

# SAMPLE



Thank you for downloading the FREE SAMPLE of **DNowStudies** 4-session Bible Study, *Everlasting: John3:16*

*Everlasting* is an amazing resource for your DNow or Retreat weekend. By leading your student through this study, you'll not only challenge them to live out their faith in a powerful way, you'll equip them to do it long after your event is over.

Before jumping into this sample, make sure you check out all the amazing features that **DNowStudies** puts at your fingertips. There really is nothing else like it anywhere...

#### **What You'll Find In This Sample**

- >>A Sample of a Small Group Lesson Plan
- >>A Sample of the Student Book
- >>A short version of the *Everlasting* Overviews

Of course each of these components, and dozens more, are available to your teachers through their Online Lesson Manager. But this PDF will simply give you an idea of the main content of *Everlasting*.

If you have questions, email us at [dnow@leadertreks.com](mailto:dnow@leadertreks.com).  
Or, give us a call at 1-877-502-0699

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Did you know that Small Group Content is just one of the many components you have access to with the purchase of a **DNow** study?

**DNowStudies** gives you the resources you need to create transformational DNow or Retreat Weekends. Take a look at what's included in your purchase of *Everlasting*.

- Large Group Speaker Outlines
- Large Group Videos
- Large Group Motion Background/Loop
- Large Group PowerPoint Slides
- Promotional Tools: Web Banner/Poster Files
- Promotional Tools: Promo Video
- Parent Resources

Throw in built-in **Tools and Training** for you and ALL your leaders, a streamlined **Teacher Management** tool, and of course your **Small Group Lesson Plans** and you begin to see how **DNowStudies** really can help make your Disciple Now and/or Retreat Weekend exceptional.

## ***Everlasting: John 3:16***

Our students tend to tune out things they've heard too many times. They ignore their coaches when they say, "There's no I in 'team'," their teachers when they say, "It's your own time you're wasting ... not mine," and flight attendants when they say, "Please put your seatbacks forward and your tray tables in their full, upright and locked position." But sometimes the things they ignore are actually the things they should pay the most attention to. Just because they've heard something a million times doesn't mean it isn't important.

John 3:16 is one of those verses many students have grown numb to. From Sunday school to bumper stickers, sermons to football games, this verse makes a lot of appearances. And quite frankly, it has good reason to show up as much as it does. The entire story of the universe culminates in this verse, clearly laying out the mystery of God's rescue plan. It describes how much God loves us, the effects of our sin on the world and our relationship with God, Jesus' rescue mission to reconnect us with God, and what our lives should look like after following Jesus.

But in some ways, we have gotten too used to it. "Everlasting life" has lost its meaning, and therefore, its impact. The biggest thing that's ever happened on the planet has become background noise. That's why this study is going back to the basics. John 3:16 shows us what it takes to cut through the noise, to live life to the fullest with God forever, to have life everlasting.

### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Small Group Session 1**

- **Session Title:** *Loved*
- **Main Scripture Passages:** Romans 8:38–39; Psalm 139:7–12; Zephaniah 3:17
- **Session Overview:** What do your students envision when they think about God? Do they picture an old man with a white beard, uninterested in their problems and far away from their day-to-day lives? Do they imagine a vengeful God, hypercritical and waiting for any opportunity to strike them with a lightning bolt? In this lesson, students will be introduced to the loving God who created them. They'll discover that they were made in his image to do important things. And they'll see that he's to one who fulfills their physical and relational needs.

#### **Small Group Session 2**

- **Session Title:** *Broken*
- **Main Scripture Passages:** Exodus 20:3–4; Exodus 20:5–6; Isaiah 53:3–6
- **Session Overview:** When we hear the word *sin*, many of us think of a giant dartboard, and, try as we might, we just can't seem to hit the bull's-eye. We believe that God has set his expectations so high that we're all bound to fail, so we get punished for not being perfect. But that's missing the core of what sin is. It isn't missing the target; it's actively and intentionally rebelling against God, placing ourselves and other things in a position of authority only God is qualified

## Everlasting: Lesson Overviews

to occupy. All of our specific sins flow out of that rebellion. In this lesson, students will learn what sin is, how it breaks their relationships with God and other people, and how it fills them with guilt and shame.

### Small Group Session 3

- **Session Title:** *Redeemed*
- **Main Scripture Passages:** Romans 5:1–2; Romans 5:6–8; 1 Peter 3:18
- **Session Overview:** Many students have already heard the “what” of Jesus’ death and resurrection. They could tell you that he died on a cross and rose again three days later. They might even be able to explain that Jesus is both God and a human being. But it’s easy to lose track of the “why” behind these “whats.” This lesson will help students understand the reason Jesus did what he did. It will explore our response to his act of love and sacrifice so students will know how they can be saved from sin and death.

