

1: Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith by Leonard Foley | LibraryThing

Believing in Jesus offers insight and explanations for many things that Catholics do and believe. As a "cradle Catholics", many of us have grown up knowing that the church teaches this or that, but not necessarily understanding why.

And is no exception. Google searches of Jesus Christ climbed by 53 percent in the week leading up to Easter—a likely result of both seasonal television programming and the approaching holiday. But what do Americans believe about Jesus? Who do they say he is? Here are five popular American perceptions of Jesus, based on recent Barna Group research. But, although the character of Jesus has certainly been fictionalized, satirized and mythologized over the centuries, the vast majority of Americans still maintain that he was a historical figure. While the percentages dip slightly among younger generations—only 87 percent of Millennials agree Jesus actually lived—Americans are still very likely to believe the man, Jesus Christ, once walked the earth. While the majority of Americans report such a commitment, some groups are significantly more likely to have done so than others. White Americans are the least likely ethnic group to have committed to Jesus: The more money people make, the less likely they are to have committed to Jesus: And, of course, Millennials are much less likely than any other group to have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still important in their life today. Only 2 percent of adults who report a personal commitment to Jesus say they will not go to heaven. Millennials are less likely to believe that Jesus is the path to Heaven than are other generations. Among Millennials who have made a personal commitment to Jesus, only 56 percent say they believe they will go to heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Many adults believe, however, that they will go to heaven as a result of their good works. Broadly speaking, this is the most common perception among Americans who have never made a commitment to Jesus—and it is also quite common among self-identified Christians. It is not surprising that Easter brings a range of Jesus-centered entertainment and media programming: Jesus has a built-in audience. This study also shows the extent of Christian commitment in the nation—more than million Americans say they have professed faith in Christ. This impressive number begs the question of how well this commitment is expressed. Much has been made about whether Millennials will get more serious about church and faith as they age, but the fact is younger Americans are not as connected as older generations are to Christ.

2: Faith and Reason: Book Review: Believing in Jesus - A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith

BELIEVING IN JESUS is more than a catechism. It captures the Christian's continuing journey of faith, ever new, ever alive - yet always founded on God's steadfast love for us.

Friday, February 12, Book Review: Believing in Jesus - A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith When answering faith questions, I rely heavily on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which together with the Bible is an indispensable resource in concisely and accurately presenting Church teaching. There is no substitute for reading the Catechism on these matters—that is of course, when one actually takes the time to read the Catechism. But to a non-Catholic the people most often asking the questions I try to answer reading the Catechism can be a rather intimidating prospect. At nearly pages, the average lay person is not likely to read the Catechism cover-to-cover, as they would a good novel. For non-Catholic Christians this task is further hampered by their misconceptions about the Church and the hierarchical institution that produced the Catechism in the first place. Unfortunately years of misinformation and misconceptions about the Church have kept these persons from seriously considering Catholicism as a spiritual home. Untruths about Catholic belief, about the role of popes and bishops, about saints and the Eucharist, have all clouded their perception of what true Catholic teaching is. They naturally mistrust official pronouncements from Rome, or at least are unsure how to approach pages worth of such official text. In bits and pieces I try to distill the wisdom found in the Catechism into a form that reaches non-Catholics where they are. Believing in Jesus - A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith offers Catholics and non-Catholics alike a very readable alternative to digesting the entire text of the Catechism. When contrasted with the text of the Catechism, the author of Believing in Jesus, Fr. This Jesus-centered approach for presenting Catholic teaching, while certainly beneficial for Catholics, is perhaps doubly so for non-Catholic Christians. Just as the Catechism shows how Catholic doctrine is intertwined with the ancient Creed, so too does Believing in Jesus demonstrate that Catholic doctrine is the natural outgrowth of everything Jesus came to do and teach. Believing in Jesus opens with an overview of Scripture. To understand Jesus we must understand the context of His Jewish roots. From there we move to the New Testament which grew out of the early Christian experience of the Resurrected Jesus. So both the Old and New Testaments point to Jesus as their focus and this sets the stage for the rest of Rev. Drawing on the life of Jesus in the Gospels the author lays out Catholic teaching within the historical framework of the Incarnation, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. Believing in Jesus offers a Jesus-centered, Bible-based approach to Catholic teaching, introducing those unfamiliar with the faith to doctrines that might otherwise seem unrelated to their non-Catholic Christian experience. The only criticism that I might offer of this book is that it occasionally comes across as lightweight in its treatment of certain topics. For instance it does not flesh out the details of liturgical worship. So the Mass for example is presented as a loose gathering of coreligionists sharing prayer and a common meal, rather than a rich tapestry of worship woven in Tradition and handed down to us through the centuries. Also certain doctrinal matters are passed over rather quickly without presenting a solid defense of their truth. The reason for these problems is, I think two-fold. First, this book is targeted to those who are already enrolled in an RCIA program or who are seriously considering conversion. Thus Believing in Jesus is not meant to be a point-by-point defense of every Catholic teaching, but it is designed to give the reader a general overview of the faith from a unique perspective and ground the student in the fundamentals of the faith. Further reading would be necessary to delve deeper into any particular subject. Secondly, the first edition of Believing in Jesus, which is now in its sixth edition and is widely used in RCIA programs, was published in and so was born out of a time when Catholic religious education was less rigorous one might say even in shambles. Admittedly some of this is a matter of style and personal taste. Having said that, I would still recommend the book to inquiring souls who wish to learn about the Catholic Church but who already understand Christianity as a personal relationship with Jesus. These Christians may have always seen Catholicism as a sort of mystery; something foreign and far removed from their own experience of Christianity. But they long to be a part of the mystery. They see something in Catholicism that they wish they had. To purchase this or other great Catholic books and many other Catholic products visit The Catholic

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3: Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith - Leonard Foley - Google Books

Leonard Foley wrote Believing in Jesus to help "born Catholics" come to a deeper understanding of the beliefs and practices they have held all their lives and to help those who approach the Catholic Church for the first time.

4: Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith by Leonard Foley

Believing in Jesus opens with an overview of Scripture. If Jesus is the Word of God Incarnate, then we must first understand the Word of God in Scripture to recognize the Divine Word that is the person Jesus.

5: What Do Americans Believe About Jesus? 5 Popular Beliefs - Barna Group

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