

AND GOD SAID

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 1

THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION

- How would you define the word *separation*?
- Why do you think Jesus calls us to be separate from the world?
- Is there a difference between being separate from the world and being separated unto God? Why or why not?
- What are ways we demonstrate being separated unto God?
- Do you feel like you could cut some things out of your life to better fulfill your purpose?
- What kinds of activities, entertainment, or hobbies take up too much of your time?
- How can we find balance between personal fun and investing in important spiritual things?
- What kinds of things does the world push on us to stimulate, and distract us from other important things in our life.
- Why is it difficult to at times to withstand the distractions and stimulations that we see on movies, the internet, and various other ad sources?
- How can we guard our hearts, eyes, and minds from these ads that often overstimulate us.

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LESSON 2

THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE OF SOWING AND REAPING

- Have you ever heard the statement, “What goes around comes around”? What is meant by that statement?
- What does it mean to reap what you sow?
- Why do you think God causes us to reap what we sow?
- Do we get to avoid reaping if we repent of wrongful actions? Why or why not?
- Which has the greater impact: small investments over a lifetime, or large investments in a shortened time span?
- How does this compare to our spiritual walk?
- What kinds of things have you been investing in for school, ministry, or your career?
- What have you seen the most return from?
- Do you feel like you’re pushing yourself to your full potential?

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LESSON 3

THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE OF GROWTH

- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What are some specific things in Scripture Jesus requires of His disciples?
- Jesus' final instruction to His disciples was to go make more disciples. How important is spreading the gospel in the life of a believer?
- Can we be genuine disciples if we do not heed that call? Why or why not?
- What areas do you feel you still have room to grow in for your respective ministry?
- Do you need to start cutting some things out of your life so you have time to discipline and train yourself? Why?

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LESSON 4

THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNITY

- It seems everyone today is talking about “community.” Why do you think that is?
- How did Jesus establish community in His ministry?
- What are some reasons why we need community?
- What are some examples of ways we can strengthen our sense of belonging and community?
- Why do so many people want to just belong somewhere?
- If we build a vibrant and diverse community within the church, what cultural problems must we learn to overcome?

RELENTLESS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 5

GOD KNOWS THE REAL YOU

- When you think of the word *repentance*, what comes to mind?
- Is there any sin too great for Jesus to forgive? Why or why not?
- Do you believe Jesus still has a plan for us, even if we have made mistakes? Why or why not?
- Is there ever a point in our lives when Jesus stops pursuing a relationship with us? Why or why not?
- Especially when it comes to church and God, why do we feel we have to hide some things about ourselves?
- Have you ever been in a relationship or friendship that made you feel it was necessary to act like someone or something you're not? Why?
- Do you find that the image of a shepherd best describes God's treatment of us?
- Is there anything or anyone you feel you relentlessly pursued?
- What does that experience show us about just how much God loves us to never stop His pursuit, even when we fail Him?
- What areas of your life do you know you can still grow in?
- What talents have you been given that you might be afraid to use and grow in?
- What stops us from using our unused talents and abilities the most: fear, doubt, or something else?

RELENTLESS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 6

GOD IS ALWAYS LEADING YOU

- Have you ever felt like you were being led by God? What was that like?
- What are some ways God leads us?
- Who does God lead?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when God was directing your steps but you did not realize it until later? What happened?
- Have you ever felt like your life was really off track, and there was not much God could do with it?
- Why is it important that we understand the big stories of the Bible and the way that they work together?
- Why do we criticize Jonah for not seeing God's plan when we are often guilty of the same kind of actions?
- What do you find most compelling about the story of Paul, Silas, and the jailer?
- Have you ever had that realization moment of just who God is and how great He is, just like that jailer?
- If you take a look back, what moments in your life do you see now that God was working on you and for you?

RELENTLESS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 7

THE EASTER EXPERIENCE

- How do you think Jesus' accusers felt after they came to the realization that Jesus was exactly who He said He was?
- Are you guilty of ever rejecting or denying Jesus the way that the disciples or Jewish people did?
- How can we overcome guilt and accept forgiveness that God is offering to us?
- Even though it is tragic, do you fully understand why Jesus' death was not only unavoidable, but totally necessary? Why?

