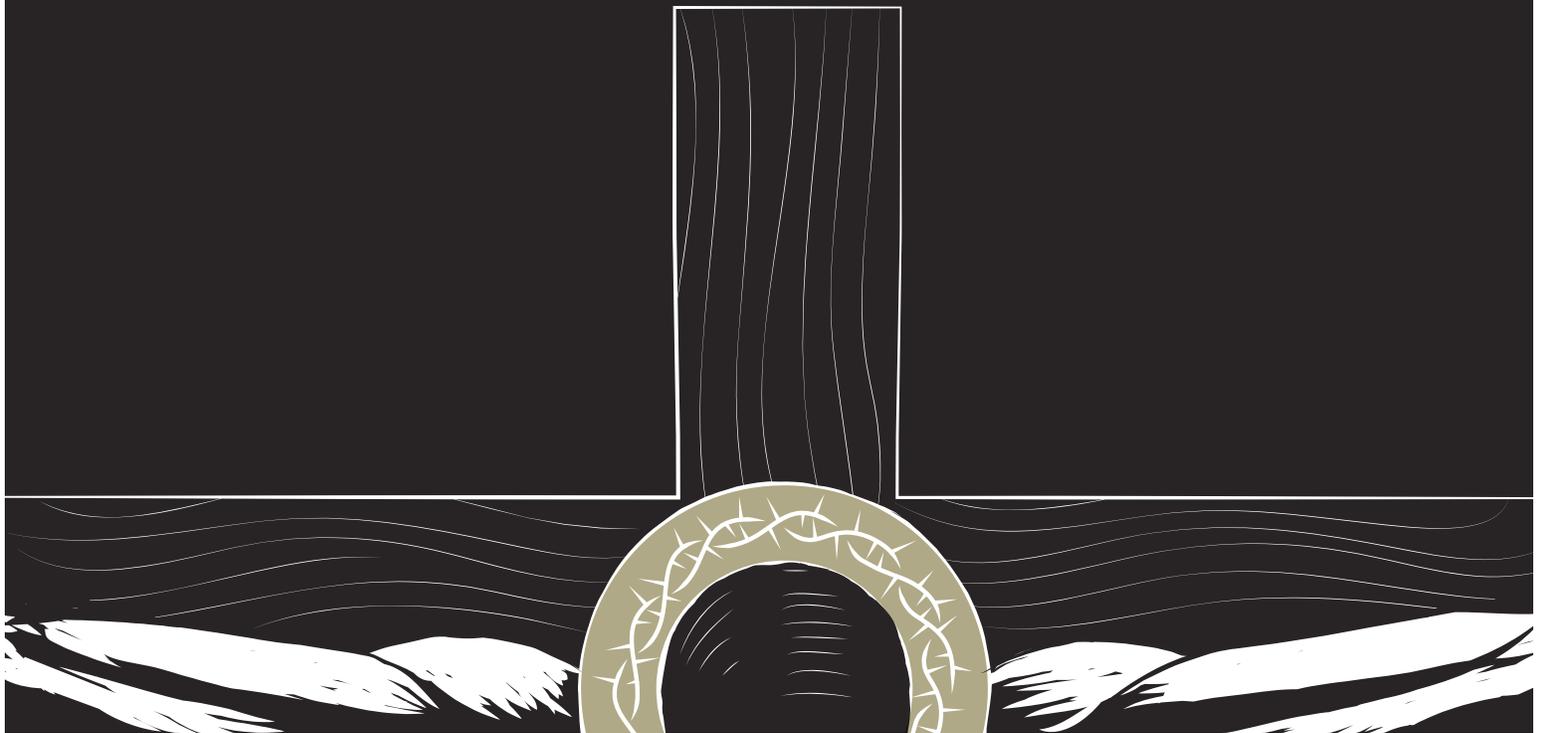


THE MOST IMPORTANT WEEK OF THE  
MOST IMPORTANT PERSON WHO EVER LIVED

# THE FINAL DAYS OF JESUS

ANDREAS J. KÖSTENBERGER  
& JUSTIN TAYLOR  
WITH ALEXANDER STEWART



STUDY GUIDE

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PREPARED BY ALEX AND JENNY STEWART

 **CROSSWAY**  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

This study guide has been designed for use by families, small groups, or Sunday school classes. There are discussion questions to accompany each section of the book. Some sections are, of course, longer than others and will require additional time. This study guide can be optimized by first reading the Scripture passages and the accompanying commentary in *The Final Days of Jesus*. Depending upon the size or nature of the group, some questions could be by-passed by the group leader. Also feel free to add additional questions based upon your own reading and study.

