

# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode One

### Short Answer Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences.

1. What two Greek words represent different concepts of time, and how does the author differentiate them?
2. How does the author describe the difference between "minutes" and "moments" in terms of life experience?
3. Explain the significance of the author's anecdote about saying "I hate endings."
4. What is the author's perspective on endings when considering the concept of "moments"?
5. How did the author's near-death experience change his perception of time and living?
6. What does the author suggest is the "challenge" in experiencing life in moments rather than minutes?
7. How does the author connect the concept of "moments" with the Christian Sabbath and the resurrection of Jesus?
8. Why does the author believe that living in the "now" is not hedonistic?
9. What example does the author give to illustrate the idea that moments can "touch eternity"?
10. According to the author, what is the difference between "time as a commodity" and the fullness of time?

### Short Answer Key

1. The two Greek words for time are *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* refers to chronological time measured by clocks and calendars, while *kairos* represents a transcendent, opportune, or quality-filled time experienced through moments of deep meaning.
2. The author describes "minutes" as quantifiable units of time that dictate schedules and obligations, often leading to a sense of rushing and anxiety. "Moments," on the other hand, are qualitative experiences that transcend time and allow for deep engagement with life in the present.
3. The anecdote about saying "I hate endings" highlights the author's aversion to finality and his desire for continuation. It also reveals a potential misunderstanding that arises from focusing on words rather than the deeper meaning behind them.
4. When considered within the context of "moments," the author views endings as cyclical and necessary for new beginnings. He emphasizes that moments flow into each other, with each ending creating an opportunity for something new to emerge.
5. The author's near-death experience shifted his focus from a fear of running out of time to an appreciation for the present moment. It freed him from the anxieties of *chronos* and allowed him to experience the fullness of *kairos*, where every encounter became a precious gift.
6. The author suggests that the challenge of living in moments lies in letting go of the past and embracing the present. This requires a conscious effort to release worries, anxieties, and attachments to what has been in order to fully engage with what is happening now.
7. The author connects "moments" with the Christian Sabbath by highlighting the theme of resurrection. He suggests that the Sabbath, originally observed on Saturday, was moved to Sunday to celebrate the new beginning offered by Jesus's resurrection. This emphasizes the cyclical nature of moments, where endings lead to new beginnings, just as death gives way to new life.
8. The author argues that living in the "now" is not hedonistic because it is not about seeking pleasure but about being mindful and present in every experience. It is about appreciating

the fullness of each moment, whether it brings joy or sorrow, without clinging to the past or worrying about the future.

9. The author uses his near-death experience, where he calmly assessed his situation while tumbling down a hill chased by a four-wheeler, as an example of a moment touching eternity. This experience highlights the ability to transcend time and achieve a state of stillness and awareness even amidst chaos and potential danger.
10. The author distinguishes between "time as a commodity," which is measured, traded, and used for productivity, and the fullness of time experienced through moments. The latter transcends quantification and is characterized by a sense of presence, connection, and deep engagement with life, moving beyond the limitations of buying and selling into the realm of living and loving.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the author's use of the four-wheeler accident to illustrate his concept of "moments." How does this experience embody the key characteristics of a moment as opposed to a minute?
2. Discuss the author's argument that "moments are larger than death." How does his understanding of moments provide solace and perspective in the face of mortality?
3. Compare and contrast the author's concepts of "minutes" and "moments" with the Greek terms *chronos* and *kairos*. How do these different perspectives on time shape our experiences and understanding of life?
4. Explore the author's suggestion that living in the present requires a shift from nouns to verbs, from buying and selling to living and loving. How does this shift transform our relationship with time and with life itself?
5. Considering the author's perspective on endings, discuss how embracing the cyclical nature of moments can lead to personal growth and a greater appreciation for the present.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronos:** The Greek word for chronological time, measured by clocks and calendars, often associated with schedules, deadlines, and a linear perception of time.
- **Kairos:** The Greek word for a qualitative, opportune, or "right" time, characterized by a sense of meaning, purpose, and connection to the present moment.
- **Moments:** Qualitative experiences that transcend chronological time, offering a sense of presence, awareness, and deep engagement with life as it unfolds.
- **Minutes:** Quantifiable units of time used to measure and schedule daily life, often associated with a sense of rushing, anxiety, and a focus on the past or future.
- **Eternity:** A concept of timelessness or a state of being beyond the limitations of linear time, often associated with spiritual or transcendent experiences.
- **Hedonism:** The pursuit of pleasure as the primary goal in life. The author argues that living in the moment is not hedonistic, as it is about mindfulness and presence, not solely about seeking pleasure.
- **Resurrection:** A central concept in Christianity, referring to Jesus's rising from the dead, which symbolizes new beginnings and the triumph of life over death. The author connects this concept to the cyclical nature of "moments," where endings lead to new beginnings.

# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode Two

### Study Guide

#### I. Key Concepts

- **Orthodoxy:** Right thought, the belief that correct thinking leads to right action.
- **Orthopraxis:** Right practice, the belief that right action leads to right thinking and transformation.
- **Praxis:** The process of "becoming" through intentional action, often by "acting as if" you already possess the desired quality.
- **Telos:** Aristotle's concept of potential, the inherent purpose or goal within something.

#### II. Short Answer Quiz

1. Briefly explain the difference between orthodoxy and orthopraxis.
2. How does the story of the ducks illustrate the limitations of orthodoxy?
3. What is the "as if" principle in relation to praxis? Provide an example.
4. How does praxis apply to emotions? Explain using an example from the text.
5. Why does Jones advocate for a praxis approach to marriage?
6. What symbolism does Jones focus on during wedding ceremonies, and how does it relate to praxis?
7. What is the main idea behind the phrase "the clothes make the man (and woman)" in the context of praxis and relationships?
8. Explain Plato's Philosophy of Forms and how it relates to perfection.
9. How does the Platonic Model of Perfection manifest in modern society?
10. Contrast the Platonic Model of Perfection with Aristotle's concept of telos.

#### III. Short Answer Quiz: Answer Key

1. Orthodoxy emphasizes correct thinking as the foundation for right action, while orthopraxis posits that right action precedes and leads to right thinking and personal transformation.
2. The ducks in the story hear a sermon about the gift of flight but continue to waddle home. This shows that simply having the right thoughts (believing in flight) does not guarantee the desired action (actually flying).
3. The "as if" principle suggests that to acquire a quality or emotion, one should act as if they already possess it. For example, to become more patient, consistently act patiently even when you don't feel patient.
4. Praxis extends to emotions by recognizing that actions can influence feelings. The example of the man who acts lovingly toward his wife, even though he doesn't initially feel love, demonstrates how acting "as if" can rekindle feelings of love.
5. Jones advocates for a praxis approach to marriage because he views marriage as an ongoing process of "becoming" rather than a static state achieved at the wedding ceremony.
6. Jones focuses on the symbolism of clothing during wedding ceremonies. He connects this to praxis by suggesting that just as the couple chooses attire "better than their best," they commit to becoming better versions of themselves in the marriage.
7. In the context of praxis and relationships, "the clothes make the man (and woman)" means that consistently acting with love, patience, and other positive qualities will eventually shape one's character and the quality of the relationship.

8. Plato's Philosophy of Forms suggests that everything in the physical world is an imperfect reflection of a perfect, ideal form that exists in a separate realm. This concept emphasizes striving for perfection as the ultimate goal.
9. The Platonic Model of Perfection manifests in modern society through our focus on grades, standardized tests, and comparisons to idealized standards. We often measure ourselves by our shortcomings rather than our potential.
10. While Plato focuses on a fixed ideal of perfection, Aristotle's concept of telos emphasizes the potential inherent in every living thing. Instead of striving for an external ideal, telos recognizes the unique potential within each individual to grow and develop.

#### IV. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the limitations of orthodoxy and how praxis offers a more transformative approach to personal growth and spiritual development.
2. Analyze the application of praxis in relationships, using examples from the text to support your arguments.
3. Explore the significance of symbolism in the context of praxis, drawing upon Jones's use of clothing imagery in wedding ceremonies.
4. Critically evaluate the impact of the Platonic Model of Perfection on modern society, considering both its positive and negative aspects.
5. How can understanding Aristotle's concept of telos empower individuals to embrace their potential and live more fulfilling lives?

