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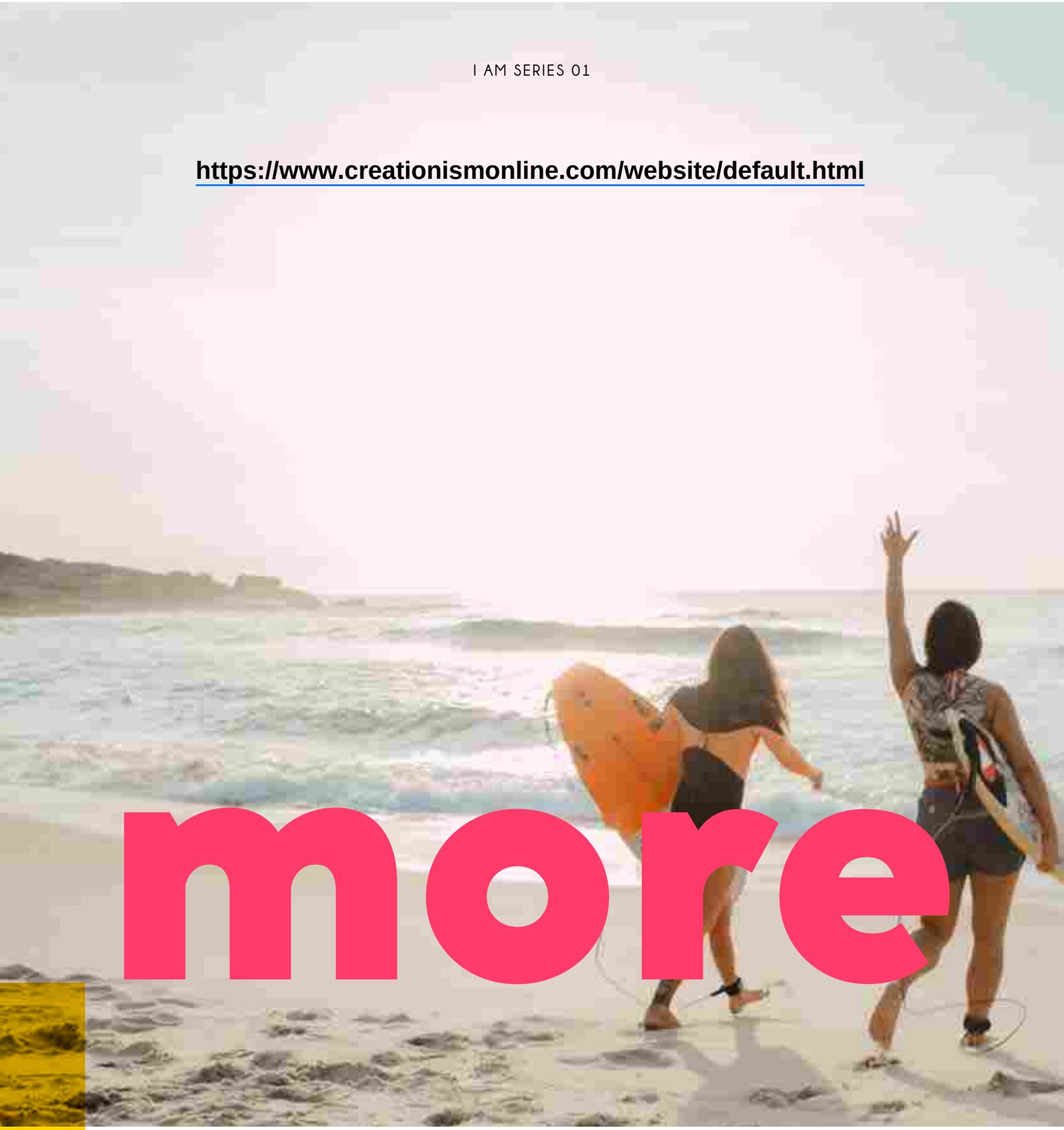


more

01 | Is there more to life?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your small group dive deeper into God's word, nurture conversation, and draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

Over the years, what's one thing you dreamed about that you believed would make you happy?



Many people have pondered the thought, "There has got to be more to life than this!"

Have you ever thought about this? Why do you think so many people wonder about the purpose of life? Down through history, many have come to realise that there has to be more to life than just what we can find in this world.

For example:
George Lucas "You can be as rich, famous, and powerful as you want to be, and it will not bring you happiness."

Freddie Mercury "You can have everything in the world, and still be the loneliest man. And that is the most bitter type of loneliness. Success has brought me world idolisation and millions of pounds of money, but it's prevented me from having the one thing we all need—a loving, ongoing relationship."

King Solomon "Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labours. But as I looked at everything I had worked so
hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind."

Water and food (bread) are critical elements for human existence.

In the Bible, God told His people He was the "fountain of living water." Jesus used this picture when He was talking with a lonely, thirsty woman who was drawing water at a well. John 4



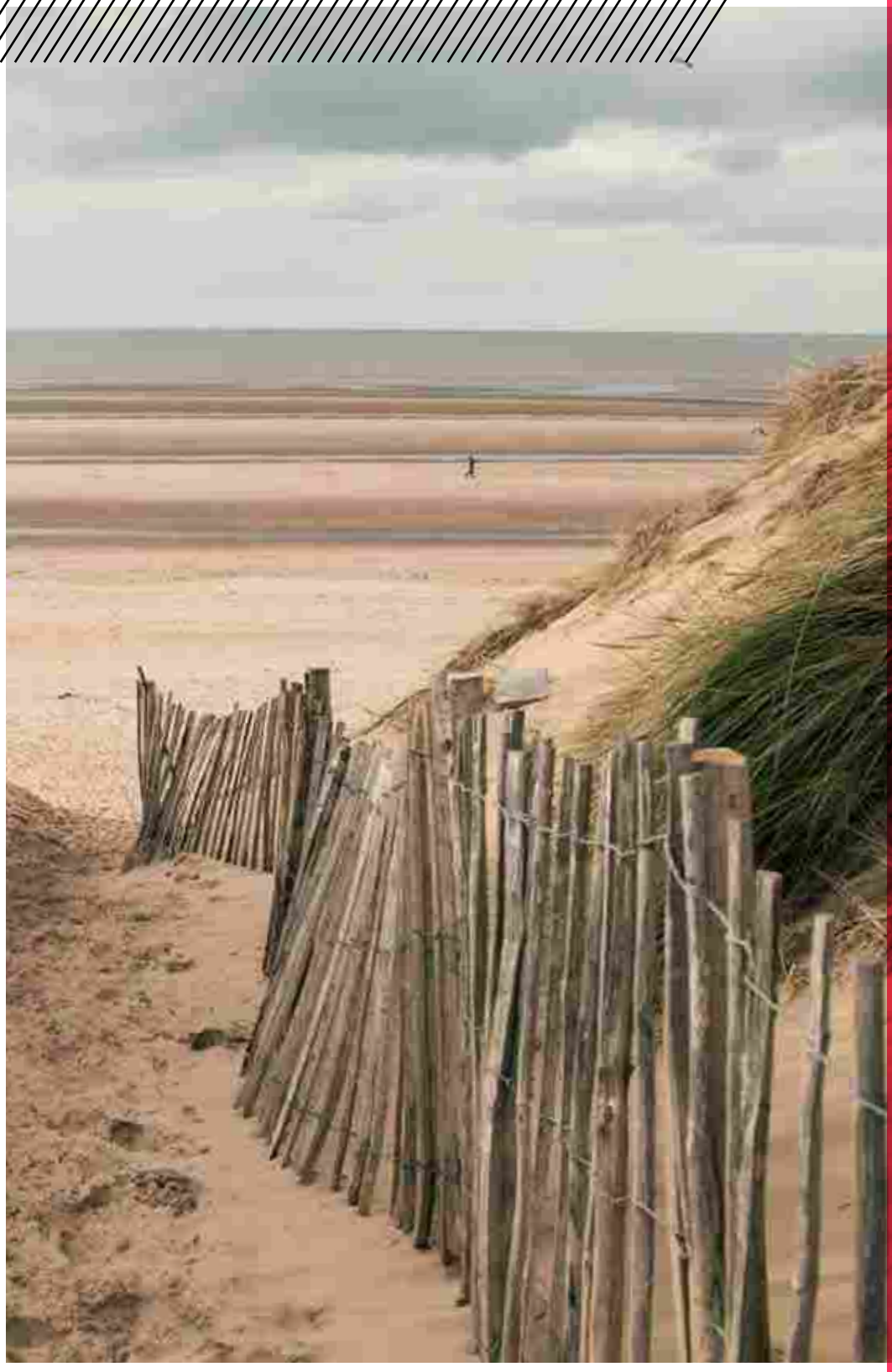
"YOU CAN HAVE EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD, AND STILL BE THE LONELIEST MAN."

FREDDIE MERCURY



JESUS SAID,
"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"

JOHN 3:35



search

We hunger for purpose and long to find something more in life to satisfy our deepest need.



1 THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

JOHN 7:37-39

Jesus can quench our spiritual and emotional thirst.

- A personal relationship with Jesus is deeply refreshing and will not run out.

2 THE BREAD OF LIFE

JOHN 6:22-40

After miraculously satisfying the physical hunger of a huge crowd of people, Jesus said, "I am the living water."

- Jesus can satisfy our deepest spiritual and emotional hunger.
- What He brings into our lives will not "go off" like the food in your fridge at home.

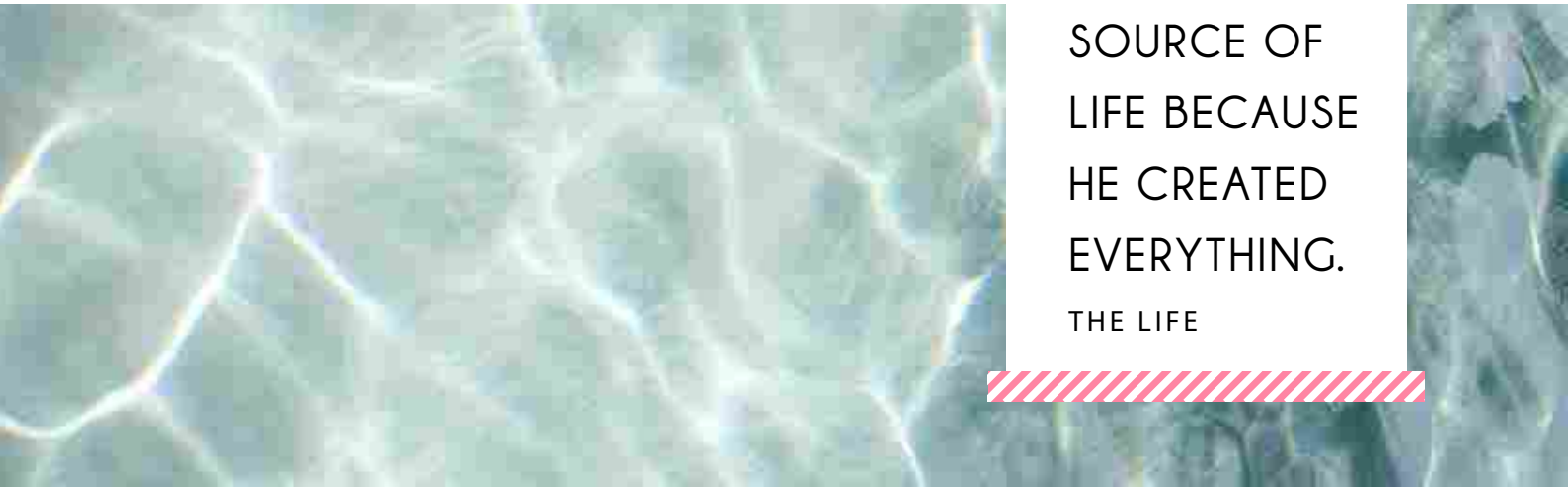
3 THE WAY

JOHN 14:6

- Jesus is the way that we can get to know God and have a relationship with Him.
- He is the way to Heaven.

He is also the way to be able to have a fulfilling and abundant life right now.

On the final night before Jesus was arrested and executed on the cross, He said, "I am the way."



JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE BECAUSE HE CREATED EVERYTHING.

THE LIFE

4 THE TRUTH

JOHN 14:6

- Jesus reveals the truth about who God is, and what He is like.
- He reveals the truth about the real meaning and purpose of life.
- He reveals the truth about who you really are and the solution to your deepest pain.

5 THE LIFE

JOHN 14:6

- Jesus is the source of life because he created everything.
- He came so that we could have an abundant life.
- He is offering us the gift of eternal life.

Three days after Jesus was cruelly executed on the cross, He actually demonstrated the truth of who He really was: How does it change your perspective knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life?

6 THE RESURRECTION

JOHN 11:17-27

- Jesus holds the keys to death and the grave.
- He gives us hope that death is not the end to everything that we enjoy and find meaningful.

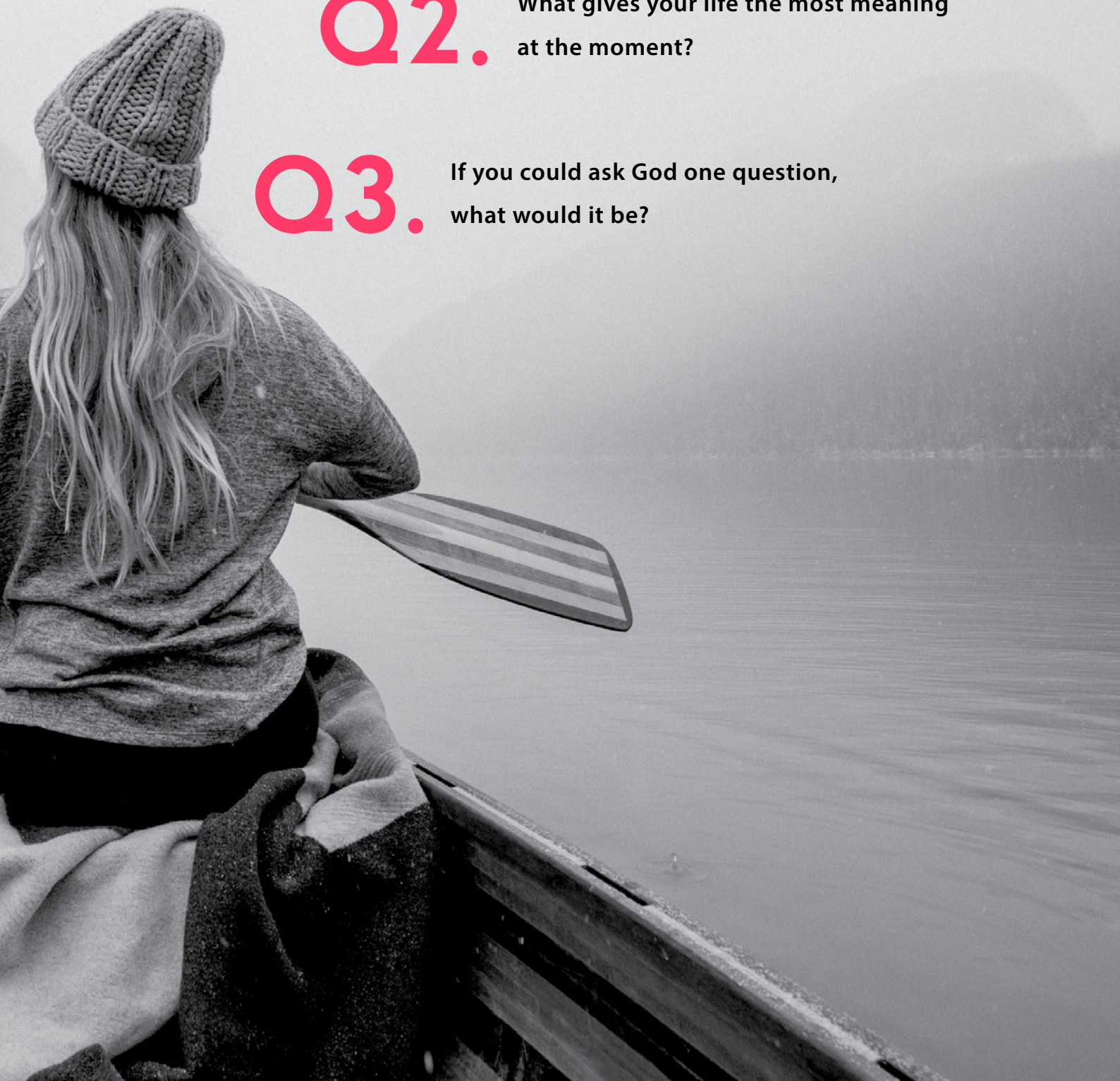
He demonstrated that God's desire is to give us eternal life.

real talk

Q1. There were five people who shared their personal stories in the "I Am" film. Which story did you relate to the best and why?

Q2. What gives your life the most meaning at the moment?

Q3. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?



reimagine

How can a relationship with Jesus help you live your best life?



Further Study

John 10:10, Psalm 16:11, 31:19, 55:22, 147:10-11, Proverbs 3:5, James 1:17, Isaiah 55:7, John 1:12, Ephesians 2:6-7, 3:20, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Philippians 4:19, Revelation 2:17

Resources for further reading

- *A God Named Desire* by Ty Gibson
- *Life Without Limits* by Clifford Goldstein
- *The Case for Grace* by Lee Strobel

NEXT STEP Would you like to commit the next 10 weeks to exploring who Jesus is and the difference He can make in your life?

