



EXPRESS

Discover the **confidence** to talk about Jesus.

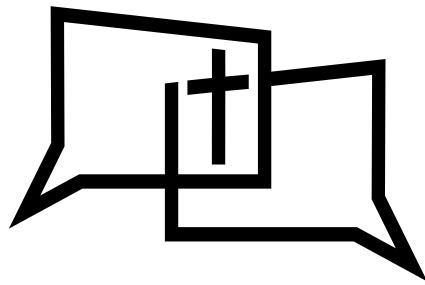
Express: Discover the Confidence to Talk about Jesus

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOUNDATIONS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES	5
Three Foundational Questions	6
Three Missional Strategies	8
Three Invitational Options	9
Three Harvest Prerequisites	10
A Kingdom Focused Mindset	10
A Frequently Visited Workshop	12
A Culturally Relevant Toolset	14
TOOLS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES	15
Introductory Tools	16
S.H.A.R.E.	16
Spiritual Journey Questions	18
The Answer	18
The Introductory Diagram	21
Diagram Outline Review and Summary	29
The Primary Tool	31
Life Issues #1 – “Is the Bible God’s Word?”	32
Life Issues #2 – “Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment?”	41
Life Issues #3 – “Is Jesus Christ the Only Way to God?”	50
Life Issues #4 – “What Is Required to Have Eternal Life?”	61
Support Tools	68
Tools to Use With Anyone	68
<i>One-Minute Testimony</i>	68
<i>The Story of Glory</i>	69
<i>The Performance-Grace Diagram</i>	70
Tools for Nominal Believers	71
<i>The Born Again / Pregnant Diagram</i>	71
<i>Vital Signs Discussion</i>	71
<i>Belief vs. Conviction Discussion</i>	71
A Tool for Other Religions and Cults	72
<i>The “Why?” Question</i>	72
A Tool for Jewish People	72
<i>The Messiah Question</i>	72
Follow-Up Tools	73
Immediate Follow-Up	73
Long Term Follow-Up	74
<i>Next Steps</i>	75
Coaching	76
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	79
Completed Diagrams	80
Other Available Resources	82

FOUNDATIONS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES

THREE FOUNDATIONAL QUESTIONS

THREE MISSIONAL STRATEGIES

THREE INVITATIONAL OPTIONS

THREE HARVEST PREREQUISITES

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THREE FOUNDATIONAL QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

2. WHO IS A DISCIPLE, WHEN IS ONE MADE, AND HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

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3. DOES EVERYONE WHO SINCERELY INVITES JESUS INTO THEIR LIFE BECOME A TRUE DISCIPLE?

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THREE MISSIONAL STRATEGIES

1. GREET

2. BEFRIEND

3. INVITE

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THREE INVITATIONAL OPTIONS

1. READ

2. ATTEND

3. INVESTIGATE

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THREE HARVEST PREREQUISITES

1. A KINGDOM FOCUSED MINDSET

1) A Mindset Which Views Being A Faithful Witness As A Life Or Death Issue

2) A Mindset Which Views Making Disciples As Non-Optional For Obedient Believers

3) A Mindset Which Believes It Is Possible For Any Believer to be Fruitful

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4) A Mindset Which Expects God To Empower His People For The Purpose Of Making Disciples

5) A Mindset Which Anticipates A Correlation Between Spiritual Fruit And Fervent Prayer

6) A Mindset Which Views Missional Living As The Exercise Every Christian Needs To Become Strong In Their Faith

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2. A CULTURALLY RELEVANT TOOLSET

1) Four Types Of Tools

- (1) Introductory Tools
- (2) Primary Tools
- (3) Support Tools
- (4) Follow Up Tools

2) Characteristics Of Effective Tools

- (1) Tools designed with the belief that God does the converting, using His most powerful tool, the Bible

- (2) Tools which are relevant to the culture in which they are used
 - tract evangelism (1-D)

 - monologue evangelism (2-D)
a single appointment presentation designed for prepared people

 - dialogue evangelism (3-D)
a multiple appointment conversation designed for unprepared people

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(3) Tools which fit your unique personality

- confrontational / proclamational style
- conversational / relational style

(4) Tools which create an inviting forum to address the questions that non-believers are asking

(5) Tools which respect the two greatest desires of interested seekers

- brevity
- privacy

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3. A FREQUENTLY VISITED WORKSHOP

1) Workshops Which Are Chosen With Kingdom Intentionality

2) Workshops Which Are Visited Routinely

TOOLS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTORY TOOLS

THE PRIMARY TOOL

SUPPORT TOOLS

FOLLOW-UP TOOLS

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INTRODUCTORY TOOLS

1. S.H.A.R.E.

Perhaps the most difficult barrier to presenting the gospel is introducing the subject of spiritual matters. In the following material, you will learn an effective means to overcome this barrier. In everyday conversations you will be able to take the opportunity to share the gospel by using this introduction, which you can remember by the acrostic S.H.A.R.E.

1) Secular Life

As you talk with friends and acquaintances, you'll often have the opportunity to guide the conversation by choosing the topics. People typically are interested in talking about themselves. Begin by asking basic questions about their secular life—family, occupation, hometown, etc. As you talk, be aware of areas of need or problems they are experiencing.

2) Home Church

Though some nonbelievers feel threatened when asked about their spiritual life, they are generally open to talking about their church involvement. During your conversation, simply ask if they belong to a church, or ask about their church background. This is particularly easy to ask if your friend has visited your church.

3) Attendance At Church

Having introduced the subject of church involvement, ask your friend how actively he has attended church. Be sure not to show any disapproval if he has rarely attended.

4) Reasons For The Church

Continue discussing the church in the following manner. “The important thing, really, is not whether we are Methodists, Baptists or Presbyterians. The important thing is that the church is doing its job. In my opinion, the church’s primary responsibility is to do all it can to help people find purpose for living, freedom—that is, the power to do what one knows he should do, not the license to do what he wants to do—and assurance of eternal life. Would you agree?”

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5) Exploratory Question

Continue the conversation in this way. “Of course, there are other things the church should do. But it seems to me that these are the main reasons for its existence. And yet, I have found that it’s quite common for someone to grow up in church—even be quite active in it—and fail to experience purpose, freedom and assurance of eternal life.”

“Tom, do you feel the church has helped you to know this kind of purpose and freedom in life? What about assurance—has the church helped you find assurance that when you die you will spend eternity in heaven?”

- If the person says “no” to the last question, respond by saying, “Could I show you a simple diagram that helps explain how to experience this purpose, freedom, and assurance?”
- If the person answers “yes”, respond by saying “Great! How did you come to this assurance in your life?” As he explains, if you doubt whether he really understands the gospel and His need, ask, “Can I show you an interesting diagram? It really helped me understand how to have purpose, freedom and assurance.” (See Tool #4)

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2. SPIRITUAL JOURNEY QUESTIONS

- 1) Where Are You In Your Spiritual Journey?
- 2) Do You Have Any Spiritual Interests?
- 3) How Would Describe Your Spiritual Journey So Far?
- 4) To What Degree Would You Say You Are Experiencing Life Satisfaction?"

Sample: "You know, as long as we've been friends, I don't think I've ever asked you ..."

3. THE ANSWER

The Answer is a brief book that explains that human quest for glory, grace and truth. It is an engaging and enjoyable read that will prove useful for introducing people on your prayer list to the gospel.

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."

—Philemon 1:6 (NIV)



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1) Introducing *The Answer* (Conversation Suggested Outline)

(1) Spiritual interest?

“Do you have any interest in spiritual things?”

Actively listen to his/her answer.

(2) Spiritual journey?

“How would you describe your spiritual journey so far?”

Actively listen to his/her answer.

“In my spiritual journey, I’ve discovered that the understanding of three words answered my main questions about how to have a healthy, meaningful, spiritual life—glory, grace, and truth.”

(3) Heard about *The Answer*?

“Have you heard about a little book called *The Answer* that explains these three words?”

Actively listen to his/her answer.

“I keep a copy with me and I’d be happy to give it to you if you would be interested in reading it.”

(4) Want *The Answer*?

“Would you like a copy?”

If yes ...

“After you’ve read it I’d especially like to know what you think about the last four pages. I think you’ll find them especially helpful.”

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2) Follow-up From Giving *The Answer* (Conversation Suggested Outline)

(1) Read *The Answer*?

“Did you get a chance to read *The Answer*?”

Actively listen to his/her answer.

(2) What did you think?

“What did you think about it?”

Actively listen to his/her answer.

“In the last few pages, the author mentioned the idea of investigating a more intentional spiritual journey using some ‘Cliff notes’ type booklets called, *Life Issues*.”

(3) Interested In *Life Issues*?

“Do you have any interest in seeing these booklets?”

If yes ...

“I enjoy meeting with people to help them walk through a spiritual investigation. Some are uncertain about their religious beliefs, while others admit that their beliefs aren’t firm convictions that positively impact the way they think and live. In either case, people benefit from going through these booklets with someone they can bounce their questions off.”

(4) Want to investigate?

“Would you be interested in trying the first booklet with me to see if it is helpful to you?”

If yes

“Okay, Let’s investigate this way: First, read the short introduction. Then, every day read some from the chapters from John’s Gospel. In about a week we’ll get together again to discuss your thoughts and questions.”

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4. THE INTRODUCTORY DIAGRAM

Objectives: The primary goal of the diagram is to invite your friend to do an investigation over period of four weeks. The diagram explains three drives that we all have and how we can experience purpose, freedom and assurance.

1) Diagram Outline

- (1) The progression of boxes

- (2) The primary question
 - the wrong answer

 - the correct answer

- (3) The importance of investigation
 - the wrong approach

 - the best approach

Do you feel the Church has helped you to know this kind of purpose and freedom in life?

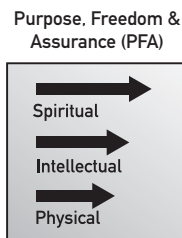
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2) How To Explain The Diagram

(1) Draw the first box



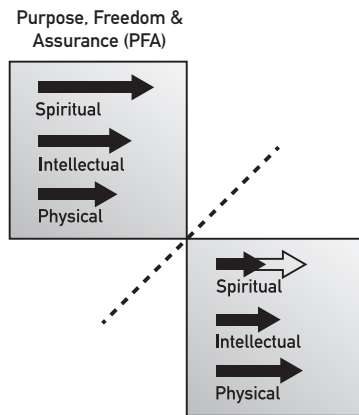
“Let this box represent a person’s life. Man has three basic inner drives - a spiritual drive (that is, the desire or capacity to know and accept God), an intellectual drive (the quest to discover the truth), and a physical drive (the desire to have physical needs met). God’s original design for man was for His spiritual drive to be the strongest of His three drives. Whenever a person’s spiritual drive is stronger than His physical drive, he enjoys purpose, freedom, and assurance.” (Write the initials of these three words on top of the box.)

