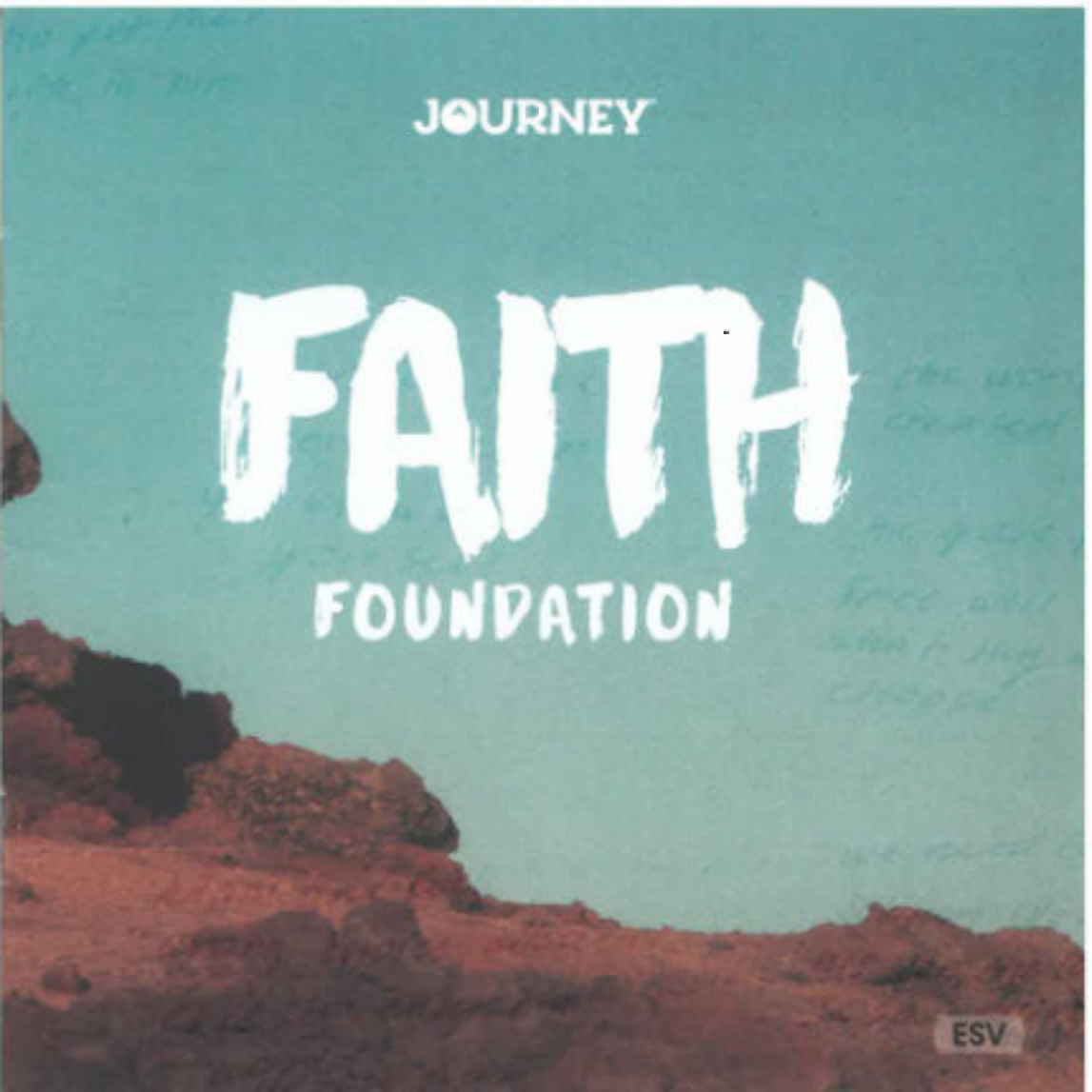


The background is a solid teal color. In the bottom third, there is a dark red, rocky, and uneven landscape. Faint, handwritten-style script in a light teal color is scattered across the background, mostly on the right side. The text 'JOURNEY' is centered at the top in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

JOURNEY

FAITH

FOUNDATION

ESV

This is a true story about you and about everyone else in the world. This is the story of the journey since the beginning of time.

The title of your story is _____.

Since you are one of the protagonists (main characters), you need to describe yourself in six words.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

NOW — ON TO THE ACTION.

Memorize the verses and answer the questions.

As you complete each section, the leader will sign off.

