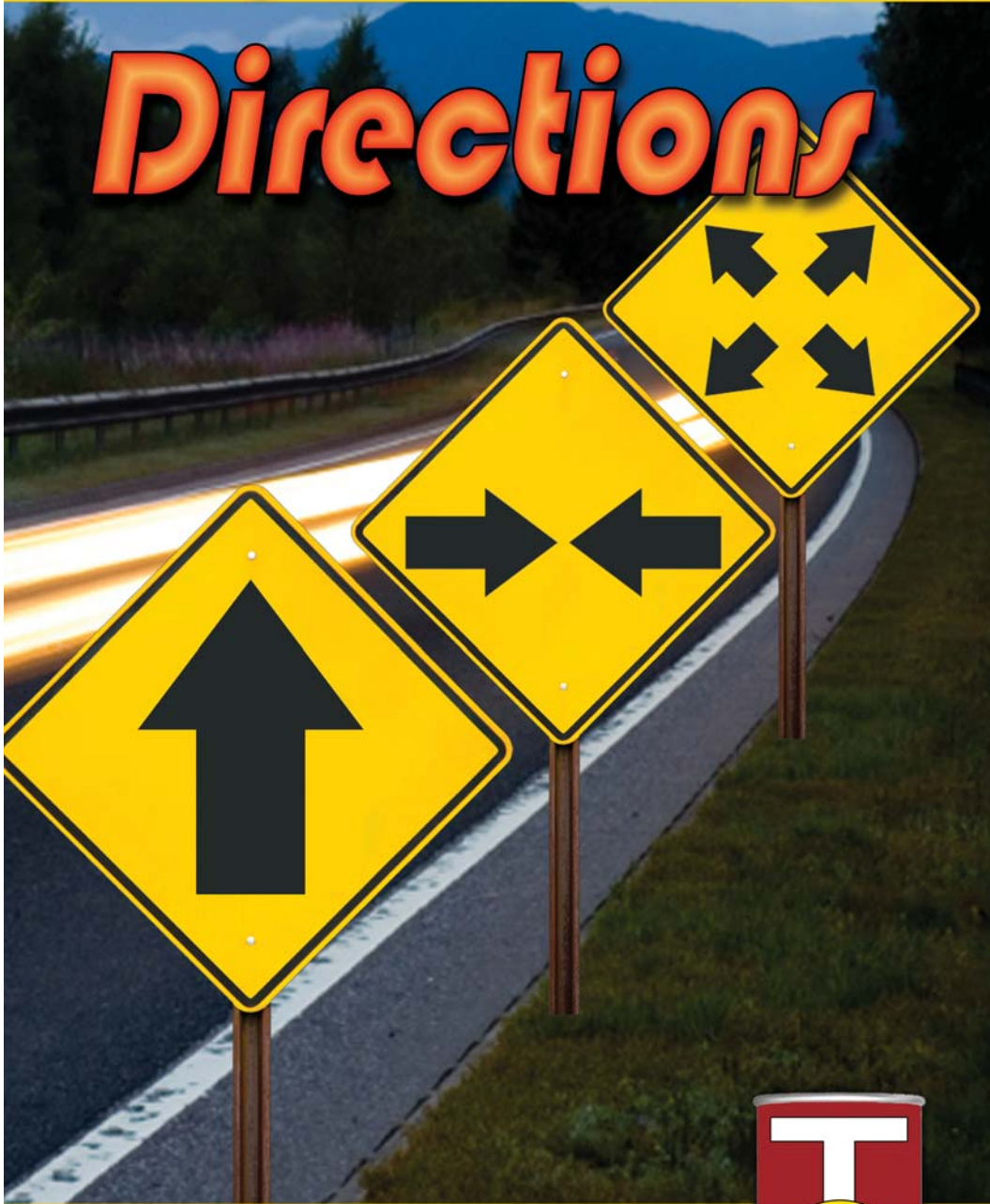


*The Big Idea Discussion Guide*

# *Directions*



**Includes the Family  
Resource Guide**





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# THE BIG IDEA DISCUSSION GUIDE

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**INCLUDES THE BIG IDEA  
FAMILY RESOURCE**  
*I Can*



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A Reproducing Church™ Resource



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# notes



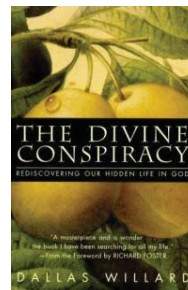


## SERIES BIG IDEA

Christ-Followers can follow God's direction for their lives by continually asking "What's Next?" in the areas of Celebrating, Connecting and Contributing.