### Small Group Session 4

- **Session Title:** *Called*
- **Main Scripture Passages:** Matthew 13:44; Matthew 9:37–38; Romans 10:13–15
- **Session Overview:** In this lesson, students will discover the calling Jesus places on our lives and a few important instructions for how to influence our cultures. He asks us to be like salt: distinct from our surroundings and demonstrating the radical life God wants for us. And he calls us to be like light: displaying the good news of Jesus within a world of darkness. If we become too much like our culture or hide ourselves from others entirely, we are avoiding our calling that started when we began following Jesus.

### Large Group Outlines

Large Group Session 1: Genesis 1:26–31

Large Group Session 2: Genesis 3:1–6

Large Group Session 3: John 3:16–21

Large Group Session 4: Matthew 5:13–16

### Student Book Devotional Outlines

Devotion 1: Psalm 139:13–18

Devotion 2: Mark 7:6–8; 20–23

Devotion 3: John 8:31–36

Devotion 4: Matthew 28:16–20



## Session 1: Loved

### HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

**GOAL:** The goal of this lesson is twofold:

1. *This small group lesson is designed to help you and your students go deeper into the fact that God created and loves us. As they learned in the large group talk, God created humanity, the pinnacle of his creation, in his own image. He made us as an outpouring of his Trinitarian love, not because he had to, but because he wanted to. He made each of us for a purpose, and he equips us with everything we need to fulfill that purpose.*
2. *It is also designed to make it easy for you to facilitate and teach students about their chief purpose: glorifying and pursuing relationship with God. That is why the Small Group Leader Guide is packed with easy-to-use instructions, timeframes, and questions that promote thinking and draw out real responses.*

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A copy of the Facilitator's Guide for you and any other facilitators.
- A Student Book for each participant.
- Be sure to check out the Live It Out section ahead of time to prepare: *A large sheet of paper from a flip chart or a large piece of butcher paper for each group of students, 1 or 2 markers, and an optional prize for the winning team.*

### TEACHER PREP VIDEO:

Don't forget to take a minute and watch the teacher prep video found in your DNow Studies account. It's a short video that will take you through some of the need-to-knows before you dive into this lesson with students.



**The Small Group Leader Guide** This table outlines the parts of each lesson and provides an approximate timeframe that you can adapt to meet the needs of your group.

<b>Lesson Outline</b>	<b><i>Included in Facilitator's Guide</i></b>	<b><i>Included in Student Book</i></b>	<b><i>Approximate Timeframe</i></b>
<b>Large Talk Review with Opening Questions</b>		Yes	3-5 minutes
<b>A Second Look</b> Another illustration of God's love for each of us, followed by discussion questions.	Yes	Yes	10–15 minutes
<b>A Little Deeper</b> Dig into Bible passages that were not in the Large Group Talk. See what else Scripture says about this topic.	Yes	Yes + Discussion Questions	15-20 minutes
<b>Live it out</b> An experiential activity to help students reinforce and internalize the lesson—followed by discussion questions.	Yes		10–15 minutes
<b>Apply it</b> A practical application for students to do this week.	Yes	Yes	2–3 minutes
<b>Student Devotional</b> A short devotional for students to do on their own.		Yes	



## THE FIRST MEETING

Since this is the first meeting together for this event, take the time to lay the foundations for the whole event.

- If your students don't know each other, cover introductions and consider an icebreaker (see [leadertreks.com/freebies](http://leadertreks.com/freebies) for several icebreaker and team building activities).
- Be sure to cover the schedule and ground rules for the event, especially if you are staying at a host home.
- Tell students why you are here. You are probably sacrificing some time and comfort to be a small group teacher and, chances are, it's worth it! Let students know why you care so much about them and why you want to invest in them to help them grow. Tell students why you think they're great and why it's worth it for you to be a small group leader this weekend!

## LARGE GROUP TALK REVIEW

Take a minute to review what students just learned in the Large Group Talk. Have them pull out their notes, and ask them to share what their answers were for the two questions found on **page 4** of the Student Book. Consider having students share their answers with a partner, and then ask for two or three volunteers who might want to share with the whole group.



## A SECOND LOOK

Read this story together as a group and answer the following questions, found on **page 5** of the Student Book.