LEADER'S INITIALS

DATE

YOU WEREN'T PRESENT PHYSICALLY AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, BUT THE THOUGHT OF YOU WAS THERE.

God already knew your name and everything there is to know about you (as He did about everyone) – even back then. He knows more about you than you know about yourself.

- ③ ... in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139:16

See, back at the beginning of time, God created the world. (God, Himself, existed before time. He is outside of time. He created time.)

- ③ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

LEADER'S INITIALS

DATE

THE WORLD GOD CREATED WAS GOOD.

He filled it with light, plants, trees, animals – everything people needed to have a good life – and then He created people. He gave the people free will to choose what they wanted to choose.

Remember, this is your story too. You also have free will.

Anyhow, the first people (Adam and Eve) chose not to listen to God and they broke His one law. Instead of choosing what was right, they chose what was wrong.

- *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

Jeremiah 17:9



LEADER'S INITIALS

DATE

RIGHT THEN AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME IN THAT AWESOMELY-CREATED GARDEN OF EDEN, ADAM AND EVE'S WRONG CHOICE ALLOWED EVIL TO ENTER THE WORLD.

The evil caused a bottomless canyon between God and all people.

Why? Because God is perfectly righteous (holy, pure, always good). But you and I and everyone else are part of an imperfect human race that chooses wrong over right. We came into the world sinners and we continue to sin. (We all do.)

No one had to teach us how to be selfish or dishonest or to have a bad attitude. Our sin is part of our story.

But right then at the beginning, God promised a solution to the problem (Genesis 3:15).

Still, people continued to do evil. God told them He would give them laws to obey and they said, "Everything you say we will do," but they didn't (Exodus 24:3). We don't keep God's laws either. Not keeping God's laws is part of our story.

Then some of the people decided they wanted a king. They thought having a king to judge them would make them do right (1 Samuel 8:5-6). God gave them kings, but even the kings rebelled.

No one (including you) can do it on his or her own. We need God's solution. We need His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER'S INITIALS

DATE

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FOR YOUR LEADER:

Why is there separation between God and people?

When did God first promise a solution to the sin problem?

What are some of the ways people tried to be "good enough" to bridge the separation?

SEE, ALL THROUGH THIS REBELLIOUS, NOT-LISTENING-TO-GOD HISTORY, GOD EXTENDED GRACE TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN HIM.

And all through this rebellious, not-listening-to-God history, God promised to send one who could bridge that canyon between God's righteousness and the unrighteousness of people; one who would take the punishment for sin, the punishment of eternal separation from God (spiritual death).

- *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.*

Isaiah 53:5

The "our" in that verse includes "you" and everyone else.

LEADER'S INITIALS

DATE

AND GOD DID JUST THAT.

He did what He promised to do. He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth as a solution to the sin problem (including our sin problem). But even then, many rejected Him. They watched Him do all kinds of miracles, and they thought He would make a good king. But that He was the Son of God? No! They didn't want to hear THAT!

They killed Him. (God knew this would happen. He's never surprised. Christ's death was all part of the plan.) The sin of the world was laid upon Him. He took the punishment, He separated Himself from God through death – which is the required punishment for sin.

But remember – He is God. Three days later He rose from the dead and is now in heaven preparing a place for those who put their faith in Him.

NOW WHAT? WELL, YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

You can choose to believe that your sin is punishable by death – eternal separation from God. You can choose to respond to God's offer of forgiveness for your sin and eternal life in heaven.

You can choose to recognize your need for a Savior.

You can choose to acknowledge that He died for the sin of humanity (and that includes your sin) and rose again (because He is God).

You can choose to put your faith in Him as the one and only bridge between God's righteousness and your sinfulness.

When you do that, you have a Christ-centered perspective on life.

LEADER'S INITIALS

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THIS IS THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH.

- *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.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only sure life-foundation.

- *For no one can lay any foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:11

What about the ending to your story?

To finish it, you need to choose to trust that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who could bridge the separation between God and you.

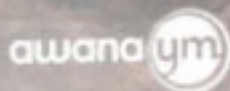
Maybe you did that a long time ago. Maybe you've never done it, but would like to. Maybe you're interested and would like to know more. (That's what leaders are for!)

Maybe you aren't interested at all. That's OK. Well, really it isn't OK, but God won't make you do it. Remember, He gives you free will. But if you don't do it, your story will not have a heavenly ever after.

Tell your leader how your story ends.

LEADER'S INITIALS

DATE



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