

**SMALL  
GROUP  
GUIDES**  
from HarperOne

**CHRIST  
IN  
CRISIS**

**WHY WE  
NEED TO  
RECLAIM JESUS**

**JIM  
WALLIS**

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## CHAPTER 1: WHAT ABOUT JESUS?

1. In *Christ in Crisis*, Jim Wallis writes, “We have become disconnected from Jesus. We are not standing and acting in his name, with his values, action, and inspiration. We have lost Jesus—lost our connection to him” (pp. 10–11). What do you think about this? What is at stake if it is true?
2. Wallis calls the current political and religious climate in the United States a “crisis,” which he says is both a danger and an opportunity (p. 14). Discuss how it can be both. What difference do you think Jesus can make in the midst of this crisis?

## CHAPTER 2: THE NEIGHBOR QUESTION

1. Why is the question “Who is my neighbor?” (p. 23) so timely today?
2. Where have you seen the negative effects of “residential, economic, and even religious segregation” that Wallis describes on pages 27–30?

## CHAPTER 3: THE IMAGE QUESTION

1. “How a society treats people is an essentially moral decision. It is also a theological matter” (p. 46). How so?

2. Wallis claims that Christians must respond to America's "original sin of racism" (p. 72). He then suggests five ways for Christians to reckon with and respond to racism (pp. 72–75). Which of these ways seems most important or promising to you? Why?

#### **CHAPTER 4: THE TRUTH QUESTION**

1. How often do you talk about "truth" with your family, friends, or faith community? Why is it often a difficult subject to broach?
2. Where do you see threats to truth today (see examples on pp. 109–112)? What is at stake with those threats?

#### **CHAPTER 5: THE POWER QUESTION**

1. When you think of the relationship between Jesus and power, what words, phrases, or images come to mind? How does Jesus reframe how we understand and use power?
2. Wallis cites a handful of stories and ideas about Pope Francis as an example of someone understanding and handling power in a way similar to Jesus (pp. 123–127). In your opinion, why is Francis's leadership style so striking today?

## CHAPTER 6: THE FEAR QUESTION

1. Wallis suggests that since fear is a natural human response and, thus, not inherently wrong, our focus should be not on how we can avoid fear, but on how we respond to fear (p. 145). How do you respond to fear? Does your faith inform that response?
2. “Who are we being made to be afraid of and why?” (p. 148). How would you answer this question? Who dictates what we are afraid of today? What might Jesus say about these messages of fear?

## CHAPTER 7: THE CAESAR QUESTION

1. On pages 166–172, Wallis discusses Romans 13, a key biblical text on the topic of the relationship between Christians and governing authorities. How did you make sense of Romans 13 before reading this chapter? Has your understanding changed because of this chapter?
2. How do you support political candidates and political parties? What are the conditions that Wallis says followers of Christ should put on their support of human leaders (pp. 176–179)?

## CHAPTER 8: THE PEACEMAKER QUESTION

1. When you think of peacemaking, what words, phrases, or images come to mind? Why?
2. Wallis quotes theologian Stanley Hauerwas on page 196, who wrote, “War is impatience.” What does this mean? How does Jesus offer a different way when it comes to using violence as a means to an end?

## CHAPTER 9: THE DISCIPLESHIP QUESTION

1. Wallis refers to Matthew 25 as “Jesus’s final discipleship test” (p. 212). How would you describe this “test”? Why is Matthew 25 still significant today?
2. Before reading this chapter, had you heard of the Matthew 25 Pledge? Either way, how might you respond to its three commitments now (pp. 223–225)?

## CHAPTER 10: BECOMING SALT, LIGHT, AND HOPE

1. Wallis uses the words “salt,” “light,” and “hope” (pp. 247–249) to describe what Christians can offer. Why do you think he chose those specific words?
2. Wallis suggests seven spiritual practices “for how to embody salt and light in these dark days” (p. 266). What is significant about these practices? Which of

these practices are you already doing? Which ones might you want to begin to incorporate into your life?

## FINAL QUESTIONS

1. How has this book helped you understand both the crisis that we are currently facing and how Jesus presents a solution to that crisis?
2. How might you connect with your community on both a local and national level to respond to this crisis? After reading this book, what concrete steps could you take to respond to or engage with this crisis?
3. What are ways that you can become more “reconnected” with Jesus in the days and weeks ahead? What fruit might this produce in your family, friend group, faith community, neighborhood, city, and beyond?

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