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(2) Draw the second box



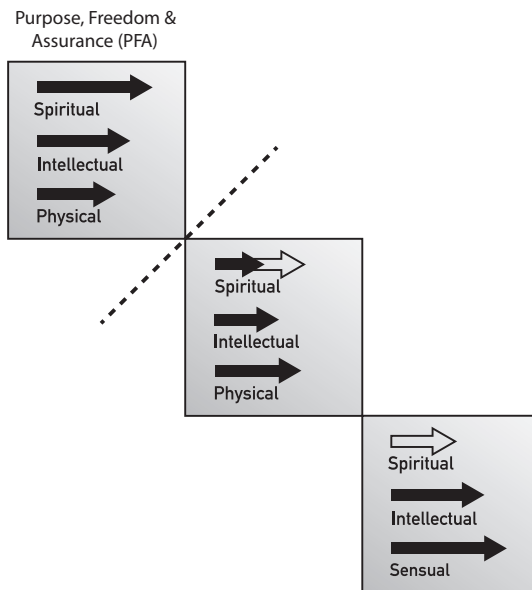
“However, we have all disobeyed God, and the more we go our own way apart from God, the more these inner drives get out of balance. When a person’s physical drive becomes stronger than His spiritual drive, He loses His sense of purpose and freedom, and becomes uncertain of His spiritual destiny. Man usually senses His imbalance at this point and often tries to compensate by means of pseudo-spirituality – for example, through morality, religion, good deeds, and things like that.” (As you make this last point, draw an extended dotted arrow to show the spiritual drive.)

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(3) Draw the third box



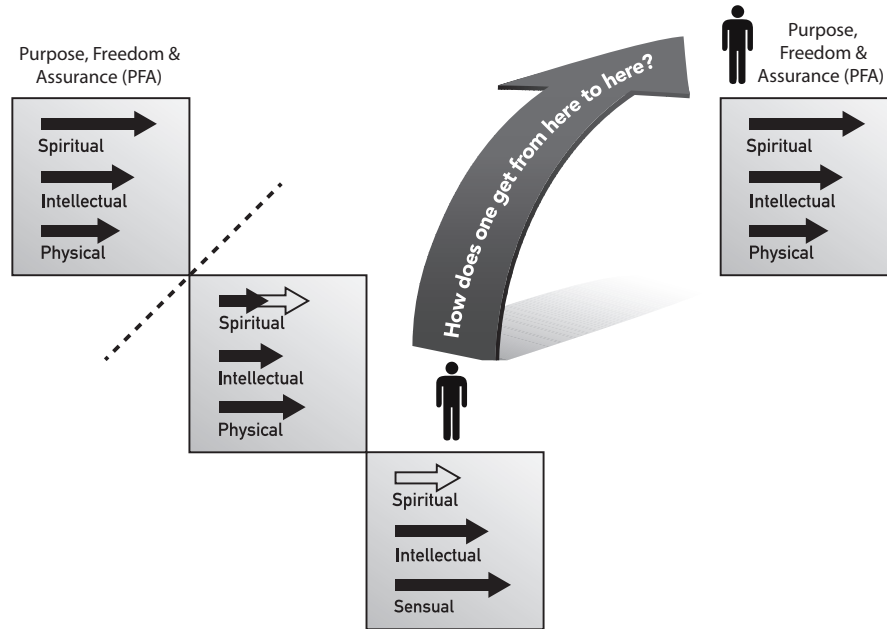
“Unless something turns us around from the direction we are headed, the spiritual drive will disappear. At this point, one becomes skeptical concerning the existence of God or at least of the reliability of His Word, and as a result His physical drive becomes an uncontrollable sensual drive. Does this make sense to you?”

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(4) Introduce the primary question



“These boxes are like steps. In reality, this could be a continuum of perhaps hundreds of boxes or steps. But let’s say we find ourselves here in this third box. (Draw stick figures on lower box). When we’re there, we begin to take a hard look at our lives; asking ourselves where is the greater purpose, freedom, and assurance that we are missing. We happen to notice people who claim to have changed lives, who have found purpose, freedom and assurance after having lived where we are now. (Draw fourth box as shown with another stick man.) After observing their lives, we conclude they are sincere, and that what they have must be genuine. As a result, we begin to ask the question, “How does one get from here (point to lower stick figure) to here (point to the last added box)? I am personally convinced there is one important step that can get someone to this place.”

KEY QUESTION: How does one get from here to here?

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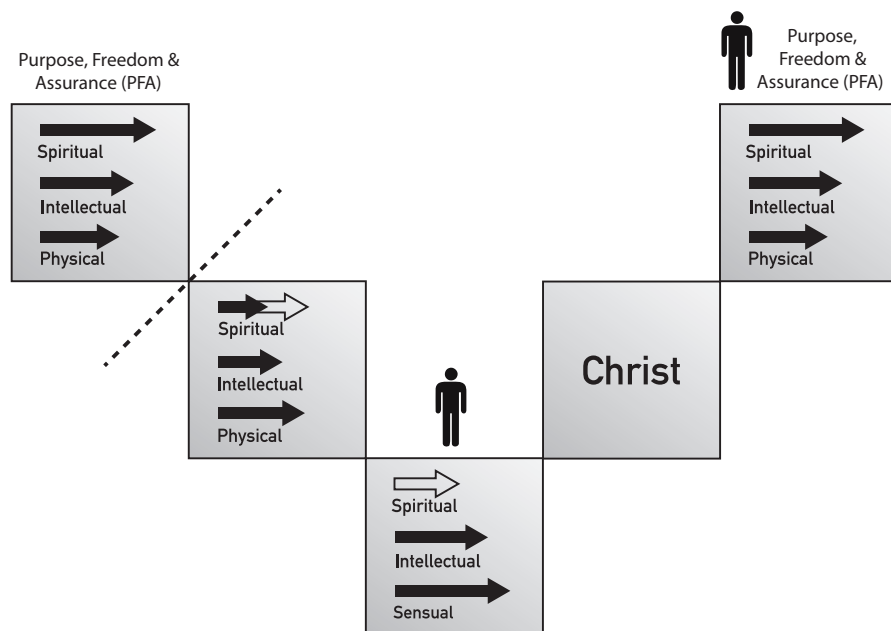
(5) Explain the answer

- the wrong answer

“Many times we hear preachers and religious people say the answer is found in praying or having an emotional experience, or walking down the aisle of a church. However, many of us have already experienced these things ourselves – or watched others who have had such an experience – but a week or two later, lives really haven’t changed. As a result, we end up tagging religion as irrelevant.”

- the correct answer

“But I am convinced that the church has led us astray with such simplistic answers. The Bible explains one step that, I believe, does lead to genuine purpose, freedom, and assurance – if followed. (Draw the last box as shown.) This step relates to the person of Jesus Christ. (Write the word Christ in the box as shown below.) Now, I realize people have all kinds of opinions as to who He is.”



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(6) Emphasize the importance of investigation

“Tom, perhaps you’ve heard of C. S. Lewis, the great English author, scholar, and professor. Lewis was an agnostic for many years. As an agnostic, he investigated the person of Christ from an intellectual perspective - after which he professed Christ to be God Himself. He felt that everyone, like himself, should have the opportunity to investigate the claims of

Jesus Christ. Lewis said that, as one considers Christ, he must come to one of three conclusions. Either He was a liar because He claimed to be God and knew He wasn’t. Or, secondly, He was a lunatic—that is, He was merely a man who claimed to be God and really thought He was. Or, thirdly, He was exactly who He claimed to be, the Lord of the universe.” (Lewis states: “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him. ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. You must make a choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God or else a madman or something worse.”)

C.S. Lewis:

- *Lion, Witch and Wardrobe*
- *Shadowlands*
- Friends with JRR Tolkien

“As I considered this myself, I decided if my investigation led me to the conclusion that Jesus was a liar or a lunatic, I would then be fool to follow Him. But if I concluded He was Lord of the universe, I would be a fool of fools not to follow Him.”

- the wrong approach to investigation

“Tom, everyone should have the opportunity, if he desires, to investigate the claims of Jesus. But now we have to ask the question, ‘How does someone investigate Christ?’ Well, obviously the place to start is the Bible. But these days when time is such a precious commodity, few of us would take the time for a lengthy personal investigation. And even if we had the time, most of us would not know where to begin. We would probably start reading in Genesis, stumbling through a bunch of ‘begats’, start in Leviticus and read about a lot of animals getting killed, and then hit Deuteronomy and find a thousand irrelevant things not to do. Finally, we’d probably lay the Bible down and conclude we just can’t understand it.”

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- the correct approach to investigation

“Not only that, but most people like myself don’t like to be preached to. We’d rather be given the information to study on our own and have a credible reference to whom we may address our questions. It seemed to me that what we need today is a sort of “Cliff Notes” or “Spark Notes” to the critical issues of an investigation. I have four booklets which are designed to help a person in His investigation. Each deals with one critical question. The first booklet deals with the question, “How can Christians say the Bible, written two thousand years ago, can be a perfect writing without error?” The second booklet addresses the question, “How can Christians believe that all people, including good people, deserve eternal punishment?” The third booklet explains why Christians claim that among all the religious leaders, “Jesus Christ is the only way to God.” The fourth book asks the question, “What is required to have eternal life?”

(7) The invitation

“I know you are as busy as I am, and you’re probably not looking for any extra activities, but I would be more than happy to meet with you to look at some of this material. Would you be interested?”

(8) The potential assignment

If he answers “yes,” schedule a time to meet and say, “Tom, to make this worth our time, let me mention that there are two things you need to do. First, I’d like you to read the short booklet I’ll give you each week prior to our meeting. Second, as you come across the questions, look at the Bible reference. Anytime you read something you don’t understand or agree with, jot it down on a piece of paper, or make a note in your booklet. Read a little each day and not all in one sitting. The first booklet discusses why Christians believe the Bible is God’s Word.” (At this time give him Life Issues Book 1 and set up a time for your next appointment.)

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3) Diagram Outline Review

(1) Draw the first box

- Man has always had three basic inner drives; spiritual, intellectual, and physical.
- God's design; Spiritual to be stronger and when so, person enjoys PFA.

(2) Draw the second box

- We have all disobeyed God and gone our own way; the inner drives get out of balance.
- When physical is stronger than spiritual, one can lose His sense of PF and be unsure of His spiritual destiny.
- One senses this imbalance and tries to compensate through morality, religion, good deeds, etc. (Draw extended dotted arrow to show spiritual drive.)

(3) Draw the third box

- Unless something turns us around, we will gradually see the spiritual drive disappear.
- One can become skeptical of God or the reliability of His Word and the physical drive becomes an uncontrollable sensual desire.

(4) Introduce primary question (How does one get from here to here?)

- Lets say we find ourselves in the third box. (Draw stick figure over third box.)
- When there, we begin to ask ourselves if we are missing PFA. We meet people who claim to have found PFA. (Draw fourth box at top right.)
- We ask: "How does one get from here (Point to lower stick figure) to here?" (Point to the top right box.)
- I'm convinced there is one important step that can get someone from here to here.

The Wrong Answer (go to church, etc.)

- We may hear religious people say the answer is in praying or having an emotional experience, or walking down the aisle of a church.
- We see those whose lives haven't really changed.

The Correct Answer (Christ)

- Bible does explain one step that leads to genuine PFA, if followed. (Draw the last box.)
- Step relates to the person of Jesus Christ. (Write the word Christ in the box.)
- Now I realize people have all kinds of opinions as to who He is.