*"A pilot was practicing high-speed maneuvers in a jet fighter. He turned the controls for what he thought was a steep ascent and flew straight into the ground. He was unaware that he was flying upside down. This is a parable of human existence in our times- not exactly that everyone is crashing, though there is enough of that- but most of us as individuals, and world society as a whole, live at high-speed, often with no clue whether we are flying upside down or right-side up."*

*-Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy*



## Session I - CELEBRATE

### Big Idea

Asking God "what's next?" between me and Him when it comes to celebrating.

## Session Introduction

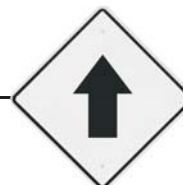
When I was growing up, church, worship and celebration was something you did on a Sunday. It was something you did in a building. It was something you did for about an hour after you ate your favorite donut from the “Fellowship Hall.” It was during that hour of “celebration” that you would get a prompting from the Spirit – it was almost lunch time! Celebrating definitely includes donuts and lunch, but it is so much more.

My children have taught me this; they know how to celebrate. They want to do simple things like play with trucks, dolls, Playdough, board games, bubbles – and they don’t need a building or some fancy dressed man with a Bible to explain to them how to do it, they just do it – they celebrate! Sometimes I mourn a little for them, knowing that someday they will grow up and lose a little of their edge when it comes to celebrating because of a failed grade, sports or friendship. But then I light up and realize that God can give them the wisdom to believe in celebration again – a mindset and reality that can’t be shaken by failure or hardship. That celebration is a decision, an intentional choice we make as we revel in God’s greatness and grace.



## Opening Question

What is the craziest dream you ever had? Or, what is a reoccurring dream you keep having?



## Genesis Introduction

We enter the story of Jacob when he has a lot of things going on in his life. Jacob's mother has told him to leave his family and run for his life because His brother Esau is trying to kill him for tricking him out of his birthright. Jacob also has decided to look for a wife. So he is on his way to his uncle's house in a faraway place called Haran – lots of things are up in the air, and his life is filled with uncertainty. Let's see where Jacob finds God.

### Genesis 28: 10-22

*<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

*<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."*

*<sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. <sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."*

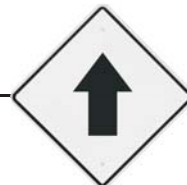


**Celebrate**

**7**

## QUESTIONS

1. Jacob's brother was out to murder him. Apparently, he had to flee so quickly in order to save his own life that he did not even bring something on which to rest his head on this journey. We find Jacob using a rock for a pillow. What's the most uncomfortable place you've ever slept?
2. In that uncomfortable place, did you feel God's presence? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Jacob wasn't aware that God is "in this place" (v. 16)?
4. Where in your life are you becoming aware that God "is in this place"?
5. Through his dream, Jacob discovered that even out in the wilderness, running for his life, God was with him and even gave him assurance that He would be with him wherever he is (vs. 15). Jacob responded to this realization of God's presence by building an altar. In what ways do you see people today celebrating the realization of God's presence?
6. In Jacob's dream he saw a stairway that led from earth to heaven. This is commonly known as "Jacob's ladder." Perhaps



the ladder represents God's access to us and his availability to us in our everyday lives and circumstances. Where are you on the ladder that leads to the celebration of God's greatness?

- a. Rung 1 – taking my first step
- b. Rung 2 – anxious about what's next
- c. Rung 3 – resting but almost ready for what's next
- d. Rung 4 – seeing God like I never have
- e. Rung 5 – asking eagerly "What's next, God?!"

