

Faith Lutheran Church Book Club
February 18, 2025; 2:00 pm
Discussion Guide for *The Bishops Pawn* by Steve Berry

Note to Readers: These guide questions start with the big picture and then proceed to events and characters that contribute to the big picture.

1. History notes that the ugly feud between J. Edgar Hoover and Martin Luther King, Jr., marked by years of illegal surveillance and the accumulation of secret files, ended on April 4, 1968 when King was assassinated by James Earl Ray. But that may not have been the case. What is author Berry's thesis about the assassination (the "big picture")?
2. What is the connection between 1968 and "the present time" (in this story)?
3. Identify Cotton Malone and Pam Malone. How does their relationship affect Cotton as the action unfolds throughout the book?
4. Who is Stephanie Nelle? Who does she work for? Why does she hire Cotton Malone, (our hero?). What mission near the Florida coast does she give him? And what is the Magellan Billet?
5. What is COINTELPRO? What character-s in the story are most connected to it?
6. When in the story are we introduced to Coleen Perry? Why is she interested in the gold coin?
7. Discuss the relationship between Coleen Perry and Benjamin/Ben Foster. Who is trying to protect whom and why?
8. Who is Jim Jansen? Who does he work for? Good guy or bad?
9. Juan Lopez Valdez is a former asset of both the FBI and the CIA. Good or bad guy?
10. Describe J. Edgar Hoover's character. His name is on a building in Washington, DC. What event in U.S. history colors what we know about his character?
11. OPINION: Who killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?