

**REINVESTIGATING
JESUS
LEADER GUIDE**

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NOTE TO LEADERS

It is a joy and a privilege to introduce the Gospel. The RIJ is a great tool to guide someone through the Gospel and not just walk them through the curriculum.

Use this study to discover more about the person you lead through it. Learn about their struggles, religious perspectives, worldviews, and goals in life.

It will guide you in discerning how the RIJ can best serve you in walking that specific person through the Gospel.

WHO IS GOD?

Leader Guide

The goal of this week is to get a picture of where they are spiritually, introduce them to Who God is, and His grand narrative.



When asking about their impressions of God and story:

In Section 1: Foster open and diverse conversations. There are no right or wrong answers. The goal is to simply hear their familiarity with Christianity.

C. Explain to them that this story will hopefully become clear over the next four weeks. By the end of the fourth week, it should sound like good news!

In Section 2 add:

God is ... Creator

God is ... Holy/Set apart (explain what holy means)

God is ... Just Judge

God is ... Loving

For discussion questions:

- Allow them to take time to process and review all that they just read, and make sure to ask them if they have any questions in regards to the study.
- Turn to the tools section and walk them through each step in the spiritual journey. Then ask them, "If you had to place yourself on the diagram, where would you be?"
- This will allow both you and the participant to have a clear understanding of where they are spiritually, with the hopes of this study helping them take steps closer to Christ.
- Follow up.

WHO IS GOD?

I. Our Personal Impressions on God and the Story of the Bible

a. Do you believe in God? Why or why not?

If so, what do you think God is like?

b. Do you think the Bible is credible/trustworthy? Have you ever read the Bible? Why do most people find it hard to understand?

c. This picture is a simple way to illustrate the story of the Bible. What do you think each one means?



II. Who is God?

a. Read *Genesis 1:1; 2:7*

God is:

b. Read *Isaiah 6:3-5*

God is:

c. Read *Psalms 9: 7-8; James 2:10*

God is:

d. Read *Exodus 34:6-7*

God is:

Discussion Questions:

1. How have these characteristics of God changed how you think about Him?
2. Look at the Spiritual Journey diagram in the tools section. What step would best describe where you are currently?
3. What questions do you have in light of taking the next steps in your spiritual journey.



Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 2:7

7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Isaiah 6: 3-5

3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Psalms 9:7-8

7 But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, 8 and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

James 2:10

10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Exodus 34:6-7

6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

WHO IS MAN?

Leader Guide

The goal of this week is to help the person you're leading see that he or she is a sinner. Not just that humanity is sinful, but that he or she is personally a sinner.

By their answer to the question, "*Why should God let them into heaven,*" you should be able to see what kind of "gospel" they are believing. Are they relying on the amount of good they do?

In Section 2c add:

God says that forsaking Him (abandoning Him) and doing other things to satisfy you is evil.

Ask, "What do you typically think of when you think about the word evil?"

In Section 3a add:

Do a courtroom analogy here and ask, "As a sinner, a lawbreaker, if you were to stand before this holy and just Judge (God), what would be His verdict on you?" (The answer is guilty.)

WHO IS MAN?

If God asked you, "Why should I let you into heaven?", what would you say? What reason would you give?

Let them answer, take note of them and do not correct them.

I. What was man created for?

a. Read Genesis 1:26-28

i. What is the primary purpose of God creating man?

The main point is that we are made in the image of God to reflect His image and subdue and multiply on the earth.

ii. What does it mean to be created in God's image?

We have distinct glory and are special to God. We can understand Him.

II. What happened to mankind?

a. Read Genesis 3: 1-7

i. What were the implications of Adam and Eve disobeying God?

Sin entered the world, they became aware of good and evil, and shame entered the world.

b. Read Genesis 3: 8-13

i. How did Adam and Eve respond to God?

c. Read Jeremiah 2:13

i. Because of our sin, what do we turn to for satisfaction apart from God?