As you begin this study, list and discuss a few things that you hope to gain from reading the material and studying Jesus's final week. What are your goals both intellectually (what you might learn) and spiritually (how you might be transformed) for carefully studying the Gospel accounts of Jesus's final week?

Study Guide for "*The Final Days of Jesus*"

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# INTRODUCTION

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

1. What is the significance of the fact that the Gospels are eyewitness accounts (Matthew and John) or based upon the testimony of eyewitnesses (Mark and Luke)? Does this help explain the differences between them? What are some ways that this fact also contributes to our confidence in their truthfulness and reliability?

2. How does the fact that the Gospel writers included material that would have been embarrassing to the early Christians contribute to our confidence of the truthfulness and reliability of the Gospels?

3. Consider how the words written on the cross above Jesus's head differ in each Gospel. Do such differences bother you? Do they seem like contradictions, or do they reflect a biographer's right to selectively present material? In our modern age of scientific exactness and precision we focus on such minute differences, but ancient first-century writers and readers would not have seen these accounts as contradictory. Such differences actually support the reliability of the texts. The authors were not simply copying one another but actually represent independent eyewitness testimony!

# EARLY IN THE WEEK

THE KING COMES FOR HIS KINGDOM

SUNDAY–TUESDAY

1. Read John 11:43–54. How did Jesus’s miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead relate to the desire of the Jewish leadership to kill him? What political concerns did the Jewish leadership have?

# SUNDAY

MARCH 29, AD 33

## **JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**

**(MATT. 21:1-11; MARK 11:1-10; LUKE 19:29-44; JOHN 12:12-19)**

1. Read Luke 19:41–44. Summarize in your own words the reason for Jesus's weeping over Jerusalem.

2. What was significant about Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem? What did his symbolic actions lead people to expect?

## **JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH**

**(JOHN 12:20-36)**

3. Jesus knew what was to come and exactly how he would die. According to John 12:28–29 what was his request, and what response did he receive?

## **JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE**

**(MATT. 21:14-17; MARK 11:11)**

# MONDAY

MARCH 30, AD 33

## **JESUS CURSES A FIG TREE**

**(MATT. 21:18-19; MARK 11:12-14)**

1. Walking to Jerusalem on Monday morning, Jesus and the disciples came to a fruitless fig tree. Jesus cursed it for its fruitlessness. With the background knowledge that Israel in the Old Testament was often characterized as a fig tree, how does this symbolic or parabolic action point forward to Jesus's cleansing of the temple later in the day?

## **JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE**

**(MATT. 21:12-13; MARK 11:15-18; LUKE 19:45-48)**

2. Jesus's ministry was normally focused on teaching and healing, but those things were not at the forefront of his mind on Monday. What "out of the ordinary" things did he do on Monday?

3. Why did Jesus describe the temple as a "den of thieves"?

4. What did Jesus teach that the temple should be?

# TUESDAY

MARCH 31, AD 33

## **JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS A LESSON ABOUT THE FIG TREE**

**(MATT. 21:20-22; MARK 11:20-26)**

1. Read Mark 11:20–26. Jesus taught the disciples a huge lesson on the role of faith in their lives. What did Jesus teach about prayer in Mark 11:25–26? How does our forgiveness of others relate to effective prayer? How can you implement the truths of this teaching in your own life?

## **JESUS TEACHES AND ENGAGES IN CONTROVERSIES IN THE TEMPLE**

**(MATT. 21:23-23:39; MARK 11:27-12:44; LUKE 20:1-21:4)**

2. Mark 11:28 describes how the Jewish leaders tried to trap Jesus by his own words. How did Jesus turn the tables on them?

