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**Reading Group Study Questions for
*Catchers in the Sky, Mission Korea***

I. Reading Discussion

1. The most famous quote about Korea is ‘...it is a country far away, of which little is known.’ Only a small percentage of Americans can find it on a map. What are some of the facts you learned from the book about Korea, either North or South, politically, geographically, militarily, culturally, linguistically? What was the most interesting thing you learned? How did the book change the way you viewed the region? Did you disagree with the author about any of his historical representations of the Korean War or World War II with respect to the roles of Korea, Japan, America, China, or Russia? What about his presentation of any other matter in the book?
2. Refresh your memory and define for yourself what the concepts of ‘the sacred’ and ‘the profane’ mean. Generally, we hold some things to be sacred in our lives, as well as distance ourselves, or find a way to deal with, the profane. In the ABL(X) story, what were the sacred and profane for (pick a couple of your favorites) Maj Phillips, Dr Engle, Abbey Yamamoto, MC Capt Hull, Harold Hakkermann, Dr DeFrancis, Marshal Il-Moon, Dearest Leader, Col Kang, Architect Su, Farmers’ Red Guard Militia Leader Tong-Hu, Aide Park, or the North Korean wedding couple? In your own life, what do you hold sacred and profane? As a family member? As a student? As an American?
3. The author would say, if asked, that the theme of the book revolves around ‘Temptation,’ (The urge to embrace immediate benefits despite possible consequences). This is in contrast to ‘Morality’ or ‘Service,’ (Forgoing an immediate pleasure or benefit because of future consequences). For the characters, how is the life of service reflected in this book? What is each major character’s temptation? Given you are in the service already, what made you chose the life of service? What do you think will be your temptations? In what sense is ‘Dream’ (A desired future that does not fall within reasonable expectations) the counterpoint to temptation and service?
4. Based on the discussion of Directed Energy Weapons in Chapter 15, and your own understandings, what are your opinions about how lasers will fit into warfare in 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 years? How are they used now?