

Discussion guide

The questions below are intended to encourage conversation about the movie **Risen**. Please don't feel as if you need to answer all of the questions or any of them! Rather, our hope is that one or more of the questions will get you and your family thinking about the radical, mind-blowing, life, changing reality of Jesus' resurrection from the dead!

Before watching the movie **Risen** read one of the historical accounts of the crucifixion and resurrection as recorded in the Gospels.

Matthew 27-28:15

Mark 15-16:11

Luke 23-24:12

John 18-20:18

Historical accuracy

The writers and director of **Risen** do a fine job of retelling the events of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, however, the student of the Bible is sure to catch some errors. Test your Bible knowledge with the following questions.

As Clavius & his assistant ride from Pilate's palace to the site of the crucifixion the sky is suddenly darkened and there is an earthquake—do the Gospel writers describe these events? If so, where in the Gospels are these events recorded?

In the film Mary Magdalene is presented as a “woman of the street”—is this historically accurate?

In the movie the second guard interrogated by Clavius said that he and the other soldier fell asleep. According to the Biblical account did the soldiers fall asleep?

What does the movie get right about the tomb (both before and after the resurrection)?

What Legion does Clavius lead in the movie? Was that in fact one of the Legions operating in Israel during the time of Christ?

One of the people interrogated by Clavius states that the followers of Yeshua are all in hiding. Did the disciples hide after the crucifixion?

Compare the upper room experience recorded in Mark 16:14, Luke 24:36-43 & John 20:19-23 with that depicted in the movie. What differences do you notice?

Where (what location in Israel) does the movie depict the ascension of Christ? Is it accurate? What chapter in the Bible records the ascension?

While recuperating from battle in a Roman bath Clavius tells Pilate that he seeks position, power and peace in Rome. Did he achieve any of these goals? If so, how?

In the movie Peter says of the resurrected Christ, “sometimes He’s hard to recognize.” Does Peter’s description match the Biblical account of how Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection?

Apologetic questions

After the crucifixion Pilate asks Clavius, “Did you find the Nazarene different?” to which Clavius responds, “I found him dead.” Why is the Tribune’s testimony important to the claim of Christ’s resurrection?

Risen presents a number of historical evidences that prove the resurrection of Christ—what are they?

What other evidences for the truth of the resurrection were not included in the movie?

Applicational questions

What do you think it would feel like to betray Jesus, run away at his crucifixion and then see Him again? How do you think Peter first felt when he saw Jesus alive again?

Have you ever felt like you’ve let Jesus down or failed him too many times? How do you think He would respond to you if He were here right now?

Do you sometimes doubt or have a hard time having enough faith? What causes you to doubt?

How did Jesus respond to Clavius’ questions and doubts? How do you think He would respond to you?

As the Legionnaires prepare to remove the Lord’s body from the cross one of them comments, “I never killed a king before.” How did that make you feel? In what way might we all say that we’re responsible for the death of the King?

The second guard interrogated by Clavius gives the Tribune an account of what he saw and heard when Jesus was raised from the dead. Spend some time thinking about what the actual guards experienced—how do you think the resurrection changed their lives?

Clavius looks intently at the image of Jesus’ face burned into the burial clothes wondering at the face of the man who had been wrapped in that cloth. In the very next scene, he looks at the face of a tiny statue of the Roman god Mars. What’s the difference between the face in the burial cloth and the face of the stature? What do you think Clavius was wrestling with in his thoughts?

When Peter is not able to answer all Clavius' questions about Jesus he says, "we follow to find out." How is that true in your Christian walk?

When cornered by Beneficarii in the valley Clavius says to him "you hold the world in your hands...know that...I believe it resides in these men." What did he mean?

When the disciples recognize Jesus on the shores of Galilee, they wade through the water to Him with exuberant joy! Is your relationship with Jesus marked by that kind of joy? If not, why?

Yeshua (Jesus) asks Clavius, "what frightens you", to which Clavius answers, "being wrong and wagering my eternity on it." Do you ever wrestle with the same fear that Clavius expressed? How do you deal with that fear?

The disciples fished all night and caught nothing. Then Jesus tells them to cast the net again. Even though Peter is tired he obeys the Lord. At the end of the day when you're tired how quick are you to obey the Lord?

When Jesus heals the leper, we see a change in his demeanor as well as his body. What has the Lord healed you of (physically or spiritually)? Can others see that change in your life?

Family questions

What is the one characteristic of Jesus in the movie that most stood out to you?

Even after everything they did, Jesus forgave both the disciples and Clavius. Why is forgiveness so hard for us? How can you as a family work on forgiving each other more?

Which character do you identify most with right now? Peter, Pilate, the leper, or Clavius? Why?

What was your favorite scene in the movie and why?

What was your favorite line in the movie and why?