his mom like a person and shows real concern for her. He apologizes for the way he has acted. He takes out the trash.
2. How does Alex feel in his school? Why is this?
Alex feels like a stranger in his school, like he doesn't fit in. The bad language and the meanness bother him now. He has changed. He has been in the presence of the holy God and is clean. He feels like being in the school is being in a dirty place.
3. How has Alex changed in his classes?
He is listening and engaging with his teachers in discussions. Everything is now more interesting to him. He cares about learning.
4. Why can't Sariel just kick the demon out of Mr. Addison?
Sariel has not been given permission from God to do so. Heaven has a clear authority structure and angels are only allowed to do what God tells them to do.
5. Why do all things happen, according to Sariel?
All things happen because God wants them to happen. They play a part in His overall plan. Even the bad things are part of God's plan.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Refracting	superstructures	invigorating	incredulously	robust
Silhouetted	buffeted	advocating	Federalism	chaperoning

Going Beyond the Text:

The more a Christian grows in Christ, the more he/she worships and prays and experiences the Spiritual realm, the more they bathe their mind in the Word of God, the more they will feel out of place in the world. They are marching to a different drummer. They are out of step. The Bible tells us to be in the world, but not of the world (John 15:19). A Christian is behind enemy lines. How can a Christian keep their faith strong and be true to their God while living in the world?

Read Chapter 8

Stories show us that we can't have it all. Characters have to make choices that have consequences that they have to live with. They may gain from those choices, but they will also lose.

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Story Questions:

1. Why is it easier for a Christian to be unattached to deep relationships?
It is difficult to devote ones' self completely to God and to a spouse or a family. Peter is the example of someone who was able to do this.
2. What does Conor's outfit tell you about him?
Conor is a free spirit that likes to stand out. He likes to be the center of attention and often does things to be noticed.
3. How is Alex able to fight the demon bothering Mr. Addison?
Alex has to enter the Spiritual realm that exists alongside of this realm. When he does, he will be invisible to people in this realm, but visible to the demons and angels in the spiritual realm.
4. What is a creeper demon?
A creeper demon is a creature with the ability to shoot cords into their enemies. These disable them. This is a particularly strong creeper demon who has affected many evil people throughout history.
5. Why do you think Cain is getting reports about Vetis' control over Mr. Addison?
There is something going on that is of great interest to Alistair Cain. It involves Mr. Addison.
6. What helps Alex to gain strength and courage in the battle?
Alex remembers the Scripture that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. This helps him regain his power over Vetis and to emerge victorious.
7. In the story, what happens to demons that are destroyed in this realm?
They are destroyed in this realm, but their spirit goes to hell where they slowly reconstitute, becoming themselves again. This could happen over days or months.
8. What does Alex find Katie doing at the dance after his battle with the demon?
Katie is with another guy—kissing him. She has left Alex.
9. How does Alex feel about his decision to help Mr. Addison and leave Katie?
It hurts him because he likes her. However, he feels he did the right things because he couldn't just leave Mr. Addison under the control of that demon.
10. What happens when Alex takes his mind off his problems and thinks about his mom?
Alex begins to understand that his mom has had a hard life, but she has grown stronger because of it—this is the lesson she is trying to teach him about his current situation.
11. What hasn't changed about Alex since childhood?
He is still acting like a superhero fighting invisible foes.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

complicated	allegiance	Disciple	khaki	muted
complimented	mechanically	silhouetted	chaperone	ominous

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Din	parched	Pallid	barbs	underestimate
whimpering	disheveled	irreverent	emitting	pathetic
Parried	disintegrated	apprehensive	demeanor	restored
Gyrating	abandonment	Profusely	precocious	

Going Beyond the Text:

To be faithful to God will mean missing out on many of the pleasures and things that the world offers. We all only get so much time and resources. We have to chose whether or not we will use this time in worship and Bible study or in playing video games. We have to decide whether God wants us to use our money to support ministry or to buy things for ourselves. How do you make these decisions? Explain what resources you have (time, money, physical strength, talents, etc.). How are you using these now in your life?

Read Chapter 9

When a character changes in a story, their relationships also change.

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Story Questions:

1. Is Cain surprised to be informed that there is an Athleta on the scene?
No. Whatever is going on, it happened four hundred years ago and there was an Athleta then. The Athleta has a chance to mess up Cain's plans which would be very bad for him—he would end up ground up in hell. He has to stop this Athleta.
2. Research the phrase: Hostile takeover. Explain how Cain took over his company.
Cain acquired more than fifty percent of the company and became the owner of it. With majority shares he could call the shots. He took over and became the CEO (Chief Executive Officer).
3. Why didn't the messenger demon jump in and help Vetis fight against Alex?
Vetis was a powerful demon with a reputation for great accomplishments. If he were so easily done in by Alex, what chance die this small weak demon have? He decided to save his own life.
4. What does the Messenger Demon realize?
He realizes that he is being blamed for losing Addison. This makes sense because he is the only one left to blame.
5. What is Cain's response to losing Addison? What is his plan? What does this tell you about him?
He is furious and feels that things are spinning out of control. He plans to bring all things back into control so that his plan works and he is successful. Cain is a violent and controlling person. He acts this way in his business dealings and in his demonic assignments.
6. What is the relationship between Cain and the North American Demon?
The North American Demon is Cain's boss. Cain bows before him.
7. What is the North American Demon's solution to losing Addison?
Cain will go to Mr. Addison to personally make sure the plan is successful.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

beck and call	interrogation	underling	bellowed	resignation
pathetic	ceremony	Pulp	reconstitute	intercom
nondescript	monotone	Retracted	secluded	voluminous
annealing	physique	informants	genuflecting	dispatched
underlings	innumerable	Podunk		

Going Beyond the Text:

The Bible tells us that the devil has schemes against us (2 Corinthians 2:11). What do you think the devil is doing against you right now? Think of the Spiritual areas of your life, how is the devil pushing you away from God? How can you stand against him?

