



GUIDE

LEADERSHIP GUIDE

THE GREEN YEAR



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LEADERSHIP GUIDE

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GOSPEL LIVING

Section: Gospel Living

Unit: Glory – Why We Embrace Christ, unit 1 of 6

ASSIGNMENTS

- Encourage your JG members to go online each week for important resources.
- Continue working on your *Spiritual Journey So Far*.
- Read Part 1, The Story of Glory, in *The Answer*, by Randy Pope.
- Listen to the "Why Pray?" MP3.
- Complete *Semester 1 Spiritual Assessment* and hand in to your group leader.

EXERCISES

- Review memory verse of the week.
- Share your own Spiritual Journey. Recruit 3rd year members to share their journey next week.

DISCUSSIONS

- Discuss spiritual accountability. Try to help your JG understand and value accountability. They may have anxiety about being asked direct questions. Try to reassure them that discussions are confidential and tend toward encouragement, not shame.
- Discuss "Why Pray?". Help your JG understand the purpose and power of prayer of developing a daily habit of prayer.
- Discuss section 1 of *The Answer*. Ask the JG if they've ever thought about Glory this way before. Ask if it affected the way they think about relating to Christ. Ask someone to share something they may have journaled in the Accountability section.
- Discuss some of the equipping questions. Ask your JG to share any thoughts or questions they may have written down. Ask them what they learned about Christ from John 1 & Colossians 1. Share 1 or 2 of your own insights. Try to model enthusiasm about reading God's Word for those who are new to the Bible. Help them see the Bible as an accessible and understandable book.
- Introduce the concept of missional living and the purpose of life-on-life missional discipleship – to develop mature and equipped followers of Christ for the lost world. Note what Jesus' mission is – to make the gospel known to all people through word (sharing the gospel) and deed (demonstrating the gospel). The purpose of the Mission section of *The Journey* is to help transform Truth, Equipping, Accountability and Supplication into a missional life.
- Give your Journey Group an idea of how the Mission section will progress during the year.

1

GOSPEL LIVING 2

Section: Gospel Living

Unit: Glory – How We Embrace Christ, unit 2 of 6

ASSIGNMENTS

- If not completed, JG members should continue working on their *Spiritual Journey So Far*.
- 21 Days of Personal Worship
- Listen to the “God’s Honor” MP3.
- Complete *Semester 1 Spiritual Assessment* and hand in to your group leader.

EXERCISES

- Review memory verse of the week. JG members should memorize either option a or b.
- 3rd year members share their spiritual journey. Recruit 2nd year members for next week.
- **Model the PRAISE outline for personal worship and the 5 Targets of Prayer using Matthew 7:24-27.** The goal of this unit is to teach JG members how to embrace Christ in daily personal worship. A specific plan is given in order to help those who haven’t yet developed this spiritual habit. As the focus of your JG meeting, you will model a 20-minute personal worship experience using the **PRAISE** outline for Bible study and the **5 Targets of Prayer**. It is important that you model the outline exactly for the sake of those JG members who do not have a devotional habit. Model it as if you were really having your personal worship time (except that you should read, think, and pray out loud), rather than “teaching” them how to do it. Afterward, you can discuss any questions that arise, provide coaching, and offer encouragement. Emphasize that you want your group members to succeed in forming this spiritual habit.
- For next week, recruit a 3rd year member to model a 20-minute personal worship experience again, just as outlined, using another passage from the Gospels.
- **Introduce the 21 Day Personal Worship Journal.** This Journal, based on **PRAISE** and the

- **5 Targets of Prayer**, is available with this week’s lesson on the curriculum webpage. Some members may need your guidance in choosing a Bible reading plan. You can encourage those who don’t have an established Bible study plan to use the **IN BIBLE** study passages each week.
- The goal of the **21 Day Personal Worship Journal** is to help your JG establish the habit of daily personal worship. Randy likes to make a game of this exercise to motivate people. The goal is to create some fun and friendly competition without being legalistic. Here are the rules:
 1. JG members get to declare a “skip” day at the beginning. It can be any day of the week, but it has to be consistent and it shouldn’t change. Some might choose the day their JG meets, or Sunday due to services. The skip day doesn’t count toward the 21 days.
 2. Each week JG members tell the JG what day they’re on. (e.g. “day 19”)
 3. If someone misses a day they have to start over at day 1.
 4. The goal is that everyone would complete 21 days before the holiday break.

DISCUSSIONS

- Probe the group’s current thinking on prayer. Try to uncover any misconceptions about prayer.
- Explore and explain the **PRAISE** outline for personal worship and the **5 Targets of Prayer**. Your goal should be to make it seem simple and motivate your JG members to begin personal worship.
- Discuss 1 or 2 of the equipping questions.
- Provide time for accountability questions.
- Discuss what it means to live a missional life starting with this definition: A missional life is one that is motivated by the gospel to take up Jesus’ mission. You might also use the baseball analogy in your discussion.

1

GOSPEL LIVING 3

Section: Gospel Living

Unit: Grace – Why We Embrace the Cross, unit 3 of 6

ASSIGNMENTS

- If not completed, JG members should finish working on *My Spiritual Journey So Far*.
- 21 Days of Personal Worship
- Listen to the "God's Kingdom" MP3.
- Read Part 2, The Story of Grace, in *The Answer*, by Randy Pope.
- Complete *Semester 1 Spiritual Assessment* and hand into your group leader.

EXERCISES

- Review memory verse of the week.
- 2nd year members share their spiritual journey. Recruit 1st year members for next week.
- Apprentice or 3rd year member will model a 20-minute time of personal worship using **PRAISE** and the **5 Targets of Prayer**. Recruit a 2nd year member for next week.
- Optional: break into smaller groups so 3rd year members can coach 1st years in personal worship.
- Talk about progress in 21 days of personal worship.

DISCUSSIONS

- Discuss the Do and Done Diagrams and the Great Swap (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Discuss we lost it all, He did it all, we get it all, vs. we lost a lot, He did a lot, we get a lot. Goal should be to make sure JG members understand and are relying on grace.
- Discuss 1 or 2 of the equipping questions.
- Provide time for accountability questions.
- Discuss the three common characteristics of people who live missionally. Ask 1 or 2 of your JG members to share the needs where they live, work and play that concern them.

1

GOSPEL LIVING 4

Section: Gospel Living

Unit: Grace – How We Embrace the Cross, unit 4 of 6

ASSIGNMENTS

- Core Curriculum: *Grace – How We Embrace the Cross*
- Listen to the audio message *God's Provision*
- 21 Days of Personal Worship
- Complete *My Spiritual Journey So Far* by this week

EXERCISES

- 1st year members share their spiritual journey.
- 2nd year member will model a 20-minute time of personal worship. Recruit another 2nd or 3rd year member for next week.
- Optional: break into smaller groups so 3rd year members can coach 1st years in personal worship.
- Talk about progress in 21 days of personal worship.

DISCUSSIONS

- JG Members may have written questions regarding the **TRUTH** section this week.
- Discuss how the spiritual reality of a believer's union with Christ relates to our spiritual responsibility to be filled with the spirit. Make sure the JG clearly understands that their union with Christ through the Spirit empowers them to struggle against sin. Also point out that the struggle is won by surrendering control to the Holy Spirit. Talk about "Spiritual Breathing".
- Discuss 1 or 2 of the equipping questions, and provide time for accountability questions
- Discuss the motivation for missional living – the gospel. The gospel itself is the motivation for missional living. It creates in us Christ's compassion for the least and lost. Discuss how one may grow in developing a missional heart.

