God’s Ghostwriters:

Enslaved Christians and the Making of the Bible

BookClub Questions

You will probably want to select from among these questions

When you picture the New Testament being written what do you imagine?

What does it mean for you to learn that the New Testament was authored with enslaved workers? Does it worry you? Does it make you excited?

Christians have a very clear picture of what it means to be an apostle or a missionary? In Greek Apostolos just means “messenger” how does this book change how we think about missionaries?

There are lots of troubling passages in the New Testament. Jesus curses a fig tree, a camel might get squished through the eye of a needle, and so on. How do early Christian practices of scriptural interpretation and the use of “readers” change how we think about these stories?

In the past 50 years many Christians have been bothered by the idea that books of the Bible were “forged” or “corrupted.” How much of a problem is the idea of “forgery” when ancient writers took credit for work of their enslaved readers?

How important was the idea of hell to you when you were growing up? What did you imagine? Is hell in the Bible? Does the association of hell and ancient prisons worry you?

What part of the book did you find most surprising? Which sections did you find yourself resisting?

I am sure that all of us have been in situations where we feel that our ideas were taken without credit. What did reading this book bring up for you? How does it change how we think about credit, authorship, and work in the present day?