I AM



02 | What's wrong with the world?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

Have you ever asked the question:
*'Why is there **so much pain and suffering** in the world?'*



“YOU KNOW YOU HAVE THOUGHT IT AND MAYBE SOMEONE HAS EVEN ASKED YOU THE QUESTION, ***“HOW CAN A LOVING AND ALL-POWERFUL GOD EXIST, IF SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING OCCURS IN THE WORLD?***”



MORALITY AND EVIL POINT TOWARDS GOD

C.S. Lewis came to realise the moral standards that we use to identify and condemn evil actually prove that God exists!

Discuss the following logically sound line of reasoning:

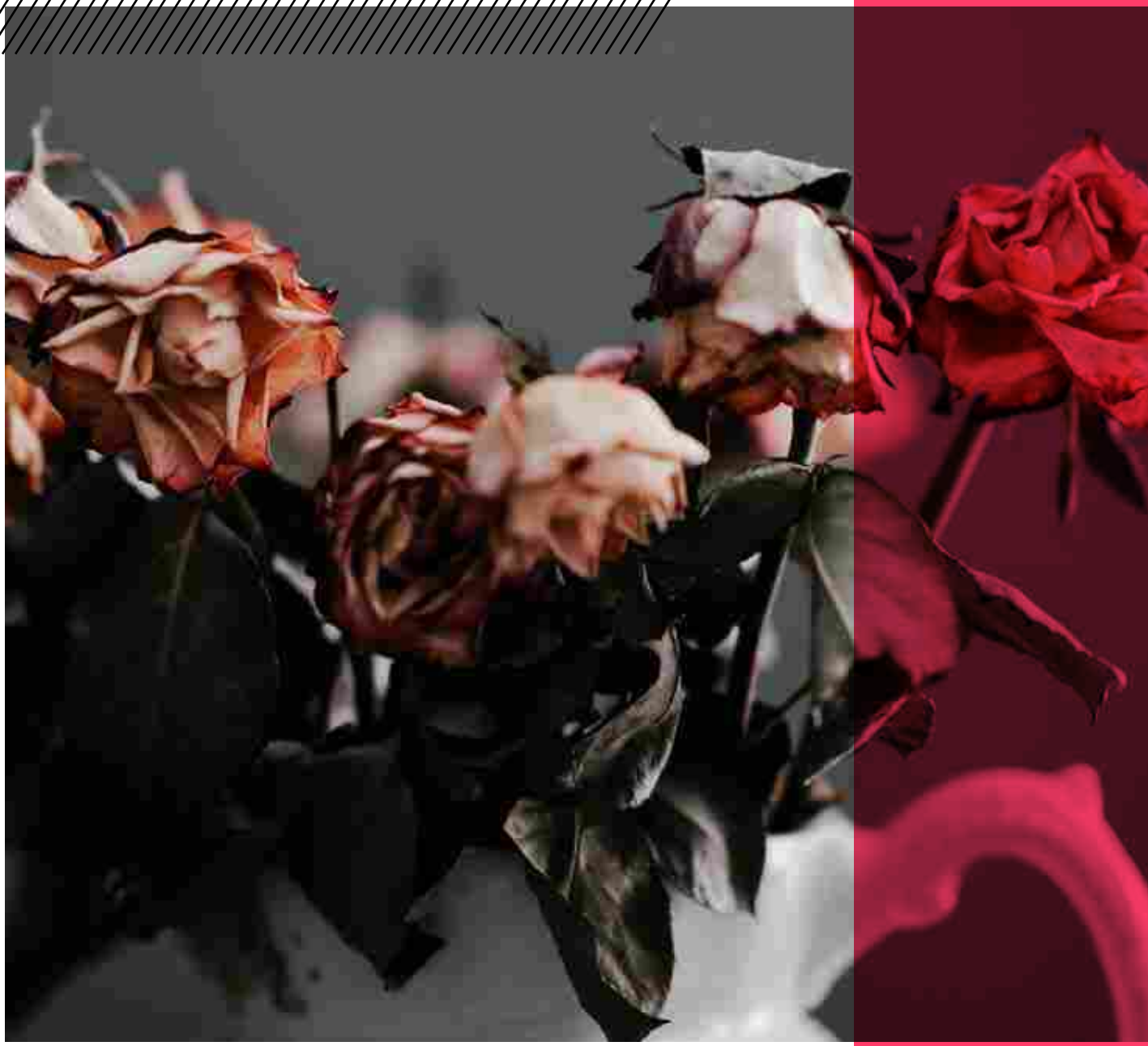
1. If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist.
2. If objective moral values do not exist, then evil does not exist.
3. Evil really does exist!
4. Therefore, objective moral values exist.
5. Therefore God exists.

“THE LINE DIVIDING GOOD AND EVIL CUTS THROUGH THE HEART OF EVERY HUMAN BEING”

ALEKSANDR SOLZHEITSYN

“FOR EVERYONE HAS SINNED; WE ALL FALL SHORT OF GOD’S GLORIOUS STANDARD.”

ROMANS 3:23



search

1 WHY WOULD GOD ALLOW EVIL?

GENESIS 3:1-24

A Here's the reason God allows evil to exist:

- Love can only be genuine if it is based on freedom of choice.
- God took a big risk in giving us freedom of choice, but because He wanted us to be able to love Him out of our choosing, we were also given the freedom to do just the opposite and choose evil.
- God could have eliminated our ability to do evil by not giving us the option to choose; however, this would have turned us into emotionless robots.
- As we see the real consequences of evil, we can truly understand why God has always warned us to avoid it completely.



2 OUR CONTRIBUTION

ISAIAH 59:2 & ROMANS 3:10-18

Unfortunately, we have all contributed to the problem of evil in the world.

- "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" Romans 3:23

SATAN'S GOAL IS TO DESTROY US.

THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

3 THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

ISAIAH 14:12-14 & REVELATION 12:7-9

The Bible tells us how evil, pain and suffering started.

- The highest angel in heaven, who was called Lucifer, became ambitious and thought he could take God's position in the universe.
- Lucifer secretly started to lead other angels to doubt God's goodness and love.
- Finally, Lucifer became Satan and led an open rebellion against God.
- Satan led the first human beings, Adam and Eve, to doubt and distrust God.
- Jesus has warned us Satan's goal is to destroy us.

4 THE HAPPY FUTURE AWAITS

REVELATION 12:10 -12

Satan seeks to destroy us. But, Jesus has already won the victory in the battle between good and evil through His death on the Cross:

- Jesus entered our world and experienced our pain so that He could demonstrate His love for us.
- Jesus gives us forgiveness and freedom. He takes the guilt and shame that Satan uses to pull us away from God. Romans 10:11, 1 Peter 2:6
- The day is coming when Jesus will put an end to all evil, pain and suffering in this world.



real talk

REVELATION 20:1-3

IN FACT THE BIBLE PORTRAYS SATAN AS A ROARING LION SEEKING TO DO US HARM.

Q1. How can you stay strong in the face of life's struggles?

Q2. Why is it important that there are moral standards that apply to all of us?

Q3. Have you or someone close to you, ever had to deal with a significant personal struggle?

reimagine

How can you serve God ***to alleviate suffering*** *and shame in your circle of influence.*



Further Study

Genesis 1, 3, Revelation 12:7-12,

Ephesian 3:10, 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8,

Revelation 21:3-4, Ezekiel 28:15

Resources for further reading

- *The Problem of Pain* - C. S. Lewis
- *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* - Timothy Keller
- *Where is God When It Hurts?* - Philip Yancey
- *The Great Controversy,* Chapter 29: The Origin of Evil - *Ellen White. http://www.whiteestate.org/books/gc/gc29.html*

NEXT STEP Would you like to expereince God's presence in your life and His spiritual support in the struggles that you may face?



Jesus

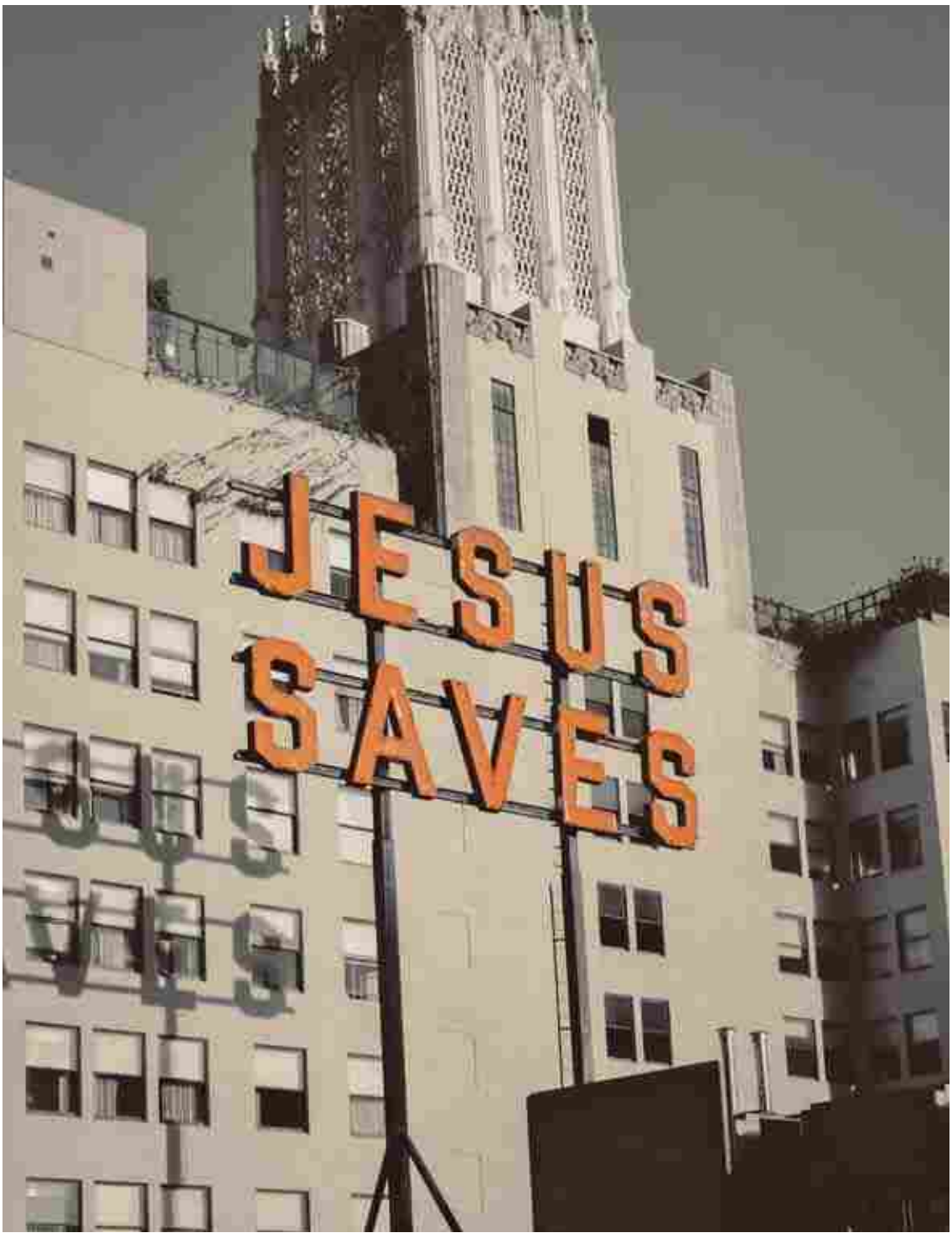
03 | Who is Jesus?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

What famous person in history really inspires you?

Why do they inspire you?



There is fascinating historical evidence that Jesus actually lived in Palestine in the first century AD:

Josephus The Jewish historian Josephus confirms that Jesus was known to be a wise teacher and that he had a large following of both Jews and Greeks. He records that Jesus was executed by Pilate by crucifixion and that His resurrection from the dead was widely reported.

Tacitus The Roman historican Tacitus describes how Nero persecuted Christians, who were followers of Christ. He notes that Jesus Christ was executed by Pilate, and that many people had become Christians in both Israel and Rome.

Pliny the Younger The Roman governor Pliny reports that Christians worshipped Jesus and that they committed themselves to living according to high moral values.

We have a large number of early manuscripts of New Testament documents that originate close to when the documents were first written. The number is staggering in comparison to other ancient documents:

MANUSCRIPTS

AUTHOR	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN (YRS)	NUMBER OF COPIES
Pliny	61 - 113 AD	850 AD	750	7
Plato	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1200	7
Herodotus	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
Suetonius	75 - 160 AD	900 AD	1300	8
Caesar	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Tacitus	100 AD	1100 AD	1000	20
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1100 AD	1400	49
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
New Testament	50 - 95 AD	130 AD	50	5800

THIS PROVIDES STRONG CONFIRMATION THAT THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY MATCHES THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS THAT WERE WRITTEN BY JESUS' CLOSE FRIENDS AND FOLLOWERS. HOW DO THESE HISTORICAL RECORDS IMPACT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS?

search



1 HEBREW PROPHECIES

Jesus did not just appear on the scene performing miracles. There were many prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures that pointed to Him as God's chosen Messiah. These ancient prophecies accurately predicted:

JESUS' MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION ISAIAH 7:14
THE TIMING OF HIS BIRTH DANIEL 9:24-27
HIS BIRTHPLACE MICAH 5:2
THE REGION OF HIS MINISTRY ISAIAH 9:1-2
HIS HEALING MINISTRY ISAIAH 35:1-7
THE TYPE OF DEATH HE DIED PSALMS 22, ISAIAH 53
THE REASON FOR HIS DEATH ISAIAH 53
JESUS' RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD PSALMS 16:8-11, ISAIAH 53:10-11

2 THE NAMES THAT JESUS USED

JOHN 8:58

Jesus used a number of names for Himself that revealed who He really was and His relationship with God:

- **Son of Man** This was Jesus' favourite name for Himself. It refers to the divine being described in the prophecy of Daniel 7 (e.g. Mark 14:62).
- **I Am** This is the name God used when He was going to free the Israelites from slavery, under the leadership of Moses. Jesus used the same name because He is God and the Person who has the power to deliver all people from spiritual slavery to sin.
- **Messiah** Jesus said that He was the Messiah, God's chosen ruler (e.g. John 4:25,26).
- **Son of God** This name shows that Jesus has a unique relationship with God (e.g. John 11:4,25-27).

3 THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Jesus revealed who He was through His teachings. He told people:

- "I am the light of the world." John 8:12
- "Those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life." John 5:24
- "The Father and I are one." John 10:30
- "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25



- "No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6
- "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9
- "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

4 THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus not only revealed who He was through what He said—He also demonstrated it through the way He lived:

- Jesus had compassion on people who were suffering and helpless. Matthew 9:35-36
- His supernatural ministry of healing and casting out demons. Matthew 4:23-25
- His ability to forgive sins. Mark 2:1-12, John 8:1-11
- His willingness to forgive others when they caused Him pain. Luke 23:34
- His morally perfect and sinless life. Luke 23:39-43, John 8:46



JESUS STILL TRANSFORMS PEOPLE TODAY!

FOUR

5 EVIDENCE FOR JESUS RESURRECTION

There are four pieces of evidence that Jesus actually rose back to life from the dead, on the Sunday morning after He died on the Cross:

ONE

THE EMPTY TOMB The women who follwed Jesus arrived at the tomb early on Sunday morning to find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Other close followers of Jesus came to the tomb and also found it empty. Luke 24:1-12

TWO

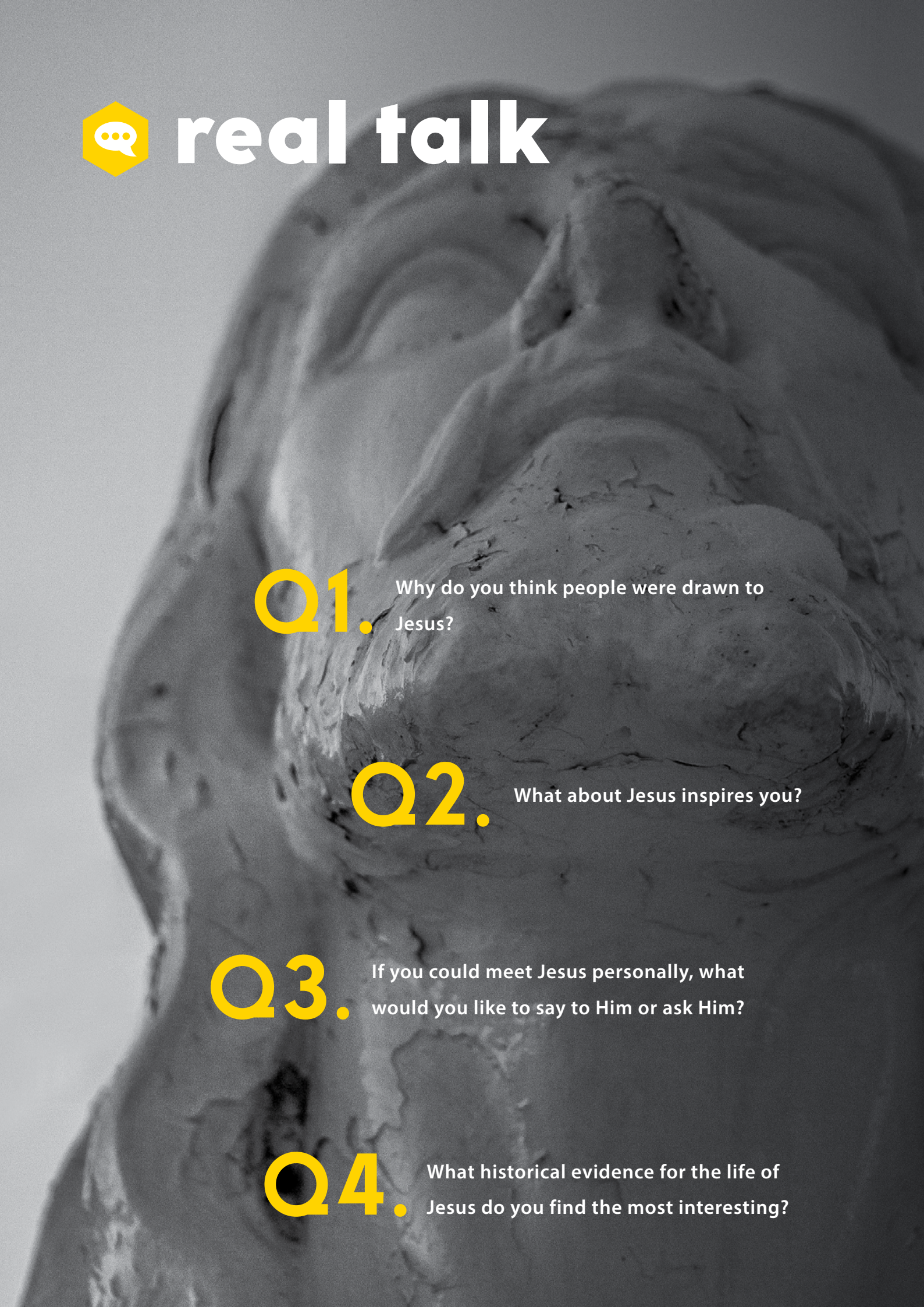
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF MEETING JESUS ALIVE AGAIN Many people in Jerusalem reported they saw Jesus alive again at different times and different places just a few days after His crucifixion. Luke 24:13-53

THREE

DISCIPLES PREACHED THAT JESUS HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD All of Jesus' disciples were willing to die for their belief that they had actually seen Jesus alive again. Acts 4:5-12

FOUR

THE GROWTH OF THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT The movement that Jesus started has continued to grow down through the centuries. Millions of Christians have experienced the life-transforming power of Jesus in their own lives. Jesus still transforms people's lives today!



real talk

Q1. Why do you think people were drawn to Jesus?