1

GOSPEL LIVING 5

Section: Gospel Living

Unit: Truth – Why We Embrace the Word, unit 5 of 6

ASSIGNMENTS

- Core Curriculum: *Truth – Why We Embrace the Word*
- Read Part III, The Story of Truth in *The Answer*, by Randy Pope *
- 21 Days of Personal Worship
- Listen to two audio messages: *God's Forgiveness* and *Know, Consider, Present (Walking in the Spirit)*
- Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section first as early as possible each week.
- **MISSION** – JG members will have committed extended time in prayer for someone on their target list with the goal of formulating a plan to reach them for Christ. JG leaders will need to review these plans and help JG members revise them if necessary. You can do this as a group, or in smaller teams of 2 or 3 people. You will also need to encourage JG members to carry out their plan, trusting God for opportunities and fruit.
- Review memory verse of the week.

EXERCISES

- 1st year members share their spiritual journey.
- 2nd or 3rd year member will model a 20-minute time of personal worship.
- Optional: break into smaller groups so 3rd year members can coach 1st years in personal worship.
- Talk about progress in 21 days of personal worship.

DISCUSSIONS

- For those who want to investigate a biblical response to Evolution you can recommend:
 - Behe, Michael J., *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*
 - Colson, Chuck, *How Now Shall We Live?*
 - Johnson, Phillip E., *Darwin on Trial*
 - Strobel, Lee, *The Case for a Creator*
 - or they can *visit www.answersingenesis.org*
- Discuss what Jesus meant by, "abide in [continue to follow] My word". Make sure the JG doesn't confuse this with performing for God to earn His love.
- Discuss the implications of John 14:6 (the 3rd **IN BIBLE** question). Some possible implications are:
 - Then... no one can be saved outside of Christ.
 - Then... it is wise to be a devoted follower of Christ.
 - Then... other religions are false paths to heaven.
- Discuss 1 or 2 of the equipping questions, and provide time for accountability questions.
- Discuss how a Spirit-filled life is connected to living missionally.

1

GOSPEL LIVING 6

Section: Gospel Living

Unit: Truth – How We Embrace the Word, unit 6 of 6

ASSIGNMENTS

- Core Curriculum: *Truth – How We Embrace the Word*
- 21 Days of Personal Worship
- Listen to the audio message *God's Power*

EXERCISES

- Any group member who hasn't yet shared their spiritual journey should do so this week. Follow up by asking group members what they learned or what they valued about this exercise.
- Recruit a 1st year member to model a 20-minute time of personal worship using **PRAISE** for next week.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – discuss the importance of being a personal witness. Some important points to cover from the **IN BIBLE** questions are:
 - The Great Commission applies to all Christians.
 - Discuss the two questions from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Help your JG develop a biblical definition of the gospel. Also discuss Paul's motivation for being an ambassador of the gospel. Any of the following contribute to his motivation: the controlling love of Christ (5:14); the sense of godly obligation (5:15. Note: be careful to differentiate this from a performance mentality); his conviction of the transforming power of the gospel (5:16-17); and the experience of his own reconciliation to God (5:18).
- **MISSION** – discuss living a missional life across the street, track and ocean. Help everyone understand how the Spirit leads believers to cross every kind of barrier to Christ's mission.

2

GRACE COMMITMENTS

Section: Grace Commitments

Unit: Generous Living as an Evidence of –
Your Level of Contentment, unit 1 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- Review memory verse of the week.
- Check JG member's progress on 21 days of personal worship. If struggling, encourage them to start over with goal of getting 21 days straight before the holiday break.
- **EQUIPPING** – During this series your JG will memorize the books of the New Testament. A memory aid called "Learning the Books of the New Testament" is included at the end of this week's material (pp. 12-15). The goal is to have each member of your JG recite the books of the New Testament from memory by the fourth and final week of this series. During your first meeting, you should begin recruiting volunteers to recite them during your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th meetings.
- **MISSION** – Create a prayer list of people or groups to whom your JG members would like to make the gospel known through word and deed.

EXERCISES

- 1st year member models a 20-minute time of personal worship using **PRAISE**. This is the last week that the Leader's Guide will suggest modeling personal worship. However, anytime you feel it is needed, feel free to use this as a teaching tool to encourage your JG to develop this crucial spiritual discipline.
- Review the "Learning the Books of the New Testament" illustration and the "foundation" (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts).

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – discuss the meaning of *stewardship* and *ownership*. Make sure the JG understands that *Stewardship is management of the owner's resources*. Discuss how this perspective impacts the financial decisions we make.
- **TRUTH** – discuss the meaning of contentment. Randy would like you to emphasize these points:
 - Contentment must be learned (Philippians 4:11)
 - Prosperity offers equal challenge as lack when learning contentment (Philippians 4:12)
 - Contentment is only realized through the strengthening power of Christ (Philippians 4:13)
- **MISSION** – Discuss prayer lists. Ask a few people to share why certain people are on their list.

2

GRACE COMMITMENTS 2

Section: Grace Commitments

Unit: Generous Living as an Evidence of –
Your Choice of Investment, unit 2 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- Review memory verse of the week.
- Check JG member's progress on 21 days of personal worship. If struggling, encourage them to start over with goal of getting 21 days straight before the holiday break.
- **EQUIPPING** – Continue memorizing the books of the New Testament. Review the illustration and the "left column" (Pauline Letters).
- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section early in the week. Their assignment this week is to have a conversation with someone on their prayer list in order to gain insight into their needs and look for opportunities to make the gospel known through deed.

EXERCISES

- By now, everyone should have had an opportunity to share their spiritual journey and model a 20-minute time of personal worship using **PRAISE**. If not, you should make a phone call to anyone in your JG who needs an opportunity to complete these exercises. Don't let anyone miss the benefit of doing this in the JG setting.
- A few people may be ready to recite the books of the New Testament. Continue recruiting people to recite in the next two meetings.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Discuss the study question on Matthew 6:24. This is a proverbial statement personifying God and money as two different masters. The main point you should drive home is that money management is a spiritual matter that exposes the priorities of the heart. It has been said that a person’s checkbook exposes his/her loves, priorities, and beliefs.

Discuss the difference in perspective between investing in this world and investing in eternity. Talk about, and answer questions about rewards in Heaven. Randy would like you to emphasize these points from Philippians 4:14-17:

- Every believer has a heavenly “bank account”
 - Deposits are made into that account every time we give to God’s Kingdom with good motives
 - God pays excessively high dividends on every deposit we make.
- **EQUIPPING AND ACCOUNTABILITY** – be sure to discuss some of these questions especially questions that encourage people to be thinking about life change in regard to stewardship.
 - **MISSION** – Allow time for people to share their experience talking with people on their prayer lists.

2

GRACE COMMITMENTS 3

Section: Grace Commitments

Unit: Generous Living as an Evidence of –
Your Motive of Worship, unit 3 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- Review memory verse of the week.
- Check JG member's progress on 21 days of personal worship. Ask if anyone has gone past 21 days yet.
- **EQUIPPING** – Continue memorizing the books of the New Testament. Review the illustration and the "roof" (Pastoral Letters).
- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section early in the week. Their assignment this week is to have a conversation with a second person on their prayer list in order to gain insight into their needs and look for opportunities to make the gospel known through deed.

