



***Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Benedict XVI**
Reading Group Discussion Guide

Use the following questions as guides to deeper individual understanding of the book or for group discussion.

- 1. In the foreword, Pope Benedict declares "This book is my personal search for the face of the Lord" and he states that this book is not a magisterial teaching. Discuss these statements.**
- 2. Pope Benedict says he has been influenced by books on the life of Christ by William, Papini, Guardini, Adam, and Daniel-Rops among others. How does he say this book of his is different from others?**
- 3. How has modern biblical criticism affected popular understanding of the life and work of Jesus? What are the benefits and liabilities of this?**
- 4. How does Pope Benedict explain the role of the Church in interpreting the Sacred Scriptures for the faithful?**
- 5. Discuss the idea of "Jesus as Mystery" in the life of the Church.**
- 6. What new or different ideas, for you, does Pope Benedict present regarding the Lord's baptism and his temptation in the wilderness?**
- 7. What key areas does Pope Benedict focus on when discussing the Sermon on the Mount? Why?**
- 8. In presenting the Lord's Prayer to us, what does Pope Benedict's catechesis on prayer tell you? Have you learned something new about prayer in the Christian life and what Jesus taught about it?**
- 9. The parables of Jesus puzzle us much of the time. How does Pope Benedict explain the purpose and meaning of them? Is this a new idea to you? Why or why not?**
- 10. How has your understanding of the life and work of Our Lord been affected by reading this book?**

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