Read Chapter 10

Characters in books have to learn. When they learn and grow, they become far more interesting.

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Story Questions:

1. Why is Alex dreading going to school?
It will be awkward to see Katie after what she did at the dance. Chances are she is with Brandon, the boy she was kissing at the dance.
2. What does the presence of the small demon tell Sariel?
Sariel knows that they are being watched. They have caught someone's attention in the demonic realm.
3. Why is it apparent that Alex needs more training?
He is now known to the enemy. They will probably be attacking him more. He will need to be strong to stand against them.
4. Why do you think Sariel did not help Alex when he was being attacked by the skulls?
Alex has to learn to stand on his own two feet. He must figure out a way to overcome all different situations.
5. Would anyone be able to overcome the demons with the weapons that Alex possesses?
Sariel says that no one could overcome these demons with the tools that Alex has. He needs something more.
6. What would help Alex overcome the demons?
Alex needed to activate his salvation in Christ.
7. How could the boy from ancient India become an Athleta Christi?
Abraham believed God and was made righteous, even though he did not know of Christ and did not hear the gospel. He believed. So also, the Indian boy believed the revelation that he saw, the beautiful creation around him and his own humanness. He felt there had to be a creator of these things. He sought to know this creator and believed in Him.
8. What did Alex learn from seeing these Athletas throughout history?
God has been reaching out at all times to save people. He has acted in many places at many times. Alex is part of something much bigger than he imagined.
9. How was Alex victorious over the skull demons?
He leaned on his salvation and received the Helmet of Salvation. The demons were not able to stand against this. Alex learned that his strength was in the strength of his armor. If he keeps faithful and wears the armor, he is nearly invincible.
10. Why does Alex feel uneasy during the pop quiz?
Something is going on in the Spiritual realm. Alex does not know what.
11. Why are the demons oppressing the principal?
The principal must be important to whatever is going on behind the scenes.
12. What is Alex's response to not seeing the reason he had felt uneasy in the Spirit?
Alex trusts in God. He knows that his job is to be ready for whatever God sends his way.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

plantation	hovering	Nonchalantly	parallel	scrutinized
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onslaught	salvation	Framework	humid	clamored
debased	dispatches	Horde	throttling	resurrection
righteousness	avalanche	Pulverized	assailants	Invincible
Distractions	reassert	furtively	compound	excruciation
unnerving	flinch	countenance		

Going Beyond the Text:

In Ephesians 6 Paul explains the armor that God has given to us to withstand Satan's attacks. One piece of the armor is the Helmet of Salvation. The helmet protects our head, our mind. Our salvation—the forgiveness of our sins, our righteousness in Christ, and our being put into a new relationship with Him—is a powerful weapon against demons that would have burdened with guilt, living sinful lives, and ignoring God's presence. What does the Helmet of Salvation mean to you? How can it help you stand strong against Satan's forces?

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Sometimes characters overstep their boundaries. This leads to disaster.

Story Questions:

1. What does Alex learn about history? What would be different if you studied history in another country?
Every person presents history in their own way. If we studied history in another country, we would learn about events as they related to that country. We would see them through that country's lens. The only person who gives a completely honest and unbiased view of history is God.
2. What is Mr. Addison's view of history?
Mr. Addison believes that there are only so many resources and that history is the struggle between those who have the resources and those who do not.
3. What makes Alex leave the classroom?
Alex sees many shadows (demons) oppressing students in the courtyard outside his classroom.
4. Why couldn't Alex step into the Spiritual realm?
He was distracted by his feelings for Katie and his recent rejection. This had made it hard to focus on God and to do battle for Him.
5. What do the demons do when Alex enters the Spiritual realm?
They all turn their attention to him. He is the reason they are there. It is an ambush and they are going to test his abilities.
6. Why is Sariel worried?
Although Alex took out the demons with little problem, there are worst demons coming. The attacks will get much harder and there is always the chance that Alex will fail.
7. What do you think was the meaning of Alex's dream?
We don't know enough to be sure, but it could have something to do with Cain's plan.
8. Where does Sariel's supervisor live?
He lives in the outer reaches of space.
9. What did Sariel find his mentor, Mihr, doing. What job do you think he has?
Sariel finds Mihr running some kind of combat simulation. It falls apart. Mihr is probably some kind of tactical officer.
10. What does Sariel say when he finds out he is not getting any more information?
He accepts the fact that he will know what God wants him to know. All the rest he must entrust to God.
11. How did the demons get the better of Alex in the battle?
They taunted him and reminded him of his grief over losing Katie. This made him weak. His spiritual shield and sword became transparent. They couldn't protect him. Ultimately, he fell under the heavy blows of the enemy.
12. Why do you think Cain is getting reports about the attacks on Alex?
Cain is planning something important and he is afraid Alex will be in the way and will ruin everything. He wants Alex out of the way.