3. What three parables did Jesus proceed to tell? Try summarizing the main point of each parable in a single sentence.

4. Since coins (money) bear the image of the human ruler(s), and human beings (you and I) bear God's image, what should be our response to Jesus's instructions in Matthew 22:21? What do we give to God?

5. After responding to several traps disguised as questions, Jesus went on the offensive and asked several of his own questions. What reaction did he finally receive (Matt. 22:46)?

## **JESUS PREDICTS THE FUTURE**

**(MATT. 24-25; MARK 13:1-37; LUKE 21:5-36)**

6. Within Jesus's discussion of the future in the Olivet Discourse, what two major events were given the most attention? One of these events is past from our perspective today, but one is still future.

7. Jesus's teaching about the future clearly communicates that his followers will experience increasing persecution and tribulation until the end. According to Jesus, how must believers respond to these difficulties? Does Jesus's teaching about the future encourage or discourage you? Why?

# WEDNESDAY

APRIL 1, AD 33

## THE PLOT AGAINST JESUS

1. How was Jesus spending his time each day?
2. The response of the people to Jesus was positive. What group was not pleased with his teaching? Why?
3. What were the Jewish leaders doing while Jesus taught on Wednesday? Of what were they afraid?

# THURSDAY

APRIL 2, AD 33

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE PASSOVER

1. What Old Testament event did the Passover celebrate (Ex. 12:7, 12–13, 22–28)? What was the significance of this for the timing of Jesus's death?
2. Why were the preparations undertaken with a degree of secrecy?

## THE FINAL PASSOVER: THE SYNOPTICS

3. Jesus continued to reveal that he knew what was to come. What did he share in Matthew 26:20 that none of his disciples (except one) would have expected? Why was this news so upsetting to the disciples?
4. What are some of the ways that this was the “last supper”?
5. From the very beginning, Christians have held to and practiced the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Why is the practice so important? See Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:26. Celebration of the Lord's Supper in local congregations involves both a looking back to Christ's sacrifice and a looking ahead to his return.
6. Jesus himself explained the significance of the bread and wine. What do these elements symbolize?

7. What does it mean that Jesus's blood is poured out "for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28); "for many" (Mark 14:24); and "for you" (Luke 22:19)? Theologians often discuss this language in terms of the substitutionary nature of Jesus's death. What does that mean?

### **THE LAST SUPPER AND JESUS'S CLEANSING OF HIS COMMUNITY**

8. In contrast to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, what did John emphasize and record during this final supper?

9. Which themes occur repeatedly throughout the Farewell Discourse (John 13–17)? Briefly scan the Farewell Discourse in John and look for the presence of these themes: mission, love, joy, and peace.

10. What lesson about the forgiveness of sins does Jesus teach through Peter's misunderstanding of the foot washing? What broader lesson about sacrificial servant leadership did Jesus communicate through his humiliating symbolic action?

11. How do Paul's remarks in Philippians 2:1–8 relate to Jesus's lesson in John 13:1–15? What should our response be (v. 15)?

12. Discuss the relationship between Satan's influence and Judas's choices (John 13:2, 27).

### **THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE BEGINS**

#### **(JOHN 13:31-14:31)**

13. Read John 13:31–14:31 while thinking about the particular context and timing of this instruction. What statements are particularly significant in light of the fact that this is the last opportunity that Jesus will have to teach his disciples before his crucifixion? Consider the necessity of love, the clear statement that Jesus is the only way to the Father, and the indispensable future role of the Holy Spirit in light of Jesus's coming bodily absence.

14. What defining characteristic does a follower of Christ need to possess, according to John 13:34–35? Reflect on your own life, attitudes, and choices. How are you reflecting this characteristic for those around you in your family, your church, your workplace, and your community?

15. Although we cannot be certain, based upon Jewish tradition it is likely that Jesus and his disciples sang Psalm 118 after the Passover meal before departing for the garden. Read Psalm 118 and reflect on its significance for Jesus at this crucial point in his life. Give particular attention to verses 22–23.