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(5) Emphasize the importance of investigation (C. S. Lewis)

- C. S. Lewis, the great English author, scholar and professor was an agnostic.
- He investigated from intellectual perspective and professed Christ to be God.
- Lewis said that as one considers Christ, he must come to one of three conclusions:
 1. Liar—Claimed to be God but wasn't.
 2. Lunatic—Merely a man who claimed to be God and thought He was.
 3. Lord—He was exactly who He claimed to be, Lord of the Universe.

Wrong Approach to Investigation (Read the Bible cover to cover)

- Start in the Bible, but many of us don't have time or we don't know where to begin.
- Once we start, we may just lay the Bible down, conclude we don't understand.

Correct Approach to Investigation (Cliff Notes)

- We'd like to have the information and study on our own.
- We need "Cliff Notes."
- Three of these *Life Issues* booklets deal with critical questions:
 - How can Christians say the Bible, written 2,000 years ago, can be a perfect writing without error?
 - How can Christians believe that all people, including good people, deserve eternal punishment?
 - Why do Christians claim that among all the religious leaders, Jesus is the only way to God?
- Life Issues Book 4 deals with: How does one have eternal life?

(6) The invitation

- I know you're busy, but I'd be happy to meet with you to look at some of this material.
- Would you be interested?

(7) The general assignment

- Answers Yes? Schedule time and ask the person to read the short booklet you'll give them prior to the meeting
- If you come across a Bible reference, look it up.
- If you read something you don't understand or agree with, jot it down (Give him Life Issues Book 1 and set up a time for the next appointment)

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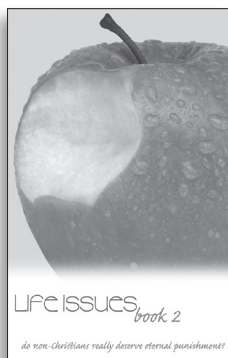


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THE PRIMARY TOOL (“Life Issues” Books)

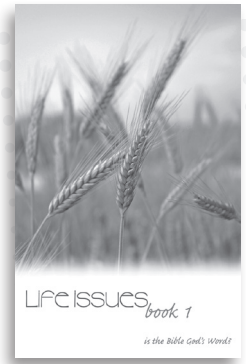
The following information is provided as an additional resource as you begin to walk through the Life Issues booklets with someone. Each booklet has several questions to assist you as you discuss the Gospel of John. Those questions are answered below for your convenience. In addition to the provided answers there is additional information included that was covered during the Express Your Faith Seminar. This information was transcribed from Randy Pope’s training during the seminar. The transcription has been modified and shortened for reading ease. If you would like to review the instruction on the Life Issues booklets, locate the audio (MP3) links within the seminar guidebook.

When someone accepts the invitation to do an investigation, you should assume that this is going to be an experience that they will find enjoyable and interesting. One of the key things to remember during the investigation is how easily one can be embarrassed simply because they do not know the answers to the questions in the booklets. Part of your responsibility is to minimize that embarrassment. Remember this is a time for investigation that values brevity and privacy. As you walk through this information with the person you are meeting with remember this time is meant to answer their questions and to expose them to the Word of God. If you do not know the answer to one of their questions do not hesitate to say that you really don’t know the answer but you will have an answer for them by the next meeting. By the time you complete these four booklets they will have had the opportunity to investigate and will have many of their questions answered.



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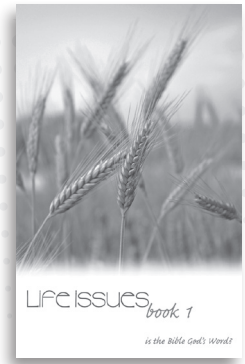
1. “LIFE ISSUES” BOOK 1 - THE BAIT Is The Bible God’s Word?

- 1) The Two Most Important Questions
- 2) The First Issue To Investigate
- 3) The Bible’s Incredible Unity
- 4) The Bible’s Historical Accuracy
- 5) The Bible’s Fulfilled Prophecies
- 6) The Bible’s Miraculous Preservation

Notes For Additional Insights

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2. “LIFE ISSUES” BOOK 1 - THE HOOK (JOHN 1-5)

1) To Whom Does ‘The Word’ Refer? Why Is The Name Used? (Jn. 1:1, 14)

This question may be difficult for some. Read John 1:14 from the Gospel of John. After reading that verse the answer becomes a little more apparent—Jesus. The second part of this question may be more challenging. The name Word is used because it represents a conversation between two parties. God is one party and the human race is the other party. Jesus, God’s Son, is the “communication link” that allows us to have conversation with God.

2) How Did The World Receive The Word? (Jn. 1:10)

A reading of the Bible and history shows us that Jesus, the Word, was not received well.

[Additional thought: Yes, Jesus was ultimately crucified, but as you read the stories of His early interactions with the people He encountered one could easily conclude that He was enthusiastically embraced by those who came in contact with Him. The Jewish people were anticipating the arrival of a Messiah. They had a sense that when the Messiah came He would deliver them from Roman occupation. So when Jesus came and performed miracles they immediately hailed Him as the Messiah. However, as His ministry among the people continued His message became repulsive to them, particularly to the religious leaders, even to the point of them wanting to kill Him despite the fact that so many people were attracted to Him.]

3) Why Was Christ Called The Lamb Of God? (Jn. 1:39)

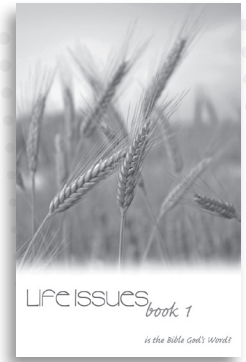
The correct answer for this question requires some understanding of the Old Testament. When John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the “Lamb of God,” he was referring to the Passover that the Jewish people would have understood. Just as a lamb without blemish was used to pay for the sins of the people now this “God-Lamb” was coming to pay the penalty for the sins of the human race.

4) What Is The Significance Of Christ’s Words, ‘Destroy This Temple And In Three Days I Will Raise It Up’? (Jn. 2:19)

The contrast in this question is between the physical structure, the Temple, and Jesus’ reference to Himself as the temple that is to be destroyed and raised in three days. This is His first reference to His death and resurrection.

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5) What Did Jesus Mean When He Told Nicodemus He Must Be Born Again? (Jn. 3:3)

Jesus was referring to a rebirth that can only be brought about by God. Even though the words “born again” may seem misplaced or reflective of language that is offensive, it is the language that Jesus used.

[Additional thought: Before you answer this question you may want to illustrate how words can be misleading in the way they are used today. Draw the six boxes. In the first three label them as you see below. As you draw the boxes ask the individual to pick a box that describes where they think they are.

Not a Christian	Christian	Born Again
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Most people say they are “A Christian” and the balance usually say they are “Not a Christian.” You may want to clarify at this point that they are saying that they are not “A Born Again Christian.”

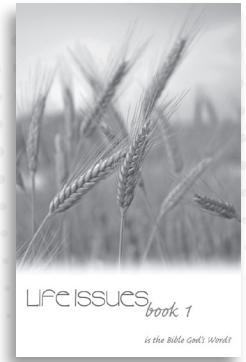
In the second row of boxes label them as you see below.

Not Pregnant	Semi-Pregnant	Pregnant
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[In this illustration, imagine a woman who wants to be pregnant. What are the possible options? She could be “Not Pregnant” or she could be “Pregnant.” What would you say to a woman who said she was “Semi-Pregnant?” One might conclude that the woman does not understand pregnancy. The point that is to be made here is that Jesus used the word “born again” to describe a person who is properly relating to Him. So the Born Again Christian is the proper way to describe someone in a relationship with Jesus. As confusing as it may seem at this time, by the end of the investigation it will be clear.]

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6) What Did Jesus Say Was Necessary To Have Eternal Life? (Jn. 3:15)

“Believe” is what Jesus said was necessary for eternal life.

[Additional thought: To illustrate the word believe the story of the tightrope walker is helpful here. The tightrope walker walked across Niagara Falls on a tightrope and returned without incident. He then took a wheelbarrow across the falls and again returned without incident. He then asked the crowd if they thought He could do it again with someone in the wheelbarrow, and they enthusiastically said yes. He pointed to someone in the crowd who seemed most enthusiastic and asked them to climb into the wheelbarrow, and they refused. Why? Because they believed in their mind He could do it, but they did not believe in their heart that He could do it with them in the wheelbarrow. It has been observed that there will be some people who will miss heaven by a mere eighteen inches, the distance from their head to their heart. This is what the word “believe” means, to trust and to take into your heart.]

7) What Is The Significance Of Christ’s Claim To Be The Messiah? (Jn. 4:26)

Christ claimed to be God. This bold assertion by Jesus stands in opposition to those who say He never claimed to be God. Furthermore He makes this claim in other situations throughout the Gospel of John.

8) How Did Jesus Describe His Relationship With The Father? (Jn. 5:18-24)

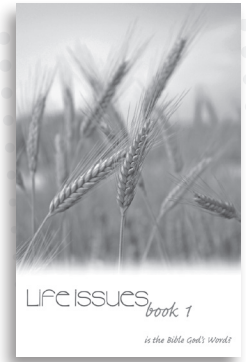
He said He and God were one. So again Jesus claimed equality with God.

9) Can Someone Be In Right Relationship With God With Out Being In Right Relationship With Christ? (Jn. 5:23)

After working through the questions up to this point, there is a strong likelihood that the correct answer will be given, which is No. This may not mean they agree, but it is difficult for them to deny this answer based solely on the chapters they have read so far.

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Notes For Additional Insights

Transition From *Life Issues Book 1* To *Life Issues Book 2*:

Upon completing *Life Issues Book 1*, the goal is to create interest in continuing the investigation and moving on to *Life Issues Book 2*. In *Book 2* one of the questions that is dealt with is, 'why would God send someone to hell that has never heard of Jesus?' Remind them to read a little of the Gospel of John each day.



Audio recording of Randy Pope explaining how to use
Life Issues Book 1
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ADDITIONAL CONTENT FOR BOOK 1

HOW CAN THE **BIBLE** BE GOD'S WORD **WITHOUT ERROR**?

Five realities which make it reasonable to believe that the **Bible** is **God's Word**.

1. The Bible's historical reliability

Louis Markos, Apologetics for the 21st Century, p. 146

In order to substantiate the basic claims of Christ and the essential doctrines of Christianity, the apologist need not prove the inspiration or inerrancy of the Bible; he need only show the Bible to be reliable in its account of Jewish and Christian history.

- 1) Dates, Places, People, Storyline
- 2) Archeological discoveries

William F. Albright (Archeologist)

Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of the innumerable details and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.

Nelson Glueck, Rivers in the desert, p. 136 (Jewish Author)

It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.

A.H. Sayce (Oxford Professor & Archeologist)

Time after time the...assertions of a skeptical criticism have been disproved by archaeological discovery, events and personages that were confidently pronounced to be mythical have been shown to be historical, and the older writers have turned out to have been better acquainted with what they were describing than the modern critic who has flouted them.

- 3) Extrabiblical writings

Jefrey Breshears (Apologet)

Viewed merely as an ancient text, it would be regarded by all serious & honest scholars as probably the most reliable historical text of the ancient world.

