

# SAMPLE

Why Am I

Here?



Leader  
Guide

Level 2: Fall

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LEADERS IN TRAINING: Why Am I Here?  
Level 2: Fall Leader Guide

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**“For by Him all things  
were created that are  
in heaven and that  
are on earth, visible  
and invisible, whether  
thrones or dominions or  
principalities or powers.  
All things were created  
through Him and  
for Him.”**

**Colossians 1:16**

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# Welcome to Leaders In Training!

Leaders in Training (L.I.T.) Disciple Group is a great time to get to know the children in your group and to build accountability. This resource is to help you have success as you plan your small group Bible study each week. The materials are very simple and should give you plenty to discuss and do during your Disciple Group time. The number one rule of teaching and being a discipler is *surrender*. Surrender to God for His filling. He will then empower you to model and exemplify Christ. He will also guide you as you lead your group in prayer and worship.

## Introduction: Why Am I Here?

For the next eighteen weeks, you will be helping the L.I.T.s discover that they were born for a purpose. God said to the prophet Jeremiah years ago, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). Children in your group will begin to realize how special they really are, that they are not an accident or the result of some cosmic explosion or incident, that they are God’s creation. Rick Warren says in his book, *The Purpose-Driven® Life*, “It’s not about you.” We want the L.I.T.s to realize that they are not here for themselves, but they are a part of a divine plan of God. “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16). We are all here for God and for God’s pleasure. He created us for a personal relationship and to live a life fully devoted to Him

## Developing a Christian Worldview

There are many beliefs in our world. These beliefs can be considered a person’s worldview. A worldview is how a person determines what they believe about who they are as a person, their purpose for being here on Earth, what they believe to be truth, what they believe about family, and how they view the needs of the world around them.

As Christians, we look at things differently because we have a tool that guides us—God’s Word. On sunny days, some people wear sunglasses to filter out the sun’s rays. They find it easier to see with sunglasses on bright days. As we live in the world, we need to have a filter to help us determine what is right and wrong. It is like putting on sunglasses to block out the sun. So the believer takes up the Bible to block out those views that do not line up with God’s Word. Parents need to have a Christian worldview and instill in their child a biblical perspective of the world.

“Parent Talk: Developing a Christian Worldview” is the Day 7 devotional for each week in the student devotional book. It is based on the admonition in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” This section is designed to assist parents in helping their children apply what they are learning.

# WARNING!

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN THIS STUDY!

Jesus calls us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a). Jesus lived a life of abandonment to the Father. We are calling you to do the same (Luke 9:23). Jesus modeled for His disciples a life of faith, integrity, and grace. Through His example, He also equipped His disciples to change the world. You are called to do the same. Number one, you are called to be a role model. That means, like your students, you are in the Word of God daily. When you go to your small group, you should have done the same Bible study as they have and have your memory verse memorized. So, make sure you get a copy of the student devotional book from the beginning. Do not ask them to do anything you are not doing. Your life must be one of integrity. Do not say one thing and live another. Children can pick up on this rather quickly. You can easily become a stumbling block to them. Just like Jesus, you are to equip and release the children in your group to minister using their spiritual gifts.

Here are some quick pointers:

**1. Hold them accountable.** The more you encourage your students to do their devotionals each day, the more you will see transformation in their lives. Call them every week. By your constant encouragement, you will see life changes. The greatest thing is that they will have already studied what you will be talking about in your small group, and you will be able to help them apply it.

**2. Find out where they are spiritually.** Do they know Christ? If not, you will find in the Leadership Training Handbook tools for learning how to share Christ and how to counsel with a child and lead them to the Lord.

**3. Release them to minister in your D-Group.** This means once you know where they are spiritually, administer the Spiritual Gift Test that is in the back of your Training Handbook. Determine what their gifts are and then begin getting them involved in teaching, praying, keeping records, helping in the class, and ministering to one another.

