

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Watch *The Gospel According to Thomas* with your small group. Allow participants opportunity to share their thoughts on images or points that particularly stood out, things that intrigued or raised questions for them.



Read Matthew 28:1-10 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-26 out loud with your group. Allow time to consider the texts and reflect on the case presented in the film.



1. Originally sceptical of reports concerning Jesus' resurrection, the Apostle Thomas became one of history's greatest missionaries, responsible for the establishment of the oldest Christian church in the world and the conversion of millions. What do you make of the claim only a person who truly believed would go to such lengths? What event ultimately convinced Thomas of the truth of the resurrection? Read John 20:24-29. How would you respond to Jesus' final words in verse 29?

2. Former Christian turned atheist, Dr. Bart Ehrman describes his journey away from belief as emotionally wrenching. In an off-camera statement, Ehrman shared the words of a good friend who said he "went from being born again to being dead again." He further states that he believes "this life is all that we have." How does Ehrman's declaration make you feel? Do you find his arguments against Jesus' resurrection convincing? What would you say to Dr. Ehrman if you were to meet him today?

3. William Lane Craig asserts that the resurrection, "...gives hope and purpose and confidence for living, not as a hope that is based on some myth or pie-in-the sky wishful thinking but is grounded in undeniable facts of history." Do you agree? What is the point of the resurrection, and what did it actually accomplish? What possible impact does either believing not believing have for daily life here on planet earth?

4. Craig Lunsbrough offers this unusual take on the resurrection of Jesus: "A dead man walking out of a tomb utterly obliterates all of our tediously constructed paradigms about life. And in pondering what God did that morning, maybe we need to ask if our paradigms are, in fact, the very tombs that you and I need to walk out of." What do you think Lunsbrough is getting at? What life paradigms might you need to reconsider or potentially walk away from?



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