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Vocabulary: Define the following words

agendas	exploit	masses	leeches	scrawny
scuttled	catapulted	indelible	brandished	Profusely
transparent	putrid	deflect	momentum	simultaneously
implanted	barb			

Going Beyond the Text:

There are rules for every stage of development. For instance, children have many rules that adults don't have. Children are not allowed to drive cars. It is legally forbidden. This is for a reason. The vast majority are not mature enough nor do they have the skills to be competent drivers. What are the rules that apply to people at different age levels? What rules apply to elementary school children? How are the rules different for teenagers? How are the ruled different for adults?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 12

While telling stories, it is important to get your characters in as much trouble as possible.

Story Questions:

1. Why is Alex angry with Sariel when he woke up?
He felt like he had been abandoned, that Sariel wasn't there to help him. He got hurt.
2. How important is having permission from God before we act?
Permission is vital. It is so important that the angels that wanted to save Jesus were not allowed to. Before making important decisions or doing important things, we need to pray and ask God for permission.
3. Why was Alex so upset?
Alex wants out. He feels he is in over his head. If he continues with Sariel, he feels he will be destroyed. He is afraid.
4. Why doesn't God use His power to change everything and get rid of evil?
If it would best serve His ultimate purposes, He would. God does what is best for Himself and His interests.
5. Why does Alex change his mind and go back to the fight?
Alex realized that there was no real way out. If he backed out on Sariel, he would belong to Satan and would be completely vulnerable to his attacks. There is no third way, a neutral place where people can hide from God or Satan.
6. How was Alex able to win this battle?
The demons were not able to weaken him by hitting him with words about Katie. He seems to have gotten over all this. He also acquired the leggings he needed to protect him from the demon's barbs.
7. Why does Katie want Conor to ask Alex to the beach?
Things have been stressful between Katie and Alex. She is hoping that they can all be friends.
8. Who is in charge of the plan? Why is this important?
We discover that Satan is in charge of the plan and takes it very seriously. This plan is important.
9. What makes Sariel decide to confer with his angelic brothers?
There are more demons showing up in Alex's town. There is something important going on. He needs to make sure they are ready.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Majestically	ecstatic	food chain	uproariously	muttered
Guffawed	battered	scurried	reinforcements	lingering
Evaporated	gurgled	portico	inane	accordions
Incompetent				

Going Beyond the Text:

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

There are times when we will want to give up on God. Being a Christian behind enemy lines is hard. We will lose friends if we walk with Christ. We will experience prejudice. Along with this, we will have to fight our flesh and our innate desire to sin. What can we do to stay encouraged and remain strong and faithful in Christ?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

For a story to be interesting, the protagonist (the hero) and the antagonist (the bad guy) have to be pretty evenly matched.

Story Questions:

1. What is the meaning of the Alex's dream?
Alex is having a dream that jumbles up many of the things he has been struggling with. The Anti-Christ is trying to get back to him. His feelings for Katy are still strong. The North American Demon comes into his dream. Sariel enters the dream to guide Alex through it.
2. Who was the dragon in Alex's dream?
It is the North American Demon. This seems to alarm Sariel. It shows that Alex's activities are concerning very powerful demons.
3. What does Sariel have to keep out of the hands of the enemy? Why?
Sariel have to keep the stone heart out of the hands of the enemy. Alex is such a strong warrior, his anti-self will also be powerful.
4. Why does Sariel go to see Mihr?
Sariel is hoping to get reinforcements. The Devil's forces in Willowbrook are growing, but the angels are not enough to match them.
5. What is Brandon like?
He is not nice. He is a jock who believes that he is better than other people because he has sports abilities.
6. Why does Conor think that Katie is happy?
Katie is dating the most popular boy in school—the football star. She is also hanging around with all the popular kids. It is probably what she always wanted.
7. How did Cain set himself up to be principal of Alex's school?
Cain has taken over the school to show that he can make it a high performing school. He used his contacts in the government and bribed people to move quickly to get him the school.
8. Why did Alex make a pentagram with the catsup?
This has come up a couple of times in the story—mostly in Alex's dreams. He keeps seeing a red pentagram. Maybe it means something.
9. Why do you think the demon possessed guy tried to throw the spear at Katie?
He is trying to get to Alex. He knows that Alex cares about Katie, so if it can't overcome Alex, it will hurt those he cares about.
10. How does Sariel feel about Alex?
He loves him and is afraid something bad will happen to him.
11. Why is Alex afraid to fight the Knight Demon?
The Knight Demon is a fierce fighting machine. He is powerful. If Alex gets pierced with his sword, he will die.
12. What is one of the advantages the Knight Demon has over Alex?
He has a much greater reach. He can reach Alex long before Alex can reach him.
13. How does Alex overcome the problem of having a much shorter reach?
Alex throws his sword and injures the Knight Demon.

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

14. What does Alex learn about anger?

Anger is not a sin, in and of itself. God Himself experiences anger.

15. What does the missing parts of Alex's armor mean to Cain?

That Alex is not yet a full Athleta and that he has vulnerabilities.

16. What do Alex and Sariel see at the Center for Bodily Revival?

The place is crawling with demons, powerful demons. They believe this could be a stronghold of Satan and the reason Alex is being trained.

17. What are the two things that maintain the cults?

The cults are kept alive by man's need to be reunited with God and his unwillingness to get there through Christ.

