Zealot – The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth

Zealot yields a fresh perspective on one of the greatest stories ever told even as it affirms the radical and transformative nature of Jesus of Nazareth's life and mission.

In Zealot, Reza sifts through centuries of mythmaking and sheds new light on one of history’s most enigmatic characters by examining Jesus through the lens of the tumultuous era in which he lived: first-century Palestine, an age awash in apocalyptic fervor. Scores of Jewish prophets, preachers, and would-be messiahs wandered through the Holy Land, bearing messages from God. This was the age of zealotry—a fervent nationalism that made resistance to the Roman occupation.

This study guide will lead your group though the basic foundational pillars of the historical biblical study of Jesus that will open the minds of many...enjoy.
What most puzzled Rome about the Jews was not their unfamiliar rites or their strict devotion to their laws, but rather what the Romans considered to be their unfathomable superiority complex.

Study Guide Questions

**What is the difference in the ancient mind between Fact and Truth?**

In this day and age what do we cherish most... Truth or Fact?

What are some of the Facts that we know about Jesus?

What are some of the Truths we know about Jesus?

In light of this knowledge, how do we now see Jesus?

**Discuss the Jewish definition of Messiah. Was this a religious or political office, or both?**

Did Jesus see his role of Messiah as a religious or political office, or both?

Who attributed this title of Messiah to Jesus?

Is this a title Jesus himself wanted to have or be associated with?

**Define the roles of the Jewish priestly hierarchy in Judea. How would a typical Galilean family like Jesus' view this group?**

How does the gospel portray these individuals?

How does Jesus view these individuals?

What role do they play in the life and ministry of Jesus and his role as Messiah?

**How did Jesus' upbringing in Nazareth lead him to a deeper understanding of social justice?**

Is the justice that Jesus preaches a political or religious reality?
The realness of the man [Jesus] becomes eminently appealing... I personally hope to have a much more deeper personal relationship with Jesus through this book... You can have a personal relationship with this man.

John Oliver – Host
The Daily Show with Jon Stewart

What role does justice play in your life and must you embrace social justice to follow Jesus?

Did the message of social justice shape the outcome of Christianity after the Resurrection?

Discuss the Roman occupation? How did this political context shape Jesus’ outlook and actions?

Did the disciples of Jesus follow him more as political leader of religious leader, or both?

What was Jesus’ role in the occupancy?

What role did the Temple of Jerusalem play in the lives of the Jews in Jesus’ time?

Was it a political or religious center?

How much influence did the Romans have over the Temple?

With the above questions in mind, how do the words of the Gospels reflect Jesus’ relationship with both the Romans and the Jewish hierarchy and his call for social justice?

Was it the main thrust that formed Jesus’ ministry?

In the modern day followers of Jesus, how does this play out in their lives?

Is it regional, global or universal?

After Jesus’ death, his followers formed two separate camps based on two competing interpretations of his teachings. What are your thoughts on James and Paul?

Which camp do you follow?

Why did these two camps differ?

Why couldn’t they coexist or do they?

How did James’ and Paul’s differences form the Christian church we know today? Why do you think Paul’s interpretation flourished?

Where would the church be today if James’ outcome won?

Would there still be a church and would they call themselves Christians?
This is where you could write a personal message...telling them of your passion for Jesus and how you enjoy it. Also... maybe a small thank you for buying the book. Make it as long as you want. Change any questions and I’ll change the format later.

This book has been a 20 year project in the making...