#### V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Orthodoxy:** Right thought; adherence to accepted doctrines or beliefs.
- **Orthopraxis:** Right practice; emphasis on actions as a path to transformation.
- **Praxis:** The process of "becoming" through intentional and consistent action.
- **Telos:** The inherent potential or purpose within a living being.
- **Platonic Model of Perfection:** The belief that everything in the physical world is an imperfect copy of a perfect, ideal form.

# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode Three

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does the technological prediction from 1965 contrast with the reality of work and leisure in the modern era?
2. Explain Parkinson's Law of Busyness and its effect on the quality of life.
3. What was the pivotal question God posed to the author, prompting his year-long search for identity?
4. What was the ultimate answer to the question of "Who am I to be?" and what did it signify?
5. Explain the significance of the inscription "For the moment..." on the ring in the parable.
6. How does the author practice the concept of "For the moment..." in his personal life, particularly in his marriage?
7. Explain the author's perspective on parenting "for the moment" and how it evolves with his children's growth.
8. How does the author relate the concept of "For the moment..." to his role as a pastor and the transient nature of life?
9. What is the significance of the phrase "Here I am" in the context of biblical figures encountering God?
10. What is the author's proposed alternative to ending prayers with "Amen" and why?

### Short Answer Quiz Answer Key

1. The 1965 prediction envisioned a future with shorter workweeks and early retirement thanks to technology. However, technology has instead blurred the lines between work and personal time, allowing us to be constantly connected and busy.
2. Parkinson's Law of Busyness states that work expands to fill the time available. This leads to a life filled with busyness but lacking depth and meaningful connections, akin to expanding helium gas becoming less dense.
3. God asked the author, "Who do I want you to be?" This question shifted the focus from actions to being and ignited a year-long quest for self-discovery.
4. The answer was simply "Here," emphasizing the importance of being present in each moment rather than dwelling on the past or future.
5. The inscription "For the moment..." serves as a reminder that both joy and sorrow are fleeting. It offers solace to those in pain, knowing it won't last, and prompts reflection on the impermanence of good fortune.
6. The author uses "For the moment..." to acknowledge that both he and his wife are evolving individuals. This helps him avoid clinging to past perceptions and be present in their ever-changing relationship.
7. Parenting "for the moment" requires adapting to the evolving needs of his children as they grow. He recognizes that clinging to past approaches or assuming expertise can create distance, emphasizing the importance of curiosity and being present in each stage of their development.
8. He acknowledges the transient nature of his role as pastor, emphasizing the importance of embracing the present moment rather than striving for lasting legacies. He draws a parallel to Jesus, who focused on living fully in each moment rather than preserving teachings or striving for self-preservation.
9. "Here I am" signifies a state of readiness and openness to God's will in the present moment. It reflects a willingness to listen and respond, regardless of the circumstances or challenges they may face.

10. The author suggests ending prayers with "Here I am" instead of "Amen." "Amen" signifies finality, while "Here I am" expresses an ongoing openness and receptivity to God in each moment.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the author's critique of modern society's obsession with busyness. How does he connect this busyness to a loss of meaning and genuine connection in life?
2. Discuss the significance of the author's spiritual journey and the revelation he received through the question "Who do I want you to be?" How does this question challenge traditional notions of purpose and achievement?
3. Explore the concept of "For the moment..." and its application in various aspects of life. How does this perspective change one's approach to relationships, work, and personal identity?
4. Analyze the author's interpretation of Jesus's life and teachings through the lens of living "for the moment." How does this perspective challenge traditional Christian beliefs about salvation and legacy?
5. Drawing upon the examples of biblical figures and the author's personal experiences, discuss the power of presence in encountering the divine. How does the phrase "Here I am" encapsulate this attitude of openness and receptivity to the present moment?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Parkinson's Law of Busyness:** The principle that work expands to fill the time available, leading to a life filled with activity but lacking depth and meaning.
- **The Moment:** The concept of being fully present in the current experience, rather than dwelling on the past or future.
- **"For the Moment...":** A phrase used to acknowledge the fleeting nature of both joy and sorrow, reminding us to appreciate the present and adapt to change.
- **"Here I am":** A declaration of readiness and openness to God's will, expressing a willingness to listen and respond in the present moment.
- **The Jesus Irony:** The idea that Jesus, the "Savior," ultimately "saves" by not saving in the traditional sense – he didn't try to save himself, his disciples, or his teachings, but rather lived fully in each moment, embracing the present and accepting his fate.

# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode Four

### Short Answer Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the significance of John the Baptist's attire and diet in Jones's analogy?
2. How does the author connect his childhood experiences with feeling like a disappointment?
3. What is the turning point in the author's understanding of God's love?
4. How does the author contrast the voice of John the Baptist with the voice of God?
5. What does the phrase "You are loved simply because God says so" mean in the context of the passage?
6. How does the author use the story of Jesus' baptism to illustrate God's love?
7. What is the devil's challenge to Jesus in the desert, and how does it relate to the concept of being beloved?
8. According to the passage, what should be our motivation in life if we live as beloved?
9. What is the central message of the song "You Don't Have to Impress Jesus"?
10. What is the "good news" according to the passage?

### Short Answer Key

1. **Answer:** The author uses John the Baptist's unconventional attire and diet (camel hair clothing, locusts, and wild honey) to represent the harsh and judgmental voice he often hears in his own head. This voice is uncomfortable and makes him feel unworthy.
2. **Answer:** Jones recounts childhood experiences where he felt inadequate, such as stealing gum, not excelling in sports like his brother, and forgetting to put his name on his schoolwork despite good grades. These experiences contributed to his internalized feeling of being a disappointment.
3. **Answer:** The birth of his daughter, Cayla, marks a shift in Jones's understanding of God's love. The unconditional love he feels for his child helps him begin to grasp the concept of God's unconditional love for him.
4. **Answer:** John the Baptist represents a voice of judgment and condemnation, focused on shortcomings and the need for repentance. In contrast, God's voice, as heard at Jesus' baptism, is one of unconditional love and acceptance, proclaiming Jesus as "Beloved" before any actions or accomplishments.
5. **Answer:** This phrase emphasizes that God's love is not earned or dependent on our worthiness. It is freely given and rooted in God's own nature. Our value and belovedness come solely from God's declaration.
6. **Answer:** At Jesus' baptism, God proclaims his love for Jesus ("This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased") before Jesus has performed any miracles or begun his ministry. This illustrates that God's love is not based on achievements but is freely given and inherent.
7. **Answer:** The devil tempts Jesus to prove his status as God's beloved, suggesting that his worth is contingent on demonstrating his power. Jesus rejects this challenge, affirming that his belovedness is inherent and not subject to proof.
8. **Answer:** If we live as beloved, we are freed from the need to impress or earn God's love. Instead, our motivation should be to express the love and grace we have received, living authentically and joyfully without the burden of proving ourselves.
9. **Answer:** The song emphasizes that God's love is unconditional and not based on outward appearances or accomplishments. We don't need to earn or deserve God's love; it is freely given to us just as we are.

10. **Answer:** The good news is that God's heart is overflowing with love for us, demonstrated through Jesus. This frees us from the pressure to perform and allows us to live in the freedom of being loved and accepted unconditionally.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the author's use of the "John the Baptist" analogy throughout the passage. How does this analogy effectively convey his struggle with feeling loved and accepted?
2. Discuss the significance of the statement, "God is pleased because God is pleased." How does this statement challenge conventional notions of earning God's favor?
3. Explore the implications of living "as beloved" rather than striving "to be loved." How does this shift in perspective impact our relationship with God and our actions in the world?
4. Analyze the song lyrics quoted in the passage. How do they reinforce the passage's message about God's love and its implications for our lives?
5. Compare and contrast the "voice of John the Baptist" and the "voice of God" as presented in the passage. How can we learn to discern these voices in our own lives and prioritize the voice of love?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **John the Baptist:** A biblical figure who preached repentance and baptized Jesus. In this passage, John the Baptist represents a voice of judgment and condemnation.
- **Beloved:** A term of endearment used by God to refer to Jesus, signifying his unconditional love and acceptance.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and love, freely given regardless of our worthiness.
- **Total Depravity:** A theological concept emphasizing the fallen nature of humanity and our inability to earn God's favor through good works.
- **Gospel:** The good news of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **Express, Not Impress:** The idea that we are freed from the need to perform or prove ourselves to God. As beloved children, we can live authentically and express God's love in the world.



# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode Five

### I. Summary and Main Points

This study guide focuses on excerpts from David W. Jones' work, emphasizing the practice of "Let It Be" for achieving inner peace. Jones argues that attempting to force peace onto the external world is futile; true peace originates from within. He introduces three core practices: accepting the world as it is, accepting our thoughts and feelings without resistance, and calming inner turmoil by saying, "Be Still." Jones utilizes the biblical story of Jesus calming the storm to illustrate the power of inner peace amidst external chaos, emphasizing that we are not alone in our struggles.

### II. Short-Answer Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the main obstacle Jones identifies in our pursuit of peace?
2. Describe Jones' approach to achieving peace, contrasting it with common ineffective methods.
3. What does Jones mean by "Letting It Be" in relation to our thoughts and feelings?
4. What is the potential danger of resisting our thoughts and feelings?
5. How does Jones suggest we handle unwanted thoughts or feelings?
6. What is the significance of the phrase "Be Still" in Jones' teachings?
7. What is the internal application of the "Be Still" practice?
8. How does Jones connect the story of Jesus calming the storm to the practice of "Be Still"?
9. What is the central message Jones aims to convey through the story of Jesus and the disciples?
10. What is the ultimate source of comfort and peace according to Jones?

### III. Answer Key

1. **Answer:** Jones identifies our tendency to try and force peace onto the external world as the main obstacle to achieving inner peace. We seek to change our surroundings rather than addressing our inner turmoil.
2. **Answer:** Jones advocates for cultivating inner stillness regardless of external circumstances. Instead of trying to change the world, we should focus on achieving a peaceful state of mind and heart, allowing for deeper relationships.
3. **Answer:** "Letting It Be" involves accepting our thoughts and feelings without resistance. This means acknowledging their presence without judgment or attempts to suppress them.
4. **Answer:** Resisting our thoughts and feelings can amplify their intensity and give them more power over us. It prevents us from being present and can lead to increased inner turmoil.
5. **Answer:** Jones suggests acknowledging unwanted thoughts and feelings, noticing them without judgment, and letting them pass like the wind. Acceptance prevents them from overwhelming us.
6. **Answer:** "Be Still" is a practice of calming our inner turmoil by directly addressing our overwhelming thoughts and emotions. It's a command for peace within.
7. **Answer:** Internally, "Be Still" is directed towards our anxieties, worries, and any thought or emotion that dominates our mental space. It's a call to find peace within ourselves.

8. **Answer:** Jones uses the story of Jesus calming the storm as an analogy for calming the storms within our minds. Just as Jesus commanded the wind and waves, we can use "Be Still" to address our internal chaos.
9. **Answer:** Through the story, Jones emphasizes that we are not alone in our struggles. Just as Jesus was present with the disciples, a source of peace and strength is available to us amidst our personal storms.
10. **Answer:** Jones suggests that the ultimate source of comfort and peace is found in the realization that we are not alone. This understanding, coupled with faith, allows us to face challenges without fear.

#### IV. Essay Questions

1. Analyze Jones' critique of attempting to force peace onto the external world. How does this approach hinder our pursuit of true peace?
2. Discuss the relationship between accepting our thoughts and feelings and achieving a state of inner peace. How does resistance contribute to inner turmoil?
3. Explain the significance of the "Be Still" practice. How can this practice be applied to manage anxieties and challenging emotions in daily life?
4. Explore the symbolism of the storm in the biblical story and its connection to our internal struggles. How does the story illustrate the power of faith in overcoming fear and finding peace?
5. Reflect on the idea that we are not alone in our struggles. How does this realization contribute to inner peace, and what are some ways to access this source of strength and comfort?

#### V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Let It Be:** A practice of accepting the world, our thoughts, and our feelings as they are without resistance or attempts to force change.
- **Inner Turmoil:** A state of mental and emotional unrest, characterized by anxiety, worry, and negative thoughts and feelings.
- **Resistance:** The act of fighting against or suppressing thoughts, feelings, or external circumstances.
- **Acceptance:** Acknowledging and allowing the presence of thoughts, feelings, or situations without judgment or attempts to control them.
- **Be Still:** A practice of calming inner turmoil by directly addressing and quieting overwhelming thoughts and emotions.
- **Faith:** A belief in a higher power or source of strength and comfort that provides support and guidance in times of difficulty.

# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode Six

### Reading the Bible in the Moment: A Study Guide

#### Key Terms Glossary

- **Linear sense of time:** Approaching the Bible as a historical record only, focusing on past events rather than its present relevance.
- **Perpetual innovation:** The concept that God's creation is an ongoing process, not just a past event.
- **"I AM":** God's name revealed to Moses, signifying God's eternal and ever-present nature.
- **Heavenly glory:** The ultimate truth and beauty of God, which the Bible points towards.
- **Present tense:** Focusing on the immediate relevance and application of the Bible's message.
- **Dream God's dreams:** To align our hopes and actions with God's vision for the world.
- **Peace stories:** Narratives that envision and promote a world of harmony and love.
- **"Thy Kingdom come – Today!":** A prayerful call for God's will to be done in the present.
- **"What?" "So what?" "Now what?":** A framework for interpreting the Bible and applying its teachings to daily life.

#### Short Answer Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the problem with approaching the Bible with a linear sense of time?
2. How does Rabbi Heschel describe the act of creation?
3. What does God's declaration "I AM" reveal about God's nature?
4. Explain the analogy of the finger pointing at the moon in relation to reading the Bible.
5. How do Christmas carols exemplify a present-tense approach to faith?
6. What does it mean to "dream God's dreams"?
7. What vision is expressed in the song "Peace Stories"?
8. How does the suggested version of the Lord's Prayer emphasize present action?
9. According to Micah and Jesus, what does God require of us?
10. What is the significance of the "Now what?" question when reading the Bible?

#### Short Answer Quiz: Answer Key

1. A linear sense of time limits the Bible to past events, neglecting its ongoing relevance and power to speak to us in the present. We risk missing God's voice speaking to us now.
2. Rabbi Heschel emphasizes that creation is not a single event but a continuous process. God's presence sustains the world in each moment, making every instant an act of creation.
3. "I AM" indicates God's eternal, unchanging nature, existing beyond the constraints of time. It emphasizes that God is actively present and engaged in our lives now.
4. The finger pointing at the moon analogy warns against focusing solely on the literal text (the finger) and missing the deeper spiritual truth and message (the moon) that the Bible points towards.
5. Christmas carols often use present tense language, highlighting the immediacy and ongoing significance of Jesus' birth and message of hope. They invite us to experience the joy and wonder of the Christmas story anew each year.

6. To "dream God's dreams" is to align our aspirations with God's vision for a just, compassionate, and loving world. It involves actively seeking and working towards the fulfillment of God's purposes.
7. "Peace Stories" envisions a future where war is abolished, and peace and love prevail. It calls for a world where understanding, empathy, and sharing replace conflict and violence.
8. By incorporating "NOW" and "TODAY" into the Lord's Prayer, we are reminded that God's kingdom and will are not distant aspirations but present realities we are called to participate in actively.
9. God requires us to live justly, show love and kindness, and humbly walk in relationship with Him. This involves loving God wholeheartedly and extending that same love to our neighbors.
10. "Now what?" prompts us to move beyond mere intellectual understanding and consider the practical implications of the Bible's teachings in our daily lives. It encourages us to apply the message to our choices and actions.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the author's argument against reading the Bible with a "linear sense of time." What are the limitations of this approach, and what alternative does the author propose?
2. Explore the concept of "perpetual innovation" in relation to God's creation. How does this understanding impact our view of the world and our role in it?
3. Discuss the significance of asking "What is God saying?" rather than "What did God say?" when reading the Bible. How does this shift in perspective influence our engagement with Scripture?
4. Analyze the author's use of the Christmas carol analogy to illustrate a present-tense approach to faith. How does this analogy help us understand the relevance of the Bible for today?
5. Drawing on the concepts presented in the text, discuss how reading the Bible can become a transformative experience that moves us beyond intellectual knowledge to inspire action and change in our lives and the world around us.

