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Young

Reader's

Edition

THE CASE FOR CHRIST

Investigating the Toughest

Questions about Jesus

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A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

Weighing

the

Evidence

- 1.** Whose team are you on right now? (circle one)

God's team

Another team

I didn't know there were teams.

- 2.** Have you ever experienced a difficult struggle or suffered a loss that made you doubt the existence of a good God? What happened? What did you do?

- 3.** On a scale of 0-10, put an X on the line where you rate the strength of your faith at this moment.

0

10



Faithless

Totally Faithful

Weighing the

Evidence

1. What part of Louis' story did you relate to the most? Why?
2. Why is it so important for you to read the Bible on your own?
3. What's the most shocking or interesting thing you've read in the Bible?
4. On a scale of 0-10, how confident are you right now that the Messiah mentioned in the Old Testament *is* the Jesus of the New Testament?

0

10



Doubt it

It's totally him

Weighing

the

Evidence

- 1.** Based on the odds of fulfilling the different prophecies, how confident are you that Jesus is the Messiah? (Place an X between zero and ten.)

0

10



Still not convinced

100 million percent confident

- 2.** Which of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled do you find the most amazing? Why?
- 3.** Which argument against Jesus being the Messiah did you think was the most convincing at first? Do you still have doubts? Why or why not?

Weighing the

Evidence

1. *Gospel* means “good news.” Why do you think reading about Jesus’ life is good news?
2. When friends tell you slightly different details about the same event, do you automatically doubt their credibility? How convincing did you find Craig’s explanations of the apparent contradictions among the Gospels? What made the most sense to you?
3. Based on the evidence you just read, how accurately do you think the Gospel writers told the story of Jesus’ life? (Place an X between zero and ten.)

0

10



They made stuff up

Totally accurate

Weighing

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Evidence

1. Do you think people in biblical times could have really memorized all those stories about Jesus? Why or why not?
2. Does it give the Gospels and other parts of the New Testament more credibility because they were written so close to the time Jesus lived?
3. Based on the evidence you just read, how accurately do you think the Gospels tell the story of Jesus' life? (Place an X between zero and ten.)

0

10

Still have doubts

Believe what I read

Weighing

the

Evidence

1. How trustworthy do you think the twenty-four thousand New Testament manuscripts are? (Remember: Some date back to less than one hundred years after Jesus lived.) Explain your answer.

2. Based on the evidence in this chapter, how would you rate the reliability of what you read in the New Testament? (Place an X between zero and ten.)

0

10



Filled with errors

God's perfect truth

3. The next time you read the New Testament, if your translation has them, examine some of the notes in the margins that talk about alternate readings. What examples did you find? How does the presence of these notes affect your understanding of the passages?

Weighing

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Evidence

1. Based on the evidence you just read, rate your belief in how accurate the Bible is as a history book. (Place an X between zero and ten.)

0

10



Full of mistakes

Rock-solid history

2. How compelling do you think it is that historical records paint a picture of Jesus that's identical to what's in the Bible? Why?
3. Which piece of historical evidence do you consider to be the most persuasive? Why?
4. Ancient sources say early Christians clung to their beliefs in the face of torture. Why do you think they held onto their convictions when they could have denied Christ and avoided being beaten, imprisoned, or killed?

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Evidence

1. What do you see as some of the shortcomings and benefits of using archaeology to prove that a story in the New Testament is true?
2. If Luke and other New Testament writers have been shown to be accurate in reporting incidental details, does this increase your confidence that they were careful in recording more important events, such as Jesus' miracles, teachings, and resurrection from the dead? Why or why not?
3. After considering the fingerprint, eyewitness, corroborating, historical, and scientific evidence in the case for Christ, what are your conclusions so far? On a scale of zero to ten, where would you rate your confidence at this point?

0

10



No confidence

Full Confidence

4. What are some reasons you chose that number?

Weighing

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Evidence

- 1.** Considering the evidence in this chapter, how certain was Jesus in his belief that he was God? (Place an X on the line.)



- 2.** As you think about the evidence in this chapter, how certain are *you* that Jesus is God? (Place an X on the line.)



- 3.** How do you think it would have affected Jesus' time on earth if he would've proclaimed right away, "Hey, I'm God!"? Could this statement have harmed his mission?

- 4.** Jesus taught his disciples to use the term "Abba," or "Dearest Father," in addressing God. What does this tell you about Jesus' relationship with the Father? Is that kind of relationship attractive to you? Why or why not?

Weighing

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Evidence

- 1.** After hearing Dr. Alexander Metherell describe everything that Jesus endured before and during his crucifixion, do you see any way that a swoon theory could be true? Why or why not?

- 2.** As you think about the evidence in this chapter, how certain are *you* that Jesus willingly died on the cross? (Place an X on the line.)

0

10



Still not convinced

100 percent positive

- 3.** For two thousand years the cross has been a symbol of hope for Christians. How did the information in this chapter change or strengthen your view of the cross?

- 4.** Roman soldiers abused, humiliated, and tortured Jesus. Yet in Luke 23:34, Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." What could possibly explain Jesus' reaction?

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Evidence

1. What evidence in this chapter did you find most convincing in establishing the fact that Jesus' tomb was empty?

2. Everyone in the ancient world admitted Jesus' tomb was empty. The issue was how it got that way. Can you think of any logical explanation for the vacant tomb other than the resurrection of Jesus? If so, what is it?

3. How confident are you that God raised Jesus from the dead?
(Place an X on the line.)

0

10

Not enough evidence

Believe 100 percent

Weighing

the

Evidence

- 1.** Proof of the resurrection comes down to two questions: Did Jesus die? And was he later seen alive? Based on the evidence so far, how confident are you that Jesus rose from the dead? (Place an X on the line.)

0

10



Still need convincing

He's alive!

- 2.** Why is the 1 Corinthians 15 creed a powerful piece of evidence that Jesus was seen alive?
- 3.** Read John 20:24-29. Thomas doubted at first but then believed when he saw the risen Jesus. Can you relate to Thomas? Would you have felt the same way he did? Why or why not?

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Evidence

1. The disciples were in the unique position of knowing for certain whether Jesus had returned from the dead. They were willing to suffer and die for their conviction that he was alive. What degree of certainty would you need before you would be willing to lay down your life for a belief?

2. Based on the three pieces of evidence that J.P. Moreland discussed, how confident are you that the resurrection of Jesus is the only plausible explanation? (Place an X on the line.)

0

10



Not convinced

Jesus is the only explanation

3. Jesus still meets people and changes lives today. Have you had an encounter with Jesus? What happened?

Weighing

the

Evidence

1. If you've already made the decision to be on God's team, how does it make you feel knowing that you're on the winning team? Why?
2. After reading through all the evidence in this book, what strengthened your faith the most?
3. On a scale of 0-10, put an X on the line of where you rate the strength of your faith now. Did it change from the beginning of the book? Why?

0

10



Totally Lacking

Totally Faithful