RELENTLESS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 8

GOD IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

- Have you ever felt like you were far away from God? Why or why not?
- When do you feel closest to God?
- Do you believe God stays close to you, even when you do not deserve it? Why or why not?
- What are some ways we can know God is close to us?
- Is there ever any doubt you know you did something wrong when you sin?
- It's not a fun feeling certainly, but are you thankful for that conscience?
- Why do we fall into our old ways, even after we have sought God and been forgiven?
- Why is it often harder to forgive ourselves over other people?
- Have you struggled with finding forgiveness even though we have been taught that God is quick to forgive?
- Why can it be so difficult to believe that God is willing to forgive even our worst mistakes and elevate us to a place of blessing and anointing?

RELENTLESS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 9

GOD WILL FIND YOU

- Is it ever too late to choose to serve God? Why or why not?
- How long do you think Jesus will pursue us? Why?
- How should we respond to Jesus' relentless pursuit of us?
- What are some things that keep us from responding?
- Has someone ever surprised you or caught you in a lie?
- Why is it so embarrassing to know you are caught? How does our body tend to react?
- What is the only way to avoid being caught in a lie or embarrassing situation?
- What mistakes do you find most incredible in the life and story of Jonah?
- Why was Jonah so unwilling to be merciful?
- Do you feel like the criticism of Jonah is fair? Why?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Finally, what is the one thing you feel you can take away from this book?

REDEEMED

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 10

RUTH'S COVENANT

- What does the term *redemption* mean?
- Do we need redemption? If so, why?
- What does the term *repentance* mean?
- What role do you think repentance plays in redemption?
- Have you ever had to make what seemed like an impossible decision?
- How did that decision change your life?
- Why do you think Ruth chose the life that she did?

REDEEMED

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 11

BOAZ'S ABUNDANCE

- What does the term *abundance* mean?
- What does it mean to receive blessings in abundance?
- Does Jesus desire to bless us abundantly? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus wants His people to be blessed?
- Why do you think most people are so fascinated by wealth?
- What do you think Jesus would have us do when we have more than what we need? Why do you think that?
- This is about as close as you can get to a fairy tale love story in the Bible. Why is Boaz's love for Ruth so unbelievable and incredible?
- Ruth couldn't believe this was all happening to her. Do you ever have "God moments" like that, so incredible you just can't quite believe it?

REDEEMED

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 12

BOAZ'S THRESHING FLOOR

- What does the term *repentance* mean?
- Why is repentance an important part of our new-birth experience?
- The Bible says that at the end, Jesus will separate the “wheat” from the “tares.” What do you think that means? (See *Matthew 13:24–30*.)
- What are some things we can do to make sure we are prepared for the day we meet Jesus face-to-face?
- The Bible says that at the end, Jesus will separate the “wheat” from the “tares.” What do you think this means? (See *Matthew 13:24–30*.)
- How can we be sure we are prepared for the day we meet Jesus face-to-face?
- Do you understand the concept of redemption? Why do we use the same word when we redeem a coupon?
- Why is redemption the only way we can be saved?
- What other characters are representative of Jesus Christ?

REDEEMED

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 13

RUTH'S REDEMPTION

- Who is someone you consider faithful? What makes that person faithful?
- How did Ruth display her faithfulness through our study so far?
- How was she rewarded for her faithfulness?
- We learned last week that Boaz planned to redeem Ruth. How does Ruth's redemption reflect our redemption?
- What are some things Jesus has offered us that we have not earned?
- What has God done for you or your family this week?
- Why is it important that we look for Jesus' work in our lives?
- How might it help to remind ourselves frequently that God is in control?

QUARTERLY REVIEW

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LESSON 14

GOD WILL NEVER GIVE YOU UP

- How did Jesus establish community in His ministry?
- What are some reasons why we need community?
- What are some examples of ways we can strengthen our sense of belonging and community?
- Is it ever too late to choose to serve God? Why or why not?
- How should we respond to Jesus' relentless pursuit of us?
- What are some things that keep us from responding?
- Who is someone you consider faithful? What makes that person faithful?
- How did Ruth display her faithfulness?
- How was she rewarded for her faithfulness?