**4. Do it!** If you will take these steps, you will become a disciplemaker, and you will see their lives changed before your eyes. You see, children connect with their faith through action. Faith is not something that is taught; it is caught by living it out in front of them. The spiritual gifts of children give them identity and purpose in the body of Christ. Like you, they are called to minister right now.

**5. They do not have a “baby” Holy Spirit.** When a child receives Christ as their Savior and Lord, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit—THE Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). This means they are called to minister now. One of your greatest joys will be to watch them grow using their gifts. This is a fulfillment of your calling as a teacher (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Now go and make disciples. Throughout the coming weeks, you will see milestones that can move you into becoming a life-changing leader in your church. This guide is your tool for helping children have a deeper walk with Christ. Remember, the more you can have them take on roles in your group, the more you will develop them into the ministers they are called to be.

**NOTE:** This Leader Guide for Disciple Group is loaded with materials. You do not have to do everything in the guide. This gives you the freedom to allow the Holy Spirit to lead your group. Prayer should be the first thing you do. Also, as you move your group and begin to engage them in using their gifts, you can then give them parts of the Leader Guide to teach using their gifts.

**Milestone One: I Do, You Watch (Be a model for them.):** As the leader, do your daily quiet times. You do all the preparations and teaching, and you model for them a person who is faithful in their walk with Christ.

**Milestone Two: I Do, You Help (Invite them to help.):** Find out where your kids are spiritually. Do they know Christ? If not, share the Gospel with them and invite them to join in. Have them take the Spiritual Gift Test. Begin to allow them to teach small parts of the lesson, lead the prayer time, help in the class, etc.

**Milestone Three: You Do, I Help (Give them more responsibility.):** By now, you will begin to see an excitement among the children in your group as they begin to discover their spiritual gifts and use them in your group. Remember, they are doing the Bible study at home, so this allows you more and more freedom to let them be active and lead within your group.

**Milestone Four: You Do, I Watch (Allow them to take ownership.):** This may seem a little crazy, but what you are doing will have a life-changing impact on their lives. You will have become obedient to your calling to equip these younger saints for ministry. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 for a clearer understanding of what this means.

**Milestone Five: You Do!** As your group is being led through this process, you will see and hear amazing things. We have heard many stories of children who have been equipped and have started teaching Bible studies at their schools and leading their friends to Christ. The unique thing is that the Holy Spirit will guide them to do amazing things, all because you equipped and released them to minister.

This may sound out of the ordinary, but it really is not. Jesus has a plan for every believer in Christ. You can have an amazing part of it by allowing them to discover God's purpose for their lives and by fanning the flame of their gifts and empowering them to use them. It is our deepest prayer that you will find the joy of discipling, equipping, and empowering the next generation in your church.



# The Cross

## Parts of The Cross

- **The Heart of The Cross—Jesus Is Lord:** Jesus Christ must be Lord of every area of the L.I.T.s' lives. They will learn to allow Him to live His life through them. (Galatians 2:20)
- **The Base of The Cross—Read the Bible:** In order to find God's will, they must read His Word daily. (Psalm 119:105)
- **The Top of The Cross—Talk With God:** Prayer is the open invitation to spend time talking with God each day. The children can talk with Him anytime and anywhere. (Jeremiah 33:3)
- **The Left Side of The Cross—Tell Others:** Jesus commands His followers to tell the world about His great love for them. The L.I.T.s will be challenged to share their faith daily. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **The Right Side of The Cross—Gifts and Ministry:** The Holy Spirit has given gifts to every child of God, and the children are to use these gifts to serve God in the church and in the world. (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Circle around The Cross—Life of Obedience:** The Lord Jesus calls believers to obey His leadership. In following the parts of The Cross, the L.I.T.s can accomplish His desires for their lives.