III. What is man's condition before God?

a. Read Ephesians 2:1-3

i. Who are we apart from God?

Dead without hope, COURTROOM ANALOGY

b. Read Romans 3:11-12, 23

i. What does this verse say about our desire for God?

No one has a natural desire for God.

c. Read James 2:10

i. Who, if anyone, is innocent?

IV. Can man (by his own works) get right with God?

a. Read Isaiah 64:6

i. Why or why not?

b. What hope is there in knowing our good works cannot get us right with God?

Discussion Question:

1. After what we learned about mankind, does it change your answer to the first question?

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth"

Genesis 3: 1-7

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?' and the woman said to the serpent ' We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said 'you shall not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing Good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of it's fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. and sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin clothes"

Genesis 3:8-13

"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' And he said, "I heard the doing of you in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree and I ate. Then the Lord God said to the woman 'what is this that you have done?' The woman said 'The serpent deceived me and I ate."



Jeremiah 2:13

“My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Romans 3:11-12, 23

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Isaiah 64:6

“We have all become like one who is unclean and all of our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.”



Notes

Section I. Bridge Diagram How To:

Wages- Something you earn

Sin - Missing the mark

Death - Eternal separation from God

But = Shift

Gift- It's freely given (birthday analogy)

God - Perfect, Creator

Eternal Life - Eternal relationship with God

Show them how these two sides contradict each other. This is where humanity is found. Because of our sin, this is where we stand. How do you think we get to the other side? Use the Grand Canyon analogy for the bridge - could you throw in enough good rocks to cross it? The answer is **NO**.

In Section a. iii. add:

Firefighter analogy - Let's say your house was on fire and someone was still inside. The architect of the building was outside. He knows the building. Would they be able to save someone? No. What about a doctor? No. What about a firefighter? Yes, because the firefighter is the only one with the necessary tools to save. Jesus is the only way to get to God because He was the only one who could meet the requirements of God to save us.

In Section b. iii. add:

Jesus took our sin on Himself, died the death that we deserved to die, and gave us His perfect record of righteousness.

Courtroom analogy - We talked last week about being guilty standing before a perfect and just judge, God. God doesn't just change our verdict to not guilty and forgive us. Someone has to pay the penalty for our sin. That is where Jesus steps in. He takes our place on the stand before God. He takes our sin and death penalty on Himself and gives us His innocent verdict so that we walk away as forgiven and righteous children of God.

WHO IS JESUS?

On a scale of 0-10, how sure are you that God would let you into heaven? Explain.

I. Look at the Bridge Diagram on page 15.

II. Significance of Jesus and His Life

a. What do these verses say about the kind of man Jesus is, and why is it important?

i. *Read John 1:1-3, 14*

Jesus is: **Fully God, Fully Man**

ii. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Jesus is: **Jesus is perfect**

iii. *Read John 14:6*

Jesus is: **Jesus is the only way to be made right with God. Use firefighter analogy in notes.**

b. Jesus' Crucifixion

i. Summarize together Isaiah 53.

ii. What was significant about Jesus' death?

iii. Why did He have to die?

Look at Section B in notes.

c. Jesus Resurrection (Luke 24:1-7)

i. *Read Romans 6:5-6*

ii. *Read 1 Peter 1:3*

iii. *What is the importance of Jesus' resurrection?*

d. How does someone obtain a relationship with Christ?

i. *Read Ephesians 2:8-9*

ii. *Read Titus 3:3-5*

Discussion Questions:

In light of what we have read, how would you answer the question at the beginning?

How has this impacted how you think about having a relationship with God or how you feel about salvation?

John 1:1-3, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

14. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 14:6

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Romans 6:5-6

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:3-5

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit ...

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO JESUS?

Leader Guide

Section I: Belief

- What is the belief that Jesus calls us to? How is it different than just acknowledging His existence?
- Chair analogy: Look at this chair. It looks sturdy, right? Do you believe it will hold you up? If you believe it will hold you up but refuse to sit in it, do you truly believe?
- Belief leads to action and trust. Belief in God leads to loving and following Him and trusting that what He says is right.