2. Historicity of the Resurrection

- 1) Flavius Josephus—Jewish priest and historian (1st century)

Flavius Josephus

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man [if indeed one ought to call him a man.] For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. [He was the Christ.] When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the

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highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. [On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him.] And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

2) Historical writings regarding the disciples' martyrdom

3. The Bible's Unified Theme

- 1) 1500 years
- 2) 40 authors
- 3) 3 different languages
- 4) Different continents & cultures
- 5) Absence of contradictions

4. The Bible's Fulfilled Prophecies

- 1) Over 300 Old Testament prophecies
- 2) Mathematical Improbability
 - If Only 8 prophecies are true (1 to power of 17 (zeros))
 - Birth (Bethlehem) - sold out – 30 pieces of silver
 - Descendent of David - hands/feet pierced (crucified)
 - Betrayed by a friend - buried in rich man's tomb

5. The Bible Manuscripts' Preservation

- 1) Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Until 1947 (oldest = 9th century A.D.)
 - Qumran scroll (1000 years earlier)
 - In 1 chapter of 166 words*
 - 3 words changed
 - no change to meaning of text
- 2) Plato—1200 years later—7 manuscripts
- 3) Aristotle—1400 years later—7 manuscripts
- 4) New Testament—same time period—14,000 manuscripts
- 5) Historical chart illustration regarding transcriptions
- 6) Transcriptions versus translations and paraphrases

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WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION?

1. Realities to be considered

Jeffrey Breshears, An Introduction to Bibliology, pg. 122

Not only does the Bible support modern cosmology (including an instantaneous creation and the constant expansion of the universe), but it did so more than 3,000 years ago in stark contrast to all other ancient cosmological theories and long before Moses and other writers of the texts would have known the truth about such phenomena. Indeed, the Bible describes features of the universe that would not be discovered until recent times. This knowledge is only explicable in terms of supernatural revelation.

- 1) Now agreeing —outside power would be required to start the universe
- 2) No evidence to show living creatures produce outside its own kind

Stephen J. Gould (agnostic scientist)

Species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on earth. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they finally disappear.

2. The Logic that an Incredible Design Requires a Designer

- 1) Illustration of an iPhone
- 2) Facts about human DNA:
 - The human cell has 46 chromosomes that are built like little ladders
 - There are 6 billion rungs within the DNA ladders of each cell
 - If you spliced together and stretched out the rungs of the 46 chromosomes, each cell would be 2 meters long
 - The average human body has about 100 trillion cells, so if you spliced together and stretched out the DNA within the human body there would be 200 trillion meters of DNA
 - That would be the distance between the earth and the sun multiple times
 - In many diseases only 1 rung of a single chromosome will be impaired

3. Facts about the human heart:

- The heart is a pump, usually beating about 60 to 100 times per minute. With each heartbeat, the heart sends blood throughout our bodies, carrying oxygen to every cell. After delivering the oxygen, the blood returns to the heart. The heart then sends the blood to the lungs to pick up more oxygen. This cycle repeats over and over again. The human heart beats 2 billion times over a 70 year period.

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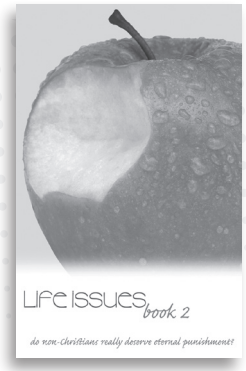
- Your heart pumps blood around the body all the time - about 5 litres (8 pints) of it. This is called circulation. Your heart, blood and blood vessels together make up your cardiovascular system (or heart and circulatory system)
- The blood vessels carry blood away from and towards the heart. Arteries carry blood away from the heart and veins carry blood back to the heart.
- The circulatory system carries oxygen, nutrients, and hormones to cells, and removes waste products, like carbon dioxide. These roadways travel in one direction only, to keep things going where they should.
- At each body part, a network of tiny blood vessels called capillaries connects the very small artery branches to very small veins. The capillaries have very thin walls, and through them, nutrients and oxygen are delivered to the cells. Waste products are brought into the capillaries. (The system that contains the heart and the blood vessels and moves blood throughout the body.) This system helps tissues get enough oxygen and nutrients, and it helps them get rid of waste products.
- The body is made up of 100 trillion cells and every cell needs oxygen every second.
- By adulthood, we each have 60,000 miles of blood vessels inside our bodies – that’s more than twice the distance around the world. Those vessels keep blood flowing, supplying your tissues with oxygen and nutrients, and keeping your organs, including the heart, healthy.

4. Facts about the human brain:

- The human brain weighs 3 pounds and represents 2% of the weight of the body. It is 75% water and is the fattest organ in the body. It is 60% fat. The brain is the seat of intelligence and is the crown jewel of the human body. It can process 400 billion bits of information per second and runs on 12 watts of power (20% of the body’s energy).
- The primary functional unit is a microscopic cell in the brain called the neuron. All sensations, movements, thoughts, memories, and feelings are the result of signals that pass through neurons.
- The brain has 86 billion neurons and 400 miles of capillaries (blood vessels).
- These neurons make 10 quadrillion calculations per second.
- The neurons make 500 million connections through their branch system performing a dazzling array of mental processes every second including sensations and perceptions, how we reason, how we think, our emotions, our mental images, our attention span, and learning; memory which is essentially a pattern of connections between neurons.
- A piece of brain matter the size of a grain of sand has 100,000 neurons with 2 million axons (transmission lines from the neurons) and one billion synapses (small gap at the end of the neuron that allows a signal to pass from one neuron to the next).

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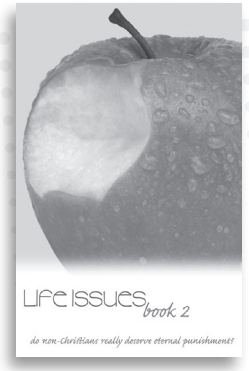
1. "LIFE ISSUES" BOOK 2 - THE BAIT

Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment?

- 1) An Apparent Overstatement
- 2) Good People Are Not Necessarily Righteous People - There Are No Innocent People
- 3) Everyone Has An Opportunity
- 4) God Does Not Deal Only With Individuals
- 5) God Would Not Be Righteous If Sinful People Were Not Punished
- 6) God Is Both Loving And Just
- 7) Man Is In A Predicament
- 8) The First Of Three Required Statements

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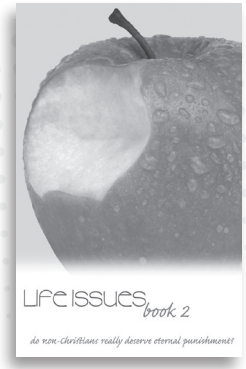
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Notes For Additional Insights

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2. "LIFE ISSUES" BOOK 2 - THE HOOK (JOHN 6-10)

1) What Does Jesus Mean When He Says He Is The Bread Of Life? (Jn. 6:35)

Just as "bread" is needed for nourishment and survival, Jesus spoke of being the bread of life that alone has the ability to satisfy our ultimate needs.

[Additional thought: The Story of Glory can be helpful here to provide an overview of the Biblical story. There are six "chapters" to this story but at this time the first four chapters are all that are necessary to share. Chapter 1 is "Designed with Glory," the glory (glory is defined as renown) that God has placed in our life. In creation mankind was conceived in glory and born into glory but this glory was lost when Adam sinned. This leads to Chapter 2, "Fall from Glory." That glory was stripped away because of sin. Chapter 3 is the "Search for Glory." Our lives, from infancy to death, are an unending search for glory to replace that glory that was forfeited. Any time we go after anything other than Jesus to satisfy this longing, it's a false glory. We refer to this as counterfeit glory. Chapter 4 is the "Discovery of Glory." Colossians 1:27, describes Jesus as the hope of glory. So in Jesus we find the ultimate satisfaction we long for that will never be fully and completely satisfied by things in this world.]

2) What Does Jesus Mean When He Keeps Saying That His Time Has Not Yet Come? (Jn. 7:8, 30)

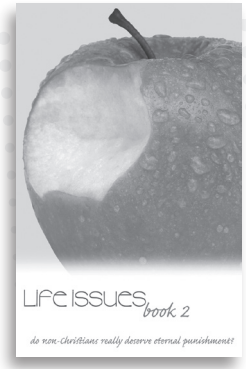
His time has not come to die. He knew when He would die; He knew how He would die, it was part of a plan.

3) In Jesus' Teaching, What Did He Say Was The Consequence Of Not Believing That He Was The Christ (The Messiah Of The Old Testament)? (Jn. 8:24)

He clearly said that we would all die in our sins. Jesus spoke as though He alone was the answer. The next question and answer speaks to this more clearly. Jesus taught that to be His disciple meant to follow His Word.

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4) What Does It Mean To Hold To His Teaching? (Jn. 8:31)

Jesus clearly taught that those who follow His teaching will follow Him. Over the next two booklets He is going to make this point again.

[Additional thought: It is not uncommon to see people who say they are spiritual and may very well be faithful attenders of a local church. However, as you have the opportunity to observe their lives there are inconsistencies. In fact, they are not really following Jesus at all. Everyone stumbles and falls from time to time, but the effort and intention is to be a faithful follower of Jesus.]

5) What Does It Mean To Be Free? (Jn. 8:32-36)

To be free is to have the ability to do what we should do, not the license to do whatever we want to do.

[Additional thought: The train illustration may be helpful here. Imagine a train that decides that real freedom is the ability to go where there are no tracks. As it leaves the constraints imposed on it through the tracks, the train has a euphoric sense of freedom for a few seconds and then it crashes and tears into pieces. The greatest freedom is available to the train by staying on the tracks. God has given us “tracks”, it is on those tracks that we find the ability to do what we should do.]

6) The Jews Of Jesus’ Day Certainly Had A Strong Belief In God. Did Jesus Accept Such A Belief As Sufficient? (Jn. 8:38-47)

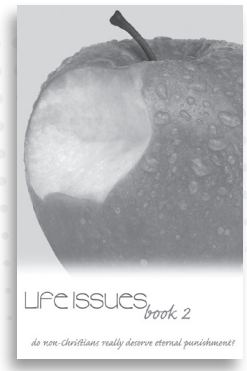
Jesus did not think this was sufficient. In many of Jesus’ comments He insisted that the only way to the Father was through Him. Belief in God is not enough; one must come through Jesus to have a relationship with God.

7) What Did Jesus Mean When He Said, ‘I Tell You The Truth, Before Abraham Was Born, I Am’? (Jn. 8:58)

This particular statement refers back to Hebrew language that deals with existence and being. In this comment Jesus told those with whom He was speaking that before Abraham existed, He was. How could this be, He was only in His early thirties? This was not about His chronological age. Jesus claimed that He was preexistent. Once again Jesus claimed to be God.

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8) What Does Jesus Mean When He Said, 'I Am The Door For The Sheep'? (Jn. 10:7)

We all know that a door allows one to enter and exit. Jesus said for those who are a part of His flock, they will come in through Him. He is the door to the Father. This claim by Jesus to being the exclusive entry is not something that His followers claimed for Him; this was His claim.