Q2. What about Jesus inspires you?

Q3. If you could meet Jesus personally, what would you like to say to Him or ask Him?

Q4. What historical evidence for the life of Jesus do you find the most interesting?

reimagine

Search for images of Jesus on the web and choose the one that resonates with you to share with someone.

"Jesus went around saying he was the Messiah. That is why he was crucified. He was crucified because he said he was the Son of God. So, he either, in my view, was the Son of God or he was nuts. And I find it hard to accept that whole millions and millions of lives, half the Earth, for 2,000 years have been touched, have felt their lives touched and inspired by some nutter. I just… I don't believe it."

BONO - IRISH BAND U2



Further Study

Genesis 1, 3, Revelation 12:7-12,

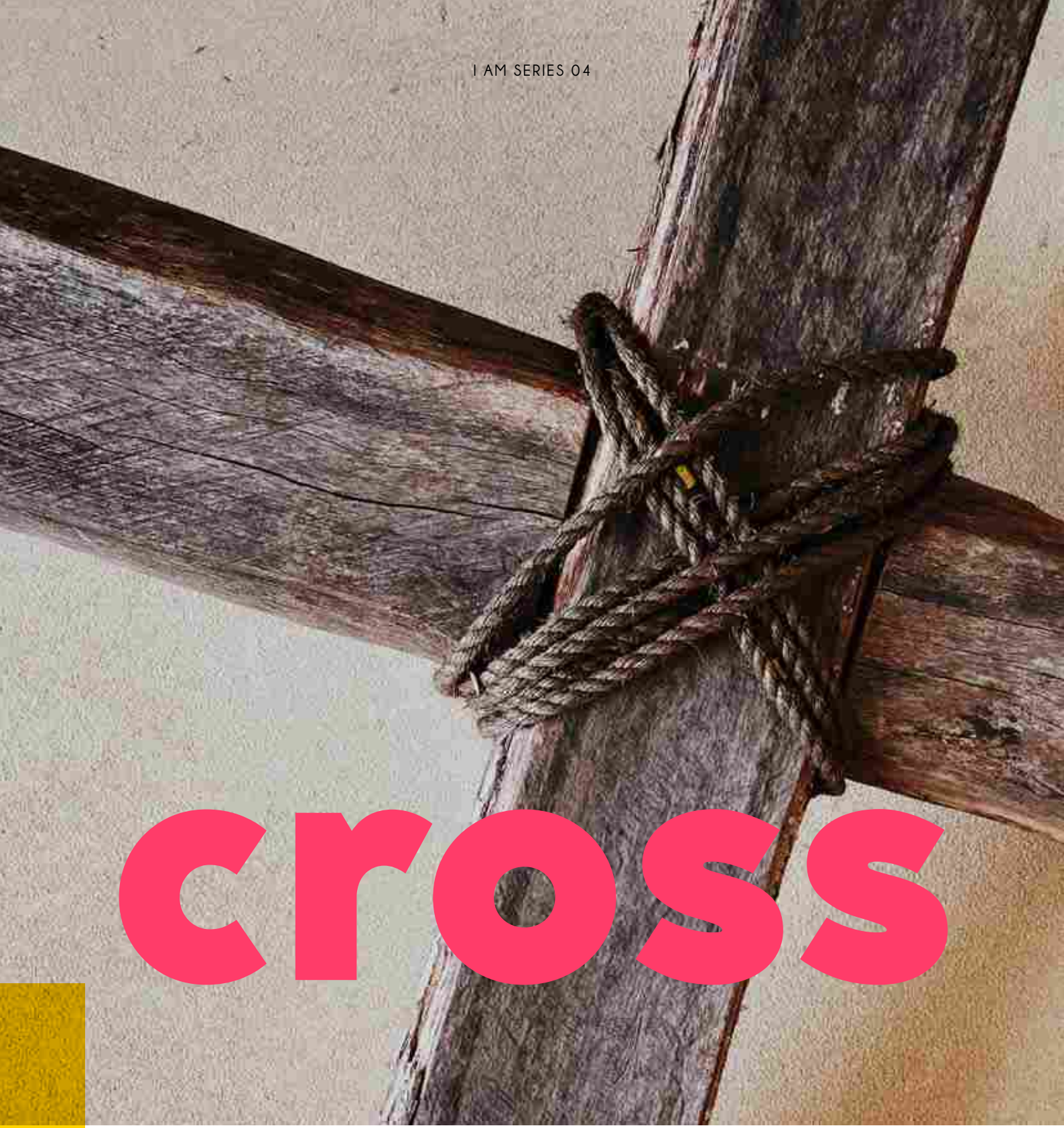
Ephesian 3:10, 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8,

Revelation 21:3-4, Ezekiel 28:15

Resources for further reading

- *More Than a Carpenter* - Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell
- *The Case for Christ* - Lee Strobel
- *Basic Christianity* - John Stott
- *The Essential Jesus: The Man, His Message, His Mission* - Bryan Ball & William Johnson

NEXT STEP Would you like to discover more about Jesus and what He is like through the Bible?



cross

04 | Why did Jesus have to die?

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reflect



What is the best way to restore a broken relationship?

Most people don't celebrate the manner in which famous people die, particularly if they were executed in a painful and gruesome way.

Yet, Christians find their hope in Jesus' death on the Cross. There was an important reason why Jesus died on the Cross.

SPIRITUAL REALITY CHECK

There is no doubt that evil exists in the world. Evil and selfcentredness can be found in all of us. The Bible tells us that the consequence of evil is pain, suffering and death.

- "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23
- "It's your sins that have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2
- "For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23

The reality is that we cannot solve the problem of sin ourselves:

- "By ourselves, we are spiritually dead because of our disobedience and sins." Ephesians 2:1
- Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin." John 8:34
- Jesus said, "For you can do nothing without me." John 15:5



search

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON."

JOHN 3:16



1 GOD'S RESPONSE

The Bible tells us that even though we have walked away from God, He still loves us and has stepped into this world to solve the problem of sin, suffering and death:

- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
- "But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4,5
- "But because of our sins and the evil we did, he was wounded, and beaten. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received." Isaiah 53:5





> “THE OLD LIFE IS GONE, A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN!”
>
> A NEW PERSON

2 THE OUTCOME

Jesus accomplished something incredible for us on the Cross!

- **Friends with God** “We were God’s enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Now that we are God’s friends, how much more will we be saved by Christ’s life!” Romans 5:10
- **A new person** “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:7
- **Cleanses us from sin** “The blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7
- **Victory** “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57
- **Evil and sin don’t have to control our lives** “God can and does give us the power and ability to live a life of faith, victory and service to others.” Romans 6:14experienced the life-transforming power of Jesus in their own lives. Jesus still transforms people’s lives today!



real talk

Q1. How do you know if someone really loves you?

Q2. Why is forgiveness so important in relationships?

Q3. How does the idea that Jesus died for you personally make you feel?

reimagine



It is by God's grace that you have been saved."

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Further Study

Galatians 3:13, 2:20, 4:5,
2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 1:18-19,
2:24, 3:18 Deuteronomy 27:26,
Romans 8:3, 1 Corinthians 7:23,
Matthew 20:28, Ephesians 1:7,
Hebrews 4:15-16, 5:5, 7:25, 8:1-2,
9:11-15, 24-28, 10:12-14, 19-26

Resources for further reading

- *The Cross of Christ* - John Stott
- *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart* - Max Lucado
- *Steps to Christ* - Ellen White

NEXT STEP If Jesus died on the Cross for you, so that your relationship with God could be restored, would you like to accept what He has done for you?



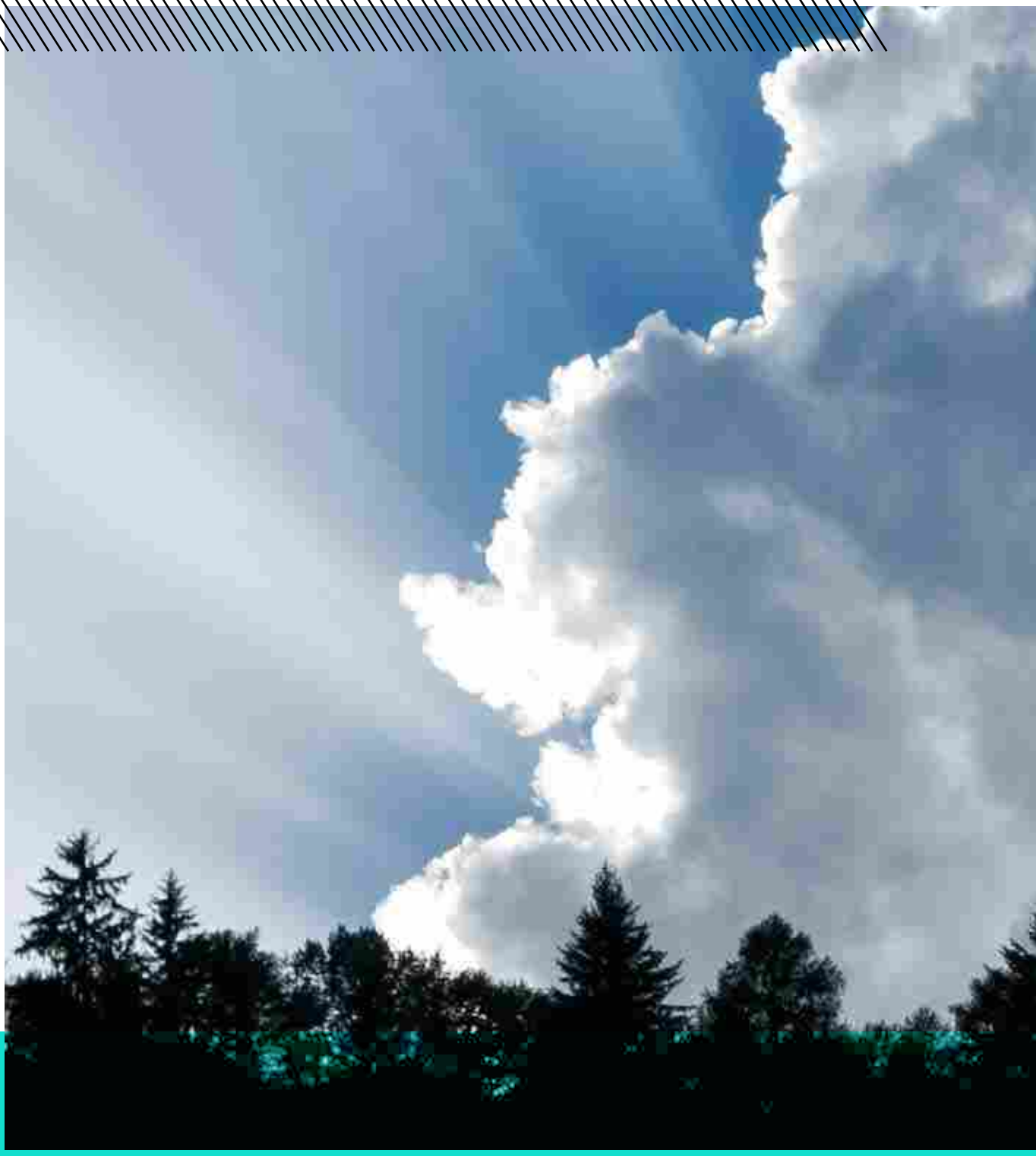
spirit

05 | Who is the Holy Spirit and how can He dwell in you?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

What are some things you know exist, but cannot see?



Jesus said that we cannot see the wind, but we can certainly see what it can do.

IN THE SAME WAY, WE CANNOT SEE THE HOLY SPIRIT, BUT WE CAN SEE THE WAY HE TRANSFORMS PEOPLE'S LIVES.



search

YOUR LIFE WILL DISPLAY MORE AND MORE OF THE QUALITIES OF GOD'S CHARACTER, SUCH AS HIS LOVE,JOY AND PEACE

GALATIONS 5:22,23



1 THE FOCUS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit is focused on pointing people to Jesus and leading them to Him:

- The Holy Spirit inspired prophets with prophecies that pointed towards Jesus. Deuteronomy 18:15-22, Psalm 22, Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah 53
- Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would glorify Jesus and remind people of everything He taught. John 14:26, 16:13,14
- The central theme of all the Holy Spirit's message is the story of Jesus. Revelation 19:10

2 THE PROMISE OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Throughout the Bible, God has been promised us the gift of His Holy Spirit:

- God promised that He would pour out the Holy Spirit on everyone. Joel 2:28,29
- Jesus promised that He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-20
- Peter reassured us that this promise is for us. Acts 2:37-39

3 THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you, your life will be completely transformed for the better:

- You will start a new spiritual life and become a new person. John 3:5-8, Romans 6:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17,18
- You will become part of the family of God—a son or daughter of God. Romans 8:14-17
- Your life will display more and more of the qualities of God's character, such as His love, joy and peace. Galatians 5:22,23
- You will want to have the power to obey Jesus' directions and commandments. John 14:15-21
- You will be given special spiritual gifts and talents to serve within the church and your community. Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:1-16

Which of the above appeals to you the most?





4 PRACTICAL STEPS TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

LUKE 11:9-12

You can be filled with the Holy Spirit and experience His transforming power. The Bible gives us practical steps on how to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

- Accept Jesus' invitation to enter into His kingdom and His promise to give you the Holy Spirit.
- Acknowledge your sincere desire and willingness to change and become a new person.
- Like Jesus, be baptised in water and by the Holy Spirit.
- Ask and pray for Jesus to fill you with His Holy Spirit.
- Study the Bible to become familiar with the way the

HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES PEOPLE.

The Bible finishes with a personal invitation for you to come and be part of God's kingdom and family. The Holy Spirit is the Person who enables you to become part of the kingdom of God.

YOU CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCE HIS TRANSFORMING POWER.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT



real talk

Q1. Have there been times in your life when you have sensed God's presence and/or the guidance of His Holy Spirit?

Q2. What aspect of the holy spirit's work in people's lives gives you a clearer picture of God?

Q3. How would you like the Holy spirit to transform your life?

reimagine

READ ACTS 2:1-4

Discuss what a modern day pentecost might look like and how it would impact the world.