### **THE FAREWELL DISCOURSE CONTINUES**

16. There are many points of application that can be drawn from Jesus's discussion of the vine and the branches in John 15:1–17. Read the passage and identify one aspect of Jesus's teaching that you find particularly important to reflect on at this point in your life.

17. Although the world's hatred of Jesus's followers has been an incredible source of pain over the centuries, what comfort can be drawn from Jesus's words in John 15:18–16:4a in light of continuing hostility from nonbelievers? Have you ever experienced the hatred of the world because of your allegiance to Jesus? Discuss recent examples of global persecution.

18. What is the main advantage of Jesus's departure, which he discusses in John 16:4b–15?

19. Summarize the main points of Jesus's prayer to God for himself (John 17:1–5), for his disciples (John 17:6–19), and for future believers (John 17:20–26). How can Jesus's prayer serve as a model for us as we pray for ourselves and others?

### **JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIALS**

20. What are some possible reasons or explanations for Peter's contradiction of Jesus's prediction? It is quite possible that arrogance or self-confidence played a role. Do these attitudes ever set you up for failure? See Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians 10:12.

21. Compare Jesus's prayer for Peter in Luke 22:32 with his prayer for his disciples in John 17:6–19.

### **JESUS ISSUES FINAL PRACTICAL COMMANDS**

22. Discuss the possible interpretations provided in the commentary (pp. 87–88) for Jesus's comments about the possession of a sword. Which interpretation seems most likely? Can you think of any other possible interpretations of Jesus's words here?

### **THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

23. What does Jesus's need of human support and companionship during his darkest hour teach us about his humanity? Do you think that Jesus's humanity is often eclipsed by discussions of his divinity?

24. Jesus's commitment to God's will no matter the cost is a powerful example for us to follow. Have you ever drawn strength from this account of Jesus's submission to God's will when you have been faced with a difficult decision? Is obedience to God's will always worth it, even if it results in death? How so? Resurrection triumphs over death! It did for Jesus, and it will for those who belong to him.

25. Can you identify with the disciples' struggle to pray? Jesus knew that the disciples would also be tested and would desperately need the strength that comes through prayer. Our need today is no different.

# FRIDAY

APRIL 3, AD 33

## **THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS**

1. Betrayal by a close, trusted friend is painful. Judas's betrayal even led to Jesus's death. Have you ever experienced this kind of betrayal (of course, not to the point of death)? How have you responded to it, or how has it shaped your trust in God?

2. Jesus demonstrated his submission to God's will by the exercise of restraint. He could have escaped, fought back, or called upon divine angelic intervention to protect him. Is your commitment to God's will enough to sustain you through difficult or dangerous times, or do you seek the easiest way out? Faithful submission is not a human attribute that can be sustained by willpower alone. We desperately need God's help. Take a minute to reflect on times in your life when you have compromised your convictions in order to find an easier way out of a situation or problem. If you are currently facing such a choice or situation, take a moment to pray for God's strength and commit yourself to doing God's will in the matter, no matter the cost.

## **THE JEWISH TRIAL OF JESUS (PHASE 1): INFORMAL**

3. What do you think motivated Annas's questions to Jesus about his disciples and teaching? Was he gloating, trying to trap Jesus, or trying to give Jesus a way out of the situation through confession and repentance?

4. Summarize Jesus's response to Annas.

## **THE JEWISH TRIAL OF JESUS (PHASE 2): MORE FORMAL**

5. What separates this stage of Jesus's trial from the previous stage? What made it "more formal"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Why were the Jewish leaders in such a hurry to expedite the trial? What would happen once the city woke up if they did not quickly arrive at a valid sentence?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What charges did they bring against Jesus, and why did the charges not stick?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12. How does Jesus's fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7 during the trial lead us to read the entire section from Isaiah in light of his death? How does the Isaiah text help us understand the significance of Jesus's death?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. When Jesus finally breaks his silence, he explosively applies both Daniel 7:13–14 and Psalm 110:1–2 to himself. Why did Jesus's comments create such a response? How did they provide the Jewish leaders with both political and theological grounds for pursuing the death penalty?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How do Jesus's beatings fulfill Old Testament prophecy?

