



Interactive Student Book



INTERACTIVE STUDENT BOOK

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

Irreplaceable: Accept No Substitutes

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West Chicago, IL 60185
www.leadertreks.org
877-502-0699

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Welcome to Irreplaceable

WHO IS JESUS?

For many of us, this feels like an easy question to answer. After all, we're called to spend our lives following him and becoming more like him. But do we really know who we're following? How can we be more like Christ if we don't even know who Christ is?

In the book of John, Jesus makes several statements about himself. We'll explore four of these statements in this study:

- I am the Way and the Truth and the Life
- I am the Bread of Life
- I am the Good Shepherd
- I am the Light of the World

Knowing who Jesus is and believing in him is the only way God changes our lives. It can be easy to substitute our own logic or the world's pleasures for the true life Jesus offers. We think we can earn salvation. We believe we can provide for and take care of ourselves. We linger in the darkness of our sins. But as we dive into Jesus' "I Am" statements, we will discover that what Jesus offers is much better: himself. Jesus is irreplaceable!

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.



Session 1

INTRO | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

There is a series of books called *Choose Your Own Adventure* where you as the reader get to make decisions and choose what happens. Every choice leads to another choice until you reach one of several endings based on what you chose. Some decision paths lead to successfully getting out of a dangerous situation, while some lead to worse outcomes like injury, imprisonment, or death. There are many paths, and each might have its own benefits and consequences.

Sometimes we bring this mentality into our faith, thinking that we can reach God or eternal life through a variety of paths. We walk down the “good works” path hoping we can do enough to earn salvation. Or we pursue other religions or gods thinking they can save us. But the truth is that salvation is not a *Choose Your Own Adventure* book with multiple successful paths. There is only one way to God—through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Large Group

SESSION 1 | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

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.



What thoughts or behaviors in your life are false, and what truth should you replace it with? (e.g., beliefs about God or the Bible, how you portray yourself on social media, what you say or think about others, etc.)

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Who can you talk to about any doubts you may have about Jesus' claim of being the only way to God the Father?

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Small Group

SESSION 1 | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

A SECOND LOOK

Take a moment and imagine the best possible version of yourself, a version you think God would be pleased with. What would make you “good”? Maybe you’d regularly take communion and confess your sins, go to church every week, go on a short-term mission trip every summer, and donate food to the local food pantry every month. You would think you were pretty good, right? There’s no doubt these are good things, but unfortunately, doing them does not make anyone a good person. Before Christ is our personal Savior, our “good deeds” are not good at all. They’re done out of habit or tradition, maybe with some selfish motives thrown in. The Bible says that “all our righteous acts are like filthy rags” (Is. 64:6 NIV)! We can never be clean enough or good enough for God to let us be in his presence without a sacrifice for our sin. Our good deeds don’t impress God or compel him to love us more. Instead, God loves us because he chose to love us out of his grace. He chose to put your sin and punishment on his perfect Son, Jesus Christ—the one who was good enough for God—and instead give you the gift of Christ’s righteousness so that you can have a personal relationship with him.

What are ways you have, either consciously or subconsciously, tried to earn God’s love and approval?



How does it make you feel that you can't earn or work your way to a relationship with God and that it's simply a gift you have to receive?



If Christ is already your personal Savior, what is the purpose of your good deeds?



If you are a Jesus-follower, how are you experiencing true life?



Small Group

SESSION 1 | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

A LITTLE DEEPER

Even though we can't earn our way to God or do enough good deeds to make God love us more, we do have a clear path to God because of Jesus. Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross, we can receive the free gift of salvation and be forgiven of our sin! We are offered a new life when we trust in Jesus as our personal Savior, since he is the way, the truth, and the life we are all searching for.

ISAIAH 53:3-5

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

How is Jesus described in this passage?

Jesus suffered for you and for all his children. How does it make you feel that he went through this torture instead of you?

ACTS 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Why is salvation only found in Jesus?

What are we saved from?

COLOSSIANS 3:9–10

“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

How does God help us take off the old self (sinful habits, thoughts, motivations, etc.) and put on our new self?

If you are a child of God, what parts of your old self do you still need to get rid of?

If you are a child of God, you are now living as your “new self.” In what ways are you being renewed, becoming more like Christ?

Small Group

SESSION 1 | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

APPLY IT

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—the only way to God. Who can you tell about this salvation that's freely offered to everyone?

BE SPECIFIC:

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

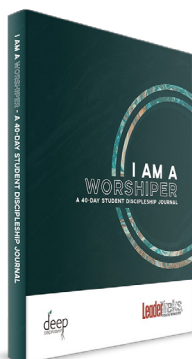
Notes

Keep Going!

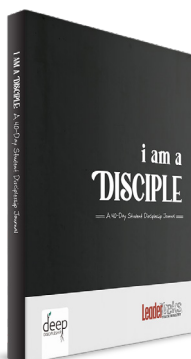
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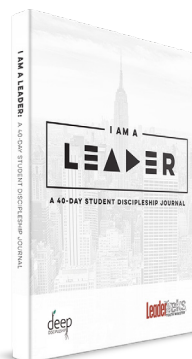
**I AM
NEW**



**I AM A
WORSHIPER**



**I AM A
DISCIPLE**



**I AM A
LEADER**

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