

**MORE PERSONAL STORIES FROM NEW TESTAMENT TIMES**

**Ken Walters**

**ISBN 798-0-9567831-9-6 Glory to Glory Publications © 2012**

**COURSE DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Introduction for Group Leaders**

Ken Walters' book (titled above) is a great encouragement to Christians to think a little more deeply about some of the key characters we encounter in the New Testament. Ken seeks to get under the skin of the person concerned and try to empathise with their thinking and feelings. All Christians think and feel about their Lord, and it is good to consider, in a little more depth, how people who met Him in the flesh, or encountered Him as the Risen Lord Jesus, would have responded to their encounters.

The questions below are seen very much as discussion starters and an encouragement to get 'back to the Bible' and re-think these characters' stories in biblical context. No doubt group leaders will be able to think of supplementary questions of relevance to their group/situation. It is envisaged that group discussions (such as lent courses) will be fairly relaxed, non-academic encounters, aimed to help Christians to think more deeply about the Biblical accounts we have in the New Testament, and just how people reacted to Jesus (then, and today!).

Unlike some other course materials, Ken's book is one that Christians may well return to from time to time – and can also pass on to others as *a good read*.

You can use the questions below, which are copyright free.

**Chapter 1: Barnabas. Acts 11, 19 – 30.**

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of Barnabas?
2. Discuss the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas.
3. What motivated John Mark to leave the group?

**Chapter 2: Simon Peter and Herod Agrippa. Acts 12.**

1. Discuss the place of miracles in the Early Church.
2. Discuss the 'halting' prayers of the church for Simon Peter.
3. Discuss the importance of 'corporate prayer'.

**Chapter 3: Simon Magus. Acts 8, 1 – 24.**

1. Do we have any sympathy with Simon Magus?
2. Discuss the importance of "belief from the heart."
3. Do we think that Simon Magus repented?

**Chapter 4: Aristarchus. Acts 19, 23 – 41.**

1. How do we rate the relative importance of Established Leaders like Paul, local church leaders, individual Christians?
2. How would you rate Aristarchus as a Christian leader?

**Chapter 5: Simon Peter's wife. Matthew 4, 12 – 17.**

1. Discuss the importance of "family support."
2. Discuss the healings that took place in Capernaum.
3. Why did the people in Capernaum come to resent Jesus?

**Chapter 6: Timothy. 1 Timothy 4, 9 – 16. 2 Timothy 4, 3 – 8.**

1. Discuss the relative importance of "youth" and "maturity".
2. Discuss the proposition that "God has a plan for every Christian's life".
3. Christian – Find out what the will of God is for your life and then live in it.

**Chapter 7: Luke – "So we came to Rome". Acts 28.**

1. Christian – find out what the will of God is for your life and then live in it! Discuss in relation to Paul's experience.
2. God's plan may not involve a "bed of roses" – discuss.

**Chapter 8: Lazarus. The Bethany family. Luke 10, 38 – 42. John 11, 1 – 5.**

1. We are all made differently – discuss.
2. Discuss the importance of the Christian truth – "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".
3. A loving relationship with the Lord Jesus is central – Discuss.

**Chapter 9: The Philippian Jailer. Acts 16.**

1. Is God sometimes in "the earthquake"?
2. Men and women come to Jesus in different ways – discuss!

**Chapter 10. Cleopas. Luke 24.**

1. Why was Cleopas travelling away from Jerusalem?
2. Discuss the importance of "the fact of the Resurrection".