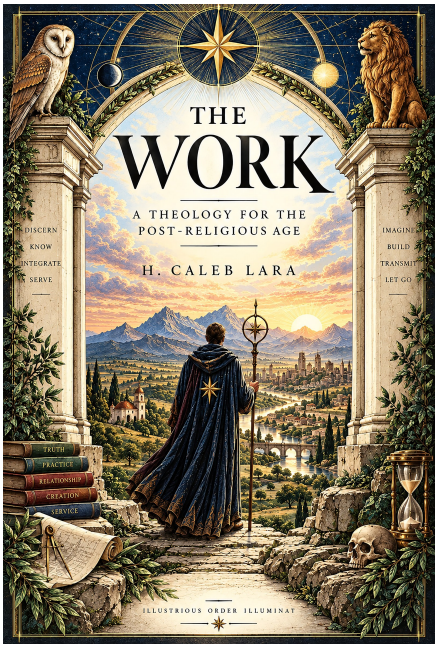

BOOK-CLUB GUIDE

Six meetings for serious conversation

A facilitator path through The Work

This guide does not ask a group to reach shared beliefs. It asks participants to make distinctions, test interpretations, and protect each person's freedom to disagree.

THE WORK
A Theology for the Post-Religious Age
H. Caleb Lara
ISBN 9798997511609

Facilitator agreement

- Participation is voluntary. Passing is always permitted.

- Speak from experience; do not diagnose or recruit one another.

- Distinguish observation, interpretation, and belief.

- Do not treat symbolic material as an instruction to another person.

- Confidentiality is expected, but no group can guarantee secrecy. Avoid details you cannot risk being repeated.

- Close each meeting with an ordinary next step, not a demand for disclosure.

Meeting 1 - Inherited answers

- What did an inherited answer provide before it failed?

- What is the difference between rejecting an answer and constructing a life?

- Choose one sentence from the opening chapters that deserves testing.

Notes and questions to carry forward:

Meeting 2 - Reason and faith

- Where does reason illuminate experience? Where can it overreach?

- What does faith name when it is not certainty?

- Practice restating one disagreement without caricature.

Notes and questions to carry forward:

Meeting 3 - Body and breath

- What information becomes available when attention slows?

- How can embodiment be used without making medical claims?

- Choose a brief observation practice for one week.

Notes and questions to carry forward:

Meeting 4 - Imagination and discernment

- When has an image opened a useful question?

- What prevents symbolic insight from becoming unaccountable authority?

- Record one image, three interpretations, and one revision signal.

Notes and questions to carry forward:

Meeting 5 - Relationship and service

- Who benefits from the way we hold our beliefs?

- What is the difference between service and control?

- Name one repair or useful act that does not require agreement.

Notes and questions to carry forward:

Meeting 6 - The ninety-day trial

- What question is worth testing?

- What practice is modest enough to repeat?

- What are the stopping conditions and review dates?

Notes and questions to carry forward:

Closing inventory

What did the group make more precise?

Where did disagreement improve the conversation?

What became more honest, responsible, or useful?

What question should remain unresolved?