18. What do we learn about Conor's future plans?

Conor doesn't seem to have a solid plan, as of yet. He jumps from college to bumming across Europe, to becoming a philosopher.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

impotently	paralysis	sardonically	agonize	enticing
resolutely	pentagram	Groggy	plaintively	tainted
Plead	plight	reinforcements	taunted	sentiment
encoded	lavish	reveled	finessed	susceptible
Inflict	corpulent	writhed	ecstasy	allotment
crystalline	ominous	sympathy	sensibilities	amateur
inclination	minions	nuances	ventured	Cult
protruded				

Going Beyond the Text:

Alex is functioning more and more like an Athleta Christi. He is winning battles over difficult opponents. As we grow in Christ, we become more of a threat to the evil one. Alex had to think on his feet in order to win the battle with the Knight Demon. What is one creative change you could make right now in your life that would help you become more focused on Christ?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 14

We understand a character better when we know their past.

Story Questions:

1. What is in the church there with Alex? Why does this bother him?
There are demons attacking people in the church. It bothers Alex because no one—not even the pastor—is doing anything about it.
2. What was wrong with the way Alex talked to the pastor?
Alex was disrespectful. He let his anger get away from him. What he said was correct, but because he was so abrasive any chance that the pastor would hear him was lost. Alex became the problem.
3. What does Alex’s mom think might be wrong with him? Why does she think this?
Alex’s mom thinks that he might be on drugs. The things that he is saying are strange and might be said by someone who is having a bad trip on drugs. Being a nurse, Alex’s mom may have seen other kids on drugs.
4. How did Alex and his mom end up in California?
Alex’s mom was divorced. She met a man and they were together. She became pregnant. Her father was angry and did not want her in his house. He left. Her mom found she could not live without him and Virginia and Alex had to leave. California was as far away as they could get.
5. Why does Alex harbor such negative feelings for his father? Why does his mom think he wrong to do this?
Alex wanted to have a father. He blames his biological father for not being there for him while he was growing up. Alex’s mom explains that she was the one to blame. She explains that she willingly went out with Alex’s father and stopped looking for him when she found out she was pregnant with Alex.
6. What do we learn about Brandon in this chapter?
Brandon is not a faithful boyfriend. He likes to play the field and is willing to date other people behind Katie’s back.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

dutifully	scrutinized	Withered	hovering	undulated
affably	tweed	Parishioners	inspiring	apologetically
agitated	patently	taboo	TMI	package deal
Undeterred	petite			

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Going Beyond the Text:

Alex cares that the people in his church are being tormented by demons. He wants to see this fixed, but the way he attacks the pastor destroys any chance that he will be heard. Think about how we present ourselves to people affects whether or not they can hear us. When have you had trouble being heard in your life—either when you were disrespectful or, perhaps, too shy to say something? What could you have done differently to be heard?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 15

Stories have to build, the main character getting into more and more trouble.

Story Questions:

1. What is Alex obsessed with?
Alex is obsessed with the Center of Bodily Revival. He has wondered all this time why he was chosen and why the demons are in his town. The Center might give him the answers he seeks.
2. Why does Alex go into the building?
He hears the voice of God telling him to go in. Alex has come to the place where he trusts God and will do what He says.
3. What is this new female character like?
She is evil—she is tattooed with a pentagram and wants to destroy Alex. She has powers. She is able to materialize and dematerialize. She is someone the demons are afraid of. This means she is very powerful. Her pet is a monster.
4. How does Alex do against this monster?
Alex barely escapes with his life. If it weren't for Sariel catching him when he jumped off the roof, he would have broken his legs. This monster is definitely a formidable enemy, one that threatens Alex.
5. What does Sariel do to help Alex?
First, he catches him when he jumps off the roof and takes him away to safety. He also prays for Alex and God heals him. We see that Sariel has strong feelings for Alex.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

droning	disproportionate	taunting	administrator	summoned
barrage	crimson	sauntered	temptress	annihilate
pendent	hydraulic	labored	behemoth	Interfere
dislocated	devastation			

Going Beyond the Text:

In Godsend we see the demonic world becoming aware that Alex is a big threat to their plans. They keep sending stronger and stronger threats against him, trying to get rid of him. Satan will always throw strong temptations and distractions against those who are disrupting his hold on mankind. What attacks is the devil throwing at you? What can you do to equip yourself to handle these attacks?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 16

Characters are more interesting in stories when they are complicated people.

Story Questions:

1. Why is Alex so elated?
Although Alex is aware that he could have died in the attack, he has accepted this. He is elated because things turned out much better than he could have hoped for.
2. How have Alex's feelings about Katie changed?
Alex has come to grips with the fact that they are not together and may never be. His acceptance has freed him inside. It has made him more ready to fulfill his mission for God.
3. How does Conor feel about this new girl? What does he base this on? What does this tell us about Conor?
Conor thinks she is perfect, based only on her picture. Conor doesn't know this girl at all. This shows us that Conor is pretty shallow. He bases relationships on looks alone. He doesn't care about what is inside a girl, just what is outside. He doesn't see girls as people.
4. What rule does Alex learn from this girl?
Alex learns that he cannot go into the Spiritual realm and battle unless he is being attacked.
5. Where does this girl come from?
She is Cain's daughter. She has a demon for a father and a human for a mother. She calls herself a half-breed.
6. Why does Cain have so many computer screens?
Cain is a wealth of knowledge. He knows what is going on all over the world, culturally, spiritually, and socially. He is the most informed person in every meeting. He knows that knowledge is power and he wants to be like God in this way.
7. What does Hecate learn about Alex?
Alex is an underachiever. He is not a part of any of the activities at school. His grades are terrible.
8. What is Hecate's fever?
It is when her human emotions kick in and she feels sympathy and love. These are not demonic emotions.
9. What are the demons doing to Mr. Addison?
They are tormenting him. Whatever is going on, Mr. Addison is a key part. The demons have had to keep him alive and under their control.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