9) Why Did The Jews Want To Kill Jesus? (Jn. 10:30-33)

Because Jesus claimed to be God the religious leaders wanted to kill Him for what they perceived was blasphemy.

Transition From Life Issues Book 2 To Life Issues Book 3:

Life Issues Book 2 is one of the hardest of the four booklets. The next book answers the question, 'how can we believe that Jesus is the only way to God?' Assuming the person you are meeting with is doing their work and is finding this a worthwhile experience give them Life Issues Book 3 and schedule the next meeting. Remind them to read a little of the Gospel of John each day.

Life Issues Book 3 is a little easier to understand. Miracles were a prominent part of Jesus' earthly ministry. It is interesting that during Jesus' ministry there was really no dispute about the fact that He performed miracles. The dispute was how and when He did the miracles. Among the miracles surrounding Jesus, the centerpiece of the Christian faith is the resurrection. If the resurrection took place as described in the Bible then the claims of Jesus and the Christian faith are strongly supported. If the resurrection did not take place, then the Christian faith becomes less compelling.

First required statement to become a believer is that we have to believe we are a sinner deserving to be separated from God. Second required statement, we must believe that Christ alone paid the penalty. If we believe number one and thus agree that there is a problem then it follows that number two provides us with the solution.



Audio recording of Randy Pope explaining how to use Life Issues Book 2
www.perimeter.org/express-usebook2mp3



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ADDITIONAL CONTENT FOR BOOK 2

HOW COULD GOD ALLOW **GOOD PEOPLE**, OUTSIDE OF CHRISTIANITY, TO BE **SEPARATED FROM GOD** FOR ALL ETERNITY?

1. People are typically good, with a little bad.
2. Some people never get a sufficient opportunity to know about God.
3. God only deals with people as individuals.
4. It would be best if God would forgive everyone and punish no one.

Four Presuppositions of the Christian Faith

1. Good people are not necessarily righteous people—There are no innocent people.
 - Little girl in North Africa
 - Golf professional analogy (Grip, Posture, and Alignment)
 - Good
 - Good with a little bad
 - Bad with a little good
 - Bad
 - “There are none good, no not one.”
 - David (Psalm 14)
 - Paul (Romans 3)
 - Jesus “Why call me good?” (Mark 10:18)
 - “Dead in your sin” (Ephesians 2:1)
 - Funeral home illustration

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2. Everyone has a sufficient opportunity to know about God.

- Yes, though not the same opportunity, but never the less, a sufficient opportunity
- What are all people guilty of?
 - Not of rejecting Jesus
- If guilty of neglecting Jesus
 - Why the Great Commission?
 - God would be unjust for not sending His son and would make salvation no longer a gift of God's grace.
 - "No one will be judged for not obeying revelation they did not have."
 - John Piper
- Man innately knows there is a God (Romans 1)
 - Ecclesiastes 3:11 - "God has set eternity in their (man's) heart."
- Man is guilty of rejecting God, not Jesus (Romans 1:18)
- Those who desire God will be given an understanding of Him.
 - Story of Cornelius (Acts 10)
 - Dreams and visions in Muslim countries
- Not treating people the same is not being unfair (Matthew 20 parable)

3. God does not deal only with individuals.

- Westerners = Individualistic
- Easterners (Biblical days) = Corporate personality
 - Story of Achan (Joshua 7)
- We tend to dislike corporate personality, yet it is one of mankind's greatest gifts
 - Play out scenario with and without corporate personality
(1st Adam and 2nd Adam)

4. God would not be righteous if sinful people were not punished.

- To not punish sinful men would require God to lie
- Numbers 23:19

Requirement #1 to become a Christian

Must believe we are sinners, deserving to be eternally separated from God.

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HOW CAN A **GOOD GOD** ALLOW SO MANY **BAD THINGS** TO HAPPEN TO **GOOD PEOPLE**?

Two Common Assumptions

1. I deserve better from God.

Rabbi Kushner's perspective

Because man is good and God is good and bad things happen to good people, God is not involved in bad things, not only not allowing them, but not able to stop them from happening.

2. I am wiser than God regarding what I need and therefore my agenda is better than God's agenda.

Two Presuppositions of the Christian Faith

1. No one deserves good from God

2. Man is never wiser than God regarding what man needs and, therefore, man's agenda is never as good as God's agenda.

There are more important things to God than keeping sinful man from suffering.

Joni Eareckson Tada

God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

Three Things God Loves

1. He loves exposing man's sin so as to make him seek God.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 142 & 143

The beauty of being exposed and empty is that God can then cover you. Like a surface that must be scrubbed clean before you can bond anything to it, the bonding of intimacy between God and us won't adhere until the film of dirt goes, the ambitions, the vanity, everything that sets itself up against others and God....Affliction is the gristmill where pride is reduced to powder, leaving our souls naked, bare, and bonded to Christ. And it feels beautiful.

2. He loves perfecting a person's inner being, keeping his heart where it was designed to be.

James 1:2-4

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure and we thought we would never live through it. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves, but on God.

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Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:7-9

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Hebrews 12:11

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 202 & 204

Earth's pain keeps crushing our hopes, reminding us this world can never satisfy; only heaven can. And every time we begin to nestle too comfortably on this planet, God cracks open the locks of the dam to allow an ice-cold splash of suffering to wake us from our spiritual slumber....Suffering keeps swelling our feet so that the earth's shoes won't fit....Suffering sandblasts us to the core, removing sin and impurities so that intimacy with Jesus is possible.

3. He loves administering justice so that His righteousness is not compromised.

The true Rabbi's (Jesus?) perspective

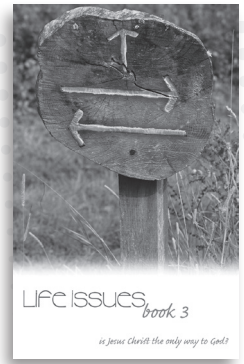
Because man is not good and God is good, bad things happen to people, not merely because they deserve them, but better yet because those who do (or will) follow Him, need them.

Paraphrase of Paul Tripp

We assume the present is designed to be a comfortable destination, but it's not. The present's design (because of sin in this world), is to be an uncomfortable preparation for a very comfortable destination.

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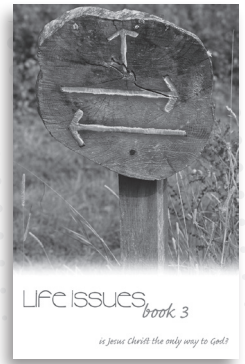
1. "LIFE ISSUES" BOOK 3 - THE BAIT

Is Jesus Christ The Only Way To God?

- 1) Our Fundamental Problem
- 2) Jesus Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies
- 3) A Life Of Working Miracles
- 4) The Ultimate Proof Of His Deity
- 5) A Legacy Of Changed Lives
- 6) The Second Of Three Required Statements
- 7) Consider The Following Illustration
- 8) The Clincher

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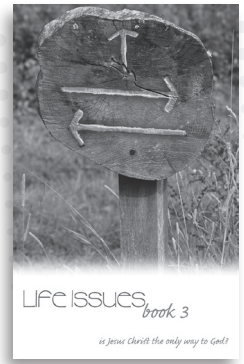
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Notes For Additional Insight

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2. “LIFE ISSUES” BOOK 3 - THE HOOK (JOHN 11-15)

1) What Did Jesus Mean When He Said, ‘I Am The Resurrection’? (Jn. 11:25)

When Jesus said He was the resurrection He claimed to have the power to overcome death. Once again He claims a power that would have been reserved for God. So what are the implications of the resurrection? If He overcame death, then any and everything He has promised, we can count on Him being able to bring to pass.

2) What Does Christ Being The Resurrection Mean For Those Who Believe? (Jn. 11:26)

If Jesus can overcome death then He has the ability to do everything that He has promised that He would do. He can be counted on as being true to His own word.

3) What Is The One Condition Jesus Gives For Finding Life? (Jn. 12:25-26)

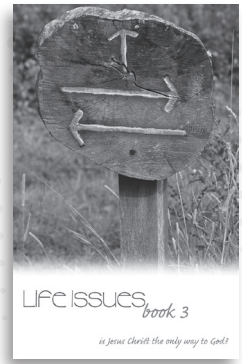
It is somewhat counterintuitive, but Jesus said that the condition for finding one’s life is to lose it. Christ becomes primary in our life. Our ambitions, our hopes and our dreams have true significance with Jesus as the primary part of our life.

4) What Does Jesus Say Is True Of A Person Who Serves Him? (Jn. 12:26)

The person who serves Jesus is one who is following. This is similar to the answer in *Life Issues* Book 2 question 4.

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5) In Jesus' View, Is There Any Other Way Than Believing And Following Him In Order For A Person To Find God? (Jn. 14:6)

No, Jesus was clear to those who heard Him speak. In order to find God one must believe and follow.

[Additional thought: This question of the exclusivity that Jesus claimed for Himself is a good place to deal with the topic of intolerance. The best way to address this is to refer to the cookie illustration. The cookie illustration deals with a poisoned cookie, knowledge and responsibility to the person to whom the cookie is given. Is it intolerant to stop him or her from eating a poisoned cookie? The reason it would not be considered intolerant is because you have information that makes you knowledgeable of a potential danger of which he or she is unaware. This illustration on intolerance nicely transitions to the concern that if the claims of Christianity are true then there is a danger that could result in an eternity of regret. This belief is why Christians do what they do, some do it poorly or inappropriately, but it is not because they are intolerant.]

6) How Does Jesus Describe His Relationship With The Father? (Jn. 14:9-11)

This answer is similar to the question covered in the other in the preceding books. Jesus said that He and the Father were one.

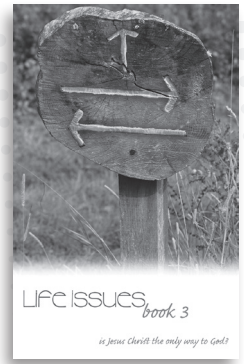
7) What Does Christ Promise To Those Who Will Ask Him Anything That Honors Him? (Jn. 14:13-14)

Jesus assured that He will answer our prayers.

[Additional thought: At this point you may encounter some strong emotions. It is not uncommon for someone to arrive at this question and in the discussion reveal that they had a significant disappointment with God and His failure to answer their prayers sometime in their past that they asked with a sincere heart. Tread lightly here and provide them with some instruction that shows that this particular verse is a part of many other verses that provide guidance on what one can expect in answered prayer. This verse needs to be viewed as one verse among many that forms a collage on prayer. People who make it their job to study matters like these have said that the scriptures lay out sixteen unique conditions to answered prayer. To name a few, one must ask believing, one must ask in the name of Jesus and one must ask with proper motives. The illustration of your child participating in "coach-pitched" baseball may be helpful in driving this point home.]

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8) What Is True Of Those Who Truly Love Christ? (Jn. 14:15, 21-24)

They're going to follow.

[Additional thought: You should recall the teaching on the parable of the soils that was given in the EXPRESS Your Faith seminar. If one has believed and is following Jesus there will be fruit as he or she is being faithful. The level of fruitfulness is the responsibility of God. All He asks of us is to be faithful.]