EXERCISES

- You should have a few people recruited to recite the books of the New Testament for this meeting. Continue recruiting so that everyone in your JG has recited the books of the New Testament by the end of this section of *The Journey*.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – discuss what it means to have *worship* as a motive. The **IN BIBLE** study question on Philippians 4:18 is intended to get your JG thinking about sacrifice as measure of worship, and worship as the motive God desires in our giving. Some in your JG may find it easier to relate to *love* or *thanksgiving* as a motive. Then connect the discussion of motive with giving. You could also ask your JG to talk about how contentment, investment, and motivation all go together with giving/stewardship.

- **TRUTH** – make sure your newer JG members understand how Paul’s words in Philippians 4:18 are connected with Old Testament ideas of worship through sacrifice. Randy would like you to emphasize these points from Philippians 4:18
 - Sacrifice is a universal standard for the measurement of love.
 - God has always delighted in the sacrifices of His people.
 - Acceptable expressions of sacrifice have changed since the cross of Christ.
 - The motive behind one’s sacrifice determines the acceptability of the offering.

- **EQUIPPING** – be sure to discuss some of these questions especially the last Equipping question.

- **MISSION** – Allow time for people to share their experience talking with people on their prayer lists.

2

GRACE COMMITMENTS 4

Section: Grace Commitments

Unit: Generous Living as an Evidence of –
Your Demonstration of Faith, unit 4 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- Review memory verse of the week.
- Check JG member's progress on 21 days of personal worship. Celebrate small victories and progress.
- **EQUIPPING** – Continue memorizing the books of the New Testament. Review the illustration and the "right column" (Non-Pauline Letters).
- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section early in the week. Their assignment this week is to go on a prayer walk and journal about the experience.

EXERCISES

- Any remaining JG members should recite the books of the New Testament for this meeting.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – discuss this definition of need “all that you need to live generously, faithfully, and fruitfully for His kingdom.” Make sure your JG doesn’t confuse biblical stewardship with the prosperity teaching that if you give a dollar, God will give you \$30, \$50, or \$100 in return.

- **TRUTH** – Randy would like you to emphasize these points:
 - God has given a *promissory note* guaranteeing that He will meet the needs of all Christians who qualify.
 - The collateral that secures His promise is the riches of His glory in Christ.
 - Believers who qualify to receive God’s promise of abundant provision are those whose use of life and money reflect a theocentric (God-centered) perspective.
 - God’s promise will never be redeemed without a demonstration of our faith.

- **EQUIPPING** – This week the Equipping section contains a chart where JG members are asked to review the “**IN BIBLE**” passages and write the promise, condition, and a personal life application for each passage. Ask each JG member to share 1 or 2 life applications from their chart.

- **MISSION** – Discuss the prayer walking experience. Ask 1 or 2 people to share what they wrote about the experience.

3

KNOWING GOD

Section: Knowing God

Unit: The First Person of the One God –
The Father in Whom and For Whom We Live , unit 1 of 3

ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Remind your JG of the importance of developing personal worship. Continue to encourage them to use the “21 Day Personal Worship Journal”.

EXERCISES

- Review memory verse of the week and discuss how it relates to the **TRUTH** section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Discuss any of the **IN BIBLE** questions you choose, but don't take time to discuss them all. Ask your JG to share their personal applications of the verses you do discuss. Their personal applications should start with the word “I” – e.g. “I will (with God's help) ...” If they haven't written down personal applications, or if their applications aren't specific and measurable, coach them on doing this. Application is the hardest thing the student of the Bible has to learn. Here are some tips for discussion:
 - **GENESIS 1:26-27** – God uses the 1st person plural pronouns “us” and “our”, when speaking of Himself in verse 26. Yet, the writer of Genesis (Moses), uses the 3rd person singular pronouns “His” and “He” when referring to God. This hints at the plurality of God, but also maintains that He is a single Being.

NOTE: It is sometimes claimed that the use of the plural when God speaks of Himself is a oratorical device called *the royal or majestic plural*, and not a hint of actual plurality in God's being. This is unlikely however, since the royal plural is a relatively new invention in the history of monarchs. Ancient biblical kings such as Pharaoh, David and Nebuchadnezzar all spoke of themselves as “I”, not “we”.

- **ISAIAH 44:6, 45:5-7** – It is significant that God proclaims Himself to be the one God and Lord over all people from every nation, not just the God of the Jews. Israel's ancient neighbors all believed that each nation, or even city, had its own patron god (or gods) to whom worship and obedience was due. The God of the Bible claims to be the One God whom all nations must worship and obey. This is no less significant in our time, when many in our modern culture either dismiss God from their lives, or only look to Him for blessing without worship and obedience.
- **MALACHI 2:10** – Malachi calls God the "one Father" because He created all people. He is Father by creation even to those who reject Him, though He is Father by redemption only to those who trust in His Son.
- **MATTHEW 3:13-17** – The Father's voice was audibly heard. The Son was incarnate, and therefore both visible and audible. The Spirit was visible in a form like a descending dove.
- **ACTS 17:22-29** – Paul describes God as:
 - (v 23) the God whom the Athenians did not know
 - (v 24) the Creator of the world and all in it, the Lord and Ruler of heaven and earth, not needing a physical home provided by humanity
 - (v 25) not needing any human service, but being the source of life and provision,
 - (v26) making all nations from one man, determining their rise, boundaries and fall
 - (v 29) creating humanity to be like Him, as children are to parents
- Paul describes humanity's relationship to God as:
 - (v 25) human life arose from God's creative power
 - (v 26) human life and history are set by His determination
 - (v 27) human life can and should seek His favor, blessing and care
 - (v 28) humanity's existence is dependant upon Him
 - (v 29) humanity is the offspring of God
- **MATTHEW 28:19** – Baptism is given in the Trinitarian name (singular) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **LUKE 1:35** – The Holy Spirit would come upon Mary. The Most High (Father) would overshadow (protect) her. The Son would be incarnate in her.
- **GALATIANS 4:6** – God (Father) sends the Spirit of His Son into believer's hearts. The prayer of the Spirit in us is directed to the Father.

- **EPHESIANS 2:18** – Through Christ (the Son) we have access to the Father by the Spirit.
 - **EPHESIANS 4:4-6** – There is one Spirit, one Lord (Jesus), and one God and Father.
 - **2 CORINTHIANS 13:14** – Paul closes with the benediction: The grace of Jesus, the love of God (the Father), and the fellowship (communion) of the Spirit be with you all.
 - **TITUS 3:5** – God saved us by His (the Father’s) own mercy, the regeneration (accomplished by the Son), and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.
- **TRUTH** – Review the **TO SUMMARIZE** section. Make sure your JG understands that the first Person of the Trinity is the Father for whom all His creatures exist. Also make the point that the Father is the ultimate provider and caregiver of believers. He loves His people and brings them together in the blessed community of His heavenly family.
 - **EQUIPPING** – Make sure you plan on spending a significant amount of time discussing the equipping questions. Your goal is to bring the biblical perspective of God’s Fatherly care to any in your JG that may struggle to rightly trust and rest in God as their Father.
 - **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
 - **MISSION** – During this section of *The Journey* you will organize your JG to participate in a service project in order to demonstrate the gospel. The discipleship and outreach ministries of your church leadership will inform and equip you for leading your group in this project. Try to involve everyone in your JG in a discussion of the mission service project. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to share in the preparation and/or execution of the project. For more info, contact the discipleship ministry at Perimeter Church.

3

KNOWING GOD 2

Section: Knowing God

Unit: The Second Person of the One God –
The Son Through Whom We Live, unit 2 of 3

ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Your JG should be preparing for the upcoming service project.