## **PETER DENIES JESUS**

11. How did Peter's actions initially seem to confirm his earlier promises of loyalty unto death? What level of danger was he in by his commitment to stay as close as possible to Jesus through the trials?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What gave Peter away despite his attempts to blend in with those in the courtyard?

13. How did Peter strengthen his denials of Jesus in an attempt to convince his questioners that he was telling the truth? How did these additional statements compound his guilt?

14. Have you ever felt like Peter felt once he became fully aware of the weight of his betrayal and sin? Did your response mirror Peter's? Because of his oaths and self-inflicted curse, Peter likely felt that there was no place for forgiveness. He did not know at the time that Jesus was about to bear the consequences of the curse and the full outpouring of God's judgment upon sin.

### **THE JEWISH TRIAL OF JESUS (PHASE 3): THE FINAL VERDICT**

15. Why was the third phase of the trial important even though it was a mere formality?

### **JUDAS HANGS HIMSELF**

16. What are the reasons, for and against, for thinking that Judas's repentance did not lead to salvation?

17. How does 2 Corinthians 7:10 communicate the truths that are illustrated by both Peter and Judas?

### **THE ROMAN TRIAL OF JESUS (PHASE 1): PILATE**

18. Why was it necessary for the Jewish leaders to deliver Jesus to Pilate? Why couldn't they just kill Jesus themselves?

19. Although the Jewish trial focused on the theological charge of blasphemy, Pilate did not care about this charge. What charge did the Jewish leaders highlight when they handed Jesus over to Pilate, and what was the only thing Pilate needed to know to determine his verdict?

20. What three examples did the Jewish leaders give to try to demonstrate to Pilate that Jesus was a threat to Roman rule?

21. Summarize the essence of Jesus's response to Pilate. Was he a political threat to Rome in the way the Jewish leaders were indicating?

22. What was Pilate's initial verdict concerning Jesus?

23. What caused Pilate to back down from his verdict, and how did the presence of Herod in Jerusalem provide him with a possible way out of the tricky situation?

#### **THE ROMAN TRIAL OF JESUS (PHASE 2): HEROD ANTIPAS**

24. What was the extent of Herod's interest in Jesus?

25. Did Jesus's trial before Herod help Pilate make his decision?

#### **THE ROMAN TRIAL OF JESUS (PHASE 3): THE FINAL VERDICT**

26. Upon the return of Jesus from Herod, Pilate again declared his verdict. What was his verdict, and why did the Jewish leaders not accept it?

27. What did Pilate do next to try to get Jesus off the hook? What was the outcome?

28. What explains the shift in the attitude of the crowd from the excitement of the triumphal entry to the call for Barabbas's release instead of Jesus's? In addition to the activity of the Jewish leadership and the charge of blasphemy, it is also likely that the crowd at the triumphal entry was made up primarily of Galilean pilgrims, and the crowd calling for Barabbas were residents of Jerusalem who would have been more loyal to the established Jewish leadership.

29. What is so startling about Jesus's response to Pilate in John 19:11?

30. What statement do the Jewish leaders make to Pilate in John 19:12, and why would this statement have functioned as a forceful and direct threat?

31. What is so startling and disturbing about the statement from the chief priests, "We have no king but Caesar"? (John 19:15).

32. In light of an impending riot that would have resulted in significant bloodshed, Pilate gave into the demands of the crowd. How did Pilate communicate that he was not responsible for the death of an innocent man? Was Pilate successful in passing the blame for Jesus's death onto the Jewish people?

### **THE ROAD TO GOLGOTHA**

33. What was so ironic about the way the soldiers dressed Jesus as a pretend emperor with a robe and a crown of thorns?

34. How does Mark's mention of Simon's two sons and the likely presence of one of the sons in Rome a few decades later (Rom. 16:13) introduce a note of redemption and grace into the terrifying narrative? An early reader of Mark's Gospel in Rome likely would have recognized immediately the significance of Mark's mention of Simon's sons. Rufus would have been an early eyewitness to validate the content of the Gospel narrative at this point.