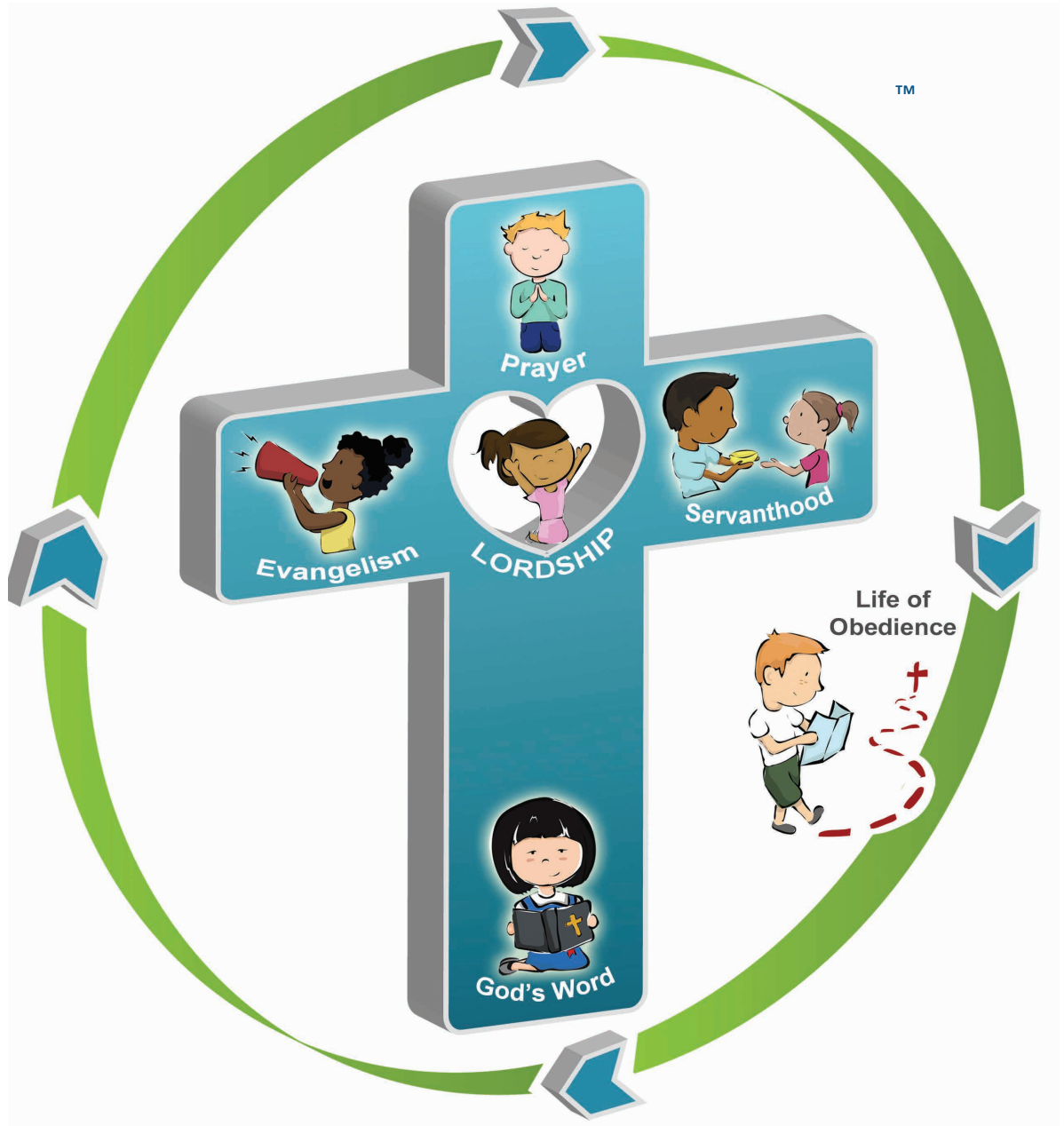
The Cross will be your tool to help your Disciple Group stay on track with their walk with God. It is a formula for spiritual growth as you and your students learn to put it into practice. God has a plan for every person's life. He desires a relationship with us. He has made this relationship possible through Jesus Christ. Some of your students will have already made the discovery while others may not have. Your responsibility as their Disciple Group leader is to continue pointing students to Christ: First, for salvation, and second, for them to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10).