EXERCISES

- Review memory verse of the week and discuss how it relates to the **TRUTH** section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Discuss any of the **IN BIBLE** questions you choose, but don't take time to discuss them all. Ask your JG to share their personal applications of the verses you do discuss. Their personal applications should start with the word "I" – e.g. "I will (with God's help) ..." If they haven't written down personal applications, or if their applications aren't specific and measurable, coach them on doing this. Application is the hardest thing the student of the Bible has to learn. Here are some tips for discussion:
 - **DANIEL 7:13-14** – The phrase "son of man" simply means that the person Daniel saw was a man, so it is certain that this figure is a human being. On the other hand, no human being has ever been ushered into the presence of God because of man's sinfulness. The fact that this figure appears before God in this way indicates that he is perfectly sinless at the least. In addition, the fact that this figure is pictured coming on the clouds is an indication of deity. Clouds and smoke are frequent Old Testament indications of the manifest presence of God.
 - **ISAIAH 9:1-7 & MATTHEW 4:12-17** – Isaiah's prophecy hints that the child to be born would more than human by the image of light shining on those in darkness, the divine titles (e.g. "Mighty God"), and the promise of an eternal reign on David's throne. This person would bring the blessings of spiritual prosperity, deliverance from oppression, a just and righteous rule, eternal peace, all of which signal the arrival of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 4:17).

- **MATTHEW 1:18-25** – The name **Jesus** – *He will save* – indicates that the Christ would be a Savior from the power of sin. The name **Immanuel** – *God with us* – shows that Mary's son would be the human manifestation of God, thus He would perfectly represent God to humanity.
- **JOHN 1:1-5, 14** – The Word is the agent of God's creative power. When God created everything (visible and invisible) out of nothing, it was by the agency of the Second Person of the Trinity. Genesis 1 tells us that God "spoke" all things into being. John 1 parallels Genesis 1, telling us that the Word (meaning Jesus) was the member of the Trinity who did the speaking. In the incarnation, the Word became visible to human eyes and audible to human ears, revealing the glory, grace and truth of the Father.
- **JOHN 10:1-18** – Encourage your JG to think about what Jesus is promising with this analogy – spiritual protection and safety from the enemy of our souls. The enemy won't be able to secretly steal any of Jesus' followers away from Him, nor can he prevent the increase of Christ's followers from every nation. Jesus has authority to lay down His life *in exchange for His follower's lives*, and to take His life up again. He received this authority from the Father. If Jesus did not have this authority there could be no redemption of His followers.
- **EPHESIANS 1:3-14** – Redemption was planned "*...before the foundation of the world*" (v 4) but the plan lay hidden or foreshadowed. It was not fully revealed until it was made manifest "*...according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ...*" (v 9). The Father chose and predestined the people of God. The Son accomplished redemption by the shedding of His blood. The Spirit is the seal, or stamp, guaranteeing that we will receive an eternal inheritance of glory.

- **COLOSSIANS 1:13-20** – The idea of an “image of God” communicates both Christ’s humanity (“image...”) and divinity (“...of God”). Paul describes the Christ as accomplishing creative acts outside of time emphasizing His deity, and the work of redemption within time emphasizing His humanity.
- **HEBREWS 1:1-4** – God’s ultimate revelation of His will came by speaking to us through His Prophet Jesus (v 2). Jesus, our Priest, made complete and final purification for sins (v 3). Now our King is enthroned with God above all powers, even angels (vv 3-4).
- **TRUTH** – Review the **TO SUMMARIZE** section. Make sure your JG understands that the second Person of the Trinity is the agent of both creation and redemption. Discuss the diagram of the incarnation emphasizing that Jesus is fully divine and human and why this is important for our redemption.
- **EQUIPPING** – Discuss how Christ’s continued work as Prophet, Priest and King is relevant for our individual spiritual journeys.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Continue planning and discussing your upcoming mission service project. It is vital that you emphasize the purpose of this project as an exercise in developing a missional life. Discuss how your service project can be an opportunity to make the gospel known through deed – a demonstration of Christ’s compassion.

3

KNOWING GOD 3

Section: Knowing God

Unit: The Third Person of the One God –
The Spirit Who Lives in Us, unit 3 of 3

ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Your JG should be preparing for the upcoming service project.

EXERCISES

- Review memory verse of the week and discuss how it relates to the Truth section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Your goal this week is to help your JG understand the relevance of the Holy Spirit's work to Christian living. You should try to emphasize these points:
 - The Holy Spirit manifests the active presence of God. The Father's work and the Son's work are directly applied to our lives by the actions of the Holy Spirit. Without His work we would have no knowledge of God, there would be no salvation from God, and no life of God in us. Review Spirit-filled living and the need to be filled with the Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is active in Christians individually and in the Church corporately.
 - The Holy Spirit is a missional Spirit empowering Christians and the Church in the gospel mission.

- **TRUTH** – In pursuit of the goal of emphasizing the Holy Spirit’s relevance to Christian living, you can discuss the **TO SUMMARIZE** section and any of the **IN BIBLE** questions. But don’t take the time to go over all of these in order to allow adequate time to discuss the **EQUIPPING** section. Here are some tips on some of the passages.
 - **PSALM 139:1-12** – Verse 7 shows that God’s omnipresent Spirit is the manifestation of His presence and there is nowhere one could escape from His presence.
 - **MARK 1:8 & EPHESIANS 1:13-14** – The important point here is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is *the central promise* of the gospel because the Holy Spirit represents the communing presence of God in one’s life. Before conversion we were without hope and *without God*. The sign that this hopeless estate has changed is the gift of God’s Spirit residing in our lives. Through the Holy Spirit we have communion with God, and through this communion we receive assurance that we are accepted and our souls are eternally safe.
 - **EPHESIANS 2:18-22** – This passage describes the Holy Spirit’s role in building a unified, redeemed humanity – a temple, so to speak – where God will dwell and receive true, spiritual worship. Both Jews and Gentiles who become followers of Jesus are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, thus creating a spiritual union between them and Christ.
- **EQUIPPING** – Ask one or two people to share their answer to the 1st question, and then involve the whole group in a discussion of the 3rd question. Try to help your JG avoid the errors of thinking of Spirit-filled living as purely mystical, or as having a performance-oriented mindset.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Continue planning and discussing your upcoming mission service project. It is vital that you emphasize the purpose of this project as an exercise in developing a missional life. Discuss the gospel as the motivation for living a missional life and how that applies to your service project.

4

HEALTHY MARRIAGE

Section: Healthy Marriage

Unit: The Myths About Marriage –
It's Probably Not What You Think It Is, unit 1 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- Review the memory verse of the week.
- **MISSION** – Your JG will begin work on the **60-Second Testimony** exercise this week (see pp. 10-15). Over the next 4 weeks each member of your JG will share their **60-Second Testimony**, starting with you, then 3rd year group members and so on. Start recruiting people to share their testimony right away. Try to have only 1 or 2 people share per week so that newer people have a chance to observe other examples and hear the coaching that others receive. Some will need an extra opportunity if their testimony is unclear, too long, or doesn't focus on what Christ has done. Help your JG learn to do this well. If you have a small group, there may be time to have JG members share their testimony, receive coaching, revise and present again the following week.
- **TRUTH** – Listen to "The Myth of Marriage" MP3.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week. Review the Pentateuch.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – make sure your group understands the two myths discussed in the material. Discuss any of the **IN BIBLE** questions you wish.
- **EQUIPPING** – Discuss a few of these questions, particularly the 3rd and 4th questions.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Introduce the **60-Second Testimony** exercise with a question, “If someone asked you why you were a follower of Jesus and you only had one minute to answer, what would you say?” Allow some discussion, and bring out the importance on being able to give an attractive, concise response. Explain how the **60-Second Testimony** exercise will equip your JG to effectively communicate their spiritual journey. Model the **60-Second Testimony** first before any of your group members. You want to inspire your JG to make it their goal to be able to *effectively share their story of becoming a follower of Jesus*.