7. What are some practical ways that you can celebrate God's presence in your life on a regular basis.



8. Share a step that you are willing to take this week that leads you toward further celebration of God's presence in your life. Here are some ideas, or you can choose one of your own:
- a. Praying daily and thanking God for his grace and care in your life.
  - b. Journaling your prayer of thanksgiving to God.
  - c. Bringing your family together to talk about ways they feel God's presence in their lives and then leading your family in a prayer of thankfulness.
  - d. Playing some music that reminds you of God's presence and dancing in your living room.
  - e. Going to a worship service on the weekend singing the songs of praise as a personal prayer between you and God.
  - f. Reading the Bible daily this week as a reminder of who God is and His love for you.
  - g. Other \_\_\_\_\_.



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**Celebrate**

## **CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION**

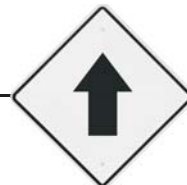
This section is designed for each individual to further their own conversation with God through reading His word and journaling throughout the week.

### **READ GENESIS 28-33**

Jacob encounters some hardships and some great blessings. How did Jacob “celebrate” his 2nd nighttime encounter with God in Chapter 32? Record in your journal your questions and reactions to your readings about Jacob. Also record some ways you see God showing up in your life and write a prayer of thanksgiving to him.

**10**

**Celebrate**





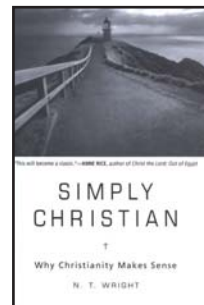
## **BIG IDEA**

Asking God “what’s next?” between me and others when it comes to connecting with people.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*“We are made for each other. Yet making relationships work, let alone making them flourish, is often remarkably difficult. We all know that we belong in communities, that we were made to be social creatures. Yet there are many times when we are tempted to slam the door and stomp off into the night by ourselves.”*

-N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian*



I have a confession to make and I think I’m ready to admit it, so here goes – people drain me. Not because I don’t like people – I just think sometimes I get tired of being around people. I’m not sure what causes this for me, I just know it exists. Sometimes it is the way someone tells their story to me, the way someone crosses their eyes at me, swears at me, misunderstands me or just plain laughs at me – for whatever reason, people sometimes drain me. On the flip side of that, I long for significant relationships – real connection. I want people in my life with which I can laugh, play a sport, go to a movie, or drink a cup of coffee with. I need people – not just for the parties and fun times, but for the unpredictable times. It could be the loss of a spouse, cancer, bankruptcy, depression and anything else that scares me to do alone – I need help, I need community – we all do.

*"It is not good for man to be alone."*  
- God, The Bible (Gen. 2:18)

## Opening Question

Share a time when you really felt the need for community in your life.

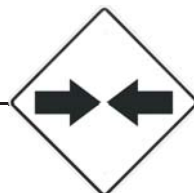
Would you describe yourself as introverted or extroverted?

## Read Mark 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

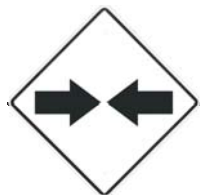
<sup>6</sup>Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>8</sup>Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup>"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup>He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"



## Questions

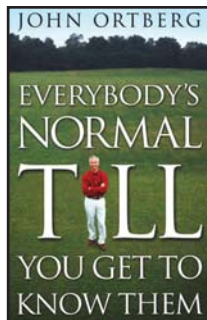
1. Once everyone heard Jesus had come home, they flocked to his presence. Do you think he was ready to see everyone when he arrived? How would have you felt?
2. Are there times when you are not ready or willing to be in community? How are you tempted to ignore community when it comes knocking?
3. Why do you think the men wanted to help the paralytic? Do you think they knew each other before this incident? Explain.
4. In this text, we can see the mission of Jesus brought the paralytic and his friends together. Where else do you see the mission of Jesus bringing people together?
5. In verse 5 it says, "When Jesus saw their faith." In what ways did you see the faith of the paralytic's friends displayed?