"So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit. The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the... Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end" - *Acts of the Apostles*



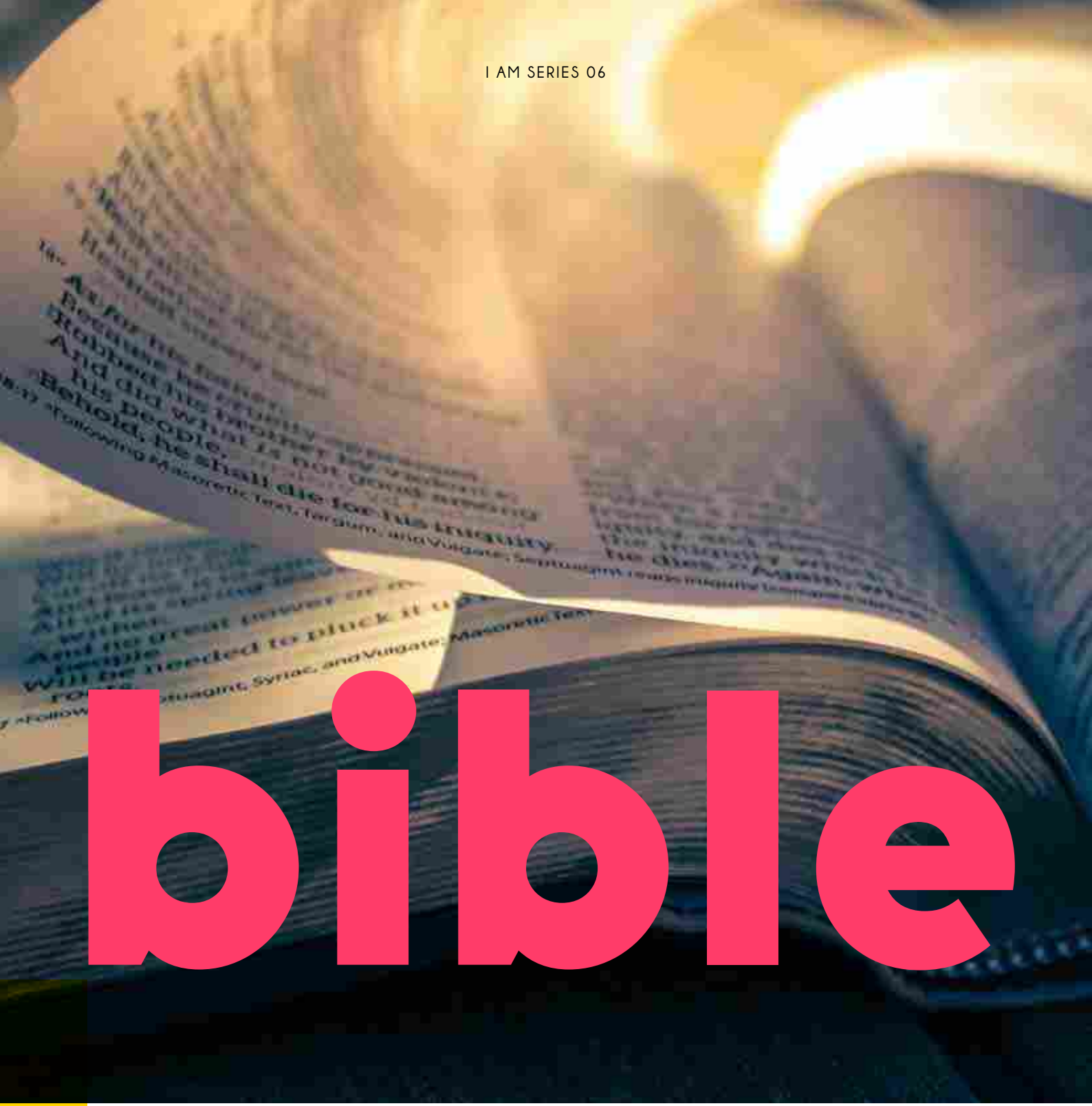
Further Study

John 16:7-8, 13-14, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, 12:11, Romans 8:9, 15-16, 27, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 4:30-31

Resources for further reading

- *10 Days in the Upper Room* - Mark Finley
- *How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit* - A. W. Tozer
- *Experiencing the Holy Spirit* - Andrew Murray
- *The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power in Your Life* - Billy Graham

NEXT STEP Do you feel that you need the gift of God's Holy Spirit in your life? Would you like to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit today?



bible

06 | Why is the Bible important?

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reflect

What is one of the best books you have read?

Why did you enjoy it so much?





The Bible is an amazing book with an incredible record:

- The Bible was written by 40 authors over a period of 2,000 years.
- The Bible has been translated into over 500 languages making it accessible to over five billion people.
- At least some parts of the Bible have been translated into over 3,000 languages.
- According to the Guinness World Records, the Bible is the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book.
- Over five billion copies of the Bible have been printed.
- The Bible is the best-selling book of the year, every year, with 100 million copies sold every year.

search



1 THE POWER OF THE BIBLE

People are attracted to the Bible because it reveals one who can transform our lives.

- **The Bible is a spiritual light for our journey in life:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105
- **God inspired the people who wrote the Bible:** "All Scripture is inspired by God." 2 Timothy 3:16
- **The Bible reveals Jesus and the will of God to us.** The apostle John wrote, "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31
- **The Bible speaks directly to our hearts:** "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." Hebrews 4:12
- **The Bible gives us spiritual wisdom for life:** "The Scripture is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16,17

"FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND POWERFUL"

HEBREWS 4:12



2 EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE

There is substantial evidence that what the Bible teaches is true:

- Archaeological evidence has confirmed all of the key historical details in the Bible.
- Regarding the biography of the life of Jesus and the history of the early Christian church written by the medical doctor Luke, the great archaeologist Sir William Ramsay wrote: "Luke is a historian of the first rank;

NOT MERELY ARE HIS STATEMENTS OF FACT TRUSTWORTHY, HE SHOULD BE PLACED WITH THE VERY GREATEST OF HISTORIANS."

- Prophecies in the Bible have consistently come true.



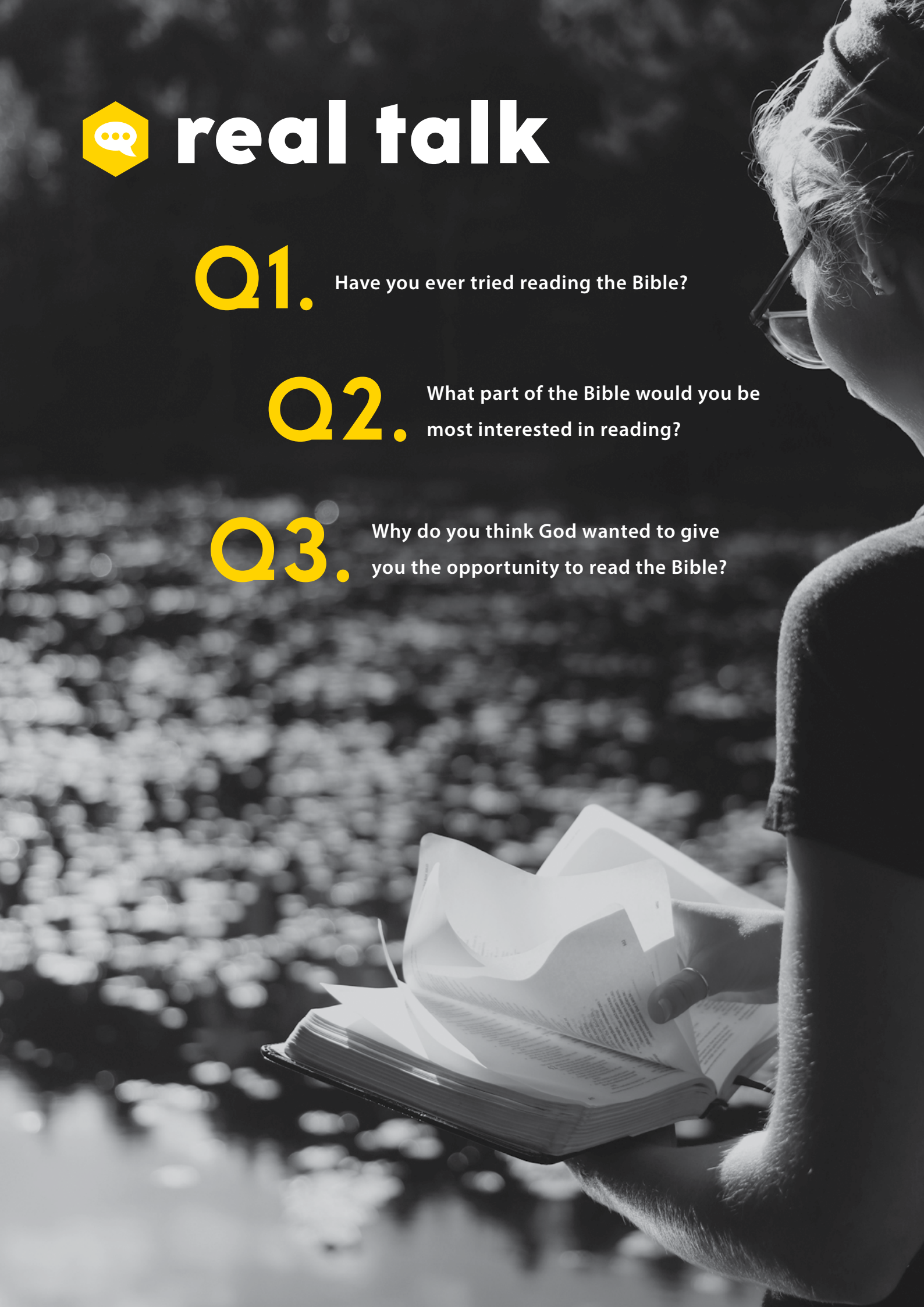
3 TRANSFORMED BY THE BIBLE

If you want to understand God's personal message for you, in the Bible, there are practical steps you can take:

1. **Set aside some time** every day to read through the Bible, starting with the biographies about the life of Jesus, which are called Gospels. Originally, the Bible was written in the Hebrew and Greek languages. The Bible is so popular that many different English translations have been written. We recommend that you choose an English translation you find easy to understand, like the New Living Translation (NLT), Good News Translation (GNT) or the New International Version (NIV).
2. **Pray** that God will speak to you personally as you read.
3. **Ask** how you can apply what you read in the Bible, in your own life.
4. Put what you learn from God into **practice**.



PRAY THAT GOD WILL SPEAK TO YOU.



real talk

Q1. Have you ever tried reading the Bible?

Q2. What part of the Bible would you be most interested in reading?

Q3. Why do you think God wanted to give you the opportunity to read the Bible?

reimagine

Choose a time to read and reflect on the first chapter of Mark. Read a chapter a day, for the next 16 days. Then share your experience and learnings.



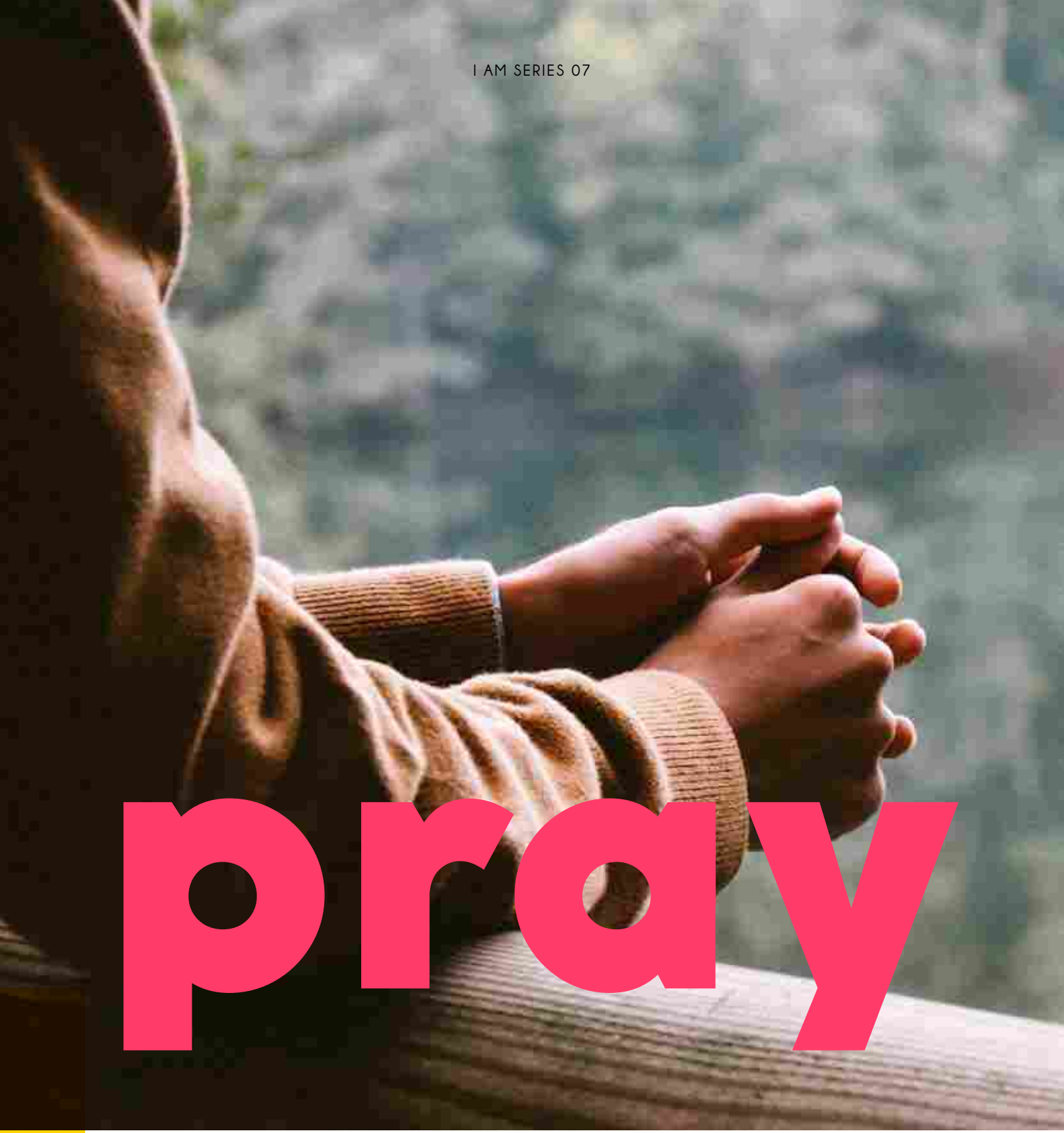
Further Study

Amos 3:7. 2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:24-25, Matthew 24:35, John 5:39, 17:17, Isaiah 46:9-10

Resources for further reading

- *Can We Still Believe the Bible? And does it really matter?* - Bryan Ball
- *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* - F. F. Bruce
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* - Gordon Fee
- *The Bible (The New Living Translation is a dynamic version of the Bible)*

NEXT STEP Would you like to go on the personal journey of reading Mark's biography of Jesus over the next 2-3 weeks?



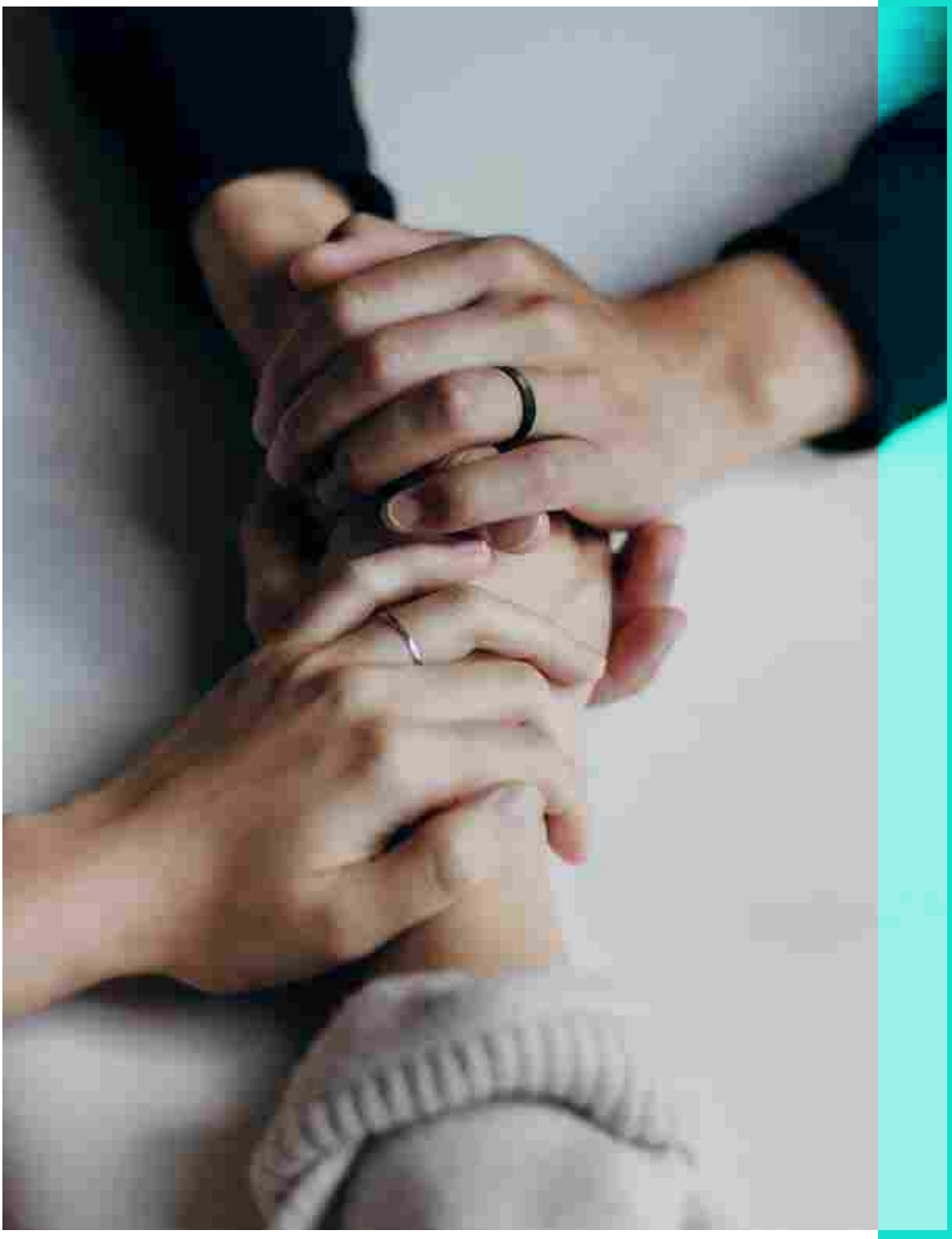
pray

07 | Why can I pray?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

When you think about prayer, what comes to mind?