morose	grimaced	clarity	modifier	fluorescent
flaunted	Lurched	docents	distributed	orating
austere	Phase	jugular	intricate	omniscience
coffers	affirmative	furrowed	replenishing	Innate
infuriating	perpetual	horrendous	eradicated	commission

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Going Beyond the Text:

There are many young people in this chapter who are trying to find themselves. This quest can take many torturous turns. Some in this chapter are a little scary. Think of the young people you know. What are they doing to try to find out who they are? How are they expressing themselves in their dress and mannerisms? What kind of music are they listening to? What movies do they watch and what games do they play? How do all these things contribute to their quest for self-discovery.?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 17

The story gets more intense as the threat continues to grow.

Story Questions:

1. In what way has Hecate possessed Conor?
She has not possessed him the way demons possess people. She is not inside of him. She has stolen his heart. She is all he thinks about and he would probably do anything she asks.
2. Why does Hecate sit next to Alex?
She wants to torture him, to break his focus and make him weak. She enjoys teasing him and making fun of him. She is not nice.
3. What is bothering Sariel?
Sariel is growing concerned because the angelic forces are getting smaller while the demonic forces are growing. The angels, and Alex, are being greatly outnumbered.
4. Why do you think Sariel and Alex couldn't go to the training place?
God said no. Alex and Sariel are only allowed to do what God gives them permission to do. God has said no to many of the things that would make things easier for them.
5. Why wasn't Hecate destroyed when Cain's wife was found to be pregnant?
Cain's wife announced her pregnancy publically before he could react. America fell in love with the idea. The forces of evil decided that it was in their best interest to allow the girl to live. She would make Cain even more well-known and likeable.
6. Why is there a tinge of pain in Cain's face at the thought of Sariel?
The two obviously know each other. They must have had some kind of fight in the past that went badly for Cain. The demon is somewhat afraid of Sariel.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

shrill	transfixed	System	complied	clamored
satchel	deliberate	Podium	reassigned	transition
immaculate	tinge			

Going Beyond the Text:

Alex is surrounded by non-Christians. How would things be different for Alex if he had some Christian friends? What does the Bible say about Christians being in community and supporting each other?

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Read Chapter 18

Stories are about characters changing. Sometimes the changes take place slowly, over time. Sometimes they are rapid changes, conversions.

Story Questions:

1. What is important for Alex to do to prepare for the coming battle?
The best Alex can do is worship and keep his communication with God strong. He must be filled with the Spirit. The weapons he needs are Spiritual, not of flesh and blood.
2. What was Hecate's real name? Where is her mother? Why is she hiding the message?
Hecate's real name is Hope. Her mother died in childbirth. She loved Hecate and wished the best for her. She is waiting for Hecate in heaven. Hecate has to hide this from her father and any other demons. They would be furious if they caught her with it.
3. What has Alex so upset with Hecate?
She has a date with Conor. She is planning to have her demon friends possess him and drive him insane.
4. Why doesn't Principal Cain care about Stanley?
Stanley is not successful at school and has little chance of being successful in life. He will most likely end up leeching off the society, taking welfare or being in prison. Stanley is of no use to Cain nor to his company. They need productive citizens to make their company successful.
5. How do the different people in the room react differently to Stanley's death?
The teacher tries to save him. Some of the girls cry. Other kids take pictures or call 911. Hecate is not surprised, because she knows what her father is capable of.
6. How is Cain running the school?
He is running it like a factory, and the students are the products. They must meet specifications or they will be fixed. He is controlling them through intensive surveillance.
7. What is up the mysterious staircase near Cain's office?
The pentagram that Alex saw in his dreams is up there. There is also a portal that leads someplace where there are demons.
8. What does Alex find at the theater?
It is a trap. Hecate has set him up and is going to destroy him with her pet.
9. What does Alex tell Hecate?
That she is half human and can still be saved. She tells Alex that he is wasting his breath. She will always be on the demonic side.
10. What does Sariel learn from Mihr? How does he respond?
That he has been reassigned and will not be able to help Alex any longer. This upsets him because he loves Alex and is not ready to be separated from him.
11. Who does Hecate's pet attack first? Who does he attack second? What happens?
The monster attacks Hecate first. He knocks her out. Alex is attacked next. Alex fights the demon and ends up running his sword through his neck, killing it.
12. Why do you think Hecate called herself Hope?

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Alex saved her life. She gave in to her mother's wishes and called herself by the name her mother gave her.

13. How does Cain feel about Hecate? What does he have planned for her?

Cain feels the girl has been a disappointment and a leech. He plans to sacrifice her as part of his plan for Saturday night.

14. How does Alex preserve his friendship with Conor, even after Hope kissed him?

Alex explains that it was Hope that kissed him and that he would never do anything to hurt their friendship. He also didn't challenge Conor's plans to marry Hope, but went along with him.

