

**Leader's Guide  
for  
People Who Met Jesus  
Series 2**

**Study Materials Prepared by  
Dawn Moore  
and the staff of**



**Christian History Institute  
for**



**Vision Video  
P.O. Box 540  
Worcester, PA 19490  
1-800-523-0226  
[www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)**

## **Companion Guide for *People Who Met Jesus – 2***

**Session 1–Zacchaeus: *The Need to Belong*** -- While passing through Jericho, Jesus meets a man who has made a living working for the Romans as a tax collector. He has abused his position by stealing from his fellow Jews. As an outcast, Zacchaeus has nothing to lose and much to gain from a meeting with this famous miracle working “teacher” who happens to be in town.

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

### **Questions to Ponder:**

1. Describe Zacchaeus’ place in his world. Whom did Zacchaeus work for? What is his ethnic association? Why are these two in opposition?
2. Zacchaeus is effectively caught between two opposing worlds. How might this affect who he is?
3. What groups or individuals in our modern society might be marginalized or excluded based on not being a fully integrated part of any one particular group?
4. Have you personally experienced a feeling of exclusion? What are the consequences of such a feeling?
5. What methods have you found to be effective at healing this type of pain?
6. Think of a group that you personally feel comfortable and secure in. What are the signs of your acceptance within this group? What are the benefits you feel from your association with this group?
7. Zacchaeus’ separation can not be blamed exclusively on his job being in conflict with his heritage. What actions and values has Zacchaeus chosen that have worsened his situation?
8. Zacchaeus has an interesting personality. What personality traits eventually help him to meet and respond to the Lord?
9. Describe the meeting between Jesus and Zacchaeus. Why do you think they are able to form such a quick and easy connection? What parts of Zacchaeus’ story might Jesus have personally experienced?
10. What was Zacchaeus’ deepest need? How did Jesus directly meet that need?
11. Zacchaeus’ transformation occurs even before he is assured of salvation. How has Jesus touched this man so thoroughly that he would willingly change his ways without even being admonished to do so?
12. What lessons was Jesus showing those who witnessed this remarkable interaction? Do you think the people of Jericho came to forgive this repentant sinner and accept him into their fold?
13. Which person in this story do you most relate to? Why?

**Session 2--Man Born Blind: *The Need to Encounter*** -- As a blind man, this gentleman is thoroughly dependent on friends and family to help him survive. He even resorts to begging for money. His encounter with the Lord will be the catalyst that forces the Pharisees to wrestle with their own views of Jesus.

**Scripture:** John 9

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. What specific challenges did the blind man have to face in daily life? As you read the scriptures and watch the film clip, consider his relationships with his parents and his community. What is the commonly held view of that society towards blindness?
2. The disciples apparently share this view of the blind. How does Jesus' response refute their misunderstanding?
3. What has this man done to warrant being healed? Whose faith is at work in this healing? What is accomplished through this healing?
4. The blind man not only allows Jesus to apply dirt and saliva to his sightless eyes, but he willingly obeys Jesus' command to go and wash. Does this show that this man already possessed a form of faith? Why would Jesus choose such an unusual way to perform this miracle?
5. The healed man is challenged by many different people, beginning with his neighbors and culminating with a meeting with the Pharisees. The simplicity and beauty of his answers is striking. How is his devotion to Jesus shown through these replies?
6. What conflicting evidence regarding Jesus are the Pharisees debating?
7. One might expect this man's testimony to have a positive impact on the Pharisees' attitude toward Jesus, but the opposite appears true. Not only do they unite in their opposition of Jesus, but they also begin insulting the man. What is the cause of their form of blindness?
8. Do you see any form of this type of blindness in the church today or even in yourself? Are there traditions or expectations that are so highly regarded that they may actually make us blind to God's work?
9. The strength of the blind man's testimony lies in his ability to tell of his personal experience with Jesus. Take time to think through and give a simple account of your own encounters with the Lord. Though others may not like or even believe what they hear, they will be forced to rethink their own views on the Savior.

**Session 3—Annas the Priest: *The Need to Control*** -- As the former high priest, Annas continues to hold a certain level of power. He and the rest of the chief priests and Pharisees have carefully planned a way to finally get rid of the trouble maker who threatens their influence over the people.