4

HEALTHY MARRIAGE 2

Section: Healthy Marriage

Unit: The Mystery of Marriage – The Search For Oneness, unit 2 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- Your Journey Group should continue to work on their 60-Second Testimonies.
- **TRUTH** – Listen to “The Mystery of Marriage” MP3.
- **EQUIPPING** – Remind your JG of the importance of developing personal worship. Continue to encourage them to use the **21 Day Personal Worship Journal**.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week.
- 3rd year JG members should share their testimony this week. Engage your JG in conversation about what makes a good and bad testimony. You can break into smaller groups to do some coaching.

DISCUSSIONS

- Discuss the marital roles and responsibilities.
 - **LADIES:** discuss submission and respect.
 - **MEN:** discuss servant-leadership and demonstrating Christ's love (sacrificial love, sanctifying love, and self-like love)
- **EQUIPPING** – Discuss the 3rd Equipping question.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Be sure to allow adequate time for 3rd year members to share their **60-Second Testimony**.

4

HEALTHY MARRIAGE 3

Section: Healthy Marriage

Unit: Avoiding the Fatal Attraction –
The Best Hope of a Lasting Love, unit 3 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section as early as possible each week.

This week your JG has two mission assignments.

- Continue working on the **60-Second Testimony** exercise.
- Have a spiritual conversation with their spouse or accountability partner. This could be a daunting assignment for some. You will need to encourage them as well as reinforce the importance of developing the spiritual dimension of their relationship. Ask a few people to share their experience.
- **TRUTH** – Listen to “Avoiding the Fatal Attraction” MP3.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week.
- 2nd year JG members should share their testimony this week. Remind your JG of the importance of mastering this exercise.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Make sure your JG understands the content of the truth section. Invite questions. Review a few of the **IN BIBLE** questions, especially the 3rd and 4th questions that focus on application of the scripture while avoiding the performance mentality.

Encourage your JG to read ***Finding Your Million Dollar Mate***, by Randy Pope. It is a quick read and expands on the principles taught in this unit. It will be especially relevant for singles or parents of teens in your group.

Discuss ways that spiritual life impacts the long-term quality of married life.

- **EQUIPPING** – Discuss ways to develop the spiritual health of marriages.
 - **WIVES**: discuss ways to support the spiritual growth of their husbands.
 - **HUSBANDS**: discuss ways to invest in the spiritual growth of their wives.
 - **SINGLES**: discuss the 2nd Equipping question.
 - **ALL**: discuss the 4th Equipping question.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Be sure to allow adequate time for 2nd year members to share their **60-Second Testimony** and receive coaching.
- **MISSION** – Invite a few JG members to share their experience having a spiritual conversation with their spouse (or potential spouse).

4

HEALTHY MARRIAGE 4

Section: Healthy Marriage

Unit: When You Encounter a Stalemate –
Living in a Relational Log Jam, unit 4 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section first as early as possible each week.

This week your JG has two mission assignments.

- Continue working on the **60-Second Testimony** exercise.
- The second assignment is the same as last week, to have a spiritual conversation with their spouse or accountability partner. The emphasis is to see what your JG members learn about their partner's spiritual life, so be sure to ask some appropriate questions about this.
- **TRUTH** – Listen to "When You Encounter a Stalemate" MP3.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week.
- 1st year JG members should share their testimony this week.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Review a few of the **IN BIBLE** questions. Make sure your JG understands how enduring sufferings glorifies God, and that God's purpose is to bring glory to Himself and His people through suffering.

Remind your JG to read ***Finding Your Million Dollar Mate***, by Randy Pope. It is a quick read and expands on the principles taught in this unit. It will be especially relevant for singles or parents of teens in your group.

- **EQUIPPING** – Allow your group to discuss how glory can motivate endurance of suffering and how grace provides daily strength through suffering. Invite your JG members to share how this may apply to their current marital situation.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Be sure to allow adequate time for 1st year members to share their **60-Second Testimony** and receive coaching.
- **MISSION** – Invite a few JG members to share their experience having a spiritual conversation with their spouse (or potential spouse).

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: The Descent into Depravity – Why We Need a Redeemer, unit 1 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **EQUIPPING** – Your JG should have memorized the books of the Pentateuch. Over the next several weeks your JG will memorize all 39 books of the Old Testament. A memory aid called “Learning the Books of the Old Testament” is included at the end of this week’s material (pp. 12-14). The goal is to have each member of your JG recite the books of the Old Testament and New Testament from memory. During your first meeting, you should begin scheduling volunteers to recite in about 3 or 4 weeks. The ultimate goal is to have every JG member recite all 66 books of the Bible by the end of this section of *The Journey*.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – The content of the Truth section for this week is quite complex in comparison to other units of *The Journey*. Because of this, it is suggested that you concentrate your discussion on the five points on the next page that were presented in the to Summarize section. Your goal is to explain the Scripture references in order to help your JG understand and embrace these ideas.
 - People are morally inclined to do evil and resist God’s righteous will. (Romans 1:29)
 - People are blind to their true moral and spiritual condition. (Romans 1:21; Luke 5:30)
 - Every person is morally evil. (Romans 3:11-12)
 - People are spiritually dead and unable to free themselves from sin. (Ephesians 2:1)
 - People are in a hopeless state of separation from God. (Ephesians 2:12)

This discussion may raise some difficult theological questions. If you don't feel equipped to answer these questions, write them down and promise your JG that you will make a good effort to find *The Answer*. Your coach or the Discipleship staff will be able to help you. During the meeting be sure to emphasize that the doctrine of total depravity means that every part of human nature suffers from the effects of sin, leaving people unable to save themselves. However, total depravity does not mean that people are as wicked as they could possibly be.

- **TRUTH** – Devote the last several minutes of discussion to how the truth for this week relates to the gospel. Try to impress upon your JG the idea that total depravity makes us incapable of doing anything to assist God in our salvation. As one person said, “The only thing that I contributed to my own salvation, was the sin that made it necessary.” This thought should magnify their awe at the love and grace of God has bestowed upon them.
- **EQUIPPING** – Allow your JG to discuss any of the three equipping questions. Encourage them to respond to each other's comments and to go beyond simple pat answers.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Discuss how your JG group feels about witnessing. What thoughts come to mind? Make sure to connect witnessing with missional living – making the gospel known through word and deed.

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW 2

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: The Consequences of the Fall –
Sin and Misery in a Broken World, unit 2 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the mission assignment first each week.
- **EQUIPPING** – Your JG should have memorized the 12 Historical books of the Old Testament. The goal is to have each member of your JG recite the 66 books of the Bible from memory by the final week of this series. You should be recruiting volunteers to recite during future meetings.
- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to review *The Answer* again in preparation for the discussions over the next few weeks.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch and Historical books of the Old Testament.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Truth – [Note: don't forget to address questions that were raised in your meeting last week.]

You can discuss any of the **IN BIBLE** questions you would like to address. You should focus on making sure your JG understands how the **IN BIBLE** passages support these key concepts:

- **SIN AND MISERY** – the product of The Fall which leaves people subject to natural and moral evil, and in a condition of alienation from God.

[**Note:** Question 17 of the Westminster shorter catechism reads “Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? Answer: The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.”]