Salvation is key, and from that point the journey begins. Then we have to constantly remember we must live a life that is totally and completely dependent and surrendered to Him. From there, we find direction for our lives through His Word. God's Word always points to God and His purpose for our lives. His Word is the road map for our lives. His Word is the instruction manual by which we put our lives together. It is our light through a dark world bent on destroying our lives, and it is our handbook for discipling children. We teach them to look at life through biblical eyes. They must learn to face life with the instruction manual in front of them. As we submit our lives to Him, we can find His will for our lives through His Word.

We have the wonderful invitation in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." First John 5:14-15 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." Therefore, we can come boldly before the Lord in submission to Him and He will answer our request. This is our personal relationship with Him.

The vertical part of The Cross is our relationship with God. Jesus said: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). The second part of our relationship with God becomes horizontal. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:39-40). Looking at The Cross, we are called to "Tell Others" the wonderful Gospel message, and God has given us gifts for ministry. When we do these things, we are living out a life of obedience to Christ.





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# Disciple Group Information

Each Disciple Group will be made up of three to five children. Before going to your small group, go through the materials and become familiar with your studies. The group study will complement what your L.I.T.s studied at home in their daily quiet times during the previous week. This Leader Guide is designed to provide you with Bible study aids and activities to help the students learn the biblical concepts you are teaching. You will most likely not have enough time to do everything presented here, so plan on using the materials that you believe will be most effective with your students. The following is a basic outline of each week's lesson:

## Learning Objective

The Learning Objective should be the desired outcome of each week's Disciple Group Bible study time. This is the objective for your group to achieve each week.

## Memory Verse

The L.I.T.s are given a memory verse for each week. One of the most important parts of your group time is reviewing the memory verse. During Bible Study Review time, make sure the students have memorized their verse. It is also a good idea to review the past weeks' verses so that the children can always keep them in their hearts and minds.

## Spiritual Preparation

These are suggestions and ideas for you to pray and think about as you prepare for your Disciple Group. They will guide you in the direction of personal preparation and help you pray specifically for the children in your group.



## Opening Prayer

Begin your Disciple Group time with prayer. Pray on the armor of God first because you have an enemy who wants to frustrate and hinder your Bible study time together. God has provided the armor for your protection.

**The Armor of God** can be found in Ephesians 6:10-17. In order to teach your group the

importance of the armor, each week have them all stand up before prayer time and go through the motions of "putting on the armor." For example: Belt of truth—Using their hands, have them pretend to put a belt around their waists. Breastplate of righteousness—They can act like they are sliding it over their heads and strapping it on. Sandals of peace—Have them sit down and "put on" their sandals. Complete the armor with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Starting with prayer will help you and your students get focused and prepared for Disciple Group time.



## Biblical Explanation

The Biblical Explanation will give you a brief interpretation of Scripture and further insights for your small group time.



## Bible Study Review

This section provides the students with the opportunity to quote their memory verse for the week, recite previous weeks' verses, and review the past week's devotionals that they did at home. The review questions are designed to evaluate learner comprehension. After asking these questions, you may find that your group lacks understanding in a particular area. If so, discuss the materials they did not understand.



## Bible Exploration

The Bible Exploration section gives preteens an opportunity to search the Bible for additional passages that relate to the week's lesson and discuss their meaning.

## The Cross

The Cross reminds the children each week of how we relate to God and to others in living a life of obedience to the Lord. This section will explain how each week's lesson applies to The Cross.



## Object Lessons and



## Learning Activity

Some people are visual learners. The Object Lessons are provided to further enhance learning and give preteens a better grasp of biblical principles. Week 18 also provides an engaging Learning Activity for the L.I.T.s.



