

The background of the cover is a photograph of a small white boat with a wooden frame, floating on a body of blue water. The boat is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image. The water has a textured, rippled surface. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and whites, with the brown of the boat's wood.

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New York Times Bestselling Author

JESUS

*The God Who Knows
Your Name*

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Prepared by Andrea Lucado

PART 1

IMMANUEL

1. Who is Jesus to you? How would you describe him? What do you know about him?
2. Max explained that the word *Immanuel* is made up of two Hebrew words—*Immanu* and *El*. What does each of these words mean?
 - Why is Jesus referred to by this name?
3. In what circumstances did Jesus come to earth? Into what type of family was he born? In what type of town was he born?
 - Why do you think God sent Jesus to earth in this way?

4. Have you ever held a newborn? If so, what thoughts went through your mind as you held him or her? What did you hope for the child?

5. In Luke 1:30–33 the angel Gabriel told Mary, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” What do you suppose Mary was thinking as she gazed at her newborn son and remembered what Gabriel had told her?

6. Max pointed out that Jesus never abused his supernatural power: “Not once did Christ use his supernatural powers for personal comfort. With one word he could’ve transformed the hard earth into a soft bed, but he didn’t. With a wave of his hand, he could’ve boomeranged the spit of his accusers back into their faces, but he didn’t.”
 - Why do you think Jesus resisted using his power when it could have helped him?

7. What did Max say is most significant about Jesus’ journey from heaven to earth?
 - Do you believe Jesus came to earth for you? Why or why not?

8. Jesus came to live among us, and in doing so he experienced what we experience. Read the following verses:

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth.”
(Luke 10:21)

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:41–42 NKJV)

Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?” (Matt. 17:17 NKJV)

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46 NKJV)

- What different emotions do you see Jesus expressing in these passages?
- What emotions do you think Jesus would have felt while he was on earth? Can you think of passages that hint at these emotions?
- Which of these emotions do you experience most often? How does it feel to know that Jesus felt this way too?

9. What is something new you learned about Jesus in this section?

- Does knowing this about Jesus change the way you relate to him in your everyday life? How could it change the way you relate to others?

PART 2

FRIEND

1. Think about one of your best friends. What makes this person your friend? What qualities of this person are especially important to your friendship?
2. Have you ever thought of Jesus as your friend? If so, what kind of friend do you consider Jesus to be? If not, what kind of person do you imagine Jesus to have been while on earth?
3. A sketch in Max's office depicts Jesus laughing. Imagine for a moment being in the presence of Jesus and hearing his laughter. How does that affect the way you think about him as the Savior?

- Think about other portrayals of Jesus you have seen. How is he most commonly depicted in art? Which touches your heart most deeply?
4. Max pointed out that Jesus was invited to the wedding at Cana (John 2:2). Why do you think Jesus was invited? What does this tell you about Jesus?
- Considering what your relationship with Jesus is like today, would you invite him to a party you were hosting? Why or why not?
5. Fill in the blanks: Jesus said, “I came to give life with _____ and _____” (John 10:10 THE VOICE).
- In your own words describe what a life of joy and abundance would look like.
 - Is this the type of life you are living? Explain.
6. Why does Jesus want his followers to live joyful and abundant lives?
- Describe someone you know who is a Christ follower and living a joyful, abundant life. What characteristics or actions indicate he or she is living with joy and abundance?
 - Now think of a Christ follower who does not live a joyful or abundant life but is instead, as Max put it, solemn and heavyhearted.
 - What similarities and differences do you see in the way these two Christ followers live?

7. Read Luke 5:27–32. Who was Levi when Jesus met him?
What was his reputation?
- How did Jesus treat Levi despite his reputation?
8. What does Levi’s story tell you about the type of friend Jesus was? What does it tell you about the type of friend we should be, even to people who are different from us?
9. John 1:14 says that Jesus was “full of grace and truth.” Which example of Jesus’ treatment of others best exemplifies his truth and grace, in your opinion? Why?
- What does it look like to extend both grace and truth to our friends?
10. According to John 3:16 who receives eternal life?
- What do you think about this? Do you believe it? Do you think it’s fair or unfair? Explain your response.
11. Jesus befriended other unlikely characters in the Bible. In John 4 Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman and revealed to her his true identity as the Messiah. In Luke 19 he invited himself to stay with a tax collector named Zacchaeus. To the people of Jesus’ time, what was surprising about Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman and Zacchaeus?
12. When it comes to salvation, can you think of someone the world might view as a Samaritan woman or a Zacchaeus—someone who, in the world’s view, shouldn’t get into heaven?

Is there any person or any group of people that you have a hard time believing fall under the gospel's "whoever" policy?

- How do you think Jesus feels about this person or group of people?

13. What new insight did you learn about Jesus in this section?

- How could knowing this about Jesus change the way you relate to him in your everyday life? How could it change the way you relate to others?

