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# BRAVE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE

LEADER'S GUIDE



# CHAPTER 1

## ***An Ache for More: Does My Life Really Matter?***

1. Who would like to tell us an instance when you struggled with doubt about God's delay in answering a bad situation and how you saw the Lord meet you in your need and turn things around? (p. 1-2)

2. During the Covid pandemic, tell us how you struggled with frustration, anger, or even questioned God about the sufferings of people. Did you notice ways the pandemic caused you to hunger for God's presence more and for His will to be fulfilled in your life?

3. At what point in your life did you first feel drawn to follow Jesus?

Who would like to tell us how you were saved, whether at a church service or through someone's personal witness for Christ, etc.? (p. 4-5)

4. Are there ways you are being persecuted because of your stand for Jesus?

5. Who would like to share about a miraculous healing, or one you saw happen in your family? Tell us how it made your faith stronger to pray for others to be healed. (p. 7)

# CHAPTER 2

## ***Called Out of the Crowd: How Can I Be Certain I Am Hearing From God?***

Scripture: Luke 6:12-16

1. Could you put into words for us the way you have seen the Lord call you out of a crowd to fill the place you are filling, whether for your marriage, your job or your church family? (p. 19-20)
2. Have you had an experience of believing you heard the voice of God and it was later confirmed that it was the Lord? (p. 22)
3. Tell us when you received confirmation of an answer to prayer by seeing circumstances align in a way that only God could have made it possible.
4. Having had a close relationship with Jesus, tell us where you believe you had an impact on the culture around you, such as on the job. (p. 23)
5. Was there a time you felt that you failed to obey the Lord and you struggled to know the difference between the hope-filled conviction of the Holy Spirit and the condemnation from Satan that leads to hopelessness? (p. 24)

# CHAPTER 3

## ***Awakened to Purpose—How Can I Know the Will of God for My Life?***

1. Mark 3:14-15 shares, “He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out....” Would you like to tell us a way you discovered the importance of spending time with Jesus (studying His word and observing other believers) as you began to try too quickly to minister to people before you were prepared to do so? (p. 35)
2. From Luke 19:10, tell us how Jesus expressed His own purpose for being on the earth. (p. 36)
3. Here is a quote from the book: When we ground our worth in the Word instead of the world, we can uproot false beliefs and replace them with biblical truths. Tell us a verse in the Bible that tells you how much you are worth in the sight of God. *Such as Romans 5:8, “But God shows his love for us in that while were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (p. 41)
4. Jesus sent Thomas and the other apostles on a temporary mission to speak of God’s Kingdom and take deliverance and healing to people. Tell us of an experience where you felt sent by the Lord and you saw God glorified when someone gave their heart to Jesus or received their healing of the body when you prayed with them? (p. 43)
5. The authors make these statements: “We walk in authority to the extent that we walk under authority. Kingdom purpose is best developed in community and collaboration, not in silos and isolation.” How do you interpret the meaning of this? In the context of being accountable to other believers, what are ways that you can fulfill your God-given assignments? (p. 49)

# CHAPTER 4

## ***A Setup—How Can I Get Untangled from Uncertainty and Overcome My Fear of the Unknown?***

Scripture: John 11:1-3

1. Look at John 11, verse 4, and tell us the end result of Lazarus being sick.
2. What is the meaning of the phrase, “the glory of God.” (p. 57)
3. Let’s talk about “God’s timing.” John 11, verses 5-6, tell us that Jesus stayed where he was for two more days after He heard that Lazarus was sick, and Lazarus died. How do you think that made the two sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, feel about “God’s timing?” What Bible verses might help us when we question why God has not answered us the way we thought He would? (p. 59)
4. Let’s talk about “God’s direction.” In John 11, verses 7-8, Jesus said, “Let us go back to Judea.” What was the reaction of all of the apostles except for Thomas? Do you see how this was a “setup” for Thomas to reveal His bravery and loyalty to Jesus? (p. 61)
5. Tell us of an experience where you could tell that God wanted you to do something different or move to a different location, but you gave Him excuses for not doing it. How did it turn out?

# CHAPTER 5

## ***A Step-Up—How Do I Leverage Adversity to Make Me Stronger and Lead with Confidence?***

1. In John 11, verse 16, explain how Thomas stepped up for Jesus? To whom was Thomas speaking? (p. 73)
2. When Thomas stepped up, how would you describe the effect it had on the other apostles? (p. 73)
3. Who would like to share with us an experience when you stepped up for Jesus and the effect it had on someone?
4. If you are questioning the wisdom of stepping up for Jesus in your situation, discuss how it can help you to “stop, look and listen.” (p. 77)
5. If a person would be risking death to follow Jesus, what does it mean to say they could have a slow death by being complacent and doing nothing? (p. 79)
6. Jesus called for Lazarus to come out of the tomb. When he stepped out, tell how you can imagine Thomas’ reaction and what he might have said or done. (p. 84)
7. How has this story about Thomas affected your view of him?