15. What does Hope have that she is hiding from her father?

Hope was overwhelmed that Alex would save her after she had tried to kill him. She has a small Bible that Alex gave her. She is reading it for herself to find out what it says.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Immersed	Amasses	scanned	retracted	frigid
ballistic	Gruesome	rhythmically	unresponsive	unresponsive
Psychological	Surveillance	reprocessing	catalogued	Invasive
extracurricular	Modalities	profile	continuous	atrium
Pedestal	Spiral	mascots	obsolete	diameter
Montage	Incantation	deliberately	coalesced	Remotely
Predictable	Coalesced	eliminate	foreign	groggily
Verbose	fluttered	velum	inherited	Blight
Paramedics	pedantically	retorted	gurney	

Going Beyond the Text:

Alex never gives up on Hecate. Because of his goodness toward her, his prayer, and his sacrifice, she chooses to think about leaving her old life and becoming a Christian. She is reading the Bible to see what God has to say to her. Who is there in your life that needs Jesus? Have you given up on them? Are you praying for them? What can you do to show them God's love?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 19

When writing a story, it is important to bring together all the threads in powerful rising action.

Story Questions:

1. How does Alex feel when he ends up in the coffee house in his boxers? Why do you think he was transported this way?
He is uncomfortable and hopes no one comes in and sees him. He was transported this way to make him feel vulnerable and weak.
2. How is this angel different than Sariel?
This angel is not training Alex for battle. He says this is for barbarians. He tells Alex that those who believe in good and evil are extremists and that the truth is more moderate, somewhere in the middle. This angel says that battling is old fashioned. He tells Alex that the only enemy is ignorance and absolutist thinking.
3. How did Alex see through the fake angel's logic?
When the demon said that there was nothing absolutely right, Alex realized that there was also nothing absolutely wrong. Killing babies would be okay. This wasn't right. He realized that this could not be an angel of heaven. He was being tricked.
4. Which is the only truth that matters?
God's truth is the only truth that matters. His perspective is the only true one. All other perspectives are human and limited. We need to try to make our views correspond to God's.
5. What does Alex see in the sky? What does this mean?
Alex sees many shadows in the sky. They are heading toward his school. This means that demons are going there.
6. Why can't Alex's mom go to Oklahoma where she will be safe?
She has responsibilities where she is. She has a job and a household to run. She has Alex. She doesn't feel she can just drop everything and leave.
7. How does Cain get his plans to work?
He controls all of the variables. He makes sure everything is going the way he wants it to go. If there are variables he is not in control of, he eliminates them. Alex is a variable he must deal with if he is going to be successful.
8. Why did the girl glare at Alex when he almost called her Hope?
The place is crawling with demons. If Alex calls her Hope, her father might find out that something has changed with her. He would probably kill her.
9. Why was Conor attacked?
We are not told specifically, but the fact that the 911 lines were clogged with reports, we can assume that demons are causing trouble everywhere. Conor is a target because of his relationship with Alex. He may have a demon on him (the headache) and the guy that hit his car probably has a demon on him.
10. Why is Hecate inviting Katie to her house?
It was the assignment given her by her father, Cain.
11. What could be the purpose of Conor being in a terrible accident?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Answers may vary.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

anxiously	manage	referred	rogue	surveyed
Jowls	upscale	latte	condescendingly	moderate
absolutist	ambiguities	perspective	civility	compassion
embroidered	barreled	trajectory	stance	dispatched
variables	assets	disheveled	stabilize	Ushered
Infernal	infernal	pandemonium	phase	

Going Beyond the Text:

In this chapter, Alex is challenged by a demon who wants to confuse him. He is told that there is no absolute truth. He is told that to hold to the opinion that there is absolute truth is to be an extremist and a wacko. He is told that to hold to these ideas is to be out of touch and old fashioned. If you hold to a Christian world view and attend a public college, you will experience similar challenges. How will you stand against these? How can you be strong enough in your faith to stand up to college professors and experts?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 20

Sometimes heroes fail. This makes them more human and people we can relate to.

Story Questions:

1. Why did Brandon pull down Alex's trunks?
Brandon is a bully and doesn't like to be told what to do. He doesn't like to be stood up to. Although he can't pick a fight with Alex (he might get kicked off the football team), he also has to keep up his reputation as someone not to be messed with.
2. Why didn't the guard give Alex a towel?
Cain wants Alex as uncomfortable as possible. Keeping him cold and wet will make him easier to deal with.
3. Why wouldn't Cain attack Alex directly?
Because Alex has grown strong and might even be able to conquer Cain and send him back to hell as a slimy pile of goo.
4. What does Cain use to convince Alex to leave?
He threatens his mom's life. He shows Alex that he has power to hurt people by showing him Conor in the hospital. Cain is forcing Alex to choose between his mother and his mission.
5. Why does Cain transform the three Knight Demons into flies?
Cain doesn't trust Alex. He is afraid he will be double crossed. He turns the knights into flies and sends them to follow Alex and make sure he keeps his part of the bargain.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

porous	lunged	shimmering	Enveloped	orientation
smoldered	pivoted	fetchd	Posh	chattering
vying	affidavits	corroborate	Canned	Voiding
fiscally	maneuvered	outflanking	Relocate	assured
unison	exterminate	accumulated	Affixed	Unison
deviates	transformation	dislocated	Mandibles	Segmented
kaleidoscope	acuity	buoyantly		