PART 3

TEACHER

1. Do you have a favorite teacher, whether it was a teacher you had in school, a teacher at church, or a mentor? What did you like most about this teacher?
 - What are some characteristics of a good teacher?
2. Do you ever think of Jesus as your teacher? Why or why not?
 - If you answered yes, what has Christ taught you recently? If you answered no, in what ways could Jesus be your teacher?
3. Read the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8:2–11.
 - What is surprising about Jesus' behavior in this story?

- What do you think was Jesus' teaching strategy here?
 - What lesson did he teach the Pharisees and the teachers of the law?
 - What lesson did he teach the woman?
4. Matthew 7:29 says, "[Jesus] was teaching them as one who had authority" (ESV). Over what did Jesus have authority? Or what were some of his areas of expertise?
 5. Max pointed out that Jesus didn't boast about or hide his knowledge of God. He shared it with us. How does Jesus share his knowledge with us?
 6. Identify one or two aspects of God or faith that you find difficult to understand. How does Christ provide insight into these things, either in Scripture or in prayer?
 7. Is there a situation or an area in your life where you need to heed these words of Jesus: "Let me teach you" (Matt. 11:29 NLT)? If so, what situation is that? What do you think Jesus has to teach you?
 8. Right before he began his ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the desert being tempted by Satan. Read the three temptations recorded in Scripture:

And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." (Luke 4:3 NASB)

And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.”
(Luke 4:5–7 NASB)

And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written,

‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’
and,
‘On their hands they will bear You up,
So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’”
(Luke 4:9–11 NASB)

- How did Satan try to tempt Jesus?

9. Now read Jesus’ response to each temptation:

And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” (Luke 4:4 NASB)

Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” (Luke 4:8 NASB)

And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Luke 4:12 NASB)

- What was Jesus’ weapon against Satan? What are our best weapons against Satan?
- What does this story tell you about how you can prepare for ministry or any calling that has been put on your life?

10. Read John 15:4–10. According to this passage how do we bear fruit?

- Read Galatians 5:22. What type of fruit do we bear when we abide in Christ?

11. What are some ways you can abide in your teacher Jesus this week? How could you connect with him in a meaningful way?

12. What is something new you learned about Jesus in this section?

- How could knowing this about Jesus change the way you relate to him in your everyday life? How could it change the way you relate to others?

PART 4

MIRACLE WORKER

1. Max posed a question at the beginning of this section: “Do you believe in divine miracles?” Do you believe in miracles? Why or why not?
2. If you do believe in miracles, have you ever witnessed a miracle or experienced a miracle yourself? If so, what happened? How do you know this was a miracle?
 - If you don’t believe in miracles, or if you’re not sure you do, have you ever witnessed or experienced something so amazing or unbelievable that it is difficult to explain it by human understanding? What was this experience like for you?

3. Fill in the blanks: “The miracles of Jesus were not _____; they were _____. They were not _____ to his story; they were _____.”
- According to John 20:30–31 why did Jesus’ miracles take center stage in the Gospels?
 - Do the miracles of Jesus take center stage in the way you view and understand Jesus and his life? Why or why not?
4. How did Jesus calm the wind and waves in Mark 4:39? What does this tell you about his power and authority?
5. Have you ever experienced Jesus in the midst of a “storm” in your life—a difficult or dark season that you weren’t sure you would ever get through? If so, how did he bring peace or calm to that season or circumstance?
6. How did Max define faith in chapter 14?
- According to this definition how much faith would you say you have right now, and why?
7. Read Mark 5:24–28. What kind of faith did the bleeding woman have?
- Why do you think she believed Jesus could heal her?
8. Have you ever been in a desperate situation where you cried out to God as a last resort? What happened? How did this experience affect your faith?

9. Where do you need Jesus' healing in your life right now? In your health, a relationship, a lost dream, your faith?
- How could you, like the bleeding woman, take a step of faith and ask Jesus for help or perhaps a miracle?
10. Mark 2:1–12 tells the story of a dedicated group of friends. They were determined to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. When they couldn't get in the house where Jesus was teaching, they found another way. As Mark 2:4 says, "And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying" (NKJV).
- Have you ever had a friend or group of friends join you in asking for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing? If so, how did that affect your circumstances and your faith?
 - If an area of your life needs healing, is there a friend, family member, or loved one who could join you in prayer? If so, could you reach out to that person this week?
11. Read Mark 2:10–12. How did Jesus respond to the paralytic and his friends?
- How do you respond when friends ask you to pray for them?
12. According to John 9:38 how did the blind man respond to Jesus when Jesus healed him?
- What is your first response when something good unexpectedly happens in your life?

- What miracle in your life—big or small—could you thank Jesus for today in worship?

13. What is something new you learned about Jesus in this section?

- How could knowing this about Jesus change the way you relate to him in your everyday life?
- How could it change the way you relate to others?

