

Book Club Questions for *After Virginia Tech*

1. We've all watched intense televised coverage of mass shootings and other tragedies. How did this book affect what you may have thought about what happens after the news cameras move on? In what way did some of the challenges and journeys of the Virginia Tech survivors surprise you?
2. The shooter at Virginia Tech was known to many people who experienced first-hand his threatening and unusual behavior. How he slipped through multiple systems is tragic. What would make it easier for people to speak up about a person's behavior to a supervisor, threat-assessment team, or the police?
3. What do you think about the gun-safety arguments that are advanced by survivors who went on to roles in advocacy? Although Congress failed to act after the Sandy Hook Elementary School murders, many states have enacted legislation—including Virginia in 2020. Which of the measures that you've heard about make the most sense? How important is it to have national gun-safety laws and policies?
4. Many of those who lost their lives in Blacksburg were part of global communities. The daughter of one professor asks us to consider how the rest of the world looks at our country and its gun violence. How do you think the Virginia Tech shootings and other tragedies have affected our international reputation?
5. The two police chaplains who helped found the Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program speak of their deep faith but operate a program that's decidedly nonreligious. What is it about their worldview that helps make VALEAP a success? What insights did you learn about the training and experiences of police officers?
6. Among the best-known wisdom attributed to the late Fred Rogers was his mother's advice to a young child worried about a troubled world: "Always look for the helpers." It's a thought posed by Fred Guttenberg, a Marjory Stoneman Douglas parent, in the title of his book *Find the Helpers: What 9/11 and Parkland Taught Me about Recovery, Purpose, and Hope*. Who are some of the helpers in the continuing history of the Virginia Tech tragedy? How can more Americans become "helpers"?