

# YOU'RE NEW!

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LEADER'S GUIDE

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Book Preview



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## *You're Next Leader's Guide*

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*You're Next Leader's Guide*

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# Leader's Guide Intro

Thank you for purchasing the *You're Next* group curriculum and taking your students on a journey where theology collides with real life! Below you will find a description of the layout for each week, and a list of tips for maximizing your group experience.

Our prayer is that God will use these sessions to help energize your students to know, live, share, and own their faith in Jesus, and live out the truths of Scripture in practical and relevant ways.

## Description

This book consists of 30 group sessions designed to follow up *You're Next* and allow students to go deeper with the 30 core truths covered in the book.

## Outline

Each chapter focuses on a Big Q—a key question involving one of the 30 core truths of the Christian faith. Each session breaks down into six sections.

### 1. The Big Picture

*The Big Picture* provides you with a basic overview of what the session will accomplish in your group.

### 2. Warm Up

The *Warm Up* gives you an ice breaker activity or discussion topic designed to help your group loosen up and share with each other.

### 3. Remix

*Remix* summarizes and briefly reviews the *You're Next* chapter.

## 4. Going Deeper

*Going Deeper* introduces a new key passage that ties into the core truth and develops it on a deeper level through the use of a key point and discussion questions.

## 5. Collision

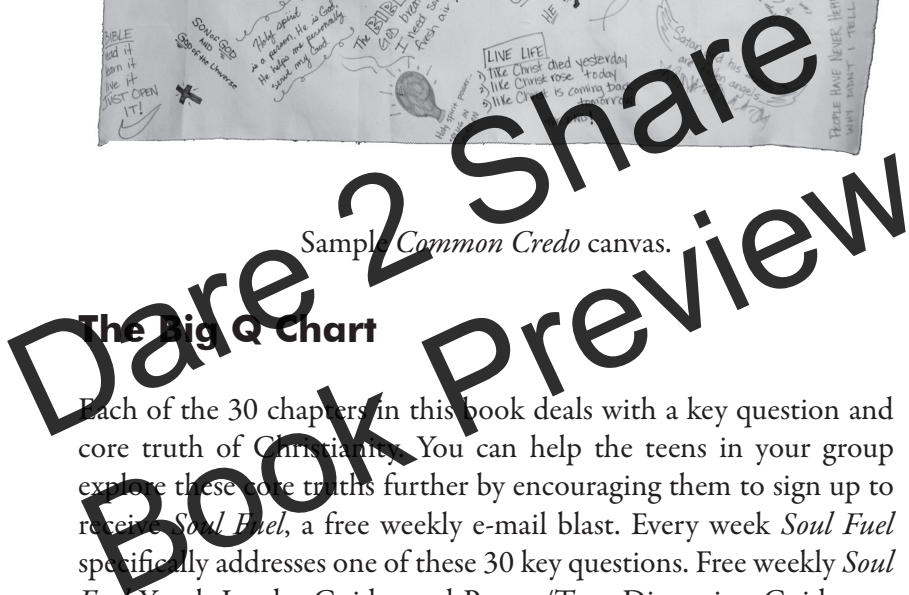
The *Collision* section shows how the truth of theology and the realities of life collide, using specific and challenging applications. It includes three components:

- God's Truth: a recap of the core truth being covered
- Your Life: a specific application showing the practical side of the truth being covered
- What's Next? a hands on challenge for the week for which group members will be held accountable.

## 6. Our Common Credo

This section will allow the group leader and students to phrase the core truth in a personalized statement. Acquire a 3x5 foot piece of canvas fabric or alternatively, a large piece of butcher block paper. Once the group arrives at a summary statement they can take a Sharpie pen and write their *Common Credo* on the 3 foot by 5 foot canvas. Examples of creed statements will be included at the end of each chapter to assist your group with this exercise.

Check out the photo of a sample *Common Credo* canvas. At the end of this study, your group should have a final written record on their canvas, summarizing the 30 weeks of *Common Credo* statements. At the conclusion of your 30 weeks, consider having each group member sign the canvas as an indication of their personal commitment to their common Christian creed. Find a place in your youth group room to hang your canvas as an ongoing reminder of the core belief statements. If display space is a consideration, try writing on both sides of the canvas and displaying it as a banner or flag.



Sample *Common Credo* canvas.

## The Big Q Chart

Each of the 30 chapters in this book deals with a key question and core truth of Christianity. You can help the teens in your group explore these core truths further by encouraging them to sign up to receive *Soul Fuel*, a free weekly e-mail blast. Every week *Soul Fuel* specifically addresses one of these 30 key questions. Free weekly *Soul Fuel* Youth Leader Guides and Parent/Teen Discussion Guides are also available. To sign up for *Soul Fuel* or to access it online, visit Dare 2 Share Ministries' Web site, [www.dare2share.org/soulfuel](http://www.dare2share.org/soulfuel).

Your students can find the following Big Q chart at the back of their copies of *You're Next*.