**Connect**

**13**

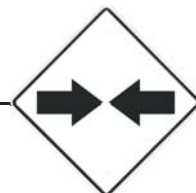
6. Which do you see as the greater miracle: that the friends had enough faith to dig a hole in the roof and lower the man in or that Jesus healed the paralytic?
  
7. Have you experienced a miracle similar to that of the paralytic's community?
  
8. Where are you paralyzed in your life right now? In what ways do you need a community of friends to carry you?



*"It is a very vulnerable thing to have someone carry your mat. When somebody's carrying your mat, they see you in your weakness. They might hurt you if they drop you. There is this gift between these friends: trusting vulnerability and dependable faithfulness. This mat, which according to society should have created a gulf between him and them, instead became an opportunity for servanthood and acceptance. The group becomes the Fellowship of the Mat. Wherever human beings love and accept and serve each other in the face of weakness and need, there is the Fellowship of the Mat. Here is the truth about us: Everybody has a mat. But it is only when*

*we allow others to see our mat, when we give and receive help with each other, that healing becomes possible."*

*-John Ortberg, Everybody's Normal 'Till You Get To Know Them*



9. What is the next step for you when it comes to connecting in the church?
- a. Asking Jesus to heal my paralysis – praying for God to give me the strength to trust people again
  - b. Getting off the mat – taking the first step to begin a new friendship
  - c. Helping the paralyzed – reaching out to those in need by extending myself relationally.
  - d. Other
10. What can your small group do to extend themselves to other people who are not yet connected in community? (either people outside the church, or people within the church who are not yet in a small group)



11. What are some specific things that your group can do even better in order to be a “fellowship of the mat” where live change happens and people say, “We have never seen anything like this!”?



**Connect**

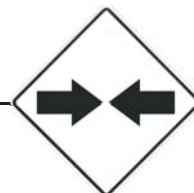
**15**

## Continuing the Conversation

This section is designed for each individual to further their own conversation with God through reading His word and journaling throughout the week.

### Read Ephesians 4-5:21

Journal some ways you feel God calling you to live at peace and unity with others. Ask God to show you some ways you may need to grow in order to be a promoter of peace among people in your community.





## Big Idea

Asking God “what’s next?” between me and the world when it comes to contributing to the cause of helping people find their way back to God?

## Introduction

Do you feel unqualified to change the world? I know frequently I do. Who am I anyway? I’ll tell you who I am: I’m a kid who grew up on 40 acres of woods, in the middle of nowhere (Xenia, Illinois – ever heard of it?), where I used to go for long walks wondering if I would ever amount to anything. Well, I remember one of those long walks in particular.

I was struggling with some friends of mine who seemed to be making poor choices as a newer Christ-followers, and I desperately wanted to help them. I would try to talk to them about it, but every time I tried to bring the subject up, they would push me away. Ever have an experience like that? Ever been that person? Well, believe it or not, it was on this long walk, that I believe God gave me a vision for my life – I decided that day that I wanted to trade my life for the mission of “helping people find their way back to God”. It has been through living out this mission that I have found purpose and meaning for my life. Upon pursuing the mission, God has shown me the spiritual gifts He has given me – leadership, discernment, apostleship – and it’s through these gifts that I have what I call holy confidence. You see, I am qualified to change the world, but not because I grew up on 40 acres of woods – but because of God’s Spirit (1 Cor. 12). God has chosen us to change the world; join me on this mission of helping people find their way back to God.

## Opening Question

Share a time when you felt you weren't capable of doing something, but in the end things went great. Or, if you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

## Background

God has seen the misery of the Israelite people as they have spent years in slavery to Egypt, and He is ready to lead them out of captivity to the land of promise. However, God needs a leader for His people. He needs someone who is willing to say yes to the challenging job of leading His people out of slavery. So God asked Moses (who had recently murdered an Egyptian out of anger and then ran and hid in fear), a seemingly unlikely candidate. At first, Moses doesn't seem like the right guy to lead thousands out of a powerful nation's grip. Moses doesn't think he was the right guy either.