Going Beyond the Text:

Jesus calls us to give up everything for Him and His kingdom. Although we may never be directly threatened like Alex was, we can easily make things other than God so important in our lives that they become our first love instead of God. Remember the parable of the seeds and how the seed is crowded out by the weeds (the cares of this world) and dies. Make a list of all the things that are important to you. How will you put these things in their proper place in your life and keep God alone in the center?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 21

A good story carefully explains what is really going on and why the characters act like they do

Story Questions:

1. What feelings is Hecate struggling with while she eats ice cream with Katie?
Hecate has never had a real friend. She likes Katie and feels comfortable with her. She is enjoying the girl talk. At the same time, she has to do what her father, Cain, says or she will be killed. It is tearing her up inside.
2. What convinces Alex's mom to leave?
She loses her job and is offered a much better salary in Oklahoma, near her parents. She is also offered a house at a reduced price. The thing that pushes her over the edge, however, is Alex's failing grades and the incident with Brandon.
3. Why did Alex's mom believe his story about fighting with demons?
Alex's mom believes him because she is a Christian and believes the Bible. The Bible teaches that there are angels and demons around us at all times.
4. How does Alex's mom react when she finds out Alex is protecting her?
She gets angry. She tells Alex that he must decide to be obedient to his calling from God without putting her into the equation.
5. How could all the bad things that happen in the world be according to God's will?
God's will is to reveal Himself to mankind. In this universe He can reveal Himself most completely. Because some evil people confess, He can be longsuffering, compassionate, and forgiving. This would not be possible without evil.
6. What was the deal between Satan and God? What arguments did Satan use? Why do you think God went along with this deal?
The deal was that when someone in the Addison bloodline turned fifty, a portal would be opened for one minute allowing the demons in hell the chance to come back to earth through a portal ten feet in diameter. Satan called God a bully, saying that He had stacked the deck in his favor and that the fight between them wasn't fair. The reason God went along with this is the same reason He does anything—it would bring Him more glory.
7. After Alex dispatches the demons, his mom tells him something that shocks him. What is it?
She tells him that he will have to drive. This shocks Alex because he hasn't had much practice driving. He is going to have to drive on the freeway at night. This will be a challenge.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

reveled	cordon bleu	luscious	downsize	fractured
unresponsive	Destiny	outmaneuvered	forging	patently
vanquished	replenished	gurney	prospect	ascended
sleigh	Sledge	restraints	shackles	

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Going Beyond the Text:

Alex's mom believes him because she has a Christian, Biblically-based view of the universe. She believes that there is a Spiritual realm where angels and demons exist. Do you believe in a spiritual realm that co-exists with the realm we experience? Take a few minutes and think about this. Imagine if you could see into the Spiritual realm. What would you see? How can we make an impact on both the universe that is seen and the one that is unseen?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 22

It is important, when writing a story, to throw in twists and turns and unexpected events.

Story Questions:

1. How is Alex like Constantine?
Both were called to fight for God against impossible odds. They both had shields with crosses on them.
2. What special ability does the Midnight Demon have?
He is strong and powerful. He can throw bolts of dark energy that immobilizes his enemies.
3. What is the last piece of the Armor of God that Alex acquires?
He acquires the Breastplate of Righteousness. This is the perfection he has received in Christ as a free gift of grace.
4. What new ability does Alex develop—just in time.
Alex is able to fly. This helps him against the Midnight Demon who can also fly.
5. How does Hope help Alex when his mom is being threatened by Cain?
Hope throws off her robe displaying herself as a being of light. She can throw balls of light energy the same way the Midnight Demon can throw dark energy.
6. How does Alex's mom respond when she was stabbed?
She turned herself over to God. She told Alex that she loved him and was proud of him for being God's warrior.
7. Where do Katie and Hope go?
They are carried by the North American Demon through the portal and into hell.
8. What does Alex hear outside?
It is Mihr and his spherical ball-like weapon. It mows down the demons and allows Sariel to rescue Alex.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

Cradling	multitude	vaporized	Coliseum	banshee
projected	resolve	segmented	impenetrable	triumphantly
demise	neurons	dissipated	volley	tasered
toboggan	thrust	jubilant	convulsively	discordant

Going Beyond the Text:

Think about what happened next to Alex's mom. Where is she now? What is her life like? How does this make her wiliness to die (if it is God's will) more understandable?

Godsend by Mike Apodaca and Jeremy Apodaca

Read Chapter 23

Stories build to a climax where everything is going wrong and the reader wonders how everything might work out.