## THE CRUCIFIXION

35. How did Jesus's death on the cross seem to invalidate his claims and confirm to all Jerusalem that the religious leaders were correct the entire time?

36. Discuss the powerful impact of Jesus's prayer that God would forgive those who were crucifying and mocking him. How did this foreshadow the forgiveness of sins that would soon be proclaimed throughout the entire world? How does this function as a model for us today?

37. How does the salvation of the repentant robber powerfully illustrate the truth that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works?

38. What was the deeper significance of the charge posted on the cross? Why did the charge become an early Christian confession, and what did the early Christians mean by it?

39. Spend a minute reflecting on the reality that at the time of his death, Jesus's possessions consisted only of the clothes on his back. Such a life could hardly be thought of as successful by the world's standards. How did Jesus's death fulfill various statements in Psalm 22?

## THE DEATH OF JESUS

40. Based upon the symbolism of darkness in some passages in the Old Testament, what is the significance of the supernaturally caused darkness that covered the land during Jesus's crucifixion?

41. Reflect on or discuss the significance of the following words or events:

- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- "It is finished."
- The tearing of the curtain of the temple.
- The Roman centurion's statement that Jesus was the Son of God.

## **THE BURIAL OF JESUS**

42. Consider the involvement of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus in Jesus's burial. What risks were they taking by identifying with Jesus? What evidence did they provide that the Jewish leadership was not unanimous in its rejection of Jesus?

# SATURDAY

APRIL 4, AD 33

## **THE JEWISH LEADERS POST GUARDS**

1. Mentally put yourself in the place of Jesus's disciples on this Saturday and consider the wide range of emotions and thoughts they must have endured.

2. While the disciples hid in fear, the Pharisees were active. What did they ask of Pilate and why?

# SUNDAY

APRIL 5, AD 33

## **WOMEN DISCOVER THE EMPTY TOMB**

1. In addition to the irreversible reality of death itself, what was it about the manner of Jesus's death that seemed to undermine any hope of resurrection? (Consider also Deut. 21:22–23.)

2. What logical improbabilities surround the story that the guards were convinced by bribes to spread among the people?

3. The differences between Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John concerning how many women went to the tomb and when, and how many angels were there and what they said, pose a difficulty if one assumes that each author provided an exhaustive and scientifically precise account of events. The reality is that each author, guided by the Holy Spirit, selectively included and arranged the available material based upon the memory of eyewitnesses. The commentary section (pp. 175–80) provides several possible explanations of the differences and possible harmonizations of the details. Certainty is impossible, but the various options indicate that there are no necessary contradictions. The differences can be explained by authorial selectivity and arrangement and testify to the reality of four different eyewitness accounts that all bear witness to the same reality: Christ rose from the dead!

4. Reflect on the various narratives and discuss the possible solutions to the differences offered in the commentary. Are there any differences that cannot be plausibly understood as authorial selectivity? Do the differences strengthen your confidence in the main point of each narrative, since a conspiracy would likely have resulted in a more unified account? These differences need to be discussed and understood by Christians. If we leave it up to atheists and opponents of Christianity to discuss the differences, we leave room for would-be believers to be shaken by the claim that the Bible contains errors and contradictions. Legitimate historical harmonization is possible.

### **THE WOMEN TELL THE DISCIPLES**

5. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus received the worship of the women and did not rebuke them (Matt. 28:8–10)?

### **PETER AND JOHN RUSH TO THE TOMB**

6. Peter and John find the tomb empty with the linen cloths and face cloth folded up. What does the presence of these items indicate?

### **MARY RETURNS TO THE TOMB AND ENCOUNTERS JESUS**

7. Discuss the significance of Jesus's use of familial language in reference to his followers: "brothers" and "my Father and your Father."

### **ENCOUNTER ON EMMAUS ROAD**

8. Cleopas's description of the things that had just transpired is fascinating because it is from the perspective of someone not among the Twelve. How does he describe Jesus and his hope in Jesus?