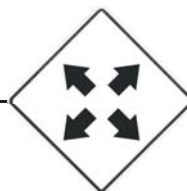
## Read Exodus 3:11, 12

<sup>11</sup> Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you."

## Read Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> ... I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a



*man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.<sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”<sup>9</sup> He said, “Go and tell...”*

## QUESTIONS

1. The first text is about Moses and the second is about Isaiah and a vision he received from God. What do you see as the common elements of each of these texts? What are the similarities you see between Moses and Isaiah?
2. How does God respond to Moses and Isaiah when they admit they feel disqualified or “unclean”?
3. What barriers get in the way for people when they are being called by God in today’s world? What keeps people from saying, “Here am I. Send me!”?



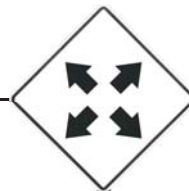
## I CORINTHIANS 12:1, 4-11

<sup>1</sup>Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. . . .  
<sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

4. How do you think that Paul, the author of this letter, would describe the phrase “spiritual gifts”? What are some examples of spiritual gifts that he gives in this text?
5. If you were to identify what you are good at, which spiritual gift would best describe you?

Serving	Discernment	Knowledge
Prayer	Teaching	Healing
Arts	Leadership	Hospitality
Administration	Apostleship	Shepherding
Mercy	Worship	Craftsmanship
Giving		

6. How have you seen God use the gifts of others in this group to help people find their way back to God?



7. When did it first occur to you that God has equipped you with special talents and gifts to be used for his purposes?
8. According to Paul, God determines who gets what gifts, how does that make you feel? Does that seem to line up with your life-experience?
9. What specific barriers get in the way of your calling as a Christ follower to help other people find their way back to God?
- a. Time
  - b. Fear
  - c. Feelings of not being "good enough" like Moses and Elijah.
  - d. Not sure where to start
  - e. Haven't felt "called"
  - f. I am too all about me to be all about others.
  - g. Other \_\_\_\_\_



10. What specific next step do you feel God prompting you to take when it comes to using your spiritual gifts for the mission of helping people find their way back to God? How can your small group help you accomplish this next step?

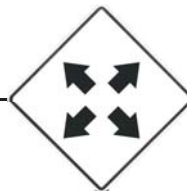


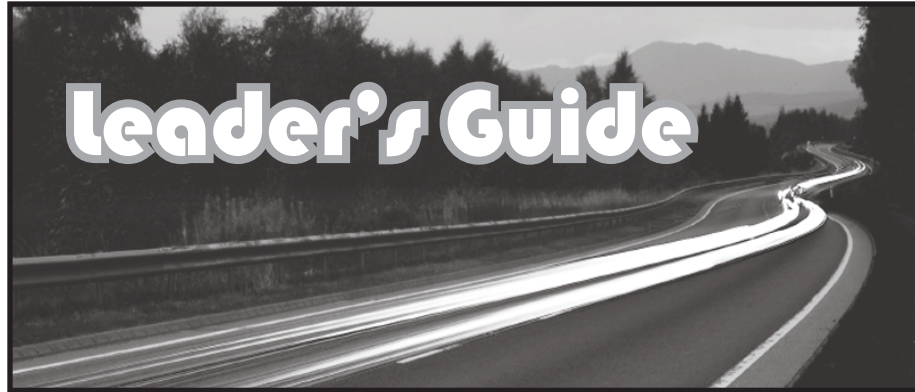
## Continuing the Conversation

This section is designed for each individual to further their own conversation with God through reading His word and journaling throughout the week.

### Read I Corinthians 12-14

How is God prompting you as a result of reading these passages? Write down in your journal what you feel God is trying to communicate to you. How do spiritual gifts and love come together for you after reading these chapters.