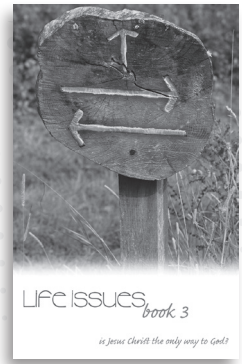
9) What Does Jesus Mean When He Says He Will Leave A Helper? (Jn. 14:16-26)

Jesus' reference to the helper is an assurance given to His disciples and to followers in our own time that we will not be left alone. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a helper in our life.

[Additional thought: The idea of the Holy Spirit may be foreign to the person you are meeting with during this investigation. You can give a very simple overview of the fact that God is one God with three distinct persons, Father, Son and Spirit. You can draw the analogy of water that exists in three states (liquid, solid and steam) but in each state it is still water (H₂O). One major difference with this analogy of the water and God is that God doesn't have to move from one state to the other. This should help to provide a basic understanding of God.]

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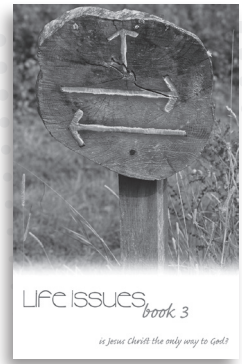
Life Issues Book 4 is on the topic of faith and repentance. In covering the material in *Life Issues* Book 3 make sure that you leave enough time in your appointment to set up *Life Issues* Book 4. In *Life Issues* Book 4 the primary question is, ‘What does Jesus say is required to have eternal life?’ On page 5 there is a prayer that models a prayer that has often been used by people to express their desire to become a follower.

Based upon how the time has gone over the last three weeks, you may want to challenge the person to read this prayer and decide if it reflects the desire of their heart. This prayer is one of the most misunderstood things that Christians talk about and it is important to understand what this prayer represents. The prayer should be viewed as a ceremony. Like a wedding ceremony, the prayer is an acknowledgement that something has happened. A wedding ceremony is the celebration of two people who are in love and have decided to make a life together. The couple may not be able to tell the day, the hour or the minute they fell in love, but when they arrive at the wedding ceremony they are in love. This prayer is similar to the wedding ceremony. It is a celebration of something that has taken place.

Before you have your meeting, finish by showing him what is called “The Cloud of Doubt.” Let me explain.

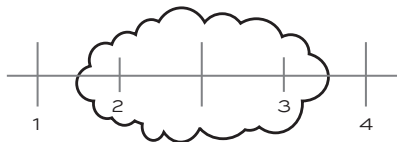
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THE CLOUD OF DOUBT

To illustrate this share the illustration, The Cloud of Doubt. There are four different stations that could depict where someone is in their spiritual pilgrimage. The line in the middle of the continuum represents the point when a person truly becomes a Christian.



As you can see there are four stations on the continuum. Station one is, 'I know I'm not a Christian; station two, 'I may be a Christian; I have doubts, but I'm not sure.' But in reality, this person is not a Christian; station three, 'I don't know where I am. I think I'm a Christian, but I'm not sure.' But in reality, they have crossed the line; and finally station four, they know they are a Christian and there is enough evidence to support that assertion. The beauty of this illustration is that within the cloud of doubt a person could be at station 2 or station 3, share similar characteristics with one another, they both labor under a cloud of uncertainty, they are in a cloud of doubt. As you leave your week three appointment, ask the person you are meeting with to evaluate where they think they may be on this continuum. When you are together the next time you will revisit this illustration.

On the fourth and final week ask them if they did the homework assignment and prayed the prayer on page 5 of Life Issues Book 4. Review the significance of the prayer. Remind them that it is a ceremony and as such it does not create love it is designed to celebrate the love that exists. This is not designed to make you a Christian; it is designed to celebrate what you sense has been a birth of love in your heart.



Audio recording of Randy Pope explaining how to use Life Issues Book 3

www.perimeter.org/express-usebook3mp3



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ADDITIONAL CONTENT FOR BOOK 3

HOW CAN JESUS BE THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

Four Evidences Giving Reason to Believe Jesus was the Son of God

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*”

1. Fulfilled Old Testament prophecies regarding Jesus

2. A life of working miracles

John the Baptist’s question to his disciples while in prison.

(Matthew 11)

Miracles on TV

3. The Resurrection

Illustration of saying “I am the best basketball player ever.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Flavius Josephus

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man [if indeed one ought to call him a man.] For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. [He was the Christ.] When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. [On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him.] And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

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4. A legacy of changed lives

Personal Testimony

Every

- Age
- Culture
- Country
- Socio-economic group

Kenneth Scott, Historian

Through Him movements have been set in motion which have made society, for what mankind believes, to be its best - the inward transformation in human lives, in political order, in the production and distribution of goods to meet the physical needs of men, in healing physical ills, in the relations between races and between nations, in art, in religion and in the achievements of the human intellect. Gauged by the consequences which have followed, the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus have been most important events in the history of man. Measured by His influence, Jesus is central in the human story.

Requirement #2 to become a Christian

We must be able to tell God that we believe Jesus Christ paid our penalty by His death on the cross.

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WHAT ABOUT OTHER RELIGIONS?

Options

1. **None Are Correct**
(No way to God)
2. **All Are Correct**
(Yet they contradict each other)
3. **Only One Is Correct**

Recommendation for Investigation

1. **Pick the religions and their leaders which you think have the most merit,**
Confucianism (Confucius)
Buddhism (Siddhartha Guantama)
Islam (Mohammad)
Christianity (Jesus)
2. **Pick a handful of the most critical evaluative issues and do a comparative study,**
Teachings
Moral Life
Miracles
Prophetic Power
Present Status

Religions and Their Leaders

1. **Confucianism (Confucius)**
From China
551 B.C. – 479 B.C.
Largest following at one time = 300 million
Only 6 million now
2. **Buddhism (Buddha)**
Siddhartha Guantama
From India
563 B.C. – 483 B.C.
360 million followers

3. **Islam (Mohammad)**
570 A.D.
1.2 billion followers
4. **Christianity (Jesus)**
2 billion followers

***Note: Hinduism is not included because:**
no central leader associated
no single God represented
some consider it a social system more than a religion

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Areas of Contrast

1. Teaching

Confucius

“Analects”

Wisdom editor only

Buddha

Four Noble Truths (taken from Hinduism)

First writing 400 years later (oral tradition)

“Scholars are increasingly reluctant to make unqualified claims about the historical facts of the Buddha’s life & teachings”

–Wikipedia

Mohammad

Koran

Jesus

Old Testament & New Testament Of The Bible

2. Moral Life

Confucius

Good, but not perfect

Buddha

Good, but not perfect

Mohammad

Many moral struggles

Violated his own teaching (exceeding # of wives)

Changed his own teaching mid stream

Jesus

Perfect

3. Miracles

Confucius - none

Buddha - none

Mohammad - none

Jesus - many

Not “if”, but “how”

4. Prophetic Power

Confucius - none

Buddha - none

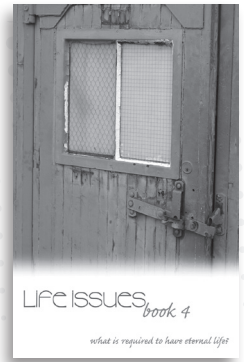
Mohammad - few

Jesus - constantly

5. Present Status

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1. “LIFE ISSUES” BOOK 4 - THE BAIT

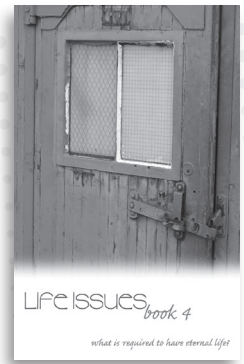
What Is Required To Have Eternal Life?

- 1) The Third Of Three Required Statements
- 2) Faith, The Means Of Accessing God’s Gift
- 3) Repentance, And Integral Part Of True Faith
- 4) The Results Of A Changed Life
- 5) Bringing Closure To This Most Important Issue

Notes For Additional Insights

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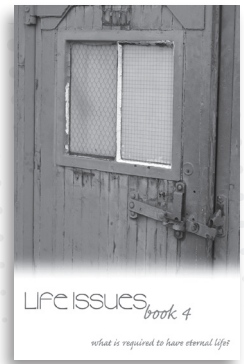
In your fourth and final meeting, before you get into the material in Life Issues Book 4, draw the cloud of doubt illustration again. Ask them to mark where they think they were on the continuum when this investigation began. After they have done that, now ask them to mark where they are now. If there is an indication that they have moved from stations 1 or 2 to stations 3 or 4, ask them how they think that happened. If there is a sense that something has changed in the individual's evaluation of where they were this may present an opportunity to help them take the next steps.

This last week, I will not focus on the questions in John. After completing our discussion re: the requests for eternal life, I want to spend my time assessing where the person is in their spiritual journey and what, if anything, has taken place. Once that has been done, review faith and repentance. Make sure they understand what each of these words mean. Your next steps will be based upon their response to your question of where they think they are on the continuum. The investigation has now concluded. Just as you promised, they had the opportunity to investigate and can be satisfied that they have done so. With that you are finished with Life Issues Book 4.

Though I have put the answers for questions for John 16-21 in our notes, I do not go through them in our next meeting. I ask if they have any questions regarding what they've read in John 14-21, and try to answer any questions they may ask.

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2. “LIFE ISSUES” BOOK 4 - THE HOOK (JOHN 16-21)

1) Why Is It Better That Jesus Left Earth So That The Helper Could Come? (Jn. 16:7-15)

Because it was for our good that if Christ had not gone away the Spirit of Truth would not be with each of us. And the Spirit of Truth speaks God’s words to us, which guides and teaches and counsels us.

2) What Was Jesus Referring To When He Said, “In A Little While You Will See Me No More, And Then After A Little While You See Me”? (Jn. 16:16)

“A little while—a few more hours!—and I will be taken away from you, for I will be put to death and buried. Hence, you will observe me no longer. But I will not remain away from you. Rising gloriously on the third day, I will usher in the dispensation of the Spirit. In and by means of the mighty works which He will perform on earth, you will see me.”

3) Who Is Jesus Praying For In Chapter 17 And Why?

Christ is praying for His followers at the time of His death and for all those after who will believe in Christ through the message of those followers alive at His death.

4) Pilate Raises A Very Important Question In 18:38 “What Is Truth?” How Would You Define Truth? (note vs. 37)

Christ is the truth, i.e., He is the embodiment of the truth. He is the truthful source of how one received eternal life versus the lie of Satan as seen in any other religions or beliefs.

5) Why Did Jesus Permit These Jews To Torture Him The Way They Did? (Jn. 19:10-11)

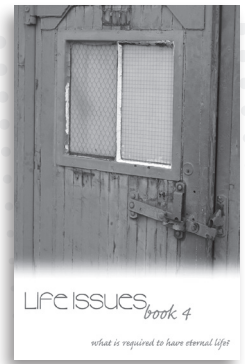
Because it was the Father’s plan, and Jesus always did the Father’s will.

6) Chapters 20 & 21 Tell The Story Of Resurrection Of Jesus. If The Resurrection Is Historical Fact, What Are The Implications For You? (Chapters 20 & 21)

That Jesus’s prophetic words were true and that He is now with the Father in Heaven, and I can believe everything He said including His dying for my sins and that by grace I have been saved through faith, THE gift from God.