9. The disappointment Cleopas expresses concerning Jesus's crucifixion correlates with John's statement that the disciples did not know or expect that Jesus would rise from the dead (John 20:9). How does this lack of expectation strengthen our perception of the historical reliability of the resurrection?

10. "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). It is likely that this conversation jump-started early Christian interpretation of the Old Testament in reference to Jesus. We do not know exactly what passages Jesus discussed, but it is likely that Isaiah 53 was included. Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12 and identify statements that point forward to a suffering Savior.

## **JESUS APPEARS TO THE TEN WITHOUT THOMAS**

11. How did Jesus convince the disciples that he was not a ghost?

12. Compare John 20:21 with John 3:16. Jesus was sent on a mission by God to the world, and in John 20:21 he includes his disciples in that mission. We, as Christians today, are included in this mission. How does John 3:16 help us understand our mission as representatives and extensions of Christ throughout the world?

# EPILOGUE

## LATER APPEARANCES OF JESUS AND THE ASCENSION

### **JESUS APPEARS TO THE ELEVEN, INCLUDING THOMAS (JOHN 20:24-31)**

1. Have you ever identified with Thomas's desire for solid evidence? Thomas often gets negatively portrayed, but Jesus did not reject him for his hesitancy. Rather, he directly reached out to him and provided the evidence necessary for belief.

2. Spend a few minutes discussing this question: What evidence(s) has God provided you to lead you to faith in Jesus for salvation? Jesus declares a special blessing upon you and me: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

3. Discuss John's purpose statement in John 20:30. John wrote his Gospel as an eyewitness who was absolutely convinced of Jesus's resurrection. His desire, as part of God's mission to the world, is for as many people as possible to hear about Jesus, believe, and find eternal life in Jesus.

### **JESUS APPEARS TO SOME AT THE SEA OF GALILEE (JOHN 21)**

4. John 21 centers on Jesus's full restoration of Peter. What parallels are there between this account and Peter's denials? What has changed within Peter as a result of his experience of complete failure and forgiveness and restoration?

5. In John 21:22 what point does Jesus drive home to Peter in response to Peter's question about the fate of John? How can we apply this point to our own lives?

## **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**(MATT. 28:16-20; LUKE 24:45-49; JOHN 20:21-23; ACTS 1:8)**

6. We may wish that the Gospel authors would have recorded more things from Jesus's discussions with his disciples during the forty days between his resurrection and ascension. John records the restoration of Thomas and of Peter. Luke records the meeting with two disciples on the Emmaus road. In addition to these items, each of the Gospels emphasize one central point in Jesus's final weeks of teaching. There is one thing in particular that Jesus wanted to make sure his disciples would not forget, marginalize, or get wrong. What was that thing? Summarize it in your own words.

7. How should this emphasis in Jesus's final words impact your life, decisions, and priorities? Every Christian is called to join Jesus in God's mission to the world. That is a central part of what it means to be a Christian.

## **THE ASCENSION**

**(LUKE 24:50-53; ACTS 1:9-11)**

8. Jesus made it clear to his disciples that there will be a delay in the physical, concrete, full realization of God's kingdom on earth. Sometimes it is missed that he also clearly communicated the reason for the delay: the Great Commission. How do the words of the two angels give us hope in the midst of this delay?

# WHO DO YOU SAY THAT HE IS?

1. We write with the same purpose as John (John 20:30). We are convinced of the truthfulness of the resurrection as attested to by the Word of God and invite you, the reader, to be forgiven and transformed by the same God who has forgiven and is transforming us. Take a minute at the conclusion of this study to reflect on your relationship and allegiance to Jesus. If you have made a commitment and surrender of your life to his rule, then use the moment to thank him and worship him. If you have not yet taken that step, why delay? Yes, it will require faith and surrender, but the faith is not blind faith. It is supported by eyewitness testimony and the inward witness of the Holy Spirit, and the surrender is of the sin that harms and destroys us so that we can experience and be filled with Jesus's resurrection power. Why delay?