Many people say they pray regularly and even experience answers to prayer. What is Prayer? Have you had an answer to prayer? Why Should We Pray?

"Prayer is opening up your heart to God as to a friend."
Steps to Christ.

- Our relationship with God grows through prayer.
- Prayer gives us spiritual strength and power.
- God can guide our lives when we pray.
- We experience peace when we pray.
- God wants to hear from us and have a conversation with us.

"PRAYER IS OPENING UP YOUR HEART TO GOD AS TO A FRIEND."

ELLEN WHITE

search



"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME, YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD. AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE."

MATTHEW 6:9-13



1 THE WAY GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

There are at least three key ways that God answer prayers:

1. "Yes! I can answer your prayer!"
2. "No. You are asking for something I know will not be good for you."
3. "Wait… You need to be patient and trust Me, that I know the right time to answer your prayer."

Sin can be a barrier to having good communication with God. We need to be honest with God and allow Him to cleanse us from sin.

2 HOW CAN I PRAY

- You can talk openly with God anytime, anywhere.
- Jesus gave us a good model for prayer called "The Lord's Prayer," which is found in Matthew 6:9-13.
- You will note that even though the answer to your prayer may not be as you would like, God has your best interest in mind and answers your prayer accordingly.
- The ACTS acronym is another model you can use to structure your prayers:

ACTS

A Appreciate God's character,

C Confess anything that you have said or done which is sinful and destructive,

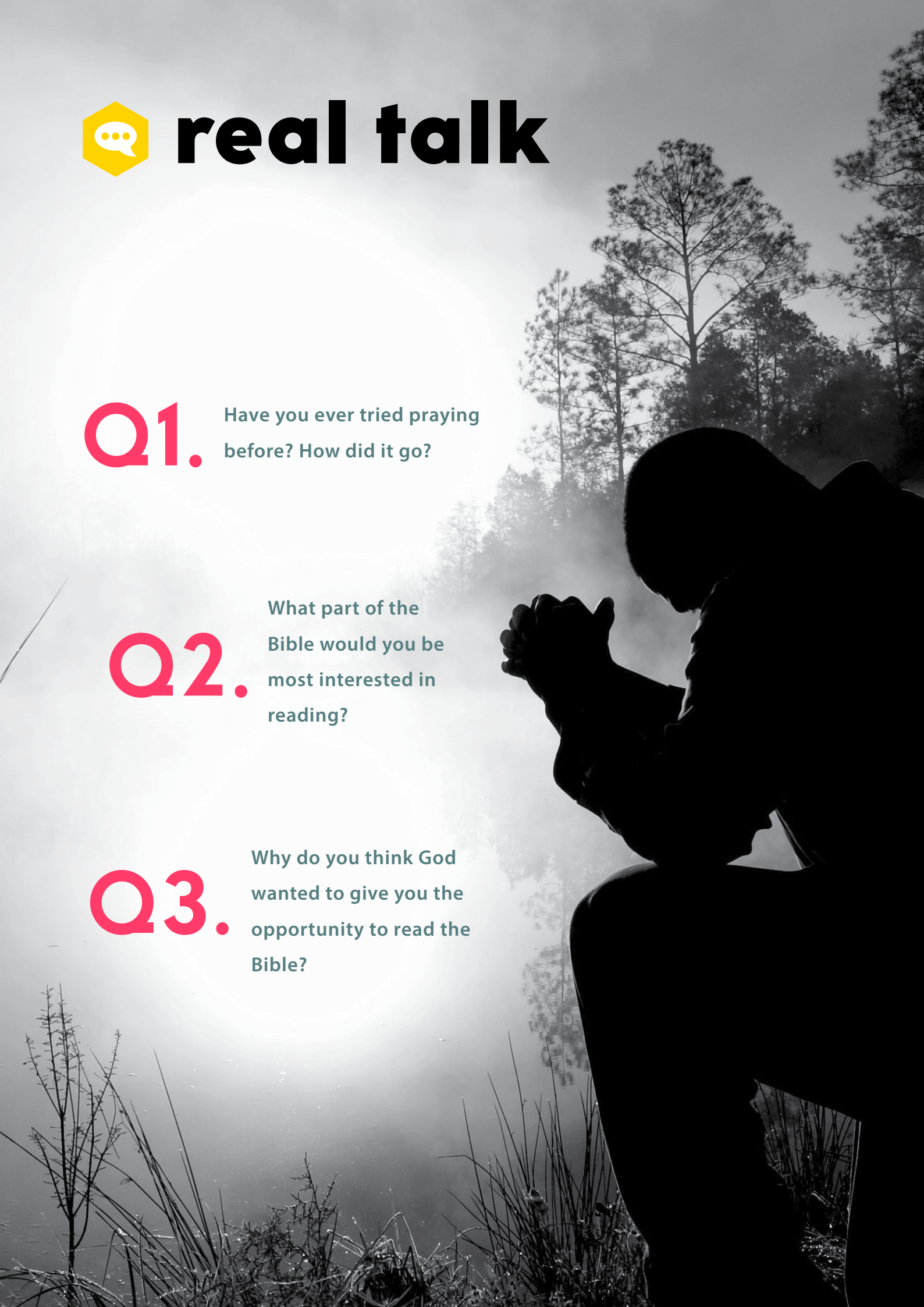
T Thank God for what He has done in your life,

S Share with Him any needs that you or the people around you have.





real talk



Q1. Have you ever tried praying before? How did it go?

Q2. What part of the Bible would you be most interested in reading?

Q3. Why do you think God wanted to give you the opportunity to read the Bible?

reimagine

Write a personal prayer to god using the acts model as a guide.



Further Study

1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Samuel 1, 1 Kings 8, 18, Psalm 8, 139, Amos 5:14-15, Joel 2:13-14, Matthew 6:25-33, 7:7-8, 26:36-46, Mark 11:24, John 14:13, 2 Corinthians 12:7-8

Resources for further reading

- *Steps to Christ, Chapter 11: The Privilege of Prayer* - Ellen White *http:/www.whiteestate.org/books/sc/sc11.html*
- *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God* - Timothy Keller
- *Moving Mountains: Praying with Passion, Confidence and Authority* - John Eldredge
- *The Bible (The New Living Translation is a dynamic version of the Bible)*

NEXT STEP Would you like to start making prayer a part of your daily life?



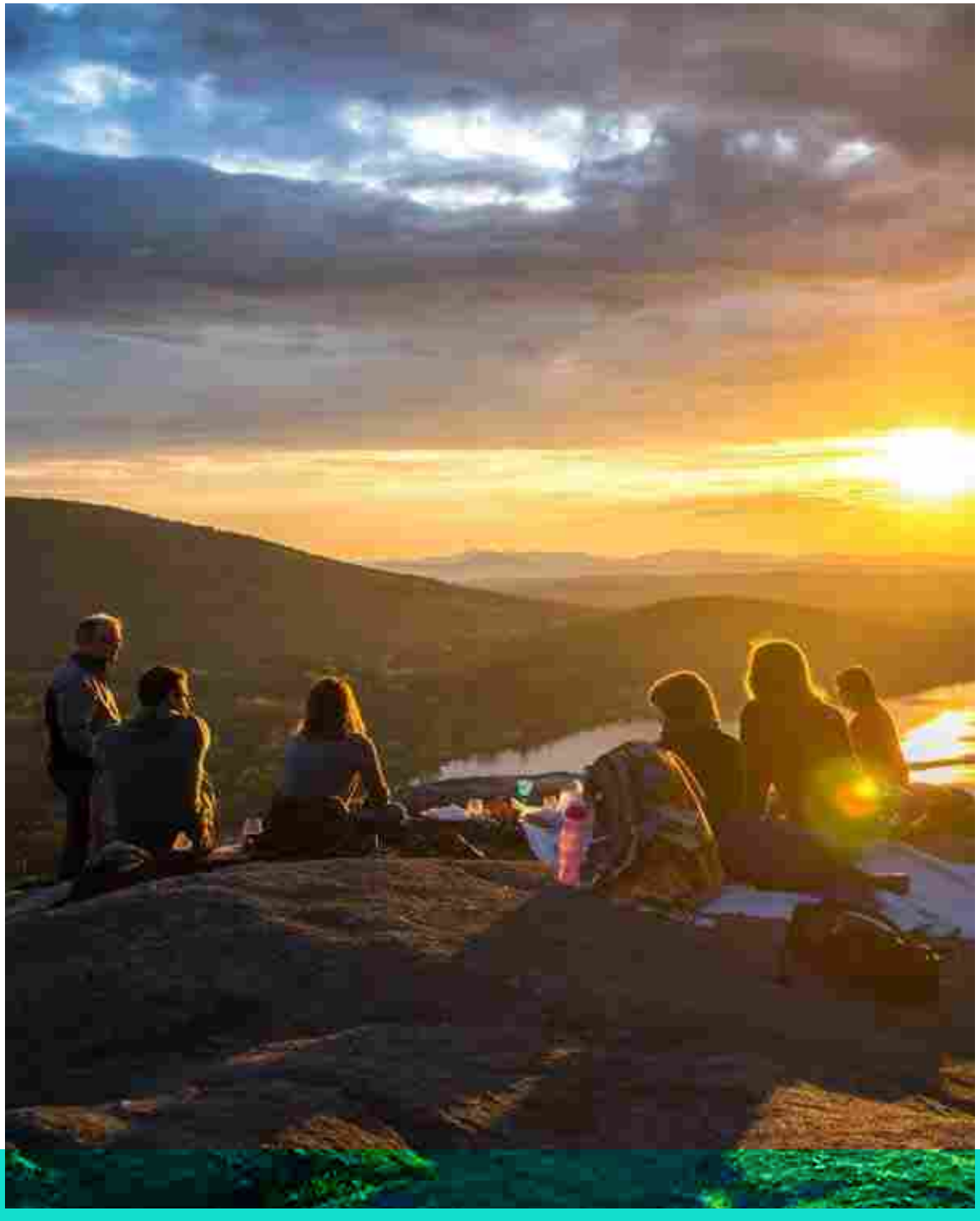
Sabbath

08 | What is the Sabbath about?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

From your expereince, what are the keys to developing a friendship?



Our calendar follows a number of cycles which are based on astronomical patterns:

- Day The time it takes for the Earth to revolve on its axis.
- Month Approximately the time it takes for the Moon to orbit around the Earth.
- Year The time it take for the Earth to orbit around the Sun.

However, our caledner also follows the seven-day week, which does not match any astronomical cycle.

THE ORIGIN OF THE SEVEN DAY WEEK AND THE SABBATH

The Bible tells us our seven-day week came from the beginning of time when God created this world. It says:

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy." Exodus 20:11 God finished the Creation week by resting on the Sabbath:

"So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation." Genesis 2:1-3

He then invites us to join Him in keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest:

> "REMEMBER TO OBSERVE THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY."
>
> EXODUS 20:8

God desires to spend time with us every week because He loves us. He has special blessings He wants to give to us during the Sabbath. God is inviting us to enter His divine rest on the Sabbath—the day that He has chosen.

search



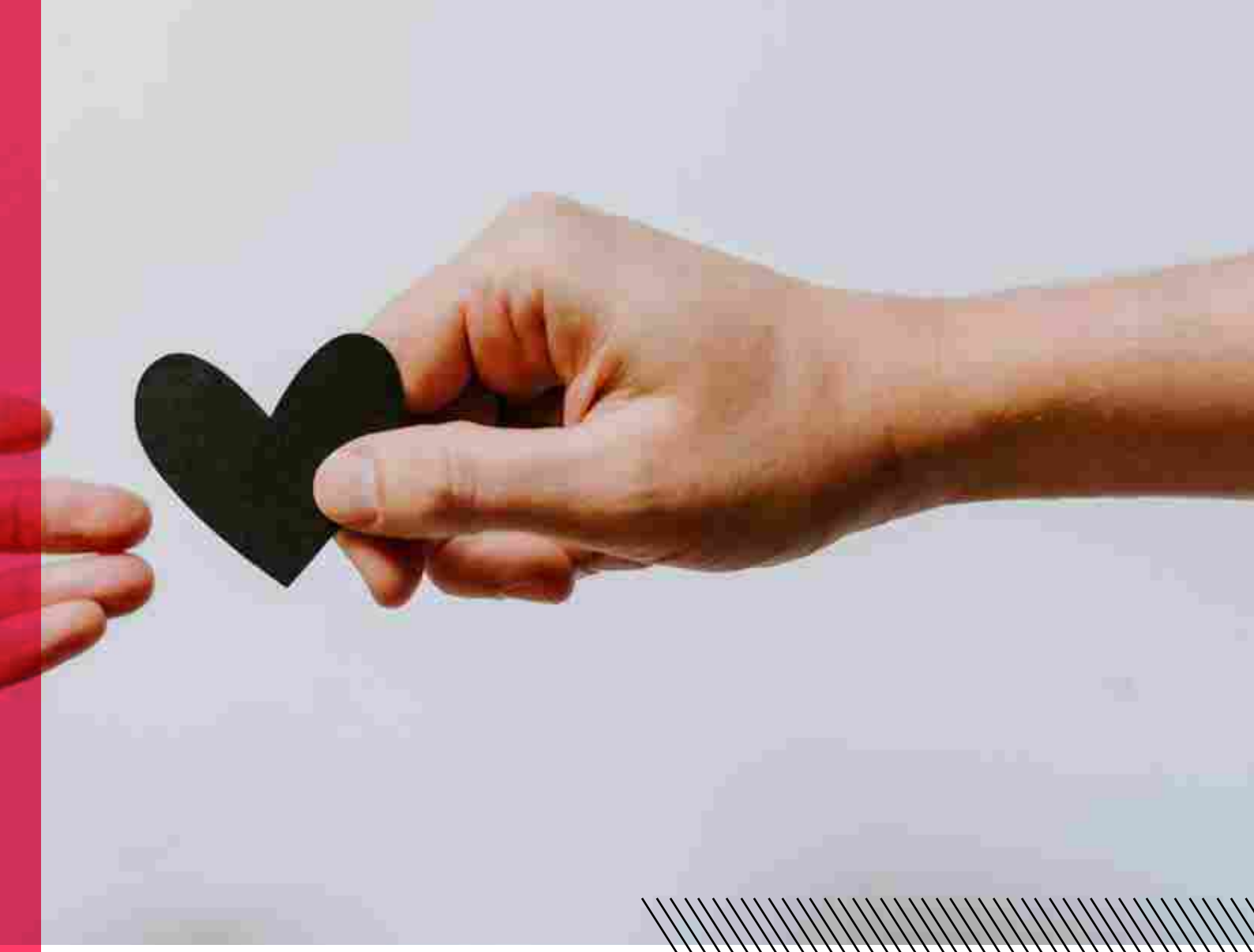
"IT IS A DAY OF SABBATH REST FOR YOU, AND YOU MUST DENY YOURSELVES. FOR THE EVENING OF THE 9TH DAY OF THE MONTH UNTIL THE FOLLOWING EVENING YOU ARE TO OBSERVE YOUR SABBATH."

LEVITICUS 23:32

1 THE MESSAGE OF THE SABBATH

The message of the Sabbath is:

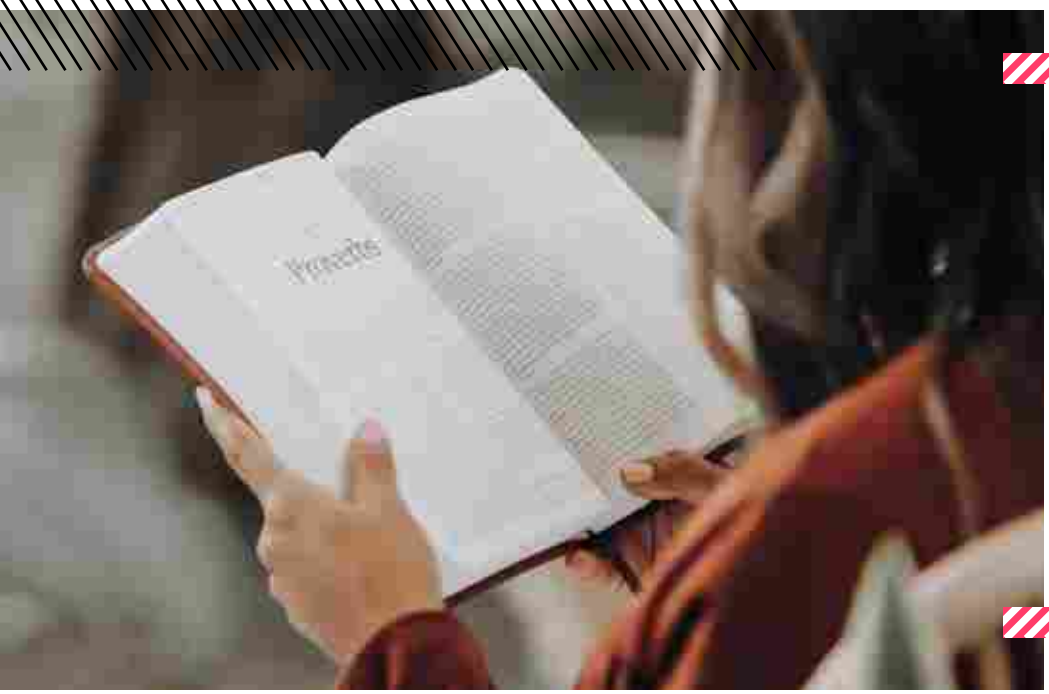
- Our value as people is based on our relationship with God as our Creator and His love for us.
- The Sabbath celebrates that we are saved by our faith and trust in Jesus. Ephesians 2:8-10
- We cannot make ourselves holy and spiritually pure—this is God's supernatural work in our lives. Exodus 31:12,13
- Jesus is inviting us to come to Him to find rest and peace. Matthew 11:28-30
- Jesus rested in the tomb on Sabbath



2 IDENTIFYING THE SABBATH

The Sabbath starts at sunset on Friday evening and continues until sunset on Saturday evening. We know this because:

- Days in the Bible are defined as starting in the evening and then being followed by day, in other words from sunset to sunset. Genesis 1:5, Leviticus 23:32, Mark 1:32
- The Jews have been consistently keeping the Sabbath for thousands of years.
- Saturday is called the "Sabbath" in many languages, including Spanish (Sabado), Italian (Sabato), Russian (Subbota) and Arabic (Sabt).
- There is historical evidence that Jesus died on Friday, was buried in the tomb on Sabbath and rose back to life on Sunday morning.



