

A Television Event for the New Millennium

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions can be used to evoke thought and discussion about Jesus and the Scriptures in the time of Christ and in the context of our lives today. Convene a special discussion group or use them in your Bible study classes. Encourage individual reflection, family and community discussions by printing them in your bulletin or posting them on your website.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION ABOUT THE MINI-SERIES JESUS

1. What particular Gospel passage or story in JESUS was the most meaningful to you? Why? How do you use it in your daily life?
2. Did the film give you a better understanding of the life of Jesus and the times in which He lived?
3. Did the film bring to life particular characters as you expected? Was any character portrayal new or surprising?
4. Considering the fact that the television mini-series JESUS had to condense Jesus' life into a four-hour mini-series, how did the film communicate the message of the Gospels?

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION ABOUT YOUR READINGS OF THE GOSPELS

1. How does scripture support Jesus as the Messiah? Did He consider himself to be the Messiah?
2. Jesus' compassion extended to "the least of these." How can we, in our own lives, rid ourselves of the temptation to pass judgment?
3. What does Jesus mean when He calls himself the Son of man?
4. As Christians, how do we keep faith in God's mercy in light of world suffering?
5. How do we as Christians accept and acknowledge the miracles of the Immaculate Conception and Jesus' resurrection from the dead?
6. Explore Mary's and Joseph's roles as Jesus' earthly parents. If Mary had borne Jesus today, what would be the same, and what would be different?
7. What does Jesus mean when He says "love one another"?
8. How can we as Christians incorporate the Beatitudes into our daily lives?
9. Jesus walked among the "untouchables" in His society. Who are the untouchables in our society? How do we bring the light and compassion of Jesus to them?

The story of the extraordinary life and mission of Jesus comes to television this May. Filmed in Morocco and Malta, this four-hour, epic mini-series celebrates the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Guided by an international panel of scholars, the beautifully crafted screenplay enables viewers to follow the life of Jesus of Nazareth as He evolves from a simple carpenter to a man whose spiritual teachings and selfless ways continue to inspire billions of followers — nearly 2000 years after His crucifixion and resurrection.

To enrich your congregation's exploration of faith, the dramatic mini-series JESUS offers a visual, humanistic and emotional depiction of the life of Jesus Christ. This companion Faith-Based Guide will assist you, your congregation, and your religious and lay staffs in using the film's familiar biblical stories to engage your congregation in examining His messages of love, forgiveness and everlasting life.

An Interdenominational
FAITH-BASED GUIDE

JESUS

a dramatic television event and

Faith-Based Guide to evoke dialogue

about the life of Jesus Christ,

His teachings and the meaning of faith.



for the Dramatic Mini-Series

JESUS

To be broadcast on the
CBS Television Network



Sunday, May 14 & Wednesday, May 17, 2000

9:00 - 11:00 PM (EST/PST) each night

8:00 - 10:00 PM (CST/MST) each night

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INDIVIDUAL MEDITATION

Bible Reading

Sermon on the Mount; Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Where have I been a peacemaker?

Where have I been merciful?

Where have I been pure in heart?

Where have I fallen short of the message of Christ?

What are three things that I can do today to be more merciful, pure in heart and more forgiving?

FAMILY MEDITATION

Bible Reading

Each family member will choose and read their favorite Bible passage, and explain why the particular passage is so personally meaningful. Other family members will offer their thoughts.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What does it mean to me to be a disciple of Jesus?

Is there more that I can be doing?

Finish the meditation by saying The Lord's Prayer.

Discussion

After viewing the television mini-series, JESUS, discuss each family member's favorite passage portrayed in light of the film.

COMMUNITY MEDITATION

Host an organized discussion or group seminar led by a priest, minister, sister or qualified lay person after the mini-series airs. Below is an example of a community discussion.

Begin the meditation with a quiet song.

Say a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to this gathering.

Bible Reading

Call of the First Disciples; Luke 5:1-11

Jesus performs a miracle on Simon's fishing boat where the fishermen make such a large catch of fish they can barely lift their nets. Jesus invites them to become His disciples. They bring their boat to land, leave everything and become His followers.

Discussion

The Gospels tell us and the mini-series showed us many of Christ's miracles. If you witnessed a miracle, would you be willing to leave everything and become a disciple?

What was the primary role of the 12 apostles? In what ways did they fulfill their mission? How can we as Christians demonstrate our discipleship?

Please post...and print in your church bulletin.

JESUS

A Four-Hour, 2-Part Mini-Series Coming In May

To be broadcast on the CBS Television Network



Sunday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 17, 2000

9:00 - 11:00 PM (EST/PST) each night

8:00 - 10:00 PM (CST/MST) each night



Jeremy Sisto
JESUS



Jeroen Krabbe
SATAN



Debra Messing
MARY MAGDALENE



Jacqueline Bisset
MARY



Armin Mueller-Stahl
JOSEPH



Gary Oldman
PONTIUS PILATE

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

JESUS is a production of Five Mile River Films, in association with Lux Vide, S.p.A.
Lorenzo Minoli and Judd Parkin, Executive Producers
Roger Young, Director
Screenplay by Suzette Couture

For more information on the mini-series go to www.cbs.com

Suggested Bible Lessons

The following readings are dramatized in the mini-series JESUS. Encourage your congregation to watch the two-hour broadcast premiere on Sunday, May 14, and its concluding two-hour program

on Wednesday, May 17. Bible students, young and old, can view the characters and the story enactments, then study, compare and discuss the Bible verses on the following Sunday.

The Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11

After fasting and praying in the desert 40 days and 40 nights, Jesus is tempted by Satan. Jesus struggles with the needs of His humanity and the power of His divinity.

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

The disciples see Jesus walking on water, coming toward them during a storm. They do not recognize Him and are afraid. Jesus rebukes them.

The Finding in the Temple

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus, as a child, is lost. After three days of searching, Mary and Joseph find Him safe and secure in the house of God.

The Crucifixion

Luke 23:1-49

Jesus submits to the crucifixion in order to glorify the love of the Father.

The Resurrection

John 20:1-30

Through the darkness and trials of the crucifixion, comes the light of the resurrection and the promise of everlasting life and God's eternal love.