- **NATURAL EVIL** – the product of living in a broken, cursed world.
 - **MORAL EVIL** – the product of living as a fallen person in a world full of fallen people.
 - **ALIENATION FROM GOD** – the paradox of the hostility that exists between fallen people and God, and the longing that fallen people have to know God and be loved by Him.
 - **THE FEAR OF GOD** – the appropriate response of the reverence and overwhelming awe that godly people should have before a holy God.
-
- **EQUIPPING** – Have your JG discuss the second and third equipping questions. In the second question, try to get your JG to focus on whether and how Christ’s promise of peace makes a difference in their lives, despite their troubles. In the third question, help them focus on what is an appropriate fear of God. We live in an irreverent culture and it may be difficult for them to understand that loving God does not negate the need to live humbly before Him in awe of His holy majesty.
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- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
-
- **MISSION** – Discuss bringing Jesus into conversation with people and how *The Answer* can serve as a tool to that end. Discuss the conversation that is illustrated in the material. Get your JG to think about creative ways this can be adapted to suit their personality. Ask them to think about what is hard or easy about this approach.

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW 3

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: Running From Temptation –
Pursuing Righteousness to Avoid Sin, unit 3 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **EQUIPPING** – Your JG should have memorized the 5 Poetic books of the Old Testament. You should ask 1 or 2 people in your group to recite the books they know so far, or to recite the New Testament books again. The goal is to have each member of your JG recite the 66 books of the Bible from memory. By now, you should have everyone in your group scheduled to recite during future meetings.
- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to review *The Answer*, and to buy the 4 *Life Issues* booklets. Your JG will read and discuss one *Life Issues* booklet per week starting next week. Bring booklet 1 to your meeting to encourage your group that these are handy, easy-to-read “cliff notes” approaches to helping someone investigate Christianity. Encourage your JG to get these booklets from the bookstore well in advance of your meeting and make sure you have a working familiarity with how these booklets are used in an investigative approach to witnessing.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch, Historical and Poetic books of the Old Testament.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH AND EQUIPPING** – This week your JG had to address temptations they face with specific applications of scriptural principles drawn from the **IN BIBLE** passages. You will probably want to spend most of your meeting time here. You should keep these things in mind during the discussion:
 - The tone of the conversation should encourage transparency and accountability.
 - Help your JG apply the Scriptures to their lives. This simple phrase will help, “With God’s help I will...”
 - Be alert for signs that any of your JG members may be struggling with especially destructive or addictive sins, e.g. drug or alcohol dependence, pornography, etc. These people need your help and guidance. They may benefit from joining a support group or from having a specific accountability partner. Make a note to have a private conversation with them to explore what could be done to help and encourage them. Feel free to discuss the matter with your coach if you need guidance.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Continue last weeks discussion about using *The Answer* and the *Life Issues* booklets to bring Jesus into conversation with people. Discuss the conversation that is illustrated in the material. Get your JG to think about creative ways this can be adapted to suit their personality. Ask them to think about what is hard or easy about this approach.

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW 4

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: Accepting Suffering, Part 1 -
How God is Involved in Your Pain, unit 4 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **TRUTH** – Listen to “I Can Rejoice in Suffering, Part 1” MP3.
- **EQUIPPING** – Your JG should have memorized the 5 Major Prophets of the Old Testament. You should ask 1 or 2 people in your group to recite the books they know so far, or to recite the New Testament books again. The goal is to have each member of your JG recite the 66 books of the Bible from memory by the end of this section of *The Journey*. By now, you should have everyone in your group scheduled to recite during future meetings.

Please recommend this optional reading assignment, *When God Weeps: Why our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty*, by Joni Eareckson Tada, who became a paraplegic following a diving accident. This book offers one of the best biblical treatments on suffering available today. It is available in the bookstore, and highly recommended.
- **MISSION** – Your JG should listen to the audio teaching resource on using the first *Life Issues* booklet found online.
- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG again to review *The Answer*, and to buy the 4 *Life Issues* booklets. Your JG is to read the first *Life Issues* booklet. They should read both the introductory section “Is the Bible God’s Word?”, and answer the questions in the margins of the chapters from the Gospel of John.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch, Historical books, Poetic books and Major Prophets of the Old Testament.
- Someone may be ready to recite all 66 books of the Bible by now.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH & EQUIPPING** – Your JG members were asked to write about their response to the Truth section this week. Suffering is a topic that may spark lots of discussion. Your JG may have concerns, questions or even objections. Allow your JG members to talk about what they wrote during the Truth discussion. They may have strong emotions about this topic so you will have to be prepared (with prayer) to guide the discussion so that your JG members feel that their thoughts are affirmed while the points you need to make are reinforced. Sometimes there aren't easy answers to the questions people ask. If a question is raised that you don't feel equipped to handle yourself, you can discuss it with your coach and give a reply next week.

You can open your discussion with this ice breaker, "If God controls your suffering, do you consider that good news or bad news?" Allow your JG members to raise the thoughts and questions they wrote in the Equipping section. Here are the important points Randy wants you to emphasize:

- Suffering is an inevitable result of living in a fallen world. (Romans 8:20-21)
 - God controls suffering. (Exodus 4:11; Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 45:7; John 9:3)
 - For the Christian, there is a correlation between suffering and glory. (Romans 8:17)
 - The hope of experiencing glory is an encouragement during times of suffering, because it is worth far more than the price of any suffering. (Romans 8:18) You may also want to discuss how God reveals His glory by restoring His glory in humanity.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
 - **MISSION** – Continue the discussion of helping people investigate Christianity using the *Life Issues* booklets as a tool for making the gospel known in word. Discuss the question, "Is the Bible God's Word?" and a few of the questions from the first *Life Issues* booklet.

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW 5

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: Accepting Suffering, Part 2 –
Waiting For Deliverance From Pain, unit 5 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **TRUTH** – Listen to “I Can Rejoice in Suffering, Part 2” MP3.
- **EQUIPPING** – This week your JG should have memorized the 12 Minor Prophets. You should ask 1 or 2 people in your group to recite the whole Old Testament, or recite the whole New Testament again. Some in your JG may be ready to recite all 66 books of the Bible now. By now, you should have everyone in your group scheduled to recite them during future meetings.

Please recommend this optional reading assignment, *When God Weeps: Why our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty*, by Joni Eareckson Tada, who became a paraplegic following a diving accident. This book offers one of the best biblical treatments on suffering available today. It is available in the bookstore, and highly recommended.

- **MISSION** – Your JG should listen to the audio teaching resource on using the second *Life Issues* booklet found online.
- **MISSION** – This week your JG should have read the second *Life Issues* booklet. They should read both the introductory section, “Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment?” and answer the questions in the margins of the chapters from the Gospel of John.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch, Historical books, Poetic books, Major and Minor Prophets of the Old Testament.
- Include time for one or two JG members to recite all 66 books of the Bible.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH AND EQUIPPING** – This week your discussion on suffering should focus on the following points. You can open your discussion with the 4th equipping question.
 - In order to embrace the hope and promise of a future glory despite the hardships and temptations of the present world, you need to know that God loves you unconditionally and that only Christ can truly satisfy.
 - When Christ returns, believers and all of creation will be spiritually and physically set free from the futility and frustration brought by The Fall. (Romans 8:19-23)
 - The freedom and glory that Christians hope for at Christ's second coming are dependent on the suffering He endured in His first coming. (Romans 8:23)
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Continue the discussion of helping people investigate Christianity using the *Life Issues* booklets as a tool for making the gospel known. Discuss the question, "Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment?" from the second *Life Issues* booklet.