JESUS SPENT TIME EXPLORING THE BIBLE ON SABBATH

JESUS' EXAMPLE

3 JESUS EXAMPLE

The best way to discover what the Sabbath concept is like, is to learn from Jesus' example:

- Jesus spent time exploring the Bible on the Sabbath. Luke 4:16-21
- He joined His local worship community on Sabbath. Luke 4:16
- He healed people on Sabbath and set them free from illness and demonic possession. Luke 4:31-37, Luke 6:6-11, John Chapters 5 & 9
- Jesus rested in the tomb on Sabbath after finishing His work of salvation on the Cross. John 19:28-42, The Desire of Ages Chapter 80: "In Joseph's Tomb".

4 PRACTICAL TIPS FOR ENJOYING THE SABBATH

You can enjoy the Sabbath in the following ways:

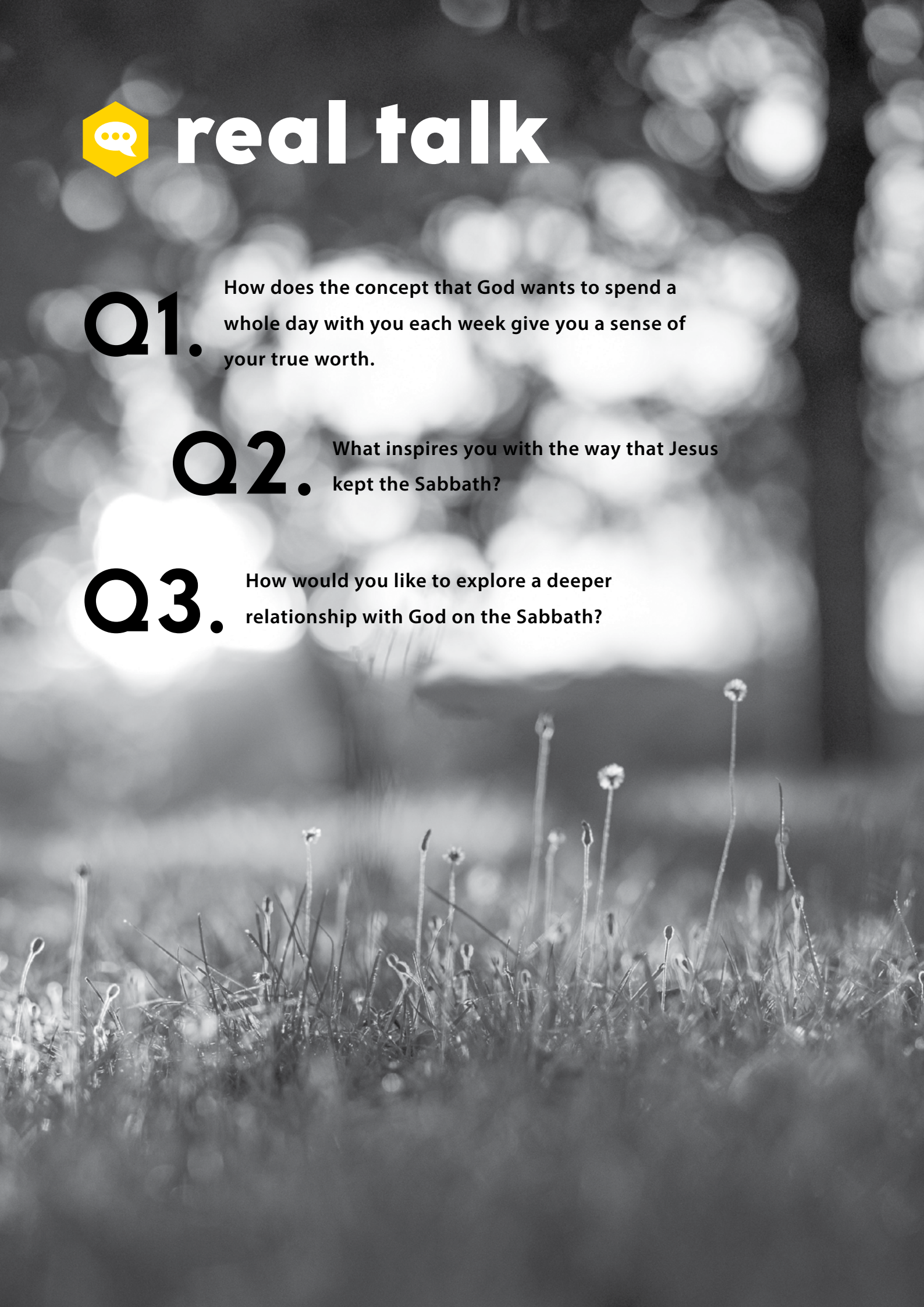
1. Develop developing your relationship with God by reading the Bible and prayer.
2. Worship God with other Sabbathkeeping Christians at church.
3. Enjoy spending time in nature- God's beautiful creation.
4. Share the story of Jesus with people who are far away from God.
5. Serve the needy in your community.

real talk

Q1. How does the concept that God wants to spend a whole day with you each week give you a sense of your true worth.

Q2. What inspires you with the way that Jesus kept the Sabbath?

Q3. How would you like to explore a deeper relationship with God on the Sabbath?



reimagine

READ ISAIAH 58

Share as a group how to instil these values in your weekly Sabbath. Plan your next Sabbath with God.



Further Study

Revelation 4:11, Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Mark 2:27-28, Luke 4:16, Matthew 24:20, Luke 23:54-24:1, Acts 16:3, Revelation 1:10, 14:12, Isaiah 66:22-23, Ezekiel 20:12, 19

Resources for further reading

- *A Time for You* - Mike Tucker
- *God's Gift in Time* - Walt Thompson
- *Sabbath As Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now* - W. Bruegemann
- *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* - Abraham Joshua Heschel
- *The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day* - Sigve Tonstad
- *"The Sabbath" The Desire of Ages* - Ellen White

NEXT STEP Would you like to start spending the Sabbath with God each week?



healing

09 | Does Jesus care about my health?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

Have you ever been really sick? How did you become well again?



"FOR I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU."

EXODUS 15:26

In the future world that God has planned for us, there is no more pain, suffering or death. This demonstrates that God really cares about our life and does not want us to struggle with pain and disease. God also has the supernatural power to miraculously heal us:

HE FORGIVES ALL MY SINS AND HEALS ALL DISEASES."

PSALMS 103:3



search

... HE WENT UP ON A MOUNTAIN-SIDE AND SAT DOWN. GREAT CROWDS CAME TO HIM, BRINGING THE LAME, THE BLIND, THE CRIPPLED, THE MUTE AND MANY OTHERS, AND LAID THEM AT HIS FEET; AND HE HEALED THEM. THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED WHEN THEY SAW THE MUTE SPEAKING, THE CRIPPLED MADE WELL, THE LAME WALKING AND THE BLIND SEEING. AND THEY PRAISED THE GOD OF ISRAEL."

JAMES 5:14





1 JESUS' SUPERNATURAL HEALING MINISTRY

Jesus healed many people. Jesus spent more time healing people than He did teaching.

- Jesus' healing ministry was prophesied by Isaiah over 600 years before He was born. Isaiah 35:1-10
- He healed people who had highly contagious diseases like leprosy. Luke 5:12-16
- He healed people who were crippled, deaf, dumb and blind. Matthew 15:29-31
- He released people from the power of Satan. Luke 8:26-39
- He healed people on the Sabbath to free them from their pain and disease. John 5:1-17

Many people were attracted to Jesus because of His supernatural power to heal them.

2 JOINING JESUS' HEALING TEAM

Jesus expanded His healing ministry by sending His followers out to also heal people. He told His followers, "Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.'" Luke 10:8 You can be part of Jesus' healing team in the following simple ways:

- Listen to people's worries and what causes them pain.
- Pray in faith for Jesus' healing power in their lives.
- Encourage them to trust God and put His health principles into practice.

3 DIVINE HEALTH PRINCIPLES

Jesus' healing ministry demonstrates that God created us and understands how our bodies work best. The Bible says, "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

God's health principles can be summarised with the acronym:

CREATION

- **C** Choice is the first step towards health and wellbeing.
- **R** Rest refreshes and rebuilds your mind, body and soul.
- **E** Environment influences our mood and our health.
- **A** Activity promotes a fit body and mind.
- **T** Trust in God is the key to unlock supernatural power in your life.
- **I** Interpersonal Relationships add to the quality of your life and lower your risk of disease.
- **O** Outlook impacts everything we think and do.
- **N** Nutrition is your fuel for life.





real talk

Q1. What does Jesus' supernatural healing ministry tell you about the character of God?

Q2. What ways would you like to be personally involved with Jesus in his healing ministry?

Q3. In which areas of health would you like to improve personally?

reimagine



Let's discuss the elephant in the room, ***is healing still possible in our time as it was in Jesus?*** *Share one thing you would like to do this week to nourish your health.*

Further Study

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 10:21, Romans 12:1-2, Genesis 1:29, 7:2, Leviticus 11:1-8, Mark 7:19, Philippians 4:13, 3 John 1:2

Resources for further reading

- *The Ministry of Healing* - Ellen White
- *Divine Healing* - Andrew Murray
- *CREATION Health: God's 9 Principles for Living Life to the Fullest* - Florida Hospital *(Web: creationhealth.com)*

NEXT STEP Would you like to experience Jesus' healing power in your life and in the lives of the people around you?

I AM



death

10 | What happens when I die?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

Have you experienced the profound loss of someone close to you dying? What emotions did you experience?





The pain we feel when we lose someone we love is something overwhelming and yet, we are fascinated with death, while at the same time we are afraid of it. This is because:

- Death involves a significant personal loss for us when someone we love dies.
- We have no personal experience of what lies beyond death.
- Some of the things that are said to happen after we die can seem quite unfair and even frightening.

William Lane Craig "I remember vividly the first time my father told me that someday I would die. Somehow as a child the thought had just never occurred to me. When he told me, I was filled with fear and unbearable sadness. And though he tried repeatedly to reassure me that this was a long way off, that did not seem to matter. Whether sooner or later, the undeniable fact was that I would die and be no more, and the thought overwhelmed me."

WHETHER SOONER OR LATER, THE UNDENIABLE FACT WAS THAT I WOULD DIE AND BE NO MORE, AND THE THOUGHT OVERWHELMED ME."

WILLIAM LANE CRAIG

search

DEATH SEEMS SO UNNATURAL AND UNNERVING TO US BECAUSE GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR US TO DIE IN THE FIRST PLACE.



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

JOHN 11:25

1 THE BIBLE'S PICTURE ABOUT DEATH

JOHN 5:24-29, 11:9-14, 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-55, REVELATION 21:4

What the Bible teaches about death is very encouraging. It teaches us that:

- Death is like sleep.
- Jesus has power over death as demonstrated by His resurrection from the dead.
- When we put our faith in Jesus, we will be raised back to life when Jesus comes back
- There will be no more pain or suffering or death in heaven and the new earth.

2 WHY IS THE BIBLE'S PICTURE IMPORTANT

What the Bible teaches about death is very important:

- Satan's original lie to Eve was that she would not really die. We now know this to be untrue.
- "The dead know nothing." Ecclesiastes 9:5,6
- Reports about dead people coming back to visit family members are actually evil spirits pretending to be their loved ones. Through his deception, Satan will spiritually deceive people.

3 TRUSTING JESUS

We can trust Jesus even in the face of death. He said:

- "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." John 11:25
- "I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grace." Revelation 1:18

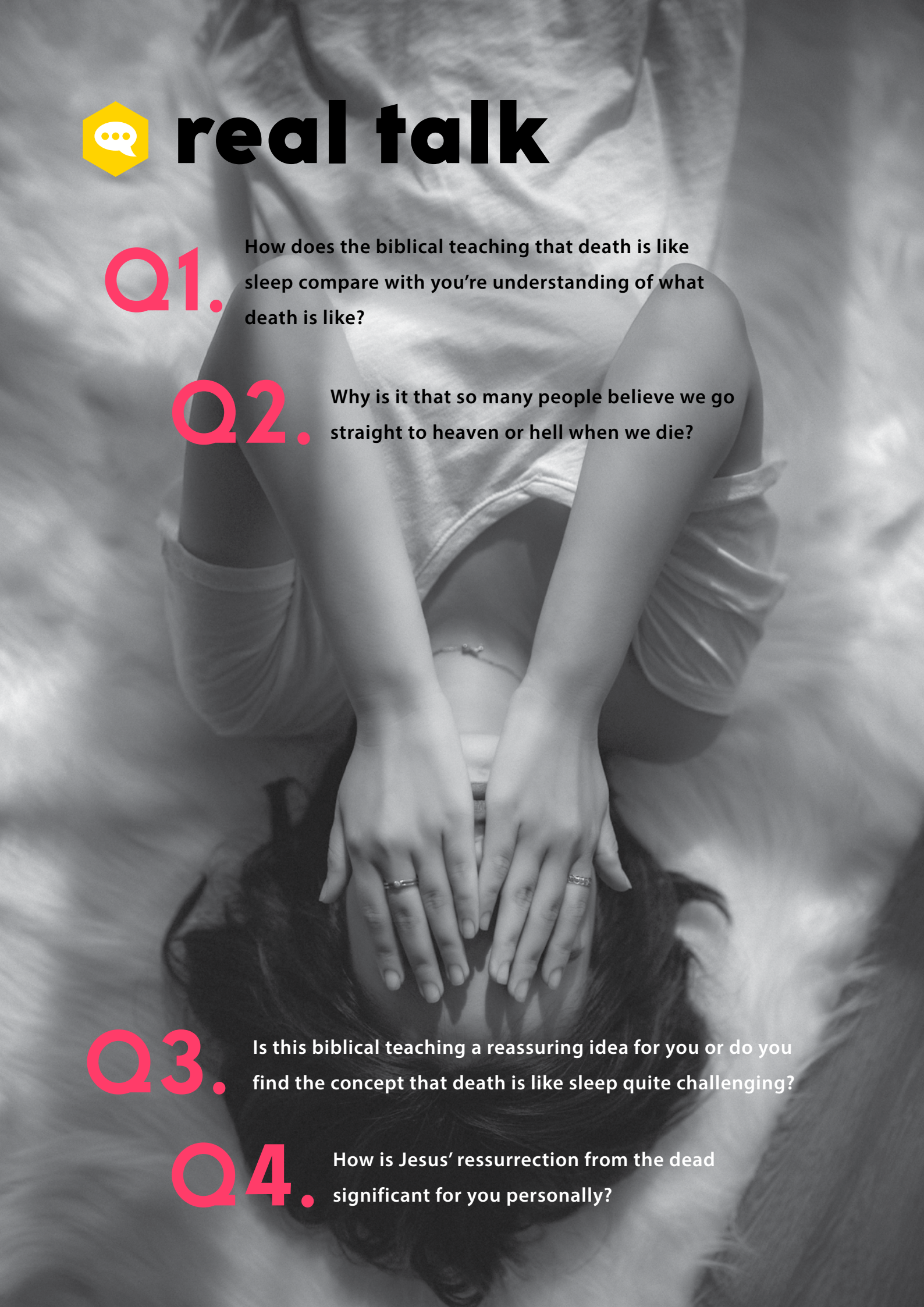




THERE IS A BEAUTIFUL PROMISE FOR PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW JESUS:

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18



real talk

Q1. How does the biblical teaching that death is like sleep compare with you're understanding of what death is like?