## The 30 Big Q's

- Chapter 1 Who is God the Father, and what is He like?
- Chapter 2 Who am I, where did I come from, and what is my purpose?
- Chapter 3 What is sin, and how does it impact my life and my relationship with others?
- Chapter 4 Why does God allow evil in this world?
- Chapter 5 Who are Satan and his demons?
- Chapter 6 Who is Jesus?
- Chapter 7 Is there a real heaven and hell, and what are they like?
- Chapter 8 How do I know he really rose from the dead?
- Chapter 9 What is a Christian, and how does a person become one?
- Chapter 10 Is the Bible really God's Word, and does it really relate to my life?
- Chapter 11 What is prayer, and how do I do it?
- Chapter 12 Did God create everything, and why does it matter?
- Chapter 13 Will God ever leave or forsake me?
- Chapter 14 What is the Church, and why should I be involved?
- Chapter 15 Why should I study the Bible, and how do I do it?
- Chapter 16 Is there a Judgment Day, and what difference should it make in my life?
- Chapter 17 How should the return of Christ impact my life?
- Chapter 18 What are spiritual gifts, and how do I discover mine?
- Chapter 19 How do I engage in spiritual warfare?
- Chapter 20 What is the Great Commission, and how does it relate to me?
- Chapter 21 What about people who have never heard the gospel?
- Chapter 22 What is truth, and can I know it with certainty?

Chapter 23	Who is the Holy Spirit, and what does He do?
Chapter 24	Can I really be forgiven for all my sins, even the really bad ones?
Chapter 25	Why did Jesus die on the cross?
Chapter 26	If Jesus is the only way to heaven, are all other religions wrong?
Chapter 27	What is the Trinity?
Chapter 28	How do I defend my faith?
Chapter 29	How do I get plugged in to the power of the Holy Spirit?
Chapter 30	How can I really worship God in everything I do?

## Tips for Maximizing Your Group Time

To facilitate your time together here are a few tips to help you maximize your group's time together.

**Start and end on time.** Starting and ending on time encourages timeliness and shows respect for others.

- **Structure the room to encourage group interaction.** Seating people in a circle allows group members to see each other, which is most conducive to group interaction.
- **Turn off cell phones.**
- **Encourage members to do their homework because the book *You're Next* is packed with personal, practical application.** But make it clear that students are welcome in the group, regardless of whether they have read the chapter before the meeting.
- **Use the *Warm Up* activity.** This will set the stage for getting people talking and sharing.
- **Seek to involve everyone.** If you find some group members hesitant to participate in the discussions, on occasion



generically ask for responses from those who have not had a chance to say anything yet.

- **Keep your questions directed to the group in general.** When topics have personal application, some individuals may be uncomfortable sharing publicly. Be sensitive and invite participation rather than calling on specific people to answer specific questions.
- **Let group members help answer questions that arise rather than providing all the answers as the group leader.**
- **Challenge wrong answer while still inviting participation.** Encourage the group to continue to dig deeper, if the initial answer to a question does not align with what the Bible has to say. Ask others if they agree or if they understand it differently.
- **Stick with the topic of the chapter of the week.** As the leader, it is up to you to help the group avoid rabbit trails that dilute the power and application of God's word in the lives of your group members.
- **Pace your time so that you get to the *Collision* and *Our Common Credo* sections.** Letting your group members learn the head knowledge without applying it to real life will turn the content into an intellectual exercise. "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only!"

**Consider having a report back time each week where the group can discuss the application or activity assigned from the previous week.** The report back time could happen either at the beginning or the end of each week's session.

The point of *You're Next* is to challenge your group members to allow God's Truth and their lives to collide in a way that transforms who they are and how they live their lives. Our prayer is that your group will experience God's transforming power as you discover together how God's Truth impacts all of life!

# Death Encounter #1: War of the Womb

## The Big Q: Who is God, and what is He like?

### The Big Picture

In this study, your group will:

- Participate in a discussion about famous TV and movie dads.
- Review Greg Stier's story about his dad.
- Discuss God's nature and character.
- Study Genesis 1:1, 26 and participate in an application exercise.
- Develop a *Common Credo* statement that answers the question 'Who is God and what is He like?'

### Warm Up

Make up or look up a 'Famous Father's' quiz using an internet search engine and give it to the students. You can also ask the students to name famous/popular dads from TV and movies (i.e. Fred Flintstone, Homer Simpson, Ray Romano, etc.) After the exercise, ask them questions like:

- Why are these dads famous/popular?
- Are most dads like the ones in movies and television? Why or why not?
- How important is the role of a dad in most people's lives? (Ask students to explain their answers.)

## Remix

After the students have responded, transition into the *You're Next* topic by saying something like: Tonight we are going to talk about a perfect dad and the impact He had on Greg's life, but first let's look at an episode from Greg's life that he would probably prefer to forget.

Share with the students the following excerpt from *You're Next* about Greg Stier's dad:

We never talked about it. Not once in 38 years. But I knew. She had a secret, and she didn't want me to find out about it...What was this dark secret that mom had worked so hard to keep?