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW 6

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: Accepting Suffering, Part 3 –
The Christian's Response to Pain, unit 6 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **TRUTH** – Listen to "I Can Rejoice in Suffering, Part 3" MP3.
- **EQUIPPING** – This week, everyone in your JG should have reviewed all 66 books of the Bible and should be prepared to recite the books of the Bible.

Please recommend this optional reading assignment, *When God Weeps: Why our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty*, by Joni Eareckson Tada, who became a paraplegic following a diving accident. This book offers one of the best biblical treatments on suffering available today. It is available in the bookstore, and highly recommended.

- **MISSION** – Your JG should listen to the audio teaching resource on using the third *Life Issues* booklet found online.
- **MISSION** – This week your JG should have read the third *Life Issues* booklet. They should read both the introductory section, "Is Jesus Christ the Only Way to God?" and answer the questions in the margins of the chapters from the Gospel of John.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch, Historical books, Poetic books, Major and Minor Prophets of the Old Testament.
- Include time for one or two JG members to recite all 66 books of the Bible.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH AND EQUIPPING** – This week your discussion on suffering should focus on the following points. You can open your discussion with the 2nd and 3rd Equipping questions.
 - **GROANING** – This is Paul’s expression for feeling the reality of one’s sufferings and expressing our response. Make sure your JG understands that the Christian response to suffering is neither escapist nor a false idealism. To spark the discussion, you might ask whether groaning includes complaining. Your JG may give a variety of answers.
 - **WAITING** – This is one way to express our longing for the fulfillment of redemption’s promise.
 - **HOPING** – This is another way to focus our attention away from the troubles of the present age, to the blessing promised in the age to come. You might ask how the relative blessing and prosperity of living in America can impact a person’s hope in the life to come.
 - **PRAYING** – You should discuss praying for healing and miracles, as well as praying for acceptance of, and endurance in suffering. Help your JG to focus on learning to pray according to the love and power of God, while surrendering to His (often unknown) will.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of 2 or 3 to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Continue the discussion of helping people investigate Christianity using the *Life Issues* booklets as a tool for making the gospel known in word. Discuss the question, “Is Jesus Christ the Only Way to God?”, from the third *Life Issues* booklet.

5

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW 7

Section: Biblical Worldview

Unit: Not of the World, But Sent Into It –
Living as Christ's Followers in a Fallen World, unit 7 of 7

ASSIGNMENTS

- **EQUIPPING** – This week, any remaining people in your JG should have reviewed all 66 books of the Bible and should be prepared to recite the books of the Bible in your group meeting.
- **MISSION** – Your JG should listen to the audio teaching resource on using the fourth *Life Issues* booklet found online.
- **MISSION** – This week your JG should have read the fourth *Life Issues* booklet. They should read both the introductory section, “What is Required to Have Eternal Life?” and answer the questions in the margins of the chapters from the Gospel of John.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.
- Review the Pentateuch, Historical books, Poetic books, Major and Minor Prophets of the Old Testament.
- Include time for one or two JG members to recite all 66 books of the Bible.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH & EQUIPPING** – Your focus this week should be on helping your group understand this key statement from the material: *You should not view yourself as belonging to this world, but as sent into the broken world as an ambassador of God.* You will want to unpack what it means to think and live as a *missional alien* in the fallen world. The **TRUTH** section details six applications of what this means. The **EQUIPPING** section attempts to probe the hearts and minds of your group members to get them thinking about what it would mean for them to adopt this worldview. Use the discussion time to probe more deeply, to get your group beyond hypothetical thinking into *this-is-how-my-life-should-change* thinking.

- TRUTH** – While focusing on the goal outlined above, you may select a few of the **IN BIBLE** passages to review and discuss in your group meeting. You will find a few tips below on specific passages. However, it is more important to allow ample time to discuss the **EQUIPPING** questions included in this week's material.
 - LUKE 6:22-23, 27-36** – This passage deals with demonstrating love to enemies. This is not the same kind of love as one might have for a friend. Jesus is talking about loving actions (see vv 27ff), not feelings. Jesus offers two motivating reasons for demonstrating love to enemies – a heavenly reward, and to reflect the character of the Father who also shows kindness to His enemies.
 - EPHESIANS 2:1-10** – Paul uses the concept of walking as an analogy for one's way of life. This consists in one's values, priorities, mission, habits, convictions, etc. Walking according to "*the course of this world*" (2:1) refers to a way of life that is consistent with the sin that permeates the fallen world. In contrast to this, Christians have been born again and empowered by grace so that they may walk in the good works God prepared for them. Paul doesn't define what makes up a good work here, but surely he has in mind any deed that flows from the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:ff), and which makes God's grace in the gospel of Christ evident for all to see.
 - TITUS 2:11-14** – This passage has some parallels to Ephesians 2. Here, you see that Paul understands God's grace as the driving power behind our sanctification – that is, grace empowers the growth of a godly lifestyle. You might allow your group to discuss what Paul meant by these terms: "*ungodliness*", "*worldly passions*", "*self-controlled, upright, godly lives*", and "*lawlessness*".
 - 1 JOHN 2:15-17** – Here, John boils down every conceivable worldview into the two competing concepts of loving God or loving the world, without any middle ground to love some of both. Everything in the world is a potential idol that can evoke the jealousy of God. Help your JG understand that love in this case touches our affections, priorities, aspirations, relationships, possessions, occupations, entertainments and pleasures – in short every detail of our hearts, minds and behaviors.
- EQUIPPING** – Discuss any of these questions. The point here is to help your JG do some serious self-examination in regards to living a life that is "*worthy of the gospel*" in general, and more specifically, embracing a missional focus (applications #3 and #4) and dealing with temptation and developing personal holiness (application #5 and #6).

6

GOD-HONORING PARENTING

Section: God-honoring Parenting

Unit: Adopting a Balanced Philosophy –
Discovering God’s Motive and Goal in Discipline, unit 1 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- **TRUTH** – Please recommend that parents in your JG read one of these books as an optional reading assignment:
 - *Shepherding Your Child’s Heart*, by Tedd Tripp.
 - *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, by Paul David Tripp.
 - *Grace Based Parenting*, by Dr. Tim Kimmel.
 - *How Children Raise Parents: The Art of Listening to Your Family*, by Dr. Dan Allender.
 - *Don’t Make Me Count to Three*, by Ginger Plowman.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH AND EQUIPPING** – This week your discussion could center around several of the **IN BIBLE** and Equipping questions. Here are some suggestions:
 - The 3rd **IN BIBLE** question and 4th **EQUIPPING** question – talk about the concept of immersing a family in a culture of God’s word (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). Then discuss lifestyle adjustments that your JG members would be able to make in order to do this.
 - The 6th **IN BIBLE** question and 5th **EQUIPPING** question – ask your JG to suggest actions that could be taken in pursuit of raising children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Then ask your JG if there is any one of these possible actions that they are willing to make a commitment to.
 - The 2nd and 3rd **EQUIPPING** questions – discuss possible applications of the Balanced Philosophy of Discipline to these situations. You can also use these questions to review and discuss the Philosophy of Discipline Chart.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of two or three to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Remind your JG that the purpose of life-on-life missional discipleship is to develop mature and equipped followers of Christ for the lost world. Remind them that a missional life is one that takes up Christ's mission to make the gospel known through word and deed across the street, track and world. Review what your JG has learned about being missional this year – missional living, praying, serving, telling and dialoguing. Challenge your JG to now apply what they have learned and engage in a missional life by the power of the Holy Spirit living within them.

