

## Surprised by Hope

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4. Wright references the Great Commission in Matthew. How do you incorporate this in our day? What is your role in regards to the Great Commission?

Matthew 28:16–20 (NRSV): <sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

5. Wright indicates the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-49) can answer many questions but focuses on “So what if Jesus is raised bodily from the dead?” He indicates that the most important answer is that the entire story of God and Israel, and God and the world must be told in a new way. What is the conclusion if there is no resurrection according to Wright?

6. Wright claims that if the resurrection is true, it isn’t just a surprise, happy ending for *one person* but a turning point for *everything else*. What is the result of this turning point?

7. For Luke, what is the point of the resurrection according to Wright?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Wright indicates that all these themes come to their fullest statement in the gospel of John (chapters 20 and 21). He writes of Thomas's demand to see the marks on Jesus' body before believing he was resurrected. Wright describes this as Thomas's attempt to attain knowledge he can control and to have objective evidence. Jesus confronts him, and his response is one of faith and confession. What stands in the way of you accepting and living into Jesus' resurrection more fully? What is necessary for you to move into belief and confession? How might Jesus confront you, and would you want to wait for confrontation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. The book describes that we are challenged into a new way of life — new forgiveness, new fruitfulness, and new Jesus-following. It states that Jesus' resurrection calls us into "dangerous and difficult tasks on earth." What might these be for your congregation? For you personally?

10. Wright notes a street-level problem and a second-order problem. Briefly describe each and their consequences.

street-level problem —

second-order problem —

This study guide is written to guide study and discussions of *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright. The full set of study guides is available at <https://livingintograce.com/2022/02/21/study-guide-questions-for-surprised-by-hope-rethinking-heaven-the-resurrection-and-the-mission-of-the-church-by-n-t-wright/>. While based on the book, this guide was not prepared in cooperation with the author, N. T. Wright, nor the publishers (SPCK and HarperOne).



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