

Resources to Start from Teaching “Why A Jewish Rabbi?”

Questions: (Some from Walkingthetext.com)

1. What was your biggest takeaway from the teaching?
 - What did you find most surprising about the Jewish educational system?
 - Why might memorizing Scripture be a powerful tool for shaping your life?
 - How does it make you feel to know Jesus's disciples weren't the best and brightest but that he wanted them anyway?
 - Instead of letting this Jewish passion for the Scriptures make us feel guilty about our own lack of Bible reading and study, how does it inspire you?
 - How will you begin living out the truths of this teaching this week?
 - What gospel can you start reading this week? What text can you memorize?

This list is NOT exhaustive. I will have a much longer list by the end of the series. But just to get you curious....)

INTRODUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE BOOKS:

- **Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus**: by Anne Spangler and Lois Tverberg
- **Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus**: Lois Tverberg
- **Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus**: Lois Tverberg
 - All of Lois Tverberg's books are very accessible to light readers. Lots of personal stories and examples, but also good, yet brief info on Jewish Roots.
- **Jewish Spirituality: A Brief Introduction for Christians**: Rabbi Lawrence Kushner
 - A very small book, but packed with insight. You can literally read through it in 20 minutes, but you'll spend 20 minutes a chapter (2-3 pages of huge font at best) on its wisdom.

FOR THE AVERAGE TO MORE INTENSE READER:

- **Our Father Abraham**: by Marvin Wilson
 - This is the book I ALWAYS recommend to start first with when diving into Jewish Roots.
- **Exploring our Hebraic Heritage** by Marvin Wilson
 - Continues with more of the theological postures of Judaism and their connection to Jesus.
- **Jesus Through Middle-Eastern Eyes** by Kenneth Bailey
 - Goes through various gospel texts and unlocks their historical context and meaning. I always go here looking for texts when I teach.
- **Jesus, the Jewish Theologian** by Brad Young
 - Comprehensive view on Jesus' thought postures as a Jewish Rabbi. All of his books are must reads.
- **Everyman's Talmud** by Abraham Cohen:
 - Accessible on Major Teachings of Talmud, easily referenced. I've used this reference on all sorts of things Jewish Roots.
- **The Philosophy of Man** by Abraham Joshua-Heschel
 - A comprehensive view of Judaism. This is a must-have for reference for the posture of Jewish thinking on practically everything you can talk about. And read ALL of his books, especially on the Sabbath (much smaller but rich!)

HEAVIER READS FOR ABOVE AVERAGE READERS:

The New Testament and Its World by N.T. Wright

This is a culmination of this great theologian's work. If I had another rabbi than Jesus, it'd be him.

The Lexham Geographic Commentary on the Gospels: Goes through geography of Numerous Bible Passages and Customs. Great reference tool.

WEBSITES:

- **First Fruits of Zion:** www.ffoz.org

-They host a "Torah Club," which are studies starting in October (at beginning of Jewish calendar) studying weekly Torah readings with a group of 12 with commentary from a Messianic Jewish perspective. I've taken a ton of illustrations and tidbits from Torah Club materials.

- **That the World May Know:** www.thatttheworldmayknow.com (Ray Vanderlaan)

- **Walking the Text:** www.walkingthetext.com

**Stay tuned for a neat opportunity of a conference in June that we are hoping to stream in our sanctuary for a small group of people!