Allow the group to discuss the different ways they have been involved in missional living this year. Encourage them to be honest about the obstacles to taking up Christ's mission that they face and what needs to change in order for them to be more intentionally engaged in mission.

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GOD-HONORING PARENTING

Section: God-honoring Parenting

Unit: Adopting a Balanced Philosophy –
Part 1: Principles of Instruction, unit 2 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- TRUTH** – Please recommend that parents in your JG read one of these books as an optional reading assignment:

 - *Shepherding Your Child's Heart*, by Tedd Tripp.
 - *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, by Paul David Tripp.
 - *Grace Based Parenting*, by Dr. Tim Kimmel.
 - *How Children Raise Parents: The Art of Listening to Your Family*, by Dr. Dan Allender.
 - *Don't Make Me Count to Three*, by Ginger Plowman.
- MISSION** – This week your JG's mission assignment was to think about one person on their prayer lists and evaluate where this person is spiritually. The goal of this assignment is to get your JG thinking and planning specifically to share the gospel with that person. This exercise will encourage each JG member to be taking positive steps to initiate an opportunity to offer *The Answer* and the *Life Issues* booklets to that person. Ask a few of your JG members to share their evaluations during your group meeting.
- Complete *Semester II Spiritual Assessment* and hand in to your group leader.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Make sure your JG makes the connection between a balanced philosophy of discipline which is modeled after God’s motive (love) and goal (righteousness), and the principles of instruction that are based on this philosophy. Your discussion can center on any or all of the principles presented in the material, but it is recommended that you give special attention to how principle #2 and #5 can be applied in the lives of parents. You can also use the **IN BIBLE** passages and questions to help you discuss these principles:
 - **PRINCIPLE #1** – **PROVERBS 1:8, 6:20; EPHESIANS 6:4**
 - **PRINCIPLE #2** – **DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7**
 - **PRINCIPLE #3** – **MATTHEW 23:1-6**
 - **PRINCIPLE #4** – **PROVERBS 2:1-12**
 - **PRINCIPLE #5** – **TITUS 2:10**

- **EQUIPPING** – Discuss the 2nd question to encourage creative ideas about how your JG parents can be more active in the spiritual instruction of their children.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of two or three to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.

- **MISSION** – Invite a few people to share their spiritual evaluation of someone they have been praying for.

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GOD-HONORING PARENTING

Section: God-honoring Parenting

Unit: Adopting a Balanced Philosophy –
Part 2: Principles of Preventive Discipline, unit 3 of 4

ASSIGNMENTS

- **TRUTH** – Please recommend that parents in your JG read one of these books as an optional reading assignment:
 - *Shepherding Your Child's Heart*, by Tedd Tripp.
 - *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, by Paul David Tripp.
 - *Grace Based Parenting*, by Dr. Tim Kimmel.
 - *How Children Raise Parents: The Art of Listening to Your Family*, by Dr. Dan Allender.
 - *Don't Make Me Count to Three*, by Ginger Plowman.
- **MISSION** – Your JG's mission assignment is to begin a "Mission Activity Log" (pp. 10-12) that will help them keep focused on intentionally engaging in Christ's mission. Their focus should be on the person to whom they plan to make the gospel known. There is a sample log that you should use as a springboard for discussing the purpose of this exercise. You can also brainstorm with your JG about the types of things that could be recorded in the log.
- Complete *Semester II Spiritual Assessment* and hand in to your group leader.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the **TRUTH** section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Make sure your JG makes the connection between a balanced philosophy which is modeled after God’s motive (love) and goal (righteousness), and the principles of preventive discipline that are based on this philosophy. Your discussion can center on any of the principles presented in the material, but it is recommended that you give special attention to principle #2 (building appropriate attitudes, values, and habits by building a positive relationship) and #6 (praying fervently for your children). You can also discuss:
 - The two **IN BIBLE** questions on Psalm 23
 - The **IN BIBLE** question on Ephesians 6:4
- **EQUIPPING** – Discuss the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Equipping questions. Try to get your whole JG involved in supporting one another through this discussion.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of two or three to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Invite a few of your JG members to share what they wrote in the Mission Activity Log. Challenge your JG to make at least one entry in their log and be prepared to discuss it during your meetings. You should also challenge them to consider pairing with an accountability partner to track their progress in missional living for the next 30 days. Of course, they will be more inclined to accept this challenge if you lead by example.

6

GOD-HONORING PARENTING

Section: God-honoring Parenting**Unit: Adopting a Balanced Philosophy –****Part 3: Principles of Corrective Discipline, unit 4 of 4**

ASSIGNMENTS

- **TRUTH** – Please recommend that parents in your JG read one of these books as an optional reading assignment:
 - *Shepherding Your Child's Heart*, by Tedd Tripp.
 - *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, by Paul David Tripp.
 - *Grace Based Parenting*, by Dr. Tim Kimmel.
 - *How Children Raise Parents: The Art of Listening to Your Family*, by Dr. Dan Allender.
 - *Don't Make Me Count to Three*, by Ginger Plowman.
- **MISSION** – This week your JG's mission assignment was to think about the opportunities they missed to make the gospel known in word or deed. They should also be using the Mission Activity Log to help them become intentionally engaged in Christ's mission. Their focus should be on the person to whom they plan to make the gospel known.
- Collect all *Semester II Spiritual Assessments* from your JG.

EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week and talk about how it relates to the Truth section.

DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Review the **IN BIBLE** section. The goal of this week's exercise was to help your JG members think critically about using "the rod" as a means of corrective discipline. An answer key is included on the next page that will help you suggest possible interpretations for each Proverb. Allow your JG to discuss any of the principles of corrective discipline that interest them.

<p>Proverbs 13:34</p>	<p>The wrong motive... <i>hate (a lack of concern for my child's spiritual character)</i> leads to... <i>negligence in corrective discipline</i></p>	<p>The right motive... <i>love (primary concern for my child's spiritual character)</i> leads to... <i>consistent corrective discipline</i></p>
<p>Proverbs 22:15</p>	<p>The problem... <i>The normal state of my child's heart is inclined toward irresponsibility and foolishness</i></p>	<p>The solution... <i>The rod of corrective discipline helps to train my child in the way of the Lord</i></p>
<p>Proverbs 23:13-14</p>	<p>The feared result of using the rod... <i>My child will suffer lifelong physical or emotional injury</i></p>	<p>The actual result of using the rod... <i>Save soul from Sheol (corrective discipline will help guide my child away from unrighteousness that leads to eternal death)</i></p>
<p>Proverbs 29:15</p>	<p>The result of using the rod... <i>My child will gain a heart of wisdom – thinking about God, himself and the world</i></p>	<p>The result of neglecting the rod... <i>My child's lifestyle will bring shame and disgrace to his mother</i></p>

- **EQUIPPING** – Ask your JG members to share from their journals and at least one specific, measurable application. If someone's applications aren't specific and measurable, let the JG participate in helping improve the application.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Allow time for smaller groups of two or three to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Give your JG sufficient time to talk about missed opportunities and use the discussion to encourage your JG to be more intentional about creating and taking advantage of opportunities. Reinforce the idea that prayer is the key. God will open doors of opportunity as people pray, asking God to use them as His ambassadors.

Invite a few of your JG members to share what they recorded in the Mission Activity Log as a way to encourage others to make use of this tool. Consider discussing your availability during the summer months to meet with your JG members for coaching, encouragement and accountability.

A 28-WEEK GOSPEL-CENTERED
RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLESHIP