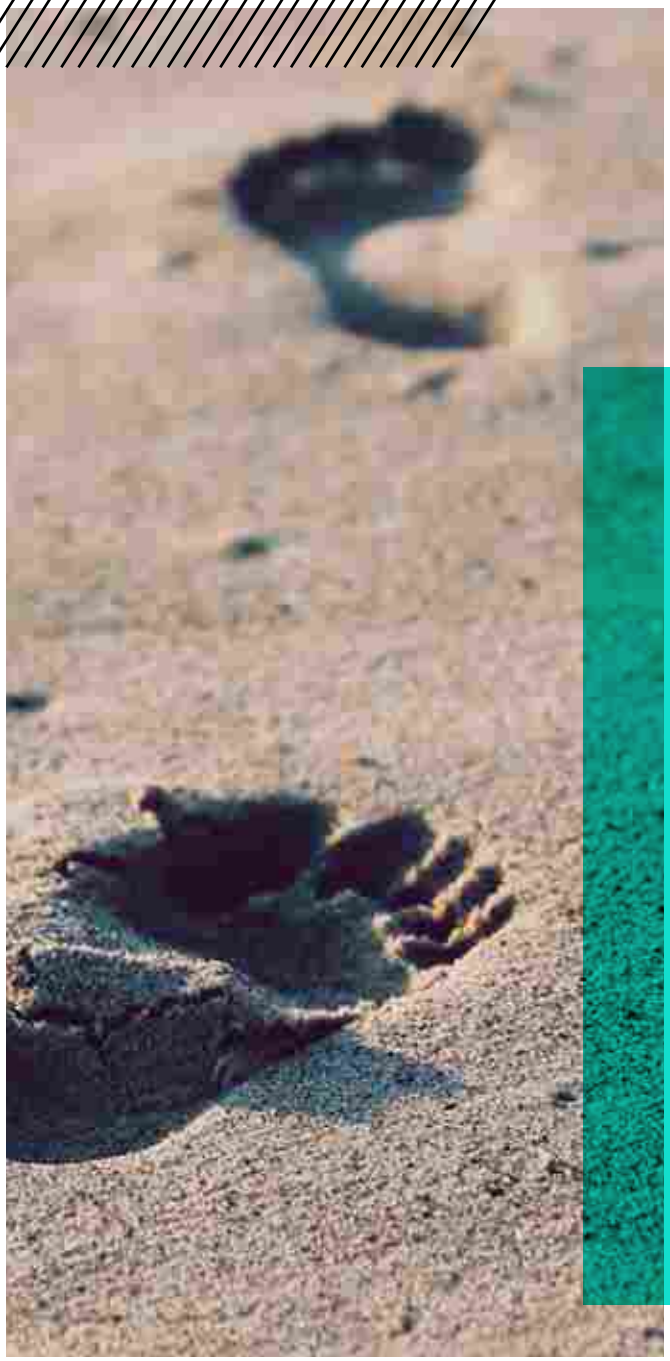
Q2. Why is it that so many people believe we go straight to heaven or hell when we die?

Q3. Is this biblical teaching a reassuring idea for you or do you find the concept that death is like sleep quite challenging?

Q4. How is Jesus' ressurrection from the dead significant for you personally?

reimagine

DISCUSS THE MEANING OF JOHN 5:24-29



What do you like about Jesus' words? What does this teach us about Jesus? How can we make the most of every day of life God has given us?

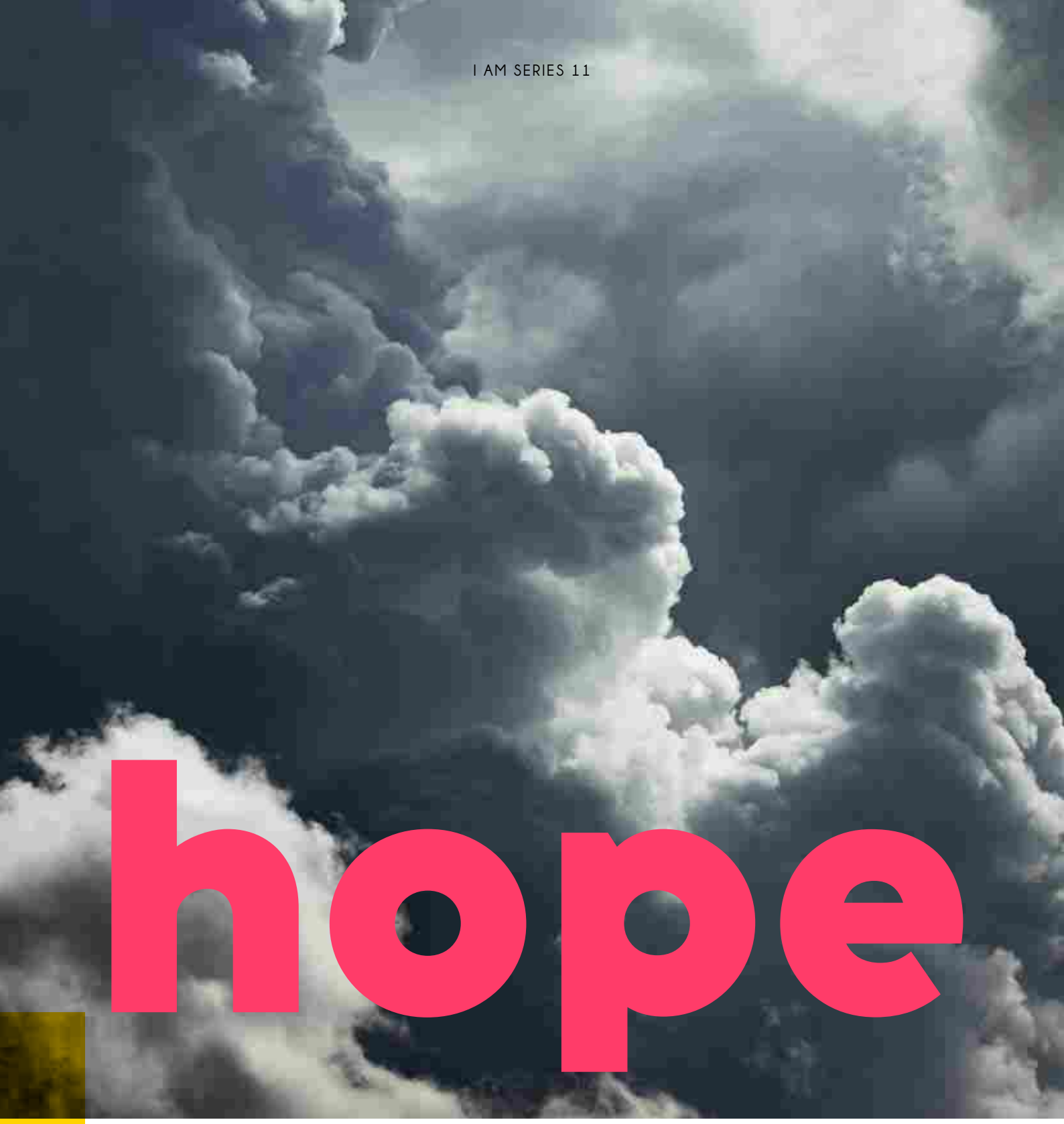
Further Study

Genesis 2:7, John 11:1-44, Acts 2:29-34, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, 1 Timothy 6:15-16, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Psalms 6:5, 115:17, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 12:7, Job 14:10-12, 1 Kings 2:10

Resources for further reading

- *A Trip into the Supernatural* - Roger Morneau
- *The Mystery of Death* - John Bradshaw
- *Beyond Death's Door* - Gerald Wheeler

NEXT STEP Jesus has promised that if you trust Him, even if you die, He has the power to raise you back to life. Would you like to accept His promise of eternal life today?



hope

11 | When will Jesus return?

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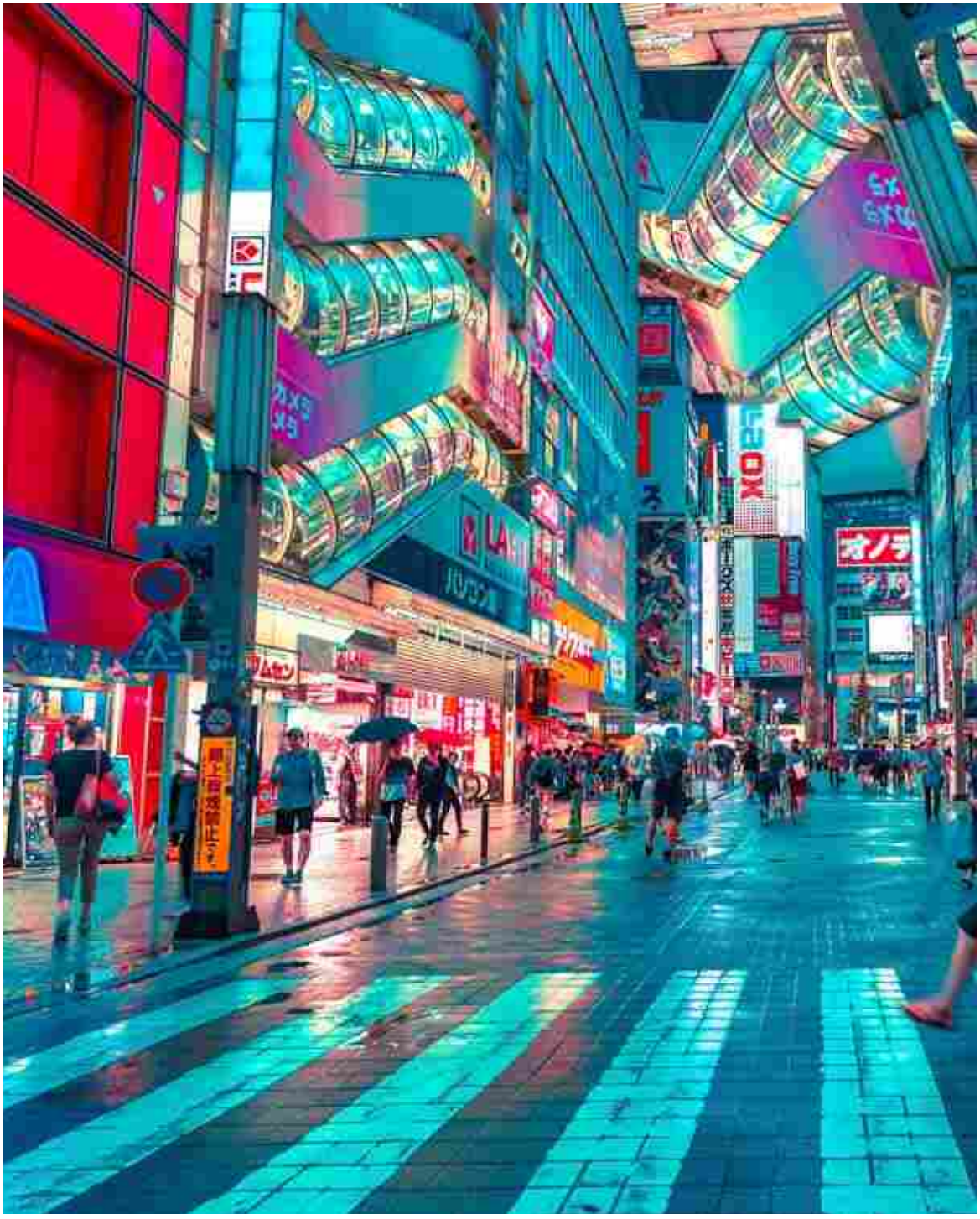
reflect



What are some predictions you have heard about the world's future?

search

DO NOT BE WORRIED AND UPSET. BELIEVE IN GOD AND BELIEVE ALSO IN ME".

JOHN 14:1

1 THE PROMISE OF JESUS RETURN

Jesus has promised us He will return. The Bible is filled with promises of Jesus' soon return. Did you know:

- There are over 1,500 prophecies about Jesus' soon return.
- For every prophecy that is focused on the first time Jesus came in the first century AD, there are 8 prophecies about His return at the end of time.

For example:

- "Do not be worried and upset. Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am." John 14:1-3
- "Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go." Acts 1:11
- "We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed." Titus 2:13



2 THE PURPOSE OF JESUS RETURN

1 COR 15:51-52, 2 PET 3:13-14

The reasons why Jesus is coming back soon are:

- To raise back to life those who have died while trusting in Him.
- To take us home to heaven to be with Him.
- To put an end to all of the pain and suffering in the world.

3 THE PICTURE OF JESUS RETURN

ACT 1:9-11, REV 1:7

Jesus described what His coming will be like:

- He will come soon.
- He will come at a time when people are not expecting Him.
- Everyone will see Him when He comes because His coming will be so loud and dazzling.

4 PREPARING FOR JESUS RETURN

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

We can be prepared for Jesus when He returns by accepting His gift of eternal life. While we wait, we can allow Gods love to flow though us by:

- Connecting with Him every day through prayer and Bible study.
- Caring for people the way He did when He was living on earth.
- Sharing the good news about His soon return with our friends, classmates and workmates.
- Allow His love and character to transform you.

At the very end of the Bible, Jesus says, "I am coming soon!" We can respond in prayer by saying, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus."




Psalm 140
Prayer for Deliverance fro
I AM COMING SOON
LORD JESUS

“WE LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE TO THAT WONDERFUL DAY WHEN THE GLORY OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, WILL BE REVEALED.”

TITUS 2:13





real talk

Q1. Based on how the bible describes Jesus,what are you most looking forward to?

Q2. What would you do if you knew that Jesus is coming back very soon?

Q3. What would you like to talk about with Jesus when he comes back?

reimagine

Based on the bible verses mentioned in this session, together imagine the second coming might be like.



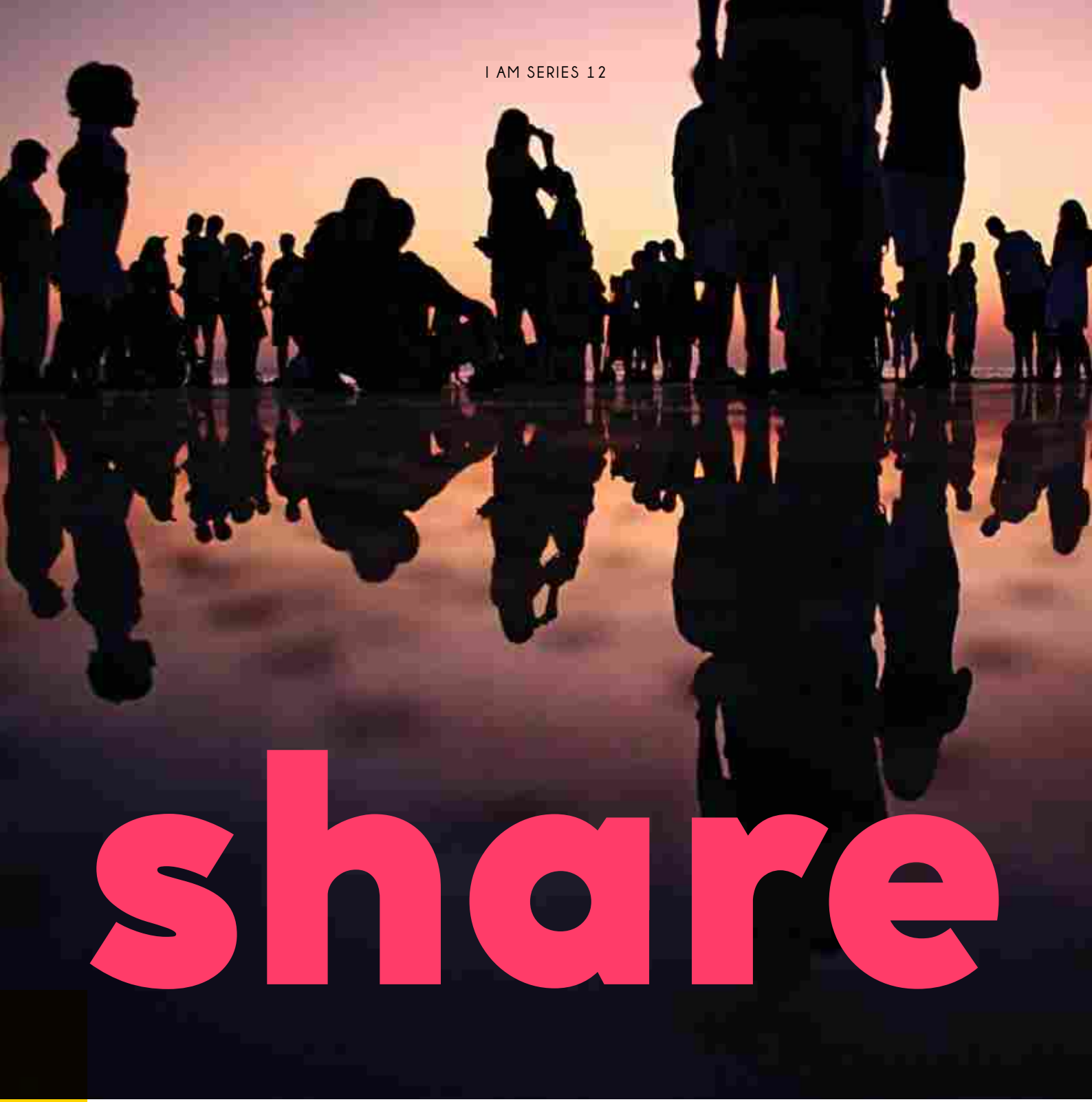
Further Study

John 14:1-3, Acts 1:9-11, Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24:1-14, 30-31, 25:31, 2 Peter 3:9-13, 2 Timothy 3:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, James 5:1-7, Luke 21:28

Resources for further reading

- *End Time Hope: A Journey to Eternity* - Mark Finley
- *Darkness Before Dawn* - Ellen White
- *Christ is Coming!* - Norman Gulley

NEXT STEP Would you like to be prepared for the time when Jesus returns?



share

12 | How can I share the good news about Jesus?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

What is the best news you have ever received?

Who were the first people you shared this news with?



AND SO YOU WILL BEAR TESTIMONY TO ME. BUT MAKE UP YOUR MIND NOT TO WORRY BEFOREHAND HOW YOU WILL DEFEND YOURSELVES. FOR I WILL GIVE YOU WORDS AND WISDOM THAT NONE OF YOUR ADVERSARIES WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST OR CONTRADICT.

LUKE 21:13 -15



Whenever we have discovered or experienced something that is really good, it is natural to want to share what we have found with others. This is also true when we discover what Jesus has done for us.

