

Discussion Questions for *Son of God*

Some of the major characters to watch for: Jesus, Peter, Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas, Mary, Nicodemus, Thomas, Judas, Claudia

1. Observe how often Jesus is confronted by the religious authorities of his day. How does Jesus typically react to those who seek to undermine his mission and what can we learn from that?
2. What characteristics of Jesus strike you as most important in creating followers (his miracles, his storytelling, his compassion, his confidence, his joy...)? That is, what drives the influence that he has? Cite specific examples. Which of these characteristics would you like to develop and how might you do so?
3. The High Priest Caiaphas is portrayed in this story as more of a politician than a priest, seeking to keep the peace and protect the Jewish people from Roman retribution. These may be laudable goals, but how are these laudable goals a hindrance to his leadership? Is there a lesson here for us as well?
4. Relatedly, Pilate is also a political figure, an agent of Rome charged with keeping the peace. In this story he is portrayed as an evil leader, a dictator who rules through fear and intimidation. How does he react to those who encourage him to rethink his decisions and what's the lesson for us?
5. The character of Nicodemus is especially interesting in this rendition of the story—one who changes from doubter to believer. What affected his transformation and why do you think so few of the other religious leaders were influenced this way?
6. What is the most important leadership lesson you would like to retain from this story?