*Tucked in the wall of a far room of Pastor Lee's house is a box. This is no ordinary box. It doesn't contain fancy shoes or expensive jewelry or beautiful Christmas decorations. One side of this box opens to the street, and another side opens into the pastor's laundry room. It's heated and lined with a baby blanket. Why? Because hundreds of babies have shown up in this box since 2010.*

*Pastor Lee's story started three decades ago, when his wife gave birth to a son with severe disabilities. They practically lived in a hospital for 14 years, seeing other kids just like their son. But these other children had no parents. This fueled a love in Pastor Lee for the unwanted and the abandoned.*

*In South Korea, a horrifying number of babies are abandoned each year, a lot of them left in the streets to die. Many of these babies have disabilities and need constant attention. That's why Pastor Lee created the baby box. Instead of abandoning their children to die, parents can place their baby in this box on the side of Pastor Lee's house. Each baby that comes through that box is loved. They are cared and prayed for. They are treated as priceless.*

*But Pastor Lee didn't stop there. He adopted 10 of them, as many as the government would allow. Some of these adopted children will never be able to say "thank you" or even feed themselves. But that didn't stop Pastor Lee from helping these children. His love was bigger than that.*

**Discuss:**

- Put yourself in Pastor Lee's shoes. What sacrifices would you make in order to help these children?
- What makes an abandoned baby valuable?
- What sacrifices does God make in order to love people?
- Why does God think you are so valuable?

**Leader's Note:** Be sure to say a positive or encouraging comment after students share: "Thanks for saying that," "Good insight," "I think we've all felt that way," or "I've never thought of it like that." If you let silence take over after a student shares, it can change the tempo of the discussion and prevent students from sharing any more. Stay upbeat, nod at them, and smile. It can change the whole atmosphere of each small group time.

**A LITTLE DEEPER**

In this section, you'll take a look at several Bible passages, and students will answer questions. The Background Notes below will give you a little more insight into the confusing parts of these passages. As students share, remember to listen deeply. Don't be afraid to ask second-level questions.

**Read each Bible passage and answer the questions found in the Student Book on pages 7 and 8:**

Romans 8:38–39: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Background Note:** Paul uses this list of extremes to emphasize the fact that God's love of his children is permanent. Whatever barriers we think might separate us from God's lavish love were destroyed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The powers of this world tried to stop Jesus' mission of love when Herod attempted to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16). The devil tempted Jesus to abandon his mission of love in the wilderness at the beginning of his earthly ministry (Matt. 4:1–11). The very people Jesus came to save tried to end his mission of love by hanging him on a cross and burying him in a tomb (Matt. 27:32–61). But Jesus triumphed over each of these barriers, demonstrating God's unfailing love to the world.

**Discussion questions found on page 7 of the Student Book.**

Psalms 139:7–12: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.





**Background Note:** God is everywhere. He isn't bound to one location like you and me. Theologians call this attribute of God "Omnipresence." God is present anywhere and everywhere. What does that mean for our day-to-day lives? God is always there for us. Even when we feel completely lonely, God is by our side. Even when we feel like God is distant, he's actually closer than we can imagine. If we have things we want to hide, that might make us feel uncomfortable, but if we're looking for someone to protect us, comfort us, and support us, this is the best news in the world.

**Discussion questions found on page 8 of the Student Book.**

Zephaniah 3:17: The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing.

**Background Note:** This passage was originally written to the people of Israel, God's chosen nation. Does that mean these words don't apply to us? (After all, most of us are probably Gentiles—not Jews.) Of course not! This verse describing God's love applies to his current followers, too. Romans 11:17 says, "Some of the branches [of Israel] have been broken off, and you [Gentiles], though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root." All who follow Jesus Christ are part of God's people. We know from other verses that, as Zephaniah 3:17 claims, God is with his people at all times, he saves us from our worst enemies, and he finds immense joy in his relationship with us.

**Discussion questions found on page 8 of the Student Book.**



## LIVE IT OUT

### Dream Car

*What You'll Need:* A large sheet of paper from a flip chart or a large piece of butcher paper for each group of students, 1 or 2 markers, and an optional prize for the winning team.

Split your students into groups of 4 to 6 people. Give each group a piece of paper and 1 or 2 markers. The small group leader(s) will judge this contest.