...The last thing Ma needed was another kid. She didn't want to bring another child into her world, a world of pain, a world of violence, a world of guilt.

Additionally, the guy who was the "father" wasn't going to take any financial responsibility. As soon as he found out Ma was pregnant he moved two thousand miles away . . . literally. So why not abort?

...God's grace, second thoughts, and a phone call from her parents (who found out what she was up to) rescued me from a shady surgeon's instruments of death.

[Because of this,] I had always had a lot of confusion about the whole dad thing. I thought that my brother and I had the same father. But Doug's dad never wanted to talk to me. If I answered the phone when he called, he would just say, "Put your brother on the line." I thought he just hated me. But he wasn't my dad; he was Doug's. I was somewhere around 12 years old when I found out that my real dad had left town before I was ever born. This news rocked my world. It shocked me, a vulnerable seventh-grader struggling with self-identity.

So what got me through? The answer is simple: God.

**Ask**

- How would news like that impact you?
- Can most people relate to Greg's struggle with dad issues? Why or why not?
- How do you think God got him through this difficult time in his life?

After the students have responded, transition into the *Going Deeper* section by saying something like: While many of us can relate to struggles with our earthly fathers, we all have the opportunity to have a relationship with the most perfect Dad in the universe. As Greg mentions in the book, the reality of God as his Daddy was the truth that anchored his life through the storm. Why? Because through that relationship, he learned about who God is and what He is like—and the more Greg learned about His heavenly Father, the more secure he became in a very insecure world. How about you? How would you answer the questions of 'who is God?' and 'what is He like?' Let's look at some passages from the Bible that really help us see how to answer these questions and what difference that can make in our lives.

**Going Deeper**

Read Genesis 1:1, 26

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness."*

**Explain**

These verses reveal to us the answer to the first question of 'who is God', so let's take a closer look. First of all, the phrase 'in the beginning' indicates when time as we know it actually started. What that tells us, then, is that God had always been around before time began, so He is outside of time and space. In other words, God is what we call 'eternally self-existent'. Nobody created Him, and He has no beginning or end. When you think about it, that makes sense,

because if God had to be created, then whoever or whatever made Him would therefore be God. The other cool thing is that the word 'God' here means THE God—the One who is over all other 'gods'. What this means is that God has no equal, which is what we call 'omnipotent' (or 'all-powerful'). Again, when you think about it, this also makes sense because only an all-powerful God could make the universe out of nothing.

### Ask

- Could a being be eternal but not God? Why or why not?
- What does this verse say about the idea of many gods who are all equal?
- What other characteristics/attributes of God flow out of His nature? (i.e., love, holiness, all-knowing, omnipresent, etc.)

### Explain

The second thing these verses tell us is the answer to what is God like?. After He spoke everything into existence, He handcrafted the first human beings in His image, which tells us He is a relational God who desires to connect with His creation.

### Ask

- Did God make people because He was lonely? Why or why not?
- How does the fact that God created us to be with Him impact your view of life?
- Have you ever viewed God as your heavenly Daddy before? Why or why not?

## Collision

### God's Truth

Allow some time for further discussions and questions, then pass out a blank piece of paper and ask the students to write “Dear Daddy” at the top.

### Explain

The fact that God is eternally self-existent and created us to be with Him are truths we'll probably never fully grasp until we get to heaven. But in the meantime, we can hold on to them as an anchor to help us through life. Because He's eternally self-existent, we can trust Him to supply all our needs. In other words, if He can speak the universe into existence out of nothing, He can easily speak into our lives the things we need most. As well, because He created us to be with Him, like Greg, we can trust Him to always be there for us as our heavenly Father. In fact, there's a promise from the Bible that sums it up.

#### Read Psalm 68:5

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.*

### Explain

This verse again shows us who God is and what He is like, because it tells us that God is in His holy dwelling—in other words He is separate from the universe and rules over it—and He is a ‘father to the fatherless’. No matter how good or not so good our human father has been, we have this promise: our heavenly Father will ‘fill in the gaps’ left by our earthly fathers.

## Your Life

Print off a copy of the Father's Love Letter found online at <http://www.fathersloveletter.com/>. After the students read it, have everyone take some time to write a letter to God in response to the letter and what they learned in this lesson. You might give them a few suggestions to help them get started, i.e., Dear Daddy, thank you for filling in the gaps, for being a holy yet loving God, etc.

## What's Next?

Challenge the students to start each day this week with a prayer that starts with 'Dear Daddy...' Give them examples like "Dear Daddy, help me remember that you are in complete control this day," or "Dear Daddy, thank you for being a Father to the fatherless!" Remind them that you will ask about the assignment next week.

Close in prayer, challenging the group to think each day about the incredible truth that God is our eternally self-existent heavenly Daddy and start each day with that truth in mind.

## Our Common Credo

After the prayer, spend some time developing your group's *Common Credo* that answers the question 'Who is God?' Write your *Credo* on your canvas.

Here are some examples:

- A Contemporary Example: God is my All-Powerful, always loving Daddy.
- A Classic Example: "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth."<sup>1</sup> —Westminster Catechism