# CHAPTER 6

## ***The Place—Who and What is in Heaven?***

Scripture: John 14:1-4

1. Mary honored Jesus by pouring expensive perfume on His feet to honor Him. Someone thought it was a waste. Have you had an occasion when you were criticized for making a sacrifice for the Lord, whether for your financial gift or giving of your time or fasting and praying? (p. 98)
2. During the week prior to the crucifixion of Jesus, He sought to prepare the apostles to live without Him in His visible form and to look forward to being together in the future. Jesus said to them, "You know where I am going, and you know the way." Thomas was the only one bold enough to tell Jesus, "No, we don't know where you are going, and we don't know the way to get there." What are some ways Jesus could have reacted to Thomas and what is the way He answered Thomas? (p. 101)
3. What are words we sometimes use to describe "Father's House?" (p. 103)
4. Who is in Heaven? (p. 104-105)
5. Who is not in Heaven? (p. 106)
6. What does Heaven look like? (p. 107-108)

# CHAPTER 7

## ***The Way—How Can I Be Sure I Am Going to Heaven?***

1. How would you put into words the only way Jesus said a person can go to Father's House? (p. 116)
2. There are 7 "I AM" statements about Jesus found in the Gospel of John (p. 116-120). Let's complete these statements together:
  - I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
  - I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the World.
  - I am the \_\_\_\_\_ to the sheepfold.
  - I am the good \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life.
  - I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I am the True \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of these statements means the most to you at this time in your life?

3. Describe the difference between being created in the image of God and being a child of God. What does John 1:12 tell us is required of a person to become a child of God? (p. 122)
4. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane for the Father's will to be done, describe the physical toll it had upon Jesus. (p. 127-128)



# CHAPTER 8

## ***Absence—What Do I Do with My Doubt and Disappointment?***

Scripture: Matthew 26:57-58

1. Many prophecies given hundreds of years before were fulfilled during the trial of Jesus, His crucifixion and His resurrection. Let's look at the following prophecies and tell how they were fulfilled. (p. 139-146)

Psalm 41:9

Psalm 2:12

Zechariah 13:7

Psalm 22:7

Psalm 22:18

Psalm 34:20

Zechariah 12:10

Psalm 31:5

2. How does the fulfillment of prophecy affect you?

3. All the apostles except John were absent during the crucifixion of Jesus; however, chapter 8 identifies individuals who were near Jesus at that time. Can you identify who is meant by a stranger...an enemy...a criminal...and two men afraid to admit they followed Jesus? Seeing this as God's love inviting everyone to come closer to Him, what are some ways we can demonstrate this love from God to others? (p. 154)

4. Chapter 8 speaks of Thomas' doubt and disappointment that led to him isolating himself from the other apostles and missing Jesus appearing to them after the Resurrection. In what ways does isolation from other Christians take a toll on our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health? (p. 155)

# CHAPTER 9

## ***Presence—Will I Accept Jesus' Invitation to Come Closer No Matter What Tries to Drive Me Away?***

Scripture: John 20:24-29

1. Thomas was pursued by the other apostles when he missed the first meeting that Jesus had with the apostles after the resurrection. If there was a time when you stopped attending church faithfully, tell us how someone reached out to you and helped you come back. How did God work through you to help bring someone back into fellowship with the group? (p. 158)

2. Have you had an experience where you doubted that God was answering a certain need in your life, and you told Him that you did not see how you could serve Him "unless" He did something about it? Did your faith grow to the point of saying "regardless" of whether God answers the way I thought He should, I will serve Him with all my heart? (p. 171)

3. When the resurrected Christ appeared to Thomas and the other disciples, what might Jesus have said to Thomas? What did Jesus say to Thomas that answered his deepest need? Also, what command did Jesus give Thomas? (p. 163)

4. On pages 191-196, the authors list seven doubts that a person may deal with, each one followed by Scriptures to answer the doubts. After I read aloud the list of doubts, I will invite you to tell us if you have struggled with any of them and how you found your answers in God's word.

5. How has this study of the life of Thomas impacted you and drawn you closer to Jesus? (p. 172)

# CHAPTER 10

## ***Unlimited—How Can I Have Unwavering Faith for My Future?***

1. Looking back, review with each other the four encounters that the authors have described that took place between Jesus and Thomas. (p. 173)
2. From reading I Corinthians 15, verses 3-8, how many people are said to have seen Jesus at one time after the resurrection? (p. 174)
3. From reading Acts 1, verses 4-8, what were Jesus' last instructions to Thomas and the other apostles just before He ascended into Heaven? (p. 175)
4. From Hebrews 7, verse 25, and from Hebrews 9, verse 24, where is Jesus now and what is He doing? (p. 176)
5. Thomas received the fullness of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 2, along with the others in the Upper Room. In light of the evidence that Thomas was killed while preaching Jesus Christ in India, how would you describe the difference the fullness of the Holy Spirit made in his life? We have learned that some people in India can trace the salvation of their ancestors to the ministry of Thomas. (p. 177)
6. From Revelation 21, verses 10 and 14, what location is described as the place where Thomas' name will be displayed for all eternity? (p. 187)
7. In summary, when you receive your own God-assignments, when you go through persecutions, instead of choosing silence and safety, are you committed to stand up for Jesus and be "Brave Enough to Believe." (p. 187)

*Angela Donadio and Hubert Morris, the authors of "Brave Enough to Believe," would like to know what the study of the life of Thomas has meant to you. You can communicate with them online at: [angeladonadio.com](http://angeladonadio.com).*