



Real Jesus

by Ben Connelly

Memory verse:

... so that you may know the certainty of the things
about which you have been instructed.

Luke 1:4

Study 1: Life and birth of Jesus

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Luke 1:1-3

1. What jumps out at you as you read this opening to the book of Luke?
2. Why has Luke written this account of Jesus life?
3. Who did he get his information from?

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21

4. What claims does Peter make about the source of the Gospel message?
5. Where does the message about God originate?
6. Why should Peter's audience trust him?
7. In what was are we likely to doubt the word of God?

8. Where do Peter and Luke get their confidence from?
9. How does God's word show us we can be confident in its accuracy?
10. How might we answer people who think the bible was made up?
11. What are your final thoughts about the confidence Peter and Luke have in the Gospel story?

Study 2 Death of Jesus

^{13:1} Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. **2** Now by the time of supper, the Devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Him. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. ⁴ So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. ⁵ Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't understand now, but afterward you will know." ⁸ "You will never wash my feet—ever!" Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."¹⁰ "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, "You are not all clean."

John 13:1-10

1. What are your initial reactions to this passage?

2. When does this event happen in Jesus' life?

3. Why does Jesus decide to wash his disciples' feet in verses 3 and 4?

9. Does Jesus have the same stature in your life as Paul gives him in this passage?

10. Which verse best summarises this passage?

**Study 4:
The point of Jesus**

Read Col 1:15-23

1. What are your initial thoughts, questions, and impressions of this passage?
2. Who is “he” in verse 15?
3. What is Jesus’ role in creation?
4. Why is Jesus given the “first place in everything”?
5. What does Paul want us to know about Jesus?
6. What did Jesus achieve on the Cross?
7. What did that mean for us?
8. Does Paul leave room for salvation outside of Jesus?

4. How does Jesus respond to Peter’s objection?’
5. Jesus does this to explain what is about to happen.
6. What does this episode show us about the cross?
7. Why is Jesus so strong in his response in verse 9?
8. Which verse best summarises the point of this episode?
9. How might we resist Jesus offering to clean us?
10. How does Jesus’ use of power inform how we should use our power?

**Study 3:
Resurrection of Jesus**

Read 1 Cor 15: 1-28.

1. What are your first impressions, thoughts, and questions about the passage?
2. What does Paul say is most important?
3. Was the resurrection a hidden event or an open one?
4. How does Paul connect Jesus' resurrection with ours?
5. How does Paul consider Jesus to be like Adam?
6. What are the consequences if the resurrection didn't happen?
7. What are the results of the resurrection?
8. How would you summarise the Gospel? How similar is it to Paul's summary?

9. How can we be sure the resurrection actually happened?
10. Which verse best summarises this passage?