## L.I.T. Challenge

These challenges give the L.I.T.s a practical way to apply the lesson to their lives and encourage them to "live it out" when they leave Disciple Group. If the children do not understand how to apply the lesson to their daily lives, they will not have learned effectively.

## P.R.A.Y.

The P.R.A.Y. acrostic is a reminder of how to pray daily and in small group time. You want to help children develop a daily prayer time beginning with praise and thanksgiving (P), followed by confession and repentance of sin (R). Teach your L.I.T.s to ask, or make their requests known to God (A). The most important part of the Christian life is SURRENDER, or yield (Y). This is key to their personal growth and gives them a daily reminder of who is in control. The best way to follow the acrostic in your prayer time is to read the prayer suggestion provided in this guide, then have one child begin the prayer, allowing everyone a chance to pray one after another. Lead the group in praise and thanksgiving, then move into confession of sin. Next, have them tell God their needs. End prayer time with them yielding and surrendering their lives to God. It is important for you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide each child as they pray.



## Leader Notes & L.I.T. Prayer Requests

This section is provided as a place for you to write down any thoughts or ideas you may have as you study and prepare for Disciple Group time each week. You can also write down any prayer requests your L.I.T.s share with you when you make your weekly phone calls.

# Orientation Information

Begin by welcoming the children in your group to Leaders In Training. (You can invite their parents to your first Disciple Group meeting so that they can learn about the L.I.T. devotional books and what is expected of their children during their devotional times.) This small group session will allow you to get acquainted with the children in your group. In addition, it will give you an opportunity to explain how the daily devotional works.

Give each child a copy of the L.I.T. Level 2: Fall devotional book. Have them write their name in the front of their book then turn to the following pages to learn how to use their devotional book.

## **Welcome to L.I.T. (page 5).**

Read the first two paragraphs on this page to help the L.I.T.s understand what they will be learning in this session's devotionals.

## **How to Have a Quiet Time with God (page 11).**

Take your time explaining to the group how to spend time with the Lord. (When you get to numbers 8 and 9 in the list, be aware that we will soon be looking at a prayer for putting on the armor of God on page 7. Also, when you get to number 10 in the list, keep in mind that we will be discussing the Prayer Journal in more depth at the end of this orientation section.)

## **Armor of God Prayer (page 7).**

This prayer is written to help the L.I.T.s understand the symbolic meaning of each piece of armor and to pray for God to cover each area of their lives with His presence, His Word, His power, and His truth. It is very important that we put on God's spiritual protection daily because it gives us the ability to stand against the enemy's attacks. Encourage your students to put on the armor of God every day.

## **Learning to Hear From God (page 6).**

Children often find it difficult to understand the different ways that God speaks to us. This section will help you explain the various ways that God reveals His message to us. Encourage them to "listen" carefully so that they will hear the voice of God in their lives.

## **Prayer and Worship: God Encounters (page 8).**

This section takes a look at Isaiah's experience when he went before the throne of God. It takes the parts of Isaiah's prayer and teaches us how to pray. Using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic, the L.I.T.s will learn how to start their prayer times with Praise and thanksgiving, move into a time of Repentance and confession of sin, Ask God to provide for their needs or the needs of others, and finally to Yield, or surrender, their lives to the Lord and His will for them.

## **Take Up Your Cross Daily (page 9).**

The Cross is a visual representation of living the Christian life in obedience to Jesus Christ. We will be looking at The Cross repeatedly throughout this Bible study session. The students will become extremely familiar with its various parts, and you will want to encourage them to live out every part of The Cross.

## **Weekly Memory Verses (pages 12-13).**

These are the weekly memory verses your preteens will be learning during the next eighteen weeks. The memory verse for each week is referenced at the beginning of each day's devotional to remind the L.I.T.s to learn it (see Week 1, Day 1 on page 15 where it says MEMORIZE). Explain to your group that memorizing Scripture can be easy if they will start on the first day of the week instead of waiting until the last day to do it. Encourage them to begin by memorizing only three to five words the first day, then adding a few words each day after that until they have it down.

## Week 1, Day 1 (page 15).

Explain that there is a devotional for each day of the week and that they will begin with Week 1, Day 1 tomorrow. Have them look at the bold printed word **MEMORIZE** beside Day 1. This is a daily reminder to work on memorizing their memory verse for that week. Under that, it says **READ**. This is the Bible verse(s) that the devotional for that day refers to. (It is recommended that students use the New King James Version of the Bible.) They will read through the devotional and answer any questions that it asks. **PRAY** gives them guidance for what and how to pray that day. Every day, the L.I.T.s will be reminded to pray on the armor of God and to use their Prayer Journal on **page 129**. Emphasize to your students that the daily devotionals are to be done daily! The goal is to get into the habit of spending time in God's Word and praying every single day. Encourage the students not to get behind because it will be very difficult to catch up.

## Parent Talk: Developing a Christian Worldview (page 36).

Explain how the Parent Talk section works. On Day 7 of each week, a parent needs to sit down with the child and discuss the devotionals for that week. The L.I.T. will be required to quote the memory verse to their parent, answer review questions, and pray with their parents. After completing the Parent Talk section each week, parents are encouraged to put their initials by the Day 7 devotional to indicate that this section was completed with a parent. The L.I.T.s will earn a token each week if their Parent Talk section is signed by the parent. (Parents should be shown page 10 in the devotional books where they can read about the Parent Talk sections.)

## Prayer Journal (page 129).

Turn to the Prayer Journal and show the students how they can easily find the Prayer Journal by looking for the dark edges on the journal pages. Part of our vision for L.I.T. is to develop prayer warriors out of children. A child in their innocence can do tremendous battle for their family, friends, and the world. They just need to be taught how by your example, modeling for them how to do it. The Prayer Warrior Journal gives specific things to pray for each day. Prayer is spiritual warfare and the privilege of every believer in Christ. Spiritual warfare is REAL! Through prayer, we put on the armor of God for our spiritual protection. It is very important to encourage your group to put on the armor of God daily so that they can stand against the enemy's assaults (Ephesians 6:10-18).

- **Sunday**—Encourage your L.I.T.s to search their hearts before the Lord on a daily basis. Encourage them to ask God to show them any

sin in their lives and to confess their sins to be made right with Him (1 John 1:9).

- **Monday**—Families are in a major battle today. If the enemy can destroy a marriage, it will do major damage and pain to the children living in that family. Encourage your group to pray for their parents on a regular basis for God's protection over them.
- **Tuesday**—The Top Five. Your L.I.T.s will know lost friends and family members. Have them write down the names of their top five on Tuesday in their Prayer Journal, and encourage them to pray daily for the salvation of these people.
- **Wednesday**—The responsibility of every believer is to "Go" (Matthew 28:19-20). We are also called to pray for the nations. There are billions of people around the world who have not heard the Gospel message one time. On Wednesday, encourage your group to pick two nations to pray for, and pray that the Lord would send out Christians to share the Good News in that country.
- **Thursday**—Find out who your church supports on the mission field and add their names in your Prayer Journal. They need our prayers as they proclaim the Good News of Christ around the world.
- **Friday**—With the Friday prayer guide, children are reminded to pray for various people in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-3).
- **Saturday**—Every nation needs revival and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Encourage your group to humble themselves and pray for our nation so that God might bring healing in our land.

## Incentive Page (pages 2-3).

The Incentive Page is designed to reward the students for completing all of their devotionals each week, learning their weekly memory verses, doing the Parent Talk section with a parent each week, and exhibiting good behavior during Disciple Group meetings. The L.I.T.s will receive a sticker for each of the four categories already mentioned if completed each week. Their goal is to get as many stickers as possible by the end of eighteen weeks. At the end of the session, they will be rewarded the number of tokens as the number of stickers they received during the session. If your church provides prizes, the L.I.T.s will be able to use the tokens to "purchase" fun items that will be made available to them at that time.