Sharing your new faith in Jesus has many benefits but may also involve some risks:

BENEFITS

- More people will have the opportunity to have the gift of eternal life.
- We will be obeying Jesus' directions to make disciples.
- We will be part of Jesus' mission team.
- Our own faith in Jesus will become stronger as we explore the answers to the questions people ask.

RISKS

- There are people who may reject us.
- We may not know how to respond to all of the questions or objections people ask.
- We have to find the balance between sharing too little or sharing too much.

discuss

DISCUSSION 1

WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE BEFORE YOU ENCOUNTERED JESUS?

DISCUSSION 2

THE TIME WHEN YOU REALLY MET JESUS AND UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU?

DISCUSSION 3

THE DIFFERENCE JESUS HAS MADE IN YOUR LIFE?



search

1 JESUS APPROACH

JOHN 13:34-35

The key to effectively sharing your faith in Jesus with others is to follow the example of Jesus:

- "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching people. The Saviour mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" —Adapted from The Ministry of Healing, p143

2 PRACTICAL TIPS

ACTS 22:1-21

Here are some practical tips on how to effectively share your faith:

- Spend time with Jesus by reading the stories of His life in the Bible and talking with Him in prayer.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you opportunities to share your faith.
- Listen to other people and ask them how they are doing in life.
- Offer to pray with them, then pray with them that God would make a difference in their difficult situation.
- Take practical steps to actually meet their needs.
- Share your personal story of how Jesus has changed your life.
- Share a simple gospel illustration of what Jesus has done for you.
- Find out answers to common questions that people ask Offer to explore the Bible with people that you know.



3 THE GOSPEL STORY

A good way to share the good news about Jesus is the Bridge Illustration which uses the following verses:

- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
- "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23
- "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23
- "If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." 1 John 1:9
- "But as many recieved Him, to them He gave the right to become Children of God." John 1:12





real talk

Q1. What can you learn from the way Jesus approached people with the news about His kingdom?

Q2. If the good news about Jesus and His death on the cross was something that you had not heard much about before, how would you like someone to share this news with you?

Q3. Who would you like to share the story of Jesus with?

reimagine

What have you learned and most enjoyed about the "I am" series. What aspect of God do you most want your friends to know about? What is your next step?



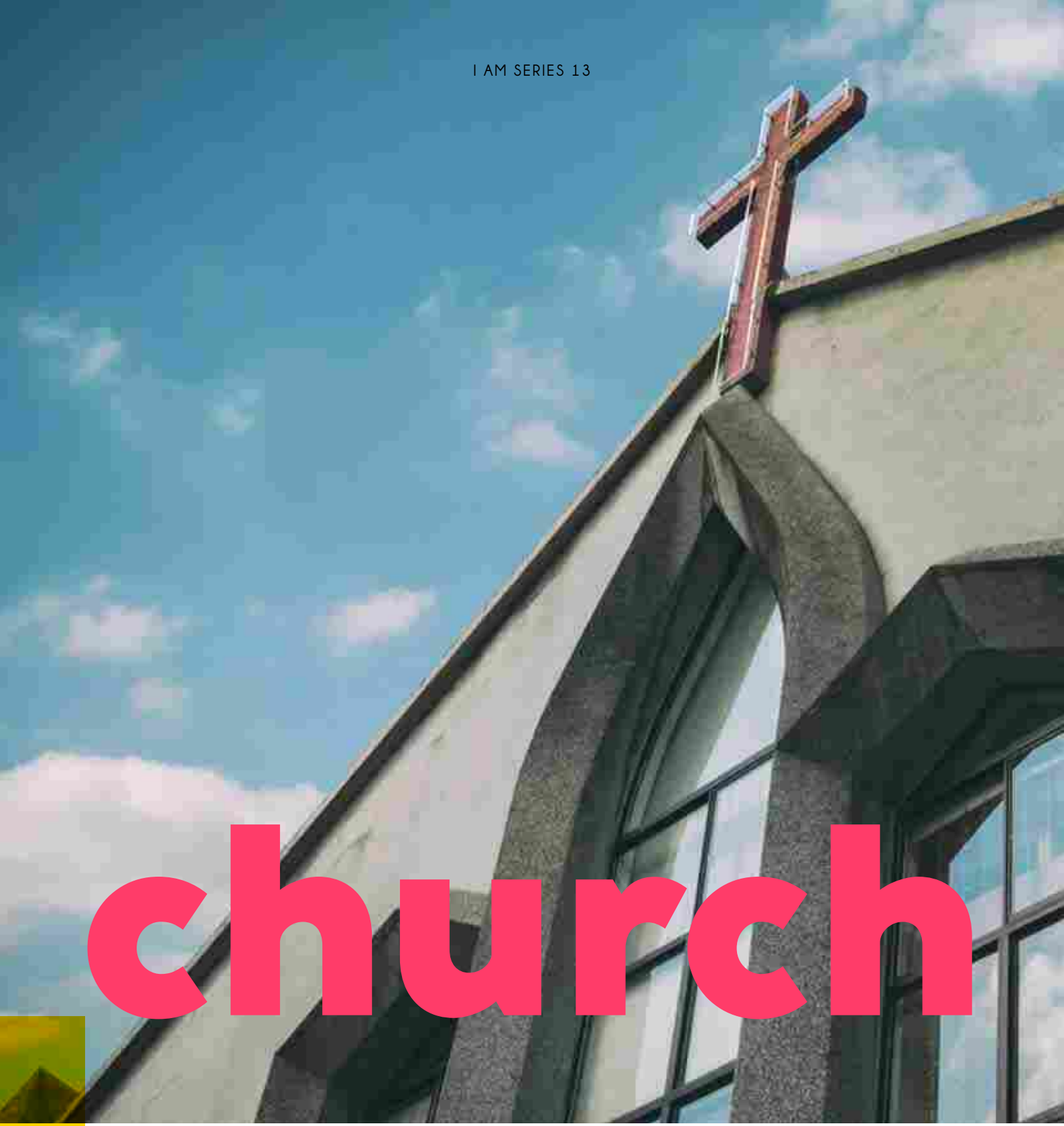
Further Study

Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 5:18-20, 16:15, Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-12, 17-20 19:10, John 17, Acts 1:8, 4:12, 20:24-28, Isaiah 43:31, 49:6, Genesis 18:18, John 13:35

Resources for further reading

- *Sharing Your Faith* - Don Mackintosh
- *Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out* - Alvin Reid
- *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision* - William Lane Craig

NEXT STEP Would you like to pray for courage to share the story of Jesus with someone this week?



church

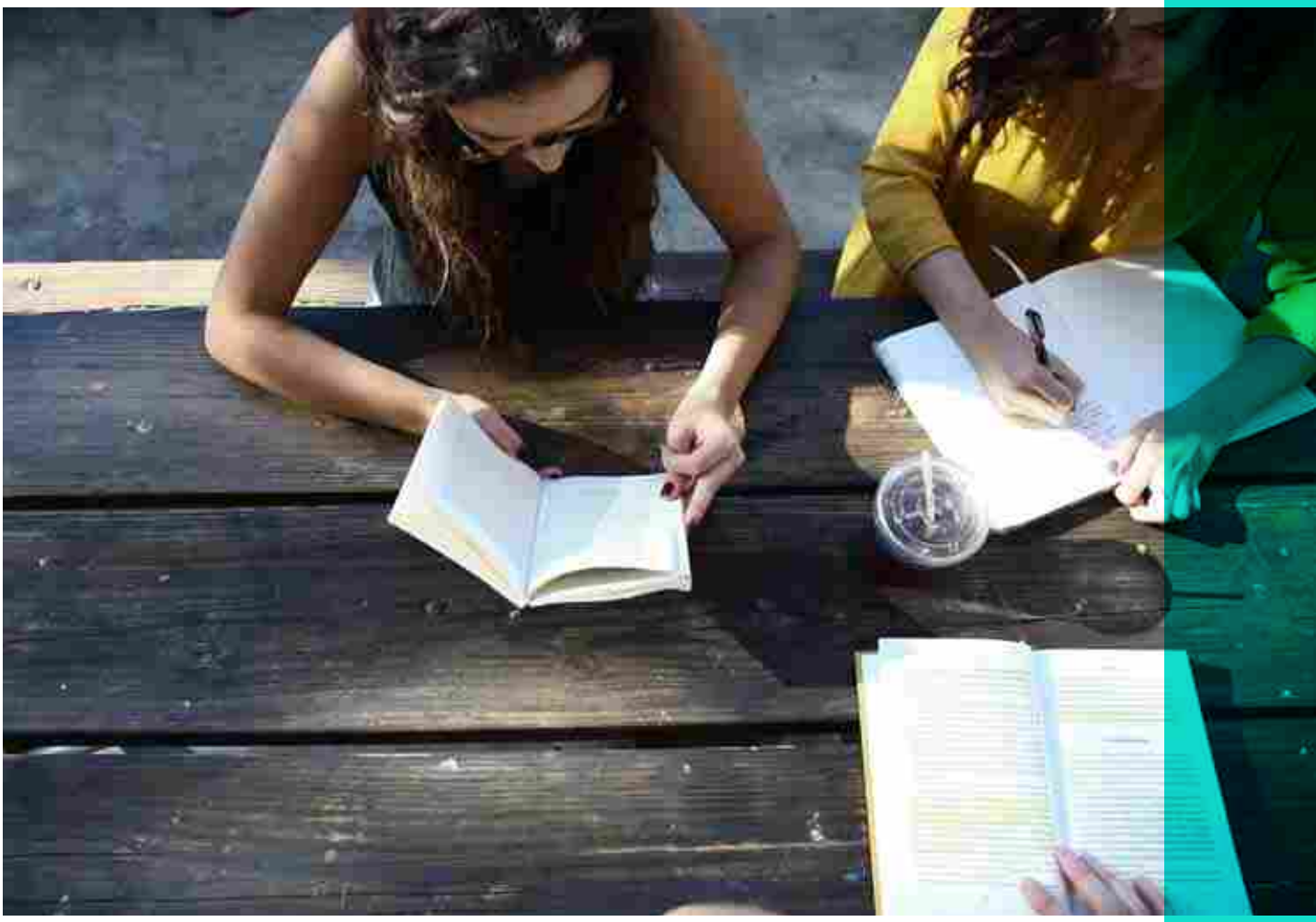
13 | Why join a church?

This study guide is meant to be used as a simple tool to help your Small group dive deeper into god's word, nurture conversation, And draw your group nearer to Christ. As a leader, begin your Group in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

reflect

What is one of the best expereinces you've had with a group of people? What was it about the group that made the expereince so special and memorable?





Sometimes we can think that church is boring and irrelevant. It is important to know that church is not:

- A building
- A program that happens once a week
- An outdated, hierarchical institution

Church is a community of people who share their faith, hope and love of Jesus! The Bible uses a number of pictures to describe what church is like:

- **A FAMILY** We are all brothers and sisters in God's family.
- **A BODY** An organic system of people who work together.
- **THE BRIDE OF CHRIST** Jesus has a special love, devotion and care for the church.Jesus said, "For you can do nothing without me." John 15:5

A CHURCH IS A FAMILY, A BODY, THE BRIDE OF CHRIST



THE DIFFERENCE CHURCH MAKES

Church makes a big difference in our lives in the following ways:

- Connects us with God.
- Connects us with people who have similar spiritual worldview.
- Gives us a spiritual family.
- Provides us with spiritual support.
- Gives us the opportunity to work together with other people using the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you.

"LET US THINK OF WAYS TO MOTIVATE ONE ANOTHER TO ACTS OF LOVE AND GOOD WORKS. AND LET US NOT NEGLECT OUR MEETING TOGETHER, AS SOME PEOPLE DO, BUT ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE DAY OF HIS RETURN IS DRAWING NEAR."

HEBREWS 10:24-25

search

TRUST IN GOD IN THIS LIFE AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY



1 THE WAY THE BIBLE DESCRIBES GOD'S PEOPLE

The Bible beautifully describes the vision that Jesus has for His church. It consists of people who:

- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who saves people from sin and death. 1 John 5:1-13
- Trust in God in this life and throughout eternity. Proverbs 3:5-6
- Make the Bible the foundation of their worldview and the way they live. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Love God and love the people around them. Matthew 22:34-40
- Keep God's commandments. John 14:15, Revelation 12:17
- Treasure and share the story of Jesus as found in the Bible. Revelation 12:17

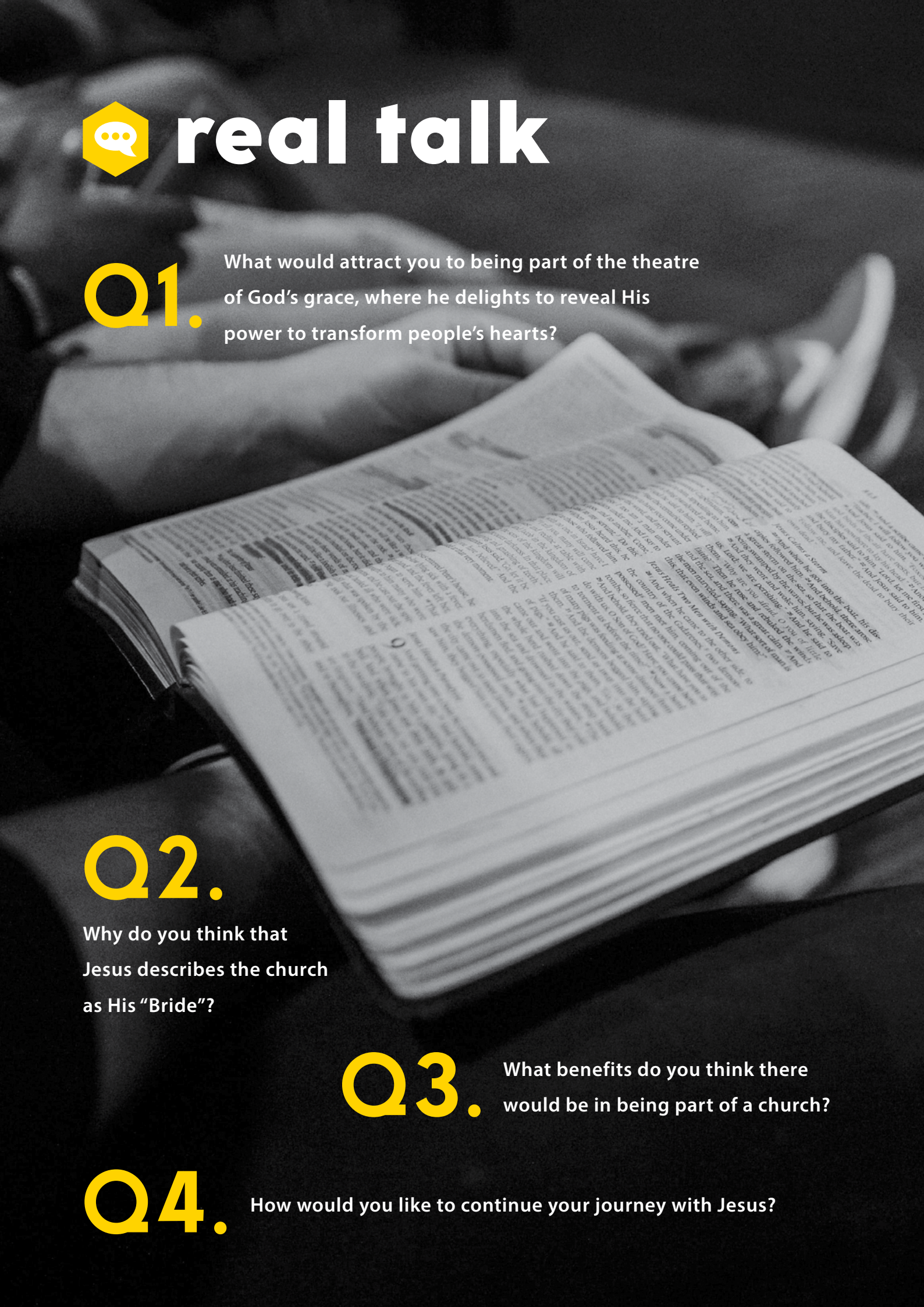


"ENFEEBLED AND DEFECTIVE AS IT MAY APPEAR, THE CHURCH IS THE ONE OBJECT UPON WHICH GOD BESTOWS IN A SPECIAL SENSE HIS SUPREME REGARD. IT IS THE THEATRE OF HIS GRACE, IN WHICH HE DELIGHTS TO REVEAL HIS POWER TO TRANSFORM HEARTS."

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, P12

real talk

Q1. What would attract you to being part of the theatre of God's grace, where he delights to reveal His power to transform people's hearts?



Q2. Why do you think that Jesus describes the church as His "Bride"?

Q3. What benefits do you think there would be in being part of a church?

Q4. How would you like to continue your journey with Jesus?

reimagine

Describe what you understand to be Jesus' vision for the church. As a group talk about your next faith journey together. How will you continue to grow into the person God made you to be?

Further Study

Psalms 62:7, 1 Peter 2:4, 1 Corinthians 3:11, 10:4, 11:18-22, 12:13, 27 Acts 20:28, Matthew 21:41-43, Ephesians 2:19-21, 4:5-6, 5:22-33, 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Resources for further reading

- *The One* - David Asscherick and Ty Gibson
- *Why Church Matters: Discovering Your Place in the Family of God* - Joshua Harris
- *Church: Why Bother?* - Philip Yancey



NEXT STEP Would you like to join our group for the next stage of our journey with Jesus?