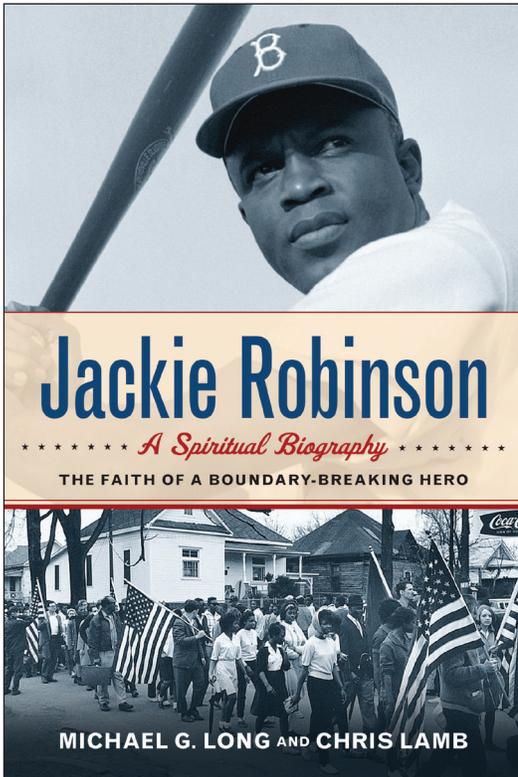


# Book Club Questions for *Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography*, by Michael G. Long & Chris Lamb



Before reading this book, did you know anything about Jackie Robinson's faith? What might you have assumed? Were those assumptions correct?

Robinson credits his mother as his greatest spiritual influence. What do you think he learned from Mallie Robinson, and how do those lessons compare with another of his spiritual influences, Rev. Karl Downs?

How do you reconcile Mallie's conviction that "God will take care of you" with the violence endured by so many other black Americans who were also faithful people?

Branch Rickey's determination to integrate baseball is discussed in the introduction and again in chapter 4, where the authors say the choice to sign Robinson "was a personal, spiritual, and business decision" (p. 56). How do you think those factors were weighted for Rickey?

Numerous mentions are made of Robinson having to "turn the other cheek" like Jesus commanded. In what other ways did Jackie take on qualities of a messianic figure?

Chapter 8 looks at Robinson's reactions to King's non-violent and Malcom X's more aggressive approach to civil rights. How do you see Robinson's feelings about non-violent resistance changing throughout his life?

How does Robinson's emphasis on self-reliance interact with his politics in the late 1960's? Where do you see his spiritual influences showing up in his political stances?

Did anything surprise you about Jackie's life story or faith commitments? Has your view of him changed in any way since reading this book?

**Most Westminster John Knox Press books are available at special quantity discounts when purchased in bulk by corporations, organizations, and special-interest groups.**

**For more information, please e-mail [SpecialSales@wjkbooks.com](mailto:SpecialSales@wjkbooks.com).**