Section II

Self-Centered Life vs. Christ-Centered Life

- What is the difference between these two circles?
- Review Bridge Diagram from Week 3.

Parallel the circle diagram with the bridge diagram. Cultural Christianity says you can be on the right side of the bridge but on the left side of the circle diagram. (We want to go to heaven, but don't want God to tell us what to do). That is not a biblical definition of a follower of Christ. How do we live a Christ-centered life? This is what it looks like to follow Jesus. We trust Him with every aspect of our lives.

Section III: Counting the Cost

Everything you count as loss cannot compare to what is gained in Christ.

Do you want to put your faith in Jesus?

If yes, then talk them through Romans 10:9-10.

If not, think through the next steps. Have them write down any questions that they may still have and anything that may still be holding them back from following Christ.

Tell them that you want to continue walking with them through their spiritual journey whether or not they put their faith in Christ. Ask if they would like to continue meeting up. The John study in the back is a great first step to get them looking at Jesus.

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO JESUS?

I. How do we respond to the Gospel?

a. Read Mark 1:15-20

What does Jesus call people to do in these verses?

Repent, believe, and follow

Repent

i. Read Acts 3:19

ii. What does it mean to repent?

To do a 180-degree turn. To turn from sin and to God.

Believe

i. What is the belief that Jesus calls us to? How is it different than just acknowledging His existence?

Chair analogy - look at Section 1 on the notes page.

Follow

i. Read Luke 9:23-24

ii. What is Jesus calling people to do here? What would that look like for you?

II. What does it look like to follow Jesus?

a. Look at the Circle Diagram in the Tools Section.

Look at section II. on the notes page.

b. Read Galatians 2:20

What does it look like to no longer live for yourself, but to live for Christ?

My life is no longer mine to do what I please. I exist to do Christ's will.

III. Count the Cost

a. Look at Counting the Cost in the Tools Section.

Look at Section III. on the notes page.

b. Read Philippians 3:7-8

i. After counting the costs, what do you think could hold you back from following Jesus?

Go back to the Spiritual Journey Tool. Where would you place yourself now?

Do you want to put your faith in Jesus?

Look at Section III on the notes page.

How can we continue to help you take steps towards Christ? *Have them write out goals and next steps.*

Mark 1:15-20

and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.

Luke 9:23-24

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Philippians 3:7-8

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, 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.



TOOLS

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY DIAGRAM (PAGE 3)

1. Times Square



Anyone who has stepped into Times Square understands what it means to be a passive observer, overwhelmed and distracted by all that is around you. This is how many of us start our spiritual journey: a passive observer simply going through life taking in the surroundings. Only when confronted with the facts of this can someone move forward.

2. Questioning



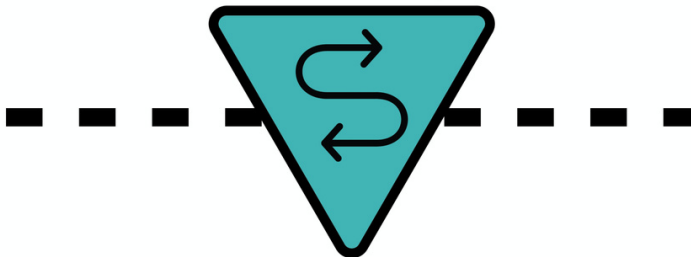
Once moved past Times Square, the next step is Questioning. What do I believe? Why do I believe it? What is my purpose? Who is God? Beginning the process of asking big life questions is the only way to continue on the Spiritual Journey

3. Investigating



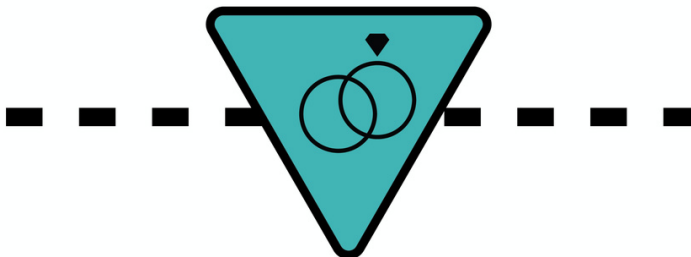
True Investigation follows Questioning. Who does the Bible say that God is? Do I understand my need for a relationship? No longer is just asking the question enough, answers must be sought.