Say something like: *Ford is taking submissions for a new concept car designed by the public. Anyone can submit an entry, and the winner will get the very first car of this design ever made.*

Each entry must include:

- A drawing of the exterior of the car.
- A list of features. These features must utilize current car technology. (Cars can't fly, so designing a flying car won't win.)
- A close-up drawing of its most prominent (or valuable) feature.
- A name for the car (e.g., Mustang, Grand Cherokee, Outback)



*Remember, dream big! There's no budget, so create a car you would want to drive. Your team will have 15 minutes to create its car design, and then each team will present their car to the rest of the group and the judge(s). Each presentation should be only 1 or 2 minutes, and it should explain what makes this car so great!*

After each team presents, you and any other leaders can decide on the winner, or you can take votes. (Voting for your own design is not allowed.)

### Debrief:

- What was your thought process during this design process?
- What do you think God thought about when he was designing the world?
- What are some things about your car that you love?
- What are some things God loves about his creation?



### APPLY IT

What can you do to remind yourself of God's love and/or show someone else God's love? Think about something you can do within the next 24 hours!

#### Be specific:

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

**Leader's Note:** Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is his and that I trust him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." Challenge your students to answer the questions under the "Be Specific" section. You can even have them pair up, share their applications, and ask for accountability from their partner.

### WHAT'S NEXT

**Schedule:** Be sure to let students know what's happening next in the schedule and what they need to do or bring with them.

**Student Devotional:** The Student Book contains a short devotional for students to do on their own. Make sure to point this out to students and let them know if and when this fits into the schedule of the weekend. The devotional that corresponds with this lesson is found on **page 35**.



# EVERLASTING

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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Leaders.

# LeaderTreks®

Making Disciples...Developing Leaders

Everlasting: John 3:16

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## WELCOME TO EVERLASTING!

From little league to the high school state championship, soccer games all end the same way. The team members line up and high five each opponent, saying “good game” over and over again. By the end of the line, it’s been said so many times you can barely distinguish between words and grunts. The words lose their meaning.

The same thing can happen in Christian culture when we hear the same things over and over again—even good things. Phrases like “WWJD” (What Would Jesus Do), “walk the talk,” and “to the glory of God” can become empty phrases because they’ve been used so many times. The words themselves aren’t bad; we’ve just become numb to them.

John 3:16 is a verse many have grown numb to. From Sunday school to banners, sermons, and mission trips, it makes a lot of appearances. And quite frankly, it should. The entire story of the universe culminates in this verse. It clearly lays out the mystery of God’s rescue plan. John 3:16 is to Christianity what “I am your father” is to Star Wars. It helps everything else make sense.

But in some ways, we have gotten numb to it. “Everlasting life” has lost its meaning and its impact. The biggest thing that’s ever happened on the planet has become background noise. That’s why this study is taking you back to the basics. You’re going to get beyond the static to learn the big deal about “everlasting life.”

### HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS STUDY:

1. God wants to connect with you. In fact, he’s looking forward to it. But how ready are you to connect with him? As you go in and out of the sessions and devotional times, make sure you are willing to listen to him and learn from him. He promises that he will come near to you if you come near to him (James 4:8). Try it!
2. What you put into this study is what you’ll get out of it. There are people all around you who have spent a lot of time praying for you and getting ready to invest in you. You’ll probably meet some new people, hear some new speakers, and get a chance to spend some quality time with God and with friends. Take advantage of it! Ask hard questions. Commit to being authentic and honest. God wants to use this time and these people in your life.

The first six words of John 3:16 may be the easiest to skip over, but the rest of the verse makes no sense without them. "For God so loved the world ..." is the foundation holding up everything that comes after it. So it's worth spending some time digging into what God's **love** actually looks like. After all, the word love can mean some very different things. Does love mean the same thing in these different scenarios?

**A PERSON'S LOVE OF KETCHUP OVER MUSTARD. A MOTHER'S LOVE OF HER CHILD. A PET OWNER'S LOVE OF THEIR DOG OR CAT. A BOYFRIEND'S LOVE OF HIS GIRLFRIEND. AN ATHLETE'S LOVE OF FOOTBALL.**

What kind of love does God have for the world? How does God love us? The truth is, God's love is greater and more complicated than any of the examples above. What you're about to hear will give you a better idea of God's love for humanity and for you, specifically. But while you're waiting, here are a few dimensions of God's love that make it so amazing:

- ▶ **Fatherly Love:** "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" -1 John 3:1
- ▶ **Sacrificial Love:** "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." -John 15:13
- ▶ **Enormous Love:** "Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies." -Psalm 36:5
- ▶ **Corrective Love:** "Do not lose heart when [God] rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves." -Hebrews 12:5-6
- ▶ **Unconditional Love:** "God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." -Romans 5:8
- ▶ **Unending Love:** "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you." -Psalm 143:8
- ▶ **Contagious Love:** "We love because [God] first loved us." -1 John 4:19
- ▶ **Active Love:** "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." -1 John 4:9
- ▶ **Pure Love:** "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." -1 John 4:16

## SESSION ONE INTRO LOVED

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN  
SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES  
IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.  
JOHN 3:16

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# LARGE GROUP **ONE** **LOVED**

These two pages are designed so you can take note of anything that stands out to you and that you think is worth remembering during the Large Group talk. This talk will set the stage for the rest of the session. Consider writing down main points, quotes, Bible verses, and any questions that pop into your head.