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7) What Response To His Life And Ministry Does Jesus Want To See In Us?

(Jn. 21:20-25)

To obey and follow Him.



Audio recording of Randy Pope explaining how to use Life Issues Book 4

www.perimeter.org/express-usebook4mp3



There are resources available for follow-up. There are four booklets called Next Steps that provide the opportunity for you to take the person through the first eight chapters of Romans in a format similar to the *Life Issues* Booklets.

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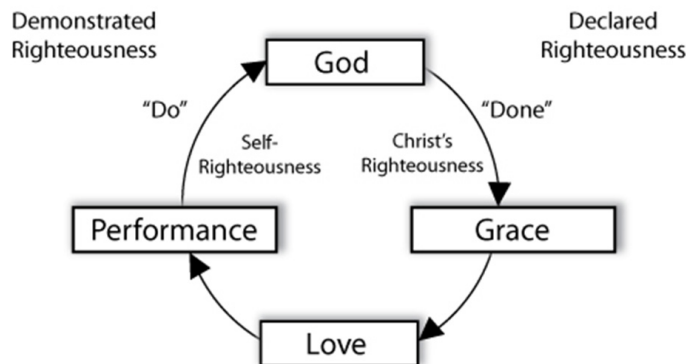


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ADDITIONAL CONTENT FOR BOOK 4

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY IS REQUIRED TO **BECOME A CHRISTIAN**?

1. Do / Done Diagram



2. Two Beliefs

Sin (The Problem)

Jesus (The Solution)

3. Two Expressions of Trust

Faith

- Tight rope illustration
- 3 people standing before God illustration

Repentance

- Change of mind
- 3 steps
 - 1) Agree that it is sinful
 - 2) Remorseful
 - 3) Step into the open arms of a loving God admitting that His love is enough

Two roads/lanes illustration

Requirement #3 to become a Christian

We must be able to tell God that we are willing to surrender our lives to Christ by receiving Him as Lord and Savior.

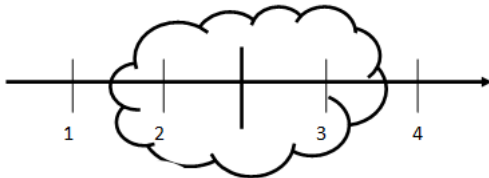
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HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

1. Cloud of Doubt



Left of the middle line = non-Christian

- 1) Knows he is not a Christian
- 2) Assumes he is not a Christian, but not sure

Right of the middle line = Christian

- 3) Assumes he is a Christian, but not sure
- 4) Knows he is a Christian

2. Matthew 7:23

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

3. John 8:16

For God's Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are children of God.

How does He bear witness?

- With good evidence

4. Parable of the soils (Matthew, Mark, & Luke)

- 1) No soil
- 2) Rocky ground
 - no root
 - persecution
- 3) Thorny ground
 - cares and wealth choke
- 4) Good soil
 - fruit

Matthew and Mark's text preceded by, "He who does my will is my brother and sister."

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5. Can you pray to receive Jesus and Him not come into your life?

Dating illustration

Ask question, “Do you know when you started loving your spouse?”

View as a ceremony

Illustration of when one dies

6. Three tests in 1 John to determine if you are a true Christian

1) Intellectual Test

- Do you believe God’s truth?

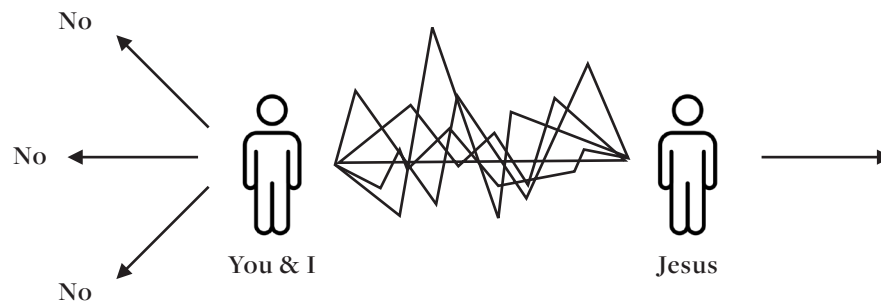
2) Social Test

- Do you love God’s family

3) Moral Test

- Do you follow God’s ways?

- A true follower follows



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SUPPORT TOOLS

1. TOOLS TO USE WITH ANYONE

1) The 1-Minute Personal Testimony

LIFE BEFORE

HOW

LIFE SINCE

Problem —→ Sin

Solution —→ Christ

Response —→ Faith/Repentance

Why 1 Minute?

3 minutes becomes 5, 7, 10 minutes

Worst case, 1 minute becomes 3 minutes

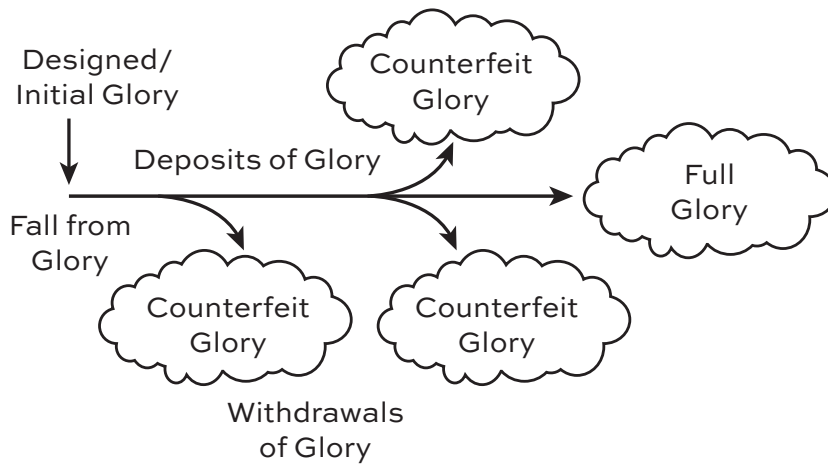
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2) The Story Of Glory

- (1) Designed with glory
- (2) Fall from glory
- (3) Search for glory
- (4) Discovery of glory
- (5) Deposits and withdrawals of glory
- (6) Full of glory

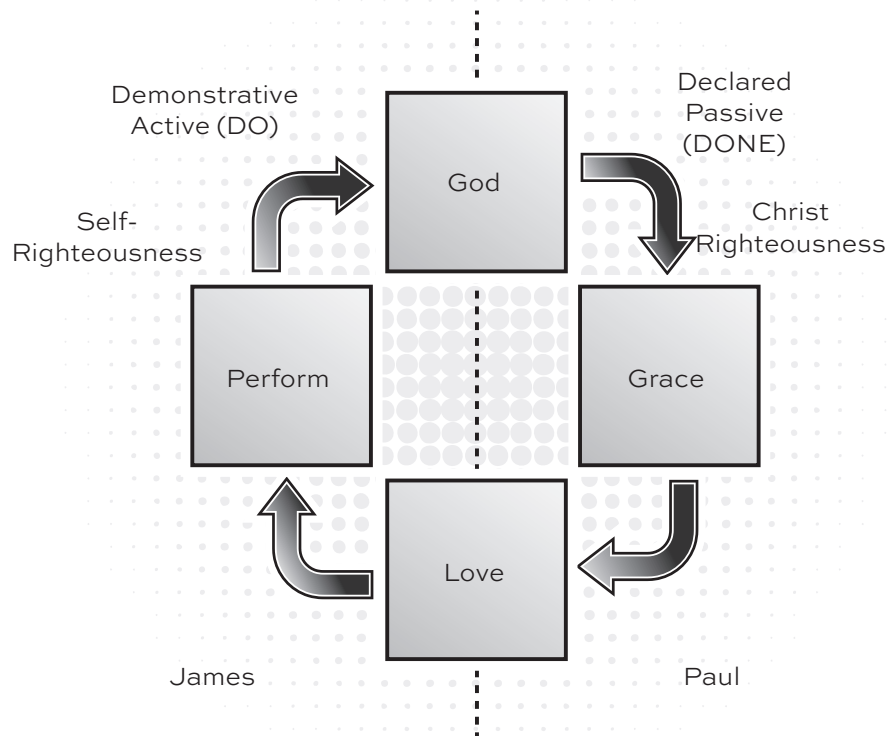


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3) The Performance/Grace Diagram



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2. TOOLS FOR NOMINAL BELIEVERS

1) Born Again / Pregnant Diagram



2) Vital Signs Discussion

3) Belief vs. Conviction Discussion

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3. A TOOL FOR OTHER RELIGIONS AND CULTS

The “Why?” Question

4. A TOOL FOR JEWISH PEOPLE

The Messiah Question

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FOLLOW-UP TOOLS

It is a natural part of the process to share the good news of the gospel and have people respond in a favorable way. As emphasized in the training, this is the work of the Holy Spirit, therefore relieving you of the burden that it hinges on how persuasive you are in your presentation. As was stated in the training, God has designed this in such a way that He delights in using His people, you and me, and His word in the process of drawing people to Himself.

1. IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP

There are three wonderful gifts that should gradually begin to be experienced in the lives of those who put their trust in Jesus: purpose, freedom and assurance. You will want to explain this to your friend.

1) Purpose

Is there a sense that their purpose in life is going to change? They may have for the first time in their lives an awareness that God must be brought into the conversational mix as they rethink their life purpose. Help them understand what that may look like for them.

2) Freedom

As they grasp that they are forgiven they may experience, for the first time, true freedom. They may have been in bondage for years and now have a sense of release. Of course, it will take a lifetime to fully comprehend, but you should encourage them as they become aware of their newfound freedom.

3) Assurance

Finally, assure them of their salvation. It is not based upon their feelings. Their feelings will change. It is not based upon emotion. Their emotions will swing to the positive and to the negative. For the one who has come into a personal relationship with Christ, there will be changes. Begin to look for increasing evidences of the fruit of the Spirit in their life. As they see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and see it increasing, they will grow in their assurance. A sincere faith in Christ will always be accompanied by a changed life.

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There are also numerous promises that God makes to all who truly become His followers and you will want to share them with your friend.

- 1) The Spirit Of God Has Come Into Your Life
- 2) You Have Become A Child Of God
- 3) You Can Never Be Separated From God
- 4) Christ Will Never Leave You
- 5) You Have Been Forgiven Of All Your Sins
- 6) You Have The Certainty Of Eternal Life

2. LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP

- 1) Importance Of A Good Church
- 2) Importance Of Individual Help

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“NEXT STEPS” BOOKS

So what should you do if someone invites Christ into his or her heart? In addition to talking them through a changed purpose, freedom and assurance, there are basic next steps you should encourage them to consider. Life on Life Ministries has developed four booklets specifically to help them at this point in their life. These booklets are called, “Next Steps on Your Spiritual Journey.” They deal with four important topics that every new Christian needs early in their development.

Book 1: How Can I Know I am a Christian?

Book 2: How Can I Grow as a Christian?

Book 3: How Can I Be Empowered as a Christian?

Book 4: How Can I Experience Christian Community?



In addition to these four topics, the booklets take the person through the first eight chapters of the Book of Romans. The first eight chapters of Romans will lay a foundation that a new believer will want to return to year after year in their personal walk with the Lord.