Open to change



Once the investigation part of the journey is over one must ask the heart level question "Am I open to change?" Commitment to Christ implies a reorienting of every aspect of life and thus cannot be taken lightly

4. Commitment



Investigation demands a response. There comes a point in every Spiritual journey where you ask the question: Am I all in? Do I understand my need for Jesus? Do I want a relationship with God?

5. Growth



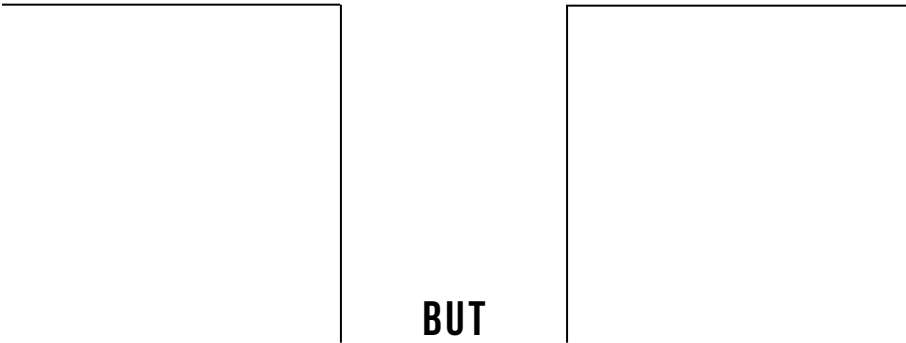
The final point in the spiritual journey is in fact only the beginning. A lifetime of deepening and walking with God await.

TOOLS CONTINUED

I. BRIDGE DIAGRAM (PAGE 9)

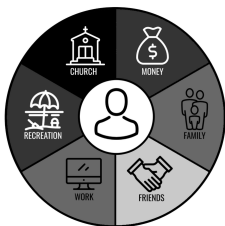
ROMANS 6:23

**"FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH,
BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD
IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD."**

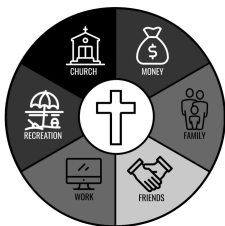


II. CIRCLE DIAGRAM (PAGE 11)

Self-Centered Life



Christ-Centered Life



Which circle best represents your life?

III. COUNTING THE COSTS (PAGE 11)

What do I lose?

What do I gain?

JOHN QUIET TIME PLAN

After every reading, ask these questions and write down your answers. What did I learn about God? What did I learn about myself? What did I learn about others?

Day 1

John 1

Day 2

John 2

Day 3

John 3

Day 4

John 4

Day 5

John 5

Day 6

John 6:1-29

Day 7

John 6:30-71

Day 8

John 7

Day 9

John 8

Day 10

John 9

Day 11

John 10:1-21

Day 12

John 10:22-42

Day 13

John 11

Day 14

John 12

Day 15

John 13

Day 16

John 14:1-14

Day 17

John 14:15-31

Day 18

John 15

Day 19

John 16:1-15

Day 20

John 16:16-33

Day 21

John 17

Day 22

John 18:1-14

Day 23

John 18:15-27

Day 24

John 18:28-40

Day 25

John 19:1-15

Day 26

John 19:16-30

Day 27

John 19:31-42

Day 28

John 20:1-18

Day 29

John 20:19-31

Day 30

John 21



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