PART 5

LAMB OF GOD

1. What is holy love?
 - Are you more likely to think of God as loving or holy? Why?
 - Why is it important that the Christian faith involves both a holy and loving God?
 - What role did Jesus play in communicating this holy love of God to God's people?
2. Read Matthew 1:20–21. What does the name Jesus mean?
 - Before reading this section, how did you understand the sacrifice of Christ on the cross? Were you familiar with the theological concept of substitutionary atonement? Is it clear or a bit confusing? Explain it in your own words.

3. John 13:3–5 describes Jesus washing the disciples' feet. This was an act of humility and service toward the disciples. You could argue that the disciples didn't deserve this treatment from Jesus because they all failed him in some way.

- How did Philip fail Jesus?
- How did James and John fail Jesus?
- How did Peter fail Jesus?
- How did Judas fail Jesus?
- And yet Jesus washed all the disciples' feet. What does this tell you about our salvation in Christ?

4. The night before his crucifixion, while in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus “fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will’” (Mark 14:35–36 NKJV). What does Jesus' prayer teach us about him and how far he was willing to go to save our souls?

- Have you ever asked God to save you from something difficult that you knew was going to happen? If so, what did you ask God to do, or what did you hope would happen in the face of that difficult circumstance?

5. If Jesus was afraid, why did he go through with the cross?

- Is there anyone in your life for whom you would be willing to suffer or even die? If so, who is the person, and why would you undergo suffering for this person?

- How does it affect you to know that Jesus had the same feelings for you?
6. Jesus' final words from the cross were "It is finished!" (John 19:30). What did he mean when he said that?
 - What are some unfinished areas of your life? A broken relationship that hasn't been repaired? A dream that hasn't come to fruition? What does it feel like for these things to be unresolved?
 7. As you consider that the payment for your sin was made on the cross and your salvation is final through Jesus Christ, how does it affect the way you view the areas of your life that seem unfinished?
 8. Galatians 3:27 says that believers "have all put on Christ as a garment" (NEB). What does it mean to wear Christ as a garment?
 9. What is something new you learned about Jesus or the cross in this section?
 - How could knowing this now change the way you relate to Jesus in your everyday life? How could it change the way you relate to others?

PART 6

RETURNING KING

1. How often do you think about heaven—every day, occasionally, not at all? Why? What prompts you to think about heaven?
2. Max pointed out that while we may like a journey, we all crave a destination. Have you ever been on a long car ride or plane ride? If so, how did you feel when you finally arrived?
3. Fill in the blank: “If God is God anywhere, he has to be God in the face of _____.”
 - How would you explain what Max means by this statement?

- What do you think about this statement?
4. Max talked about three resurrection stories in this section:
 - The son of the widow in Luke 7:11–17
 - Jairus’s daughter in Luke 8:40–56
 - Mary and Martha’s brother, Lazarus, in John 11:1–44
 - Have you ever had to face the death of a loved one?
 - Looking back on that experience, can you see God at work in that story? If so, how? If not, what role do you think God plays in death, if any?
 5. When Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30), what was he referring to as being finished? And what didn’t end at the cross?
 6. What do these stories of resurrection—Jesus’ and the others he raised to life in the Gospels—tell us about our own deaths?
 - What do these stories of resurrection tell us about our lives today?
 7. So far you’ve heard about Jesus as Immanuel, friend, teacher, miracle worker, and the Lamb of God, but what will be Jesus’ final title? (See Revelation 19:16.)
 - What would it look like to consider Jesus as the King of your life today? Would it change anything? If so, what?
 8. Revelation 22:4 says we will see God face-to-face. Imagine what that will be like. What do you want to tell God when

you see him face-to-face? What do you want him to tell you?

- We can't literally see the face of God today, but because of Jesus, God is present in our everyday lives. In what way have you seen the face of God?
- What would happen if you looked for the face of God in those around you? How would this change the way you respond to the people in your life?

9. Max says the one thing that really complicates our lives is sin. How does sin complicate your life?

- What would be the major differences in your life if you never sinned?

10. Revelation 22:3 says that in heaven "No longer will there be any curse." What curse is this verse alluding to?

- Considering how far back our history with sin goes—to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3)—what will it be like to live in a place without sin?
- How does imagining this bring hope to the hard or dark places of your life?

11. While heaven may seem a long way off, Jesus has already lifted the curse of sin. We don't have to be weighed down by sin, starting today. Have you let Jesus take the guilt and burden of your sin?

- If not, what is holding you back?
- Even if we have let Jesus take our guilt and sin, we need the

daily practices of confession and surrender throughout the Christian life. What sin, concern, or worry do you need to give to Christ today?

12. As you come to the end of this book, think about who Jesus was and is: Immanuel, friend, teacher, miracle worker, Lamb of God, and King. Which Jesus do you need most today? How could you commit to getting to know that Jesus better?