# The Moment by David W. Jones

## Episode Seven

### A Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to David W. Jones, who is the true audience in worship? How does this perspective challenge traditional views?
2. Explain the significance of the theater analogy used in the text.
3. What is the meaning of Jesus' words in Matthew 6 as paraphrased in *The Message*?
4. How does the story of the songwriter in heaven illustrate the concept of living for God's purpose?
5. What is the danger of seeking the applause of the world rather than the applause of heaven?
6. How does specialization in modern society contribute to a passive approach to faith?
7. Explain the significance of the phrase "fans of Jesus, not followers."
8. What is the meaning of "playing God's song"?
9. How does the story of the authorship of the 23rd Psalm and "Silent Night" relate to the idea of living for an audience of one?
10. What practical steps can individuals take to shift their focus from worldly approval to divine approval?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The true audience in worship is God, not the congregation. This challenges the traditional view that worship is a performance for human spectators, emphasizing instead that it is an act of offering and devotion directed towards God.
2. The theater analogy highlights the shift in perspective advocated by the text. Instead of viewing ourselves as the audience in the theater of life, we should see ourselves as performers on a stage where God is the sole spectator. This analogy underscores the importance of living our lives with God as our primary focus.
3. Jesus' words in Matthew 6 warn against performative acts of piety done to impress others. True righteousness should be motivated by genuine love for God and a desire to please Him, not by a desire for human recognition or praise.
4. The songwriter in heaven is surprised to find that the song he thought was his own actually belonged to God. This story illustrates the concept that our talents and accomplishments are ultimately gifts from God and should be used to glorify Him rather than ourselves. Our lives are part of a grander narrative orchestrated by God.
5. Seeking worldly applause can lead to emptiness and dissatisfaction because it is fleeting and superficial. It can distract us from our true purpose and cause us to compromise our values for the sake of recognition. Applause of heaven, on the other hand, brings lasting fulfillment and aligns us with God's will.
6. Specialization has led to the compartmentalization of faith, where individuals rely on "professionals" (pastors, priests, etc.) to handle religious matters. This can create a passive attitude towards faith, where individuals become spectators rather than active participants in their own spiritual journey.
7. The phrase "fans of Jesus, not followers" highlights the distinction between simply admiring Jesus and actively emulating His life and teachings. True faith requires

more than passive appreciation; it demands active discipleship and a commitment to following Jesus' example in our daily lives.

8. "Playing God's song" refers to living in alignment with God's purpose for our lives. It involves using our gifts and talents to serve Him and fulfill His will, recognizing that our lives are part of a grander symphony orchestrated by a divine composer.
9. The authors of the 23rd Psalm and "Silent Night" likely did not anticipate the lasting impact their works would have. This shows that living for an audience of one is not about seeking fame or recognition but about faithfully carrying out the tasks God sets before us, trusting that He will use our efforts for His glory in ways we may not fully comprehend.
10. Individuals can shift their focus by: cultivating a consistent prayer life, studying scripture to understand God's will, serving others with a humble heart, seeking wise counsel from spiritual mentors, and making choices that reflect God's values even when they are unpopular.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the implications of viewing God as the target audience for all aspects of life. How does this perspective impact our actions, motivations, and priorities?
2. Discuss the tension between seeking the applause of heaven and the desire for human validation. How can individuals navigate this tension in a healthy and balanced way?
3. Explore the concept of "playing God's song" in the context of your own life. What unique gifts and talents has God given you, and how can you use them to serve His purpose?
4. Examine the ways in which modern society encourages a spectator mentality towards faith. How can individuals actively resist this trend and cultivate a more engaged and authentic relationship with God?
5. Reflect on a time when you were tempted to live for the applause of the world rather than the applause of heaven. What were the consequences of this choice, and what lessons did you learn from the experience?

## Glossary of Key Terms

**Audience of One:** The concept of living one's life with God as the primary focus and motivation, rather than seeking the approval of others.

**Applause of Heaven:** Divine approval and recognition for living a life that is pleasing to God.

**Divine Narrative:** The overarching story of God's plan for creation and humanity, in which each individual life plays a part.

**Fans of Jesus:** Individuals who admire Jesus but do not actively follow His teachings or emulate His example.

**Followers of Jesus:** Individuals who actively seek to live in accordance with Jesus' teachings and model their lives after His example.

**Playing God's Song:** Living a life that is aligned with God's purpose, using one's gifts and talents to serve Him and fulfill His will.

**Specialization:** The division of labor into specialized tasks, which can lead to a compartmentalized approach to faith and a reliance on "professionals" for religious matters.

**Spectator Mentality:** A passive approach to faith, where individuals observe religious practices but do not actively participate or engage in their own spiritual growth.

**Target Audience:** The intended recipient or observer of a performance, message, or action. In the context of this study guide, the target audience is God.

**The Moment:** The present moment in which individuals have the opportunity to choose to live for God's glory.