You can order Next Step Booklets through Life on Life at lifeonlife.org/buynextsteps.

How does one continue in their growth to become a mature and equipped follower of Jesus Christ? We believe that this only comes about as the result of life-on-life missional discipleship. Investing in the lives of a few, following the model that Jesus gave us, has the potential of multi-generational impact. (2 Tim. 2:2) Life on Life Ministries has developed resources to assist in this process. For more information please visit us at lifeonlife.org/resources.

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COACHING

The following is a suggested format for review with fellow Express Your Faith participants to strengthen your new or enhanced skills. Prayerfully ask God to identify five people that you can begin to pray for in the areas of your life where you live, work and play. The five friends, colleagues, neighbors, acquaintances and/or family are your prayer target list for your Express skills and calling.

SIX WEEK SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- 1) Share The Prayer Target List You Hope To Engage
- 2) Review S.H.A.R.E. Focusing On A, R, and E
- 3) Review Progression Of Boxes For The Introductory Diagram

WEEK 2

- 1) Review S.H.A.R.E., Progression Of Boxes
- 2) Primary Question
- 3) Invitation to investigate

WEEK 3

- 1) Review S.H.A.R.E., Introductory Diagram, Primary Question, And Invitation
- 2) Read And Discuss The Answer
- 3) How Could You Use This Book?

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WEEK 4

- 1) Review prior tools
- 2) Share experiences of sharing
- 3) Review Story Of Glory–Have people pair off or form triads and tell the Story of Glory

WEEK 5

- 1) Share experiences of sharing
- 2) Review story of glory
- 3) Review Performance-Grace diagram
- 4) Have people draw and walk through diagram

WEEK 6

- 1) Share experiences
- 2) Review Performance-Grace Diagram
- 3) Encourage one another to be faithful and to trust God for fruit
- 4) Provide opportunities to share stories

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

COMPLETED DIAGRAMS

OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

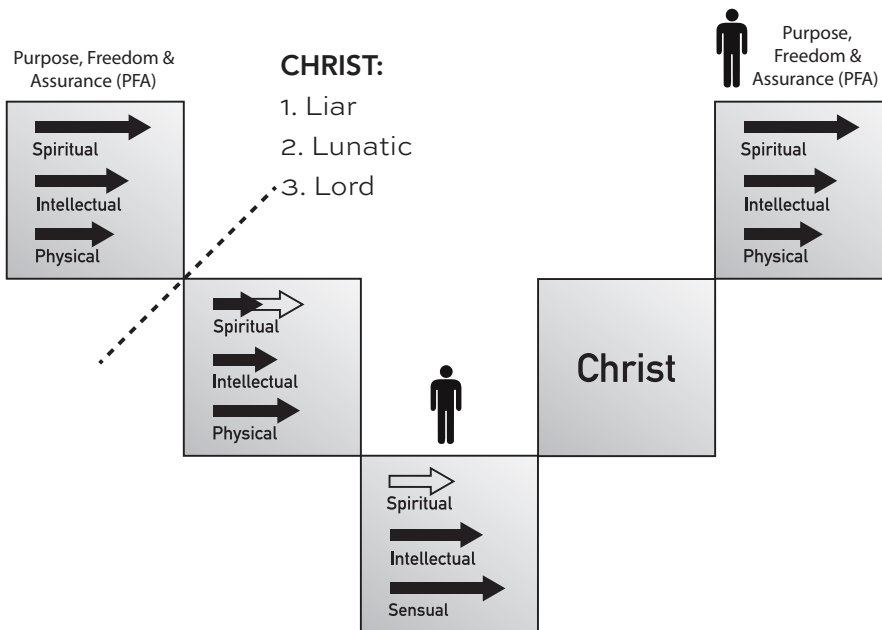
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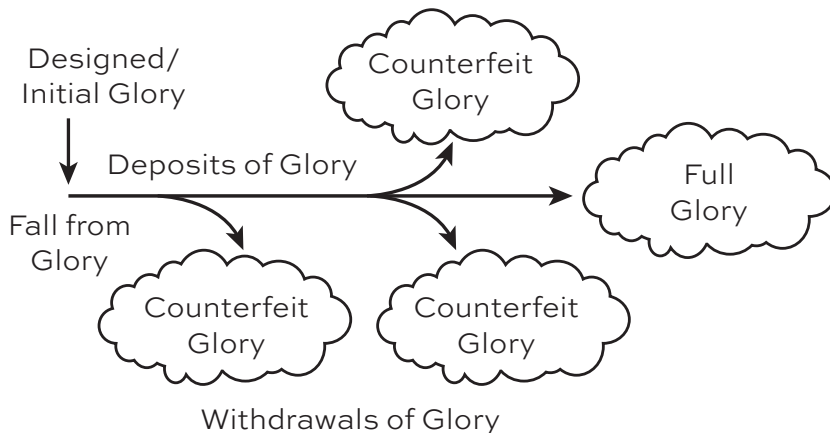
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COMPLETED DIAGRAMS

1. THE INTRODUCTORY DIAGRAM



2. THE STORY OF GLORY

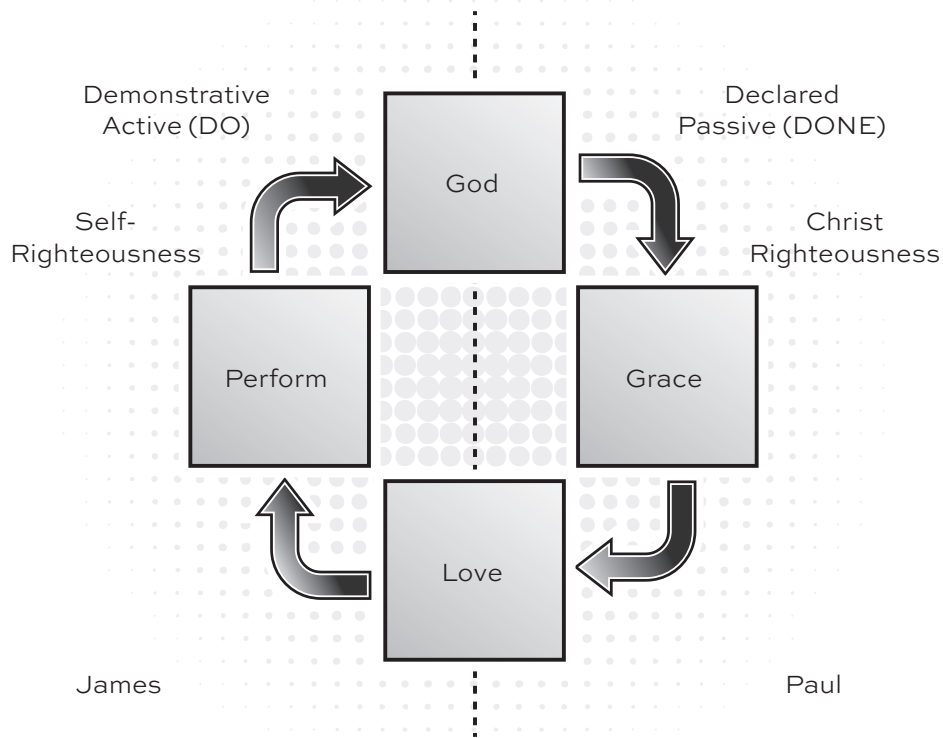


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3. PERFORMANCE / GRACE DIAGRAM



“Where would you say that you start to relate to God, ‘Perform’ or ‘God’?”

4. BORN AGAIN DIAGRAM



OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

lifeonlife.org/resources



Have you met people who seem frustrated with a lack of lasting satisfaction? People everywhere are searching for life meaning and are disappointed by counterfeits that promise fulfillment, yet always fail to deliver. An ideal resource for starting spiritual conversations, **The Answer** will help you engage with friends who are experiencing this disillusionment.



The **Life Issues** booklets provide direction and answers for those exploring faith and Christianity. Designed for personal reading or for use in conversation between

a Christian and seeking unbeliever, the four books help readers discover:

- Is the Bible God's Word? (Book #1)
- Do Non-Christians Really Deserve Eternal Punishment? (Book #2)
- Is Jesus Christ the Only Way to God? (Book #3)
- What is Required to Have Eternal Life? (Book #4)



The **Next Steps** books serve as a perfect sequel to the *Life Issues* booklets, helping new believers begin their spiritual journey. The series uncovers answers

to foundational questions such as:

- How Can I Know If I am a Christian? (Book #1)
- How Can I Grow as a Christian? (Book #2)
- How Can I Be Empowered as a Christian? (Book #3)
- How Can I Experience Christian Community? (Book #4)

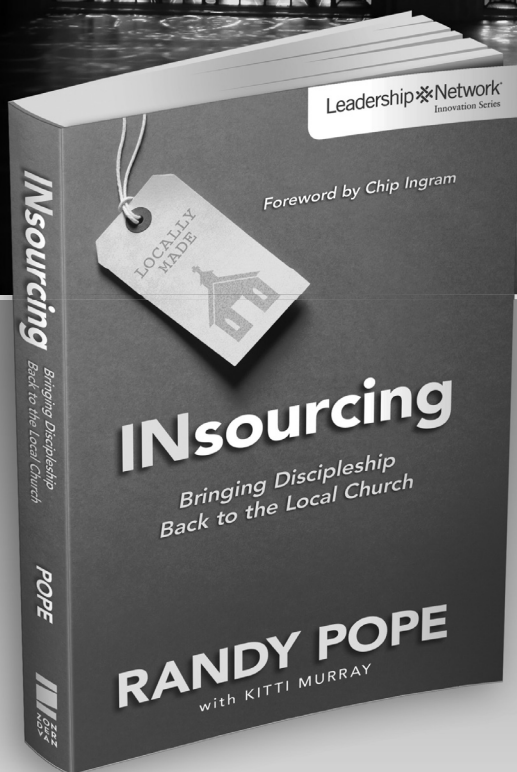


Designed specifically for group study, **The Journey** curriculum helps disciple-makers develop mature and equipped followers of Christ, who will in turn replicate this model for relational, missional living with others where they live, work and play. Each of the three *Journey* course offerings provides 28 weeks of relevant, multi-media content centered on five essential ingredients for life change: Truth, Equipping, Accountability, Mission, and Supplication (T.E.A.M.S.). Both leaders and participants of *The Journey* subscribe online to receive digital lesson materials. thejourneycurriculum.com



The Intentional Church is a blueprint for pastors and church planters seeking to model a dynamic, magnetic spirit of worship and servanthood for people in need. This blueprint helps readers build a God-honoring purpose, a faith-oriented commitment, a well-defined mission, biblically-based job descriptions, and more. A relevant resource for both pastors and lay persons.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MATURE YOUR PEOPLE? Is it working?



Highlighting the successful "life-on-life missional discipleship" practices that his church has refined for over twenty years, Randy Pope inspires pastors and church leaders to leave behind ineffective programs and to stop "outsourcing" the task of discipleship by moving it from the margins of the church back into the mainstream.

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"From this book you will learn both principles and practices for shaping people into Christ-likeness by the Spirit's power" - Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City

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