## **SESSION 1 - CELEBRATE**

1. It was about 6 years ago and my family and I were traveling back home after visiting with my parents. We were all driving in our respective cars and my sister's boyfriend at the time was driving in his own car by himself. The roads were covered in ice and it was very difficult driving. About 2 hours into the 5 hour road trip my sister's boyfriend had accident where a semi jack-knifed and the trailer slid over the top of the car. Fortunately, everyone ended up being ok, but the police chose to close down the interstates shortly after that because of the weather. Thus we got to stay all night in a run down church, sleeping on cots and mats on the floor. Most uncomfortable night of sleep I've ever had – yet it could totally feel God's presence as he kept us all safe – especially my sister's boyfriend.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Jacob likely believed that God was present only in temples or at specific altars. Instead God revealed to him a dream that God is always present and desires to be in our lives at all times.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Going to church, Christmas celebrations, Easter Celebrations, Acknowledging God during weddings and funerals, prayer, Worship in singing...etc.

6. Answers will vary.
7. Here are some things they might share or ideas to get the conversation started: reading the Bible, journaling, worshiping through singing/music, going on long walks, etc.
8. Answers will vary. As a leader you can take notes of the answers of your group members and follow up with them later.

NOTE: This discussion guide includes a continuing conversation section. Take note of this section and encourage your group members to continue the conversation with God throughout the week.

## **SESSION 2 - CONNECT**

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. What if the men didn't know each other before this incident? What did they have to gain by helping this man? Based upon all the steps they took to help him be healed and the response Jesus gave them – there's a BIG chance they all knew each other and they were sincere about the desires to have the paralytic friend healed.
4. I've been in about 15 different small groups in the last several years and I can say that the vast majority of the time, I join a small group because of Jesus. I want to help more people find their way back to God through Him and I think joining a small group is one of the most effective ways to do that. I also believe it weren't for the mission of Jesus; I wouldn't take the time to connect with others. The selfish side of me would overrule and I would say no to biblical community. I would instead cater to my own need and wants; ignoring the beauty of a self-sacrificing community.
5. The paralytic's friends displayed their faith in Jesus by hoisting their friend up onto a rooftop, cutting a hole in a roof,

lowering him down, not knowing whether Jesus would heal him or tell him to leave – that is faith in action. The miracle of being healed is big, but I believe the miracle of a community that is willing to go to great lengths for a friend is even bigger.

6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.
9. Answers will vary
10. Encourage the group to make some plans to include others in community.
11. Write these things down and then follow through.

### **Session 3 - Contribute**

1. Moses and Isaiah both feel incapable of being God's advocates. Isaiah feels too unclean and Moses feels like he isn't eloquent enough in his speech (Exodus 4:10).
2. God provides Isaiah with the image of a hot coal that cleanses him and God tells Moses that He will be with him.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Spirituals gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Sometimes we want to determine what gifts we have. This scripture reminds us that God is in control of our lives and not us.

9. Answers will vary.

10. Answers will vary.



## Introduction

Our desire is to help your family raise 3C Christ-followers...kids who Celebrate God, Connect with others, and Contribute to God's mission in this world. During this series we'll challenge kids to grow in the 3C's.

"I Can" is the elementary series that corresponds to the adult series *Directions*. You can help your kids take action steps by using this Family Resource to live out the Big Idea at home. So have some fun and help your kids learn how to follow Jesus along the way!

After your family uses this guide, your kids can bring this coupon back to church for a prize. Just one more way to have fun with the Big Idea!



*"Our family did The  
BIG IDEA at home!"*

The \_\_\_\_\_ Family

Campus: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Week **1**

**I** *can* CELEBRATE



### *Big Idea*

I can CELEBRATE God anywhere because he is always with me.



### *Key Verse*

*Jacob woke up from his sleep. Then he thought, "The Lord is certainly in this place. And I didn't even know it." Genesis 28:16*



### *The Scoop*

This week's lesson is based on the story of Jacob found in Genesis 28:10-22. Jacob knew that God existed. His grandfather and father had followed God so he probably grew up hearing about God. But it wasn't until he had a dream in the middle of the desert that he realized God was with him right where he was. How did Jacob respond? He began to celebrate. He set up an altar, he prayed, and he pledged to follow God. God wants us to realize that he is with us too. We can experience him anywhere. And, like Jacob, we can celebrate him anywhere. One of the ways we celebrate God is by reading and studying the Bible. This week we challenged kids to begin reading and studying the Bible on their own.





