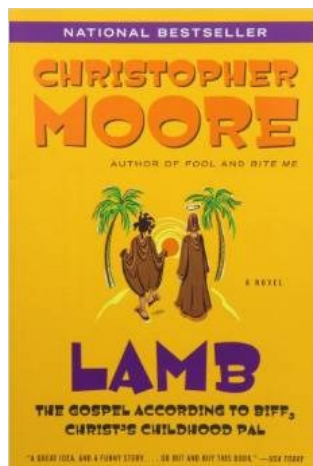




# Discussion Guide

## About the Book



Book Title: *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*

Author: Christopher Moore

Published by HarperCollins, New York, 2008

Author Website: <http://www.chrismoore.com/>

Book Website: <http://www.chrismoore.com/books/lamb/>

## Questions for Discussion

- 1. What were your general impressions of the book?**
- 2. Have you ever thought about the untold part of Jesus life? Does any of this story seem plausible to you? Why or why not?**
- 3. Christopher Moore seeks to be a humorous writer. What made you laugh out loud when you were reading this book?**
- 4. What were some of the learnings of Joshua and Biff in this tale? Do you think that it helps fill in the blanks of Jesus' life and teachings? Why or why not?**
- 5. Did you learn anything in reading this book? Explain.**
- 6. Read over the MAMs comments. Which of the MAMs do you most agree with and why?**
- 7. Would you recommend this book for other Book Clubs? Why or why not?**
- 8. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?**

*Other Discussion Guides can be found at:*

[http://www.bookrags.com/Lamb:\\_The\\_Gospel\\_According\\_to\\_Biff,\\_Christ%27s\\_Childhood\\_Pal/](http://www.bookrags.com/Lamb:_The_Gospel_According_to_Biff,_Christ%27s_Childhood_Pal/)

<http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/13-fiction/525-lamb-the-gospel-according-to-biff-moore?start=3>

<http://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/lamb-the-gospel-according-to-biff-christs-childhood-pal>

## Nancy and the MAMs discuss the book...



**NANCY:** I enjoy creativity and the amazing ways some can weave story and humor to fill in the blanks and the space between the covers of a book. Christopher Moore delights me in this process as he seeks to fill in the blanks, creating a back story for Jesus Christ. Growing up in the church, every now and then we would discuss how little we really know about Jesus. Every now and then, someone will mention that the wisdom of Jesus incorporates the teachings from many world religions. So Christopher Moore sought to explain this all to us in a creative tale, as seen through the eyes of Jesus' (aka Joshua) best friend, Biff.

Once again, a book club choice caused me to read a book I probably would have never picked up. Once again, it took me awhile to get into this story. And, once again, I was mesmerized as the story unfolded and so glad I had an opportunity to read this book because of my involvement with the MAMs.

I love the tender relationship between Biff and Joshua, as they grow up and their lives unfold. On parallel but separate paths, they really love each other. Moore does a tasteful job distinguishing the two, as Joshua seeks to grow in understanding of his call as a Messiah, and Biff explores the world of women, and learns with less enthusiasm some of the spiritual teachings.

For years, I've struggled with sarcasm. In this book, Biff teaches Josh to be sarcastic. Even I could laugh along as Jesus threw the technique back at Biff. Perhaps now I'll let up on my husband and son who revel in this form of humor.

Kudos to Christopher Moore for a very creative tale that opens the door to wondering what Jesus did in his teens and twenties! I recommend you read this book!



**SALLIE:** Well, you know that song in Mary Poppins... "I love to laugh!" ? Well, I do. And I found this book quite hilarious. Perhaps a little sarcastic, but mostly just downright funny. And so for me I enjoyed the antics of Joshua and Biff, as they set off on their hero's journey learning about men, women and song and much more in between. I'm still laughing!



**MOLLY:** I'd never thought much about the Three Kings, until I read this book. Until then, the Three Kings to me have been children dressed up with crowns in a Christmas reenactment of the nativity scene. Here, Moore adds flesh and blood to these characters, flesh of color I might add! The magician Balthasar, the Buddhist Gaspar? What a tale he weaves, incorporating a lot of history and information, and perhaps even some of the wisdom of the time that perhaps rubbed off on our Lord. A great story!



**PRISCILLA:** Well, I don't think this book would be in our church library! A little too X-rated for me. But we know that Jesus did hang out with all kinds of people, and Biff was no exception, I guess! Jesus (Joshua) did manage to keep on the straight and narrow, even though Biff was off doing all kinds of evil. So in that way, I think this is good reading for any Christian wanting to follow Jesus.



**KATHARINE:** I loved the research that Moore did for this book, incorporating the realities of the Roman society in which Jesus lived, the world views of others at the time. I think I'll use this in some of my Bible classes, to help open the student's minds to what may have been happening in those times. Solidly fiction, for sure, but playing with possibilities of which we can only imagine.



**JANE:** I kept wondering about the role of women in this book. You have Maggie (Mary Magdalene) married off to a jerk. You have prostitutes offering themselves freely to Biff. You have the concubines of Balthasar, conducting sexual training for Biff. Then you have Jesus, keeping his virginity and living vicariously through Biff. And yet, there was a line that women were the strong ones. I guess back in the day, women were seen in these roles. And always, Jesus took higher ground.



**ABIGAIL:** I loved the truth of world religions that Moore incorporated into this book, suggesting that Jesus drew from them all. I especially liked the Buddhist experience with Gaspar. A bit more strict and violent than I like, but letting go of ego is so important on the spiritual path. I do think that Jesus knew this, talked about it and probably practiced sitting meditation!