# Weekly Memory Verses

The following are the weekly memory verses that the L.I.T.s will be learning. It is important that you also learn the memory verses. As a leader, you will want to be an example for your students, so you should be faithful in Scripture memory as well.

**Week One**—“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)

**Week Two**—“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5)

**Week Three**—“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.” (John 15:16a)

**Week Four**—“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.” (John 15:15a)

**Week Five**—“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

**Week Six**—“This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.” (Isaiah 43:21)

**Week Seven**—“Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth—Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.” (Isaiah 43:6b-7)

**Week Eight**—“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

**Week Nine**—“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

**Week Ten**—“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)



**Week Eleven**—"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor." (John 12:26)

**Week Twelve**—"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10b)

**Week Thirteen**—"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:9-10a)

**Week Fourteen**—"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

**Week Fifteen**—"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:39)

**Week Sixteen**—"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand." (Proverbs 19:21)

**Week Seventeen**—"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'" (Mark 16:15)

**Week Eighteen**—"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)



# WEEK 1

## It's All About Him



### Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



### Biblical Explanation

In this week's study you will discover that everything is about God and His purpose for our existence. "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16). Warren Wiersbe says:

Everything exists in Him, for Him, and through Him. Jesus Christ is the Sphere in which they exist, the Agent through which they came into being, and the One for whom they were made. When it comes to creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure).<sup>1</sup>

Colossians 1:16 declares that Jesus Christ is God. He created all things, and nothing has its being except through Him and by Him. He is God. We are no accident. We are part of God's creation made for God's pleasure and purpose. Rick Warren states, "If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God...You were made by God and for God—and until you understand that, life will never make sense."<sup>2</sup> The search for meaning in life for many becomes despairing because most people start with themselves instead of God. He is the reason for which we live. In our society today people try to find meaning by looking inwardly into themselves rather than at what God has to say about them and their lives. They focus totally on self and taking care of self, never fully grasping the idea that their existence is not about them but Him. God is the reason we exist. Evangelist Billy Graham has said that there is a void inside us that only God can fill and that only God can bring meaning to our lives.

Because we are made by God, in His image, and for Him, we should live for Him. He is the reason for our being, and He is our path to true happiness. God has a plan, and we are a part of it. We are invited to join the journey with God and make a difference for Him. We can discover His purpose for our lives.

<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: An Exposition of the New Testament Comprising the Entire "BE" Series Volume 1* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989), 116.

<sup>2</sup> Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven® Life, What On Earth Am I Here For?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 17, 19.

### Learning Objective

The L.I.T.s will understand that they were created for God's pleasure and not their own. He created them and has a purpose for them.

### Memory Verse

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)

### Spiritual Preparation

Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.

Pray for the children in your group to understand that they are a wonderful creation of God, created for His purpose here on Earth.

Pray for God to begin a work in the hearts of your L.I.T.s as they develop the habit of having a daily quiet time and as you begin meeting regularly in Disciple Group for Bible study and prayer.

Ask the Lord to speak to each of your students this week in a way that they are aware.

Pray that God will show you anything in your life that you need to confess, and make your heart right with Him before going to Disciple Group.



When you live out the purpose for which God created you, He is pleased. Genesis 1:31 reminds us that “God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” He was delighted to create you; He is filled with joy to see you fulfill the purpose for which He created you.



## Bible Exploration

Ask several L.I.T.s in your group to look up the following verses and answer the questions:

**Ephesians 2:10**—“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

- What does it mean that “we are His workmanship”? (Workmanship refers to something that is hand-made—a work of art, a fine craft. God lovingly made us with intricate detail, uniqueness, and precision. As God’s workmanship, we are the outcome of His self-expression—God is pleased with what He has made in each and every one of us.)
- For what purpose were we created? (To do good works, works that honor God and bring glory to Him; good works are the evidence of our faith; our “good” works are nothing without Christ in us)
- What did God prepare in beforehand for us to do? Be specific. (Good works—bring glory to God, study and know His Word, obey God’s commands, share Christ with others, use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given us in ministry, etc.)

