



# GOSPEL JOURNEY<sup>®</sup> *Mau*

[ LEADER'S GUIDE ]

Dare 2 Share Preview



DARE 2 SHARE

GREG STIER





## GOSPEL Journey Maui Leader's Guide

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# HOW TO USE GOSPEL JOURNEY MAUI

*GOSPEL Journey Maui* is a nine week DVD-based reality series curriculum. This resource is designed to help students understand the message of the gospel and learn how to engage others in spiritual conversation. In each episode, Greg Stier and Zane Black model the process of spiritual dialogue, giving believers a real-life glimpse into how to relationally share the gospel. Christian students will grow deeper in their relationship with God as they wrestle through their own theological understanding of their faith by watching Greg and Zane answer some of life's greatest questions straight from the pages of the Bible.

In addition to modeling effective evangelism, the reality series is also an outreach resource. As students pray for and invite their unreached friends to the series, real-life opportunities to engage nonbelievers in spiritual conversation will unfold.

The curriculum is suitable for mid-week youth group meetings, Sunday morning curriculum, small group meetings or retreat settings. It is designed for a 60-75 minute timeslot, but easily expands if time allows. The longer your timeslot, the more deeply your students will be able to engage with the content.

To help you customize the materials to best fit your group, you'll find both a PDF and an editable Word format version of this Leader's Guide on your Support CD. For your convenience, you have permission to make up to ten copies of the *GOSPEL Journey Maui* DVDs, Support CD and Leader's Guide file for use within your church. You may print as many invitations and posters as you wish for promotional purposes. The companion student books, however, should not be reproduced—please purchase the number of copies you need. Bulk prices are available.



## Preparing to launch the series

- **Pray!** The spiritual prep work of prayer is a critical starting point as you prepare to launch the *Maui* reality series. Get your teens praying alongside you for the friends they want to invite to the series. Lay a strong spiritual foundation by praying every step along the way!
- **Preview.** Take an advance look at the first session or two of the DVD and curriculum to get a feel for the material. Previewing the material will allow you to effectively and enthusiastically describe the series to your teens, parents and adult leaders.
- **Plan.** Take the following steps:
  - Determine how many additional copies of the companion student book you'll need for your group. The student books are an integral part of each week's lesson, so you'll need a copy for each student. Order your copies early, so you have them in hand when you launch the nine week series.
  - One month before the launch of your series, rally your student leadership team and adult leaders by giving them a pre-screening of the promo video.
  - Organize a specific plan for integrating any visitors into the group, including a follow up and discipleship strategy. For help with this, check out the free new believer discipleship videos found at <http://somethingamazing.net/moving-forward/>.
  - Fill in the when/where details on the editable invitations found on your Support CD and print them out.
- **Promote!** Three weeks out, show the promo video to your youth group and/or church. *Maui* is a powerful outreach vehicle which will engage believers and unbelievers alike. Challenge your students to identify 2-3 friends they will pray for and invite to the *Maui* reality series. Provide them with invitations to pass out to their friends. Remind your teens that most people come to a youth group event because of a personal invitation. Print out copies of the locker size posters available on your Support CD and distribute them.
- **Pray!** One week out, arrange some time for your youth group to pray by name for the friends your students are inviting to the series.

## Preparing each week's lesson

As you prepare for each week's lesson, you will want to **grab your Leader's Guide and a copy of the Student Book.**

### DISCUSSION-DRIVEN TEACHING STYLE

Both the DVD episodes and the supporting youth group curriculum are student-centric. The goal is to trigger discussion and engage teens, before weaving the conversation back to what the Bible has to say. The lessons will be most effective if teens' natural curiosity is unleashed and they are pushed to think deeply about what they believe and why. Once your students engage with the topic at hand, the Leader's Guide moves the discussion from individual opinion to unpacking God's Word and exploring what the Scripture has to say about the issue under discussion. The goal is to move your students from observers to participants.

### FREEDOM AND FLEXIBILITY

Because discussion can vary greatly from group to group and session to session, you are encouraged to gauge your own group's needs and pick and choose the discussion questions which are most relevant to your needs. Know that if your teens engage with you during the session in deep discussion, it's highly likely you will not have time to cover all the discussion questions provided and that's OK. Stay flexible and feel free to customize the materials to fit your group's needs and timeframe.

### LESSON COMPONENTS

Each Leader's Guide lesson includes the following sections