

The Touch

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1. The story begins in the Sistine Chapel. In what ways is the famous painting The Creation of Adam woven through the story? Andrew's touch is evident in his surgical ability. In what way does Faith have the touch? How is it different from Andrew's?
2. Andrew carries on Faith's legacy of secret giving. How does it help him after losing Faith? Has anyone in your life passed on a legacy that you've been able to keep alive?
3. Why is it important that the giving remain secret? In what ways does secret giving affect the giver? The receiver?
4. How does that idea of giving in secret contrast with what Lara experiences when working with donors and attending fund-raisers?
5. The young Andrew Jones suffered from asthma. How does he use what he learned from that illness to perfect his surgical procedures and make microscopic sculptures? Has God used anything in your life to teach you a special skill or lesson?
6. Luca says, "There is a God, and that God loves us. That is all we need to know." Andrew needs to believe those words, though he does not realize how much or how soon he will need to believe them—and that they will mean, literally, everything. How do Luca's words play out for Andrew by the end of the story?
7. Lara possesses the trait—some might call it the affliction—of believing that if anything needs accomplishing, she has to acquire the skills for it herself. Do you or anyone you know suffer from that same affliction? What happens if you or they give up control?
8. What do you think Jones means when he says, "Come back with me to Faith's clinic. Let's stop trying to save the world, or even save ourselves. Just help. One person, one at a time. Maybe that's salvation"? How is this a turning point for both Andrew and Lara?



