

The Broken Gavel: A Sneak Peek – Book Club Discussion Guide

(Extended Questions)

Directions and Purpose

This extended discussion guide is designed to spark deeper dialogue around the themes in *The Broken Gavel: A Sneak Peek* by Dashawn Mayweather. The questions below are not included in the book itself; they were created to expand conversation and help readers reflect on their own lives. Use them to explore the broader themes of trust, betrayal, justice, resilience, and truth-telling. Book clubs, classrooms, or discussion groups can work through these questions sequentially or select those that resonate most with their members. The goal is to encourage honest conversation, meaningful connections, and courageous reflection.

Trust, Power, and Betrayal

1. How do you personally decide when to trust someone in positions of power (lawyers, doctors, pastors, etc.)? What safeguards do you use that Dashawn didn't have?
2. When trust is broken by someone close, is it worse than when broken by a stranger? Why?
3. What parallels can you draw between betrayal in the legal system and betrayal in everyday relationships (work, family, friendships)?
4. Which is harder to forgive: systemic failure or personal betrayal? Why?
5. If betrayal exposes someone's true character, what does resilience reveal about ours?

Silence, Voice, and Accountability

6. Dashawn describes moments of being 'rendered invisible' in court. Have you ever felt silenced in a situation where your presence should have mattered? How did you respond?
7. What role does silence play in both protecting us and harming us?



8. The book asks: 'What does accountability look like when systems protect the powerful?' How would you answer that in your own context—workplace, family, or community?
9. Injustice often thrives in hidden places, missed phone calls, ignored emails, silent courtrooms. What small silences in everyday life allow injustice to grow unchecked?
10. Do you believe that systems like the courts are broken by design, or broken by the people who misuse them?

Friendship, Boundaries, and Storytelling

11. Do you think we live in an age where people are too quick to turn personal stories into 'content'? Why or why not?
12. Have you ever shared someone else's story and later wondered if you crossed a line? Where should we draw the boundary between testimony and exploitation?
13. Dashawn says, 'Even if only part of it was mine, that part deserved my permission.' How might that statement apply beyond books, such as in social media, workplaces, or families?
14. The Confidante Clause shows how one person's ambition can distort another person's pain. How do ambition and empathy collide in your own life or community?
15. In moments of betrayal, is it more empowering to confront the betrayer or to move on without confrontation? Why?

Systemic Injustice and Everyday Life

16. The 'Legal Terms Decoded' section reframes ordinary legal language as life-altering. What everyday words or systems in your own life feel harmless until you've lived through them?
17. Have you ever felt trapped by a process that claimed to be 'fair' but left you powerless? How did you navigate it?
18. Should fairness be measured by rules being followed, or by people being truly heard?



19. What 'stones' do ordinary people have today to fight against systems stacked against them?
20. What words in your own profession or community might carry hidden harm or invisible weight?

Healing, Resilience, and Moving Forward

21. Dashawn describes 'compartmentalizing' her pain. Is compartmentalizing a survival skill, or does it delay true healing, or both?
22. Can there be healing without reconciliation? Or does healing require some form of closure?
23. The book distinguishes between clarity and closure. Which one has mattered more in your own life experiences of betrayal?
24. Is truth always enough to heal a wound, or does healing also require accountability and change?
25. Do you think clarity is underrated in our culture's obsession with closure?

Big Picture Reflections

26. What does The Broken Gavel suggest about the relationship between personal resilience and systemic reform?
27. If this were not Dashawn's story but yours, what part would you most want people to understand?
28. The gavel is a symbol of authority. What symbols in your life carry the same kind of weight, and what happens when they 'break'?
29. Have you ever had to advocate for yourself in a situation where the system wasn't on your side? What did you learn about your own voice?
30. If you had to answer: 'What does it mean to confront a system that protects the powerful at the expense of the vulnerable?' What would your answer be?