## Whats Next

### *Buy a Bible*

Does your elementary child have their own Bible? If not, consider purchasing one so that they can begin reading and studying the Bible on their own. The NIV Kids' Quest Bible or the Kids' Life Application Bible NLT are great choices. They can be purchased on-line or at a local Christian bookstore. Consider purchasing a Kids' City 3C Journal to help your kids study the Bible at home.

### *Jacob's Story*

Learn more about Jacob by reading about him in the Bible. Help your kids read the following passages and encourage them to talk about or write down the things they learn from these stories.

- Day 1 Genesis 25:19-34
- Day 2 Genesis 27:1-40
- Day 3 Genesis 27:41-28:9
- Day 4 Genesis 28:10-22
- Day 5 Genesis 32:1-32
- Day 6 Genesis 33:1-20

### *Eddy is Back!*

Meet Eddy, the Family Resource spokesperson. Join Eddy each series as we help your family learn more about the Big Idea at home.



Week **2**

**I** *can* **CONNECT**



### *Big Idea*

I can **CONNECT** with other people by praying for them.



### *Key Verse*

*"First, I want all of you to pray for everyone. Ask God to bless them. Give thanks for them." 1 Timothy 2:1*



### *The Scoop*

In Mark 2:1-12, the paralytic's friends did whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus. They knew Jesus could help him in a way no one else could. Everyone needs Jesus' help. The friends in your kids' small group have real concerns, worries, problems, and questions in their lives. They need Jesus' help too. Your kids can help "take them to Jesus" by praying for them regularly. Every week the kids share prayer requests so that they can pray for one another during the week. That's one of the ways they can connect with one another. This week we challenged kids to pray for one another. Consider purchasing a Kids' City 3C Journal that will help your kids record and remember prayer requests.





### *Paper Chain Prayers*

Use the paper chain your child made at church or make your own chain at home to use as a prayer guide this week. Cut strips of construction paper and write a prayer request on each strip. Interlock the strips to form a paper chain. Each day during the coming week, tear a link off the chain and pray for that request.

### *Connect Party*

Help the kids in your child's small group connect by planning a fun outing for them such as bowling, roller skating, or a pizza party. Join together with other small group parents to help your kids deepen their friendships.



Week **3**

**I** *can* **CONTRIBUTE**



### *Big Idea*

I can **CONTRIBUTE** by serving others.



### *Key Verse*

*"Be like the Son of Man. He did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others..." Matthew 20:28a*



### *The Scoop*

As Christ-followers, our goal is to become more like Jesus...and Jesus was a servant. In John 13:1-17 we learn that he washed his disciple's feet to show them that they should look for ways to serve one another. Serving others is one of the ways we show God's love. We contribute to the mission of helping people find their way back to God when we serve them. This week we challenged kids to contribute by looking for opportunities to serve others. Consider purchasing a Kids' City 3C Journal that will help your kids record and remember ways God uses them to contribute to the mission.





### *Contributing Coupons*

Use the Contributing Coupons your kids made at church or make some on your own to encourage your kids to serve others. Each coupon can name something your child wants to do to serve a family member or friend this next week. Encourage your kids to give the coupons out and affirm them for completing their acts of service.

### *Family Contribution*

There are lots of ways parents and kids can contribute at church together. Consider joining a ministry team with your child to contribute as a family. Elementary kids can help their parents greet, set-up, tear down, care for younger kids at church, or any number of other roles. Make contributing a part of your family's DNA!





*Notes*

*Notes*





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# Directions

God has a plan for this next year and His plan includes you! As Christ followers—followers we can be in step with God’s direction for our lives by continually asking “What’s Next?” In this guide, we will cover the three areas of Celebrating, Connecting and Contributing, asking God “What’s Next?” for me in each of these areas.

Session 1 – Celebrate  
Session 2 – Connect  
Session 3 – Contribute

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