

OVERVIEW

[Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith](#) draws on Marcus's personal journey and how understanding the historical Jesus can lead to a more authentic Christian life. This is the perfect introduction to Marcus's work.

QUESTIONS

Possible conversations with others as you read **Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time**.

- Marcus was asked to speak at a men's group: "Talk to us about Jesus, and make it personal." As an academic he had never been asked that before. He wrote the words *Me and Jesus* on a piece of paper, began to think about them, and was led into memories and reflections about Jesus in his own life. Marc encourages us to do the same. Begin with your earliest childhood memories of Jesus, track them through adolescence and into adulthood, and then see what has happened to your image of Jesus over the years.
- On page 29-30 Marc provides a sketch of the adult historical Jesus with two negative claims, by that he means counter to the popular image of Jesus, and four positive claims. Reflect on this portrait of Jesus. Notice that imperial titles and claims of divinity are not descriptive of the historical Jesus. Consider the implications that the Gospel narratives about Jesus are part of a developing tradition and not strictly or factually biographical. How does this change the way you read or understand the purpose of the Gospels?
- Chapter 6 describes *Images of Jesus and Images of the Christian Life*. Marc identifies three "macro-stories" in the Biblical tradition; these stories arose out of historical circumstance but become metaphors for aspects of the human condition. The Exodus story a story of bondage, the Exile story a story of alienation, the Priestly story the story of sin, guilt, sacrifice and forgiveness. The narratives around these stories include making a journey and arriving at a new destination. The priestly story is the story we most associate with the Christian story. This is misleading and limiting. Reflect on your experience of these "macro-stories" and your own journeys of liberation.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback. Give us suggestions, comments, what was helpful, what was not, so we can provide better study guides. No suggestion is too small. What other resources would be helpful for you? We appreciate your help. We would also like to know how you used these guides, for individual study or groups?

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