

Review of *People Who Met Jesus*, *Spirituality According to Jesus*, and *Looking at the Life of Jesus* by Rebecca Pippert

Rebecca Pippert has written three independent seeker Bible study guides, each seven to eight lessons, from the gospels of Luke and John. The first observation of these guides is that these books do not look like your typical high gloss, staple-bound Bible study guide. These attractive 4" X 8" books can easily be thrown into your purse or bag. The author transparently states that the discussion guides are "a safe place to explore" questions about Jesus, what He said about true spirituality, what it would mean for us to encounter Christ as well.

Each lesson uses a passage of the Bible. There is no jumping around looking up individual, isolated verses, there are no fill in the blank questions or basic factual questions. Each lesson begins with a discussion starter question followed with a summary of the historical context of the passage to be studied. There are generally 12-14 discussion questions and a conclusion of one to two questions to "live what you learn."

If a leader has used a variety of Bible study guides, the uniqueness of Rebecca Pippert's style will be quickly recognized. She does not assume any level of faith of the user and therefore is very careful to not be using faith jargon in her questions. This sets up a more objective observation of the text for the individual explorer. Her studies are written so that the user can participate without having done any advance preparation. Her questions promote discussion and thinking.

These studies have been used in Side by Side-La Crosse with a group of women who come from a variety of church backgrounds and a variety of experiences of studying the Bible. Several times this leader has heard comments related to the fresh approach of looking at the stories of Jesus—for the first time, for the twentieth time. The author transports you into the Biblical scene to become an active observer and participant. These Bible study guides are highly recommended. Look for at least one more seeker study in the future by Rebecca Pippert.