Story Questions:

1. Why was Alex so angry with Sariel when he carried him away?
So many bad things have happened. Alex's mom is dead. Katie and Hope are in hell. Alex wonders why Sariel could not have shown up ten minutes earlier and saved everyone.
2. Where do the angels take Alex?
They take him to the Third Heaven, the outer part of heaven. They are met by Gabriel and Michael.
3. Why don't the demons get to eat the girls?
They are saved by a streak of light.
4. Why does Alex accept the challenge to go into hell and rescue the girls?
Alex has become a real hero. He is one who cannot stand by and watch his friends suffer. God has given him permission to go, so he's going.
5. Where did the girls end up?
There was a place of light in hell where the demons wouldn't come.
6. How does Cornelius Addison know what the girls went through?
He went through the same thing 400 years ago in Salem. It was his 50th birthday, just like it was Mr. Addison's, and he was used to bring demons into Salem.
7. What is this bright place in Hell?
This bright place is where Jesus came when He preached to the souls in Hell after His death. His presence here made the place holy.
8. How did Cornelius Addison get into Hell?
He jumped through the portal when he was being used to open the doorway back to the earth.
9. How does Cornelius Addison plan to get out of Hell?
When the portal reverses, he (and the girls) will escape.
10. Who is kept in shackles in the special holding place in Hell?
The demons who had relations with women and had children by them. This is how Hecate came to be.
11. What is the Infernal Castle?
It is a place where a powerful demon lives, on that Cornelius is afraid of.
12. What does Cain believe is the reason he has not been held accountable for fathering Hecate?
What do you think is the real reason?
Cain believes that heaven is incompetent. The reason he is not been brought to justice is because heaven doesn't run efficiently. Perhaps they were afraid of him. The real reason is that God wills it and, in some way, it brings God glory.
13. Who is the demon that visits Cornelius Addison?
He was an informant who told Cornelius that the time for the portal was near.
14. What happened to Katie during the attack in Hell?

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She was taken by the demons. She is probably being taken to the powerful demon at the Infernal Castle.

15. Where did Alex take the girls?

He took them to the place of light so they would be safe.

16. How many demons does Cain hope to get through the portal?

He calculates about five thousand would come through. This would greatly increase the forces of evil in the earth.

17. What is the other way out of Hell?

The way that Alex came in, the staircase.

18. How do the Athletas stop the North American Demon?

Cornelius Addison sticks his sword into the lava ceiling and it pours lava all over the North American Demon.

19. What is chasing after the Athletas and the girl at the end of the chapter?

The giant demon that eats everything. It crashed against the wall, burying the tunnel that leads to the staircase. It is now chasing them through the halls.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

squirming	acrid	horizon	piñatas	iridescent
celestial	vibrant	harmonic	reverent	essence
resplendent	radiance	resides	degradation	emanated
narrow	averting	abruptly	feudal	abode
adjusted	labyrinth	voluminous	regurgitates	perdition
pondered	slipshod	stalactites	expectation	elation
monumental	infiltrated	Indoctrinated	immanence	desperately

Going Beyond the Text:

This story shows the demonic world scheming and working in a strategic way against the Kingdom of God. We learn from the Bible that the devil and his forces are devising plans against us. Think of your Christian life. Where are the places where the devil might find a weakness in you? How can you protect yourself and make his plans against you fail.

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Read Chapter 24

When a story reads its climax, all the enormous problems that have developed in the story are finally resolved.

Story Questions:

1. What happens when the portal opens?
The giant demon who is chasing the Athletas gets his head stuck in the portal. He is snapping at everyone nearby.
2. Where does Cain end up?
Cain is pushed into the giant demon's mouth and ends up in his stomach. He cuts himself out and ends up in Hell when the portal closes.
3. What was the devil doing to Alex?
He was killing him. He told him to worship him.
4. How did Alex get away from Satan?
Alex said the words, "I resist you." The Scriptures say that if we resist the devil he will flee from us. When Alex says this, the devil panics and runs away.
5. How is Alex restored?
Cornelius prayed for Alex and asked God to heal him. The three Christians laid hands on him and waited on God's healing power.
6. What did the policemen find when they arrived?
They found Alex holding his dead mom, Cornelius Addison in a costume, Mr. Henry Addison strapped to the gurney, and the two girls in their pajamas.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

incantations	momentum	Indoctrinated	philosophies	immanence
resurgence	dwindle	Impending	extinguished	crude
influence				

Going Beyond the Text:

It is important that we understand some things about the devil. Firstly, he is not another God. He is an angel, a created being who is not infinite like God. He has limited knowledge and limited power and he cannot be in all places at once. The devil only thinks that he is a match for God. We must never think that. What would you do if you were to meet Satan face-to-face?

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Read Chapter 24

When a story reads its climax, all the enormous problems that have developed in the story are finally resolved.

Story Questions:

1. How does Alex feel about the eulogy the minister gave his mother?
He is frustrated. The minister is talking like he was a close friend, but he really only knew his mom by name. The stories he told were gleaned from others.
2. How does the pastor comfort Alex before he leaves?
He gives Alex his card and tells him he can call him any time. He tells Alex he will be praying for him and to stay strong in his faith.
3. What did Hope discover that excited her?
She found that she had an aunt in Willowbrook. She will be able to stay with her friends.
4. What are Katie and Hope going to do?
They are going to get baptized.
5. Who saved Hope?
Christ saved her soul and Alex helped. He has been a true friend.
6. Who did Mrs. Frost find? Who is he really?
She found Alex's real father. What she doesn't know is that Sariel has taken the place of Alex's father. This is his new assignment.
7. Is Alex a half-angel like Hope?
No. Sariel is not his biological father. His real father died two years ago.
8. What does Sariel ask Alex about at the end of the story?
Sariel asks Alex about his failing grades.

Vocabulary: Define the following words

cumulus	diffused	prattle	anecdote	expectantly
ward	emancipation	fraught		

Going Beyond the Text:

What would it be like to be raised by an angel? What would be the good parts? What parts would be difficult? What do you think might happen in the sequel to Godsend?