**Scripture:** John 18:12-24

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. How is Annas' influence as the former high priest still being felt?
2. What evidence do you see that Annas likes to be in control? Why is Jesus such a threat to him?
3. According to Matthew 26:3-5, Jesus' arrest and questioning have been carefully planned out. What steps have the chief priests and Pharisees taken to assure that this arrest will be successful?
4. Did they believe themselves to be doing the right thing? Given their knowledge of prophecy, these leaders should have recognized the Messiah. Why were they not able to see the One who was right before their eyes?
5. How do you handle control in your own sphere of influence? Are you able to trust others with important tasks and decisions?
6. Are you able to allow God full control over situations in your life, or do you prefer to maintain your own control? What does it mean to give God control? How does that play out in practical terms?
7. The high priest is an expert in the law, yet he fails miserably in the most important encounter of his life. What specific character traits influenced this man's rejection of Jesus as Lord?
8. How does Jesus' response to Annas force Annas to examine his own views?
9. Sadly, Annas is not able to relinquish control. What methods can help to break through a stubborn, prideful disposition?

**Session 4—Caiaphas the High Priest: *The Need to Re-focus*** -- As the high priest, Caiaphas must maintain a delicate balance. He must preserve the Jewish national sovereignty, but never provoke the Roman authorities. His distraction with the business at hand will make it difficult for him to recognize the One he is about to encounter.

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:47-67; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:63-71

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Caiaphas is a very busy man with an extremely important and even dangerous job. Describe the role that Caiaphas played in keeping the peace between the Jews and the Romans. What type of traits would a man in this position need in order to do this job well?
2. The members of the Sanhedrin are presented with the evidence of Jesus' miracles. After some debate, they look to their leader for guidance. Here is Caiaphas' big chance. He has an opportunity to lead the Jewish people to the long awaited Messiah. Why do you think Caiaphas doesn't recognize and accept the Messiah?
3. What "big jobs" are capable of keeping you from a more meaningful relationship with Jesus? Have you ever found yourself thinking that your work or your priorities are so important that you don't need to take time to seek the Lord? What is the danger in this view?
4. As the high priest, Caiaphas prophesied, "It is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." John 11:50. What was Caiaphas' likely meaning in this statement? What irony do you see in the high priest's prophecy?
5. When Jesus is brought before Caiaphas to be tried for blasphemy, this leader of the church is willing to do anything to remove this threat to his own power. To what lengths will Caiaphas go in order to see Jesus convicted?
6. In a final desperate attempt to get the "evidence" he needs, Caiaphas gets Jesus' declaration that He is indeed the Messiah. What is his reaction to this revelation?
7. What scriptural prophecies surrounding Jesus' crucifixion are pointed out in this film segment?
8. Have you been distracted from a more meaningful relationship with Jesus? What steps can you take to focus more fully on the miracle of the Lord and all that He has for you?

**Session 5—Judas Iscariot: *The Need for Power*** -- As one of the chosen 12, Judas has been given the important task of keeping the money. He longs for the day when Jesus' kingdom will be established, hoping to have even more power for himself. Unfortunately, Judas' need for power pushes him towards actions he soon regrets.

**Scripture:** Matthew 26,27; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 12, 13, 18

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Think about Judas' time with Jesus. He not only met Jesus, but he was also granted a front row seat for first hand teaching as well as large blocks of time in intimate conversation. What would you think should have been the result of all this "quality time" with the Lord?
2. Why do you think Judas didn't reap the expected benefits from his intimacy with Jesus? In what ways did Judas abuse his important position?
3. After reading John 12:4-7, describe Judas' reaction to the woman's actions. How are Judas' views different from Jesus' views shared in verses 7 and 8? What about this incident was particularly distressing for Judas?
4. Review Luke 22:3 and John 13:27. How much of a role did Satan play in Judas' betrayal? To what extent is Judas responsible for his own actions?
5. Do these scripture references cause you to view Judas with more blame or less blame? Have you ever been tempted to blame Satan for your own personal failures?
6. Judas leaves the last supper early to begin the betrayal. Review the scriptures to see what important teaching Judas missed that evening. Do you think Judas would have acted differently if he had stayed long enough to hear all that Jesus shared that night?
7. Judas never referred to Jesus as Lord. The highest term of respect he used when addressing Jesus was "Rabbi." What heart issue does this indicate?
8. The day after he betrayed Jesus, Judas saw that Jesus was condemned to die. Describe his reaction and actions. In taking his own life, Judas misses yet another fantastic event -- the resurrection! How would you describe his motivation for suicide? Had he chosen a less selfish path, do you think there could have been forgiveness for Judas?
9. We all tend to get caught up in what we think our priorities should be. When we choose to take our eyes off the Lord, we risk missing His direction. How can you work harder at keeping your focus on God and following His leading?

