

Reflection Questions
to accompany
Jesus Found in Translation by Lizzie Berne DeGear, PhD

Introduction

The introduction includes a discussion of “excavation tools” used to dig under thousands of years of religion to get to Jesus’s spiritual experience. What tools have you been using – intentionally or without even realizing it – when you read the Bible?

Are you curious about Jesus’s spiritual experience? Do you think it might have anything in common with your own?



Chapter 1

Have you ever felt like a particular moment – or time of life – opened your perspective, your comfort zone, your sense of self? What do you remember about that shift? What did it feel like?

How have times of “leaving home” helped you discover who you are and your purpose in life?



Chapter 2

Take some time to imagine Yeshua as a young person seeking out the movement that grew up around John the Baptist in the wilderness. Imagine Yeshua as one of many people who meet there and have life-changing experiences together. Imagine, instead of “disciples” that the early followers of Jesus were more like “camp friends” reuniting for their next adventure.

What comes to mind when you see the setting for Jesus’s ministry as a revolutionary spiritual movement that was already underway?

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Chapter 3

Does Jesus already have authority in your life? If so, how was that authority first initiated?

Chapter Three revolves around “subjective experience.” Subjective experience is that aspect of life that emerges from our inner world. How do you connect with your own inner life?

When have you spoken to others from your deep subjective experience? What did it feel like? What was the impact?

The Greek word *ekplesso* introduces us to the notion of spontaneous spiritual experience. Have you ever had that sort of surprise dunking in the deep waters of your own religious experience? What felt scary? What felt safe?



Chapter 4

In this chapter we consider the possibility that Jesus let his own notion of his ministry expand when he became aware of the distress it was causing Nana. Have you had moments when you became aware that something good you were doing had a shadow side?

Mark’s gospel keeps women in the shadows of the narrative. How does it shift your sense of Jesus’s ministry when you shed light on the fact that women were ministering along with him the whole time?

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Chapter 5

Can you call to mind times when it is easy for you to let go? When you have experienced a sense of release into something new?

How do you experience the difference between being publicly known (e.g. on social media) and being intimately known in private relationships? What does the difference feel like to you? What does it feel like to be misunderstood in a public setting? In a personal setting?

Is there a rhythm to your work life? Your family life? Your prayer life? Do grounding in nature and grounding in community play a part in those rhythms? How do you find moments to breathe and reconnect?



Chapter 6

This chapter considers that the energy of the good news movement was ignited in people's subjective experience, shared through compassion and healing, and then it spread diffusely in ways that we can't trace. Do you know "anonymous healers" who spread their good news without announcing themselves? How are they effective?

What empowers you to make your own way? How do you know when you are being true to yourself?

What role does spontaneity play in your spiritual life? In your communal life?

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Chapter 7

Take some time to contemplate the notions of *diakoneo* (Greek for to minister, to serve) and *aman* (Hebrew to believe, to nurse). Let these images of mutual care and nourishment infuse your sense of divine-human relationship.

Revisit the scene of Jesus in the wilderness with the angels/messengers *diakoneo*'ing him. Imagine the Milky Way lighting up the night sky as part of that *diakoneo/aman*.



Chapter 8

How important is it to you that Jesus could perform miracles?

How does your own inner dialogue function in your faith life? When do you use it as a way to digest the gifts God is feeding you? When are you afraid of your own questioning?



Chapter 9

How do your vulnerability and human condition give you direct access to spiritual truth?

Coming to the end of this last chapter, where are you finding “good news”?