**Genesis 5:1b**—“In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.”

- In whose likeness did God create man? (His own)
- What does “in the likeness of God” mean? (We are like God in that we enjoy relationships. We are made with a soul, which is the spiritual part of us that lives forever. We have the ability to think, learn, and reason. We have a sense of right and wrong.)
- Why did God create man in His likeness? (God desires to be in relationship with us. God planned for us to know and live according to His Word—His standards—while here on Earth. He wants us to live with Him for eternity in Heaven.)

**Isaiah 43:6b-7**—“Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth—Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

- Who is this verse referring to when it says “sons” and “daughters”? (Believers, children of God, us)
- For what purpose does this verse say God created us? (For His glory—to bring honor to God, to make His wonderful qualities and deeds known, to point to His goodness)

**Revelation 4:11**—“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

- By whose will were we created? (God’s)
- What does “by Your will” mean? (A person’s will is basically what they want. God created us because it was what He wanted. God wanted to create us for Himself because it pleased Him.)



## The Cross

Explain the importance of The Cross:

- The center of The Cross is “Jesus Is Lord.” When God created you, Jesus was there. John 1:3 tells us, “Through him [Jesus] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” Jesus is your Creator; He should also be your Lord.
- The base of The Cross is “Read the Bible.” God’s Word teaches that He created you for a purpose. Read the Bible every day to learn God’s purpose for your life.
- The top of The Cross is “Talk With God.” You can ask God through prayer to reveal His purpose for you.
- The left side of The Cross is “Tell Others.” Many do not know that they were created, much less that their Creator loves them and has a purpose for them. You can tell them.
- The right side of The Cross is “Gifts and Ministry.” God created you for a purpose. Using the spiritual gifts God has given you to minister to others is one way you can fulfill that purpose.
- The circle that goes around The Cross represents a “Life of Obedience.” When you do all the parts of The Cross, you are living a life of obedience to God that is pleasing to Him.

# NOTES

**John 17:20-23a**—Jesus prayed, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me.”

- What did Jesus desire in His prayer? (That everyone He created would be one with Him and His Father)
- What is the ultimate goal of us being one with God? (That the world would believe in Jesus)



## Bible Study Review

1. Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this past week’s memory verse and explain what this verse means to them.
2. Have the students open their books to **page 15**. Go through the Week 1 materials with them day-by-day and discuss their answers. Allow them to discuss their thoughts about what they have learned.
3. Ask the L.I.T.s how they can apply what they have learned to their lives.
4. Ask the following review questions:
  - Why do we exist?
  - Who is our Creator?
  - Why did He create us?
  - How does it make you feel to know that you were created for God’s purpose and that you have a purpose for being here?
  - How should we live our lives if we were created by God for His purpose?



## Object Lessons

1. Take a painting or an artistic piece with you to Disciple Group. Explain that someone painted or made this object and designed it for a purpose. Its purpose is to bring pleasure to those who might purchase it and have it in their home. It prompts conversation when looked at and gives character to a person’s home. The most important aspect of a piece of art is its creator. It did not just happen. Someone took the time to paint or sculpt this object. We should look at ourselves in the same way as a special piece of art. We did not get here by accident. We are created in the image of God, by Him, and for Him. Just as this piece of art was created for a purpose, we have a purpose for being here. Our purpose is to live for God and bring Him pleasure.
2. Take a piece of modeling clay to your Disciple Group and allow one of the children to form it into whatever they wish. Explain that all of us were formed in the image of God. If we want to know what God looks like, look around the room at each other. We can get a pretty good idea of what our Creator looks like by looking in the mirror or at other people. Remember, you are unique, and you were created in God’s image for His pleasure.



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Encourage the L.I.T.s to praise God for creating them with a purpose.

# SAMPLE



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