**Session 6—Herod Antipas: *The Need to Save Face*** -- Herod Antipas has long wished for an opportunity to meet the famous miracle worker. But when at last he meets Jesus, he is asked to put Him on trial and sentence Him to death. Herod wants to avoid this and still save face in front of his courtiers and the powerful priests.

**Scripture:** Luke 23:6-12, also see Luke 9:7-9 and Luke 13:31

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Review Luke 9:7-9. What is Herod's interest in Jesus? What is their connection?
2. For another look at Herod, review Matthew 14:1-12. What characteristics would you attribute to Herod?
3. When Jesus is brought before the chief priests and then before Pontius Pilate, He says very little, but He does occasionally respond to their direct questions, letting them know that He is the Christ, the Son of God. In dealing with Herod, Jesus makes no reply at all. Why would Jesus' response be different to this accuser?
4. Luke 13:31 records that for some time Herod had been looking for a way to kill Jesus. Why would he not take this opportunity to follow through on his plans? Compare this to his decision to have John the Baptist put to death recorded in Matthew 14. What similarities do you see in Herod's role in each event?
5. When Jesus will not perform miracles or put on a show, Herod makes light of the whole thing by ridiculing and mocking Jesus. This is a convenient way out of dealing with the situation. Why is Herod satisfied to make fun of Jesus instead of making a decision about Jesus? What reaction might he be hoping for from the accusers?
6. Have you ever made light of Jesus' sacrifice or the Christian faith in general? Have you been the object of the jokes of others? What might be the root cause of this type of mocking of the faith?
7. Why did Herod feel the need to save face in front of the priests? Have you ever felt the need to save face in a situation? Why?

**Session 7—Pontius Pilate: *The Need for a Decision*** -- The choice of what to do with the man called Jesus and the demands of an angry crowd rests in the powerful hands of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. His attempts to place this decision on someone else's shoulders are not fruitful, and he must make a final choice.

**Scripture:** Matt. 27:11-31; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28–19:16

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. What is Pilate's attitude toward the Jewish leaders who bring Jesus to him for trial?
2. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record Jesus' response to Pilate's question, "Are you the king of the Jews?" How does Pilate respond to Jesus' answer?
3. Review John 18:33-38 for a more in-depth look at their discourse. What other question does Pilate ask Jesus? What words would you use to describe Pilate?
4. Pilate apparently believes Jesus to be innocent, or at the very least not deserving death. Why doesn't he follow his own instincts and release Jesus?
5. In what ways does Pilate try to push the decision of Jesus' fate off on someone else?
6. Ultimately, Pilate is not able to shirk this responsibility. The decision is his alone. What finally pushes him towards choosing crucifixion? What does this reveal about Pilate?
7. It's often easier to be a follower than a leader. It is a way of not taking responsibility. What decisions and choices in life would you rather not have to take responsibility for?
8. Do you feel that through this video series, through your Bible reading, and through your own prayer life, you have personally met Jesus? When we decided whether or not to accept Him as Lord, why is this one decision that each person must make for themselves?



**Session 8—Joseph of Arimathea: *The Need to Proclaim*** — Joseph has been a secret believer in Jesus for some time. Now he must make a difficult choice: To stay in the shadows and keep his faith a secret, or to act on his faith publicly.

**Scripture:** Matt.27:57-61; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:38-42.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Read the scripture passages listed above and describe Joseph of Arimathea.
2. Before the crucifixion, what sort of commitment did Joseph have to Jesus?
3. Do you think Joseph and other members of the Sanhedrin who believed in Jesus attempted to speak up at his trial? Reference John 12:42-43.
4. After Jesus' death, Joseph quickly realizes several problems that must be overcome. What three obstacles does Joseph work to overcome?
5. What personal risks and sacrifices is Joseph willing to make in order to see that Jesus has a proper burial?
6. What do we learn about Pontius Pilate's personal views of Jesus' guilt through this film segment?
7. How does Joseph's act of obedience and sacrifice show a change in his commitment to Jesus?
8. In what ways might Joseph have continued to share his faith boldly after this experience?
9. What circumstances have caused you to want to hide your faith in the closet and not share it with those around you? The empty tomb is a powerful symbol of the power of Jesus over death. Because He rose, our own death is not the end. How can this information empower you to never hide your faith again?