The background of the page is a repeating pattern of yellow, hand-drawn starburst or cross-like shapes. Each shape has four rounded arms extending outwards, creating a decorative border around the text.

**How did God create you uniquely? In other words, what makes you special?**

**What do you think God created you to do?**

# SMALL GROUP **ONE** **LOVED** A SECOND LOOK

Tucked in the wall of a far room of Pastor Lee's house is a box. This is no ordinary box. It doesn't contain fancy shoes or expensive jewelry or beautiful Christmas decorations. One side of this box opens to the street, and another side opens into the pastor's laundry room. It's heated and lined with a baby blanket. Why? Because hundreds of babies have shown up in this box since 2010.

Pastor Lee's story started three decades ago, when his wife gave birth to a son with severe disabilities. They practically lived in a hospital for 14 years, seeing other kids just like their son. But these other children had no parents. This fueled a love in Pastor Lee for the unwanted and the abandoned.

In South Korea, a horrifying number of babies are abandoned each year, a lot of them left in the streets to die. Many of these babies have disabilities and need constant attention. That's why Pastor Lee created the baby box. Instead of abandoning their children to die, parents can place their baby in this box on the side of Pastor Lee's house. Each baby that comes through that box is loved. They are cared and prayed for. They are treated as priceless.

But Pastor Lee didn't stop there. He adopted 10 of them, as many as the government would allow. Some of these adopted children will never be able to say "thank you" or even feed themselves. But that didn't stop Pastor Lee from helping these children. His love was bigger than that.

**Put yourself in Pastor Lee's shoes.  
What sacrifices would you make in order to help these children?**

ee →

**What makes an abandoned baby valuable?**


ee →

**What sacrifices does God make in order to love people?**

ee →

**Why does God think you are so valuable?**

ee →



**SMALL GROUP**  
**ONE**  
**LOVED**  
**A LITTLE DEEPER**

Take a look at each of these Bible passages and get ready to talk through the following questions with your group.

**ROMANS 8:38-39: FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS NOR DEMONS, NEITHER THE PRESENT NOR THE FUTURE, NOR**

**ANY POWERS, NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.**

Have you ever felt far from God's love? When and why?

What difference does it make to know that the Creator of the universe loves you?

**PSALM 139:7-12: WHERE CAN I GO FROM YOUR SPIRIT? WHERE CAN I FLEE FROM YOUR PRESENCE? IF I GO UP TO THE HEAVENS, YOU ARE THERE; IF I MAKE MY BED IN THE DEPTHS, YOU ARE THERE. IF I RISE ON THE WINGS OF THE DAWN, IF I SETTLE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SEA, EVEN THERE YOUR HAND WILL GUIDE ME, YOUR RIGHT HAND WILL HOLD ME FAST. IF I SAY, "SURELY THE DARKNESS WILL HIDE ME AND THE LIGHT BECOME NIGHT AROUND ME," EVEN THE DARKNESS WILL NOT BE DARK TO YOU; THE NIGHT WILL SHINE LIKE THE DAY, FOR DARKNESS IS AS LIGHT TO YOU.**



When are you tempted to hide from God?

What does this passage say about where he will be when you hide?

ZEPHANIAH 3:17: THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU, THE MIGHTY WARRIOR WHO SAVES. HE WILL TAKE GREAT DELIGHT IN YOU; IN HIS LOVE HE WILL NO LONGER REBUKE YOU, BUT WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH SINGING.

What image comes to mind when you picture God?

How do you think God feels when he thinks about you? (Be honest; don't just give the "churchy" answer.)

## APPLY IT

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REMIND YOURSELF OF GOD'S LOVE AND/OR SHOW SOMEONE ELSE GOD'S LOVE? THINK ABOUT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?



IS THERE SOMEONE WHO CAN KEEP YOU ACCOUNTABLE?



A decorative graphic at the top of the page consisting of numerous thin, yellow lines radiating from a central point, creating a sunburst or fan-like effect. The lines are denser in the center and become sparser towards the edges.

# NOTES