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This Student Book is the road map for your students' event experience. Here are just a few features:

- 45 full color pages
- Note taking areas for Large Group Sessions -- Interacts with the Small Group Lessons your teachers access Online
- Features four bonus devotions for use throughout your event
- Biblically solid, culturally relevant, highly interactive

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*The Darkness and The Light: Reflecting Jesus in a Dark World*

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Have you ever been in a place that's really and truly dark? It's a little scary, isn't it?

There is another kind of darkness that surrounds us. It's not the absence of light but the absence of good. It's the darkness of a world without God. There is darkness.

But there is a light, too. And not just any light. It's a light that is overwhelming, all-consuming, and perfectly pure . . . a light that refuses to be ignored. *"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).*

It's a light that drives away the darkness. A light that drives out fear. A light that shines for justice, a light that saves. It is God's light, and it cannot be defeated. *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).*

## **Have You Prepared For The Journey?**

Ask yourself: Is my heart prepared to be challenged? Am I willing to be changed? If you can't answer "yes" to these questions, this journey might not be nearly as spectacular as it could be. If you need to, take a moment and silently talk to God in prayer. Ask God to radically move in your life.

## **You're Holding Your Map**

This book you're holding is the roadmap for your journey. It will help guide your experiences. Write your name and the date in the front. Hold on to it. You may want to look back and remember this time in your life.

## **Learn. And Teach.**

Keep your eyes and ears open for those valuable moments where God wants to teach you something. But don't miss the chance to teach your friends, and to be taught by them. Your friends are with you in this experience. Be open to what God is doing in and through them and how He might be using them to speak to you. And vice versa.

The light  
**shines**

in the  
**darkness**

& the darkness has not  
**overcome it.**

*John 1:5*

# LARGE GROUP NOTES

These two pages are designed for you to take notes on during Large Group Sessions. The stuff you're learning will build on itself over the next few sessions. So even if you're not much of a note-taker, you might want to at least jot down what you think is important.

**Try writing down:**

- Any specific teaching points
- Verse references for Scripture passages
- Quotes that make you think
- Anything you have a question about

# SESSION 1



## SESSION 1

# SMALL GROUP INTRO

Think about the true things in your life that you hold on to when you need to feel joy. Or when you find yourself in a tough spot. Or you need to be reminded that life is pretty good after all. What are those truths? Are they people? Places? Things?

Here's a truth that will never let you down or fail to make you smile:

**There is a God, and you can know Him.**

God exists. The Bible is His story. And the Bible tells us that God is the all-powerful Creator who spoke creation into existence with His word. Into a dark and formless void, God spoke. And suddenly, the darkness was driven away, but He didn't stop there.

God created you, and He is actively engaged in your life. He did not set the world in motion and then step away. He is present, a God of action, one who brings light into every dark corner, even today.

Now that's a truth we can cling to.

# GETTING STARTED

Let's think about the idea of stuff that's homemade or handmade.  
Read the questions below and answer with your group.

**WHAT IS THE BEST THING YOU'VE EVER MADE?**

**WHAT IS THE BEST THING ANYONE HAS MADE YOU?**

**WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE?**

**WHAT WOULD YOU NEED IN ORDER TO MAKE IT?**

# Digging In

Read through the following passages and answer the questions with your group.

## **Genesis 1:1-5**

*"(1) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (2) The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*(3) And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (4) And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. (5) God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day."*

**Make a list of all the materials God used to create the world.**

**How did God bring light into the dark, formless void?**

**What does this say about God's ability?**

**What did God say about the light?**

**What does Genesis 1:1-5 tell us about who God is?**

## **1 John 1:5-7**

*(5) This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

**Vs. 5 is pretty clear. What does John say here?**

**Vs. 6 drops a bunch of good info on us. Let's look at it for a moment. On its surface, what is it saying?**

**But there is a deeper truth lying in plain sight. It has to do with the word "fellowship." What does that word mean?**

**We can know and be known by God, the Creator. Why do we take this amazing truth for granted?**

**Sum up in your own words what you think it means to "walk in the light."**

**What does it say about what happens when we walk in the light?**



## SESSION I

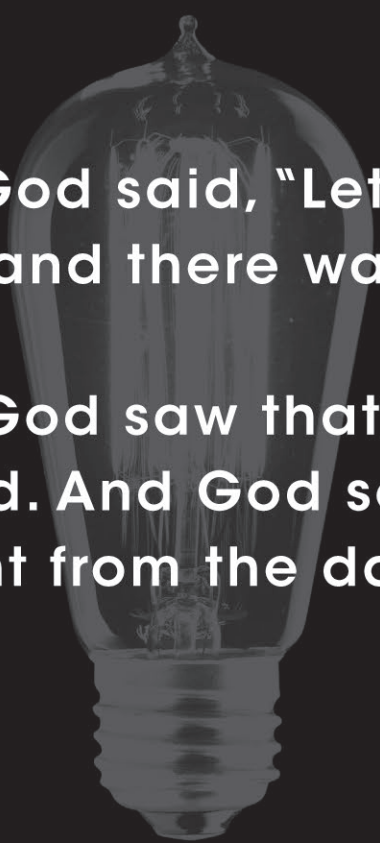
# Wrapping Up

### 1 John 1:6-7

*"(6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."*

**WALK IN DARKNESS**

**WALK IN THE LIGHT**



[3] **And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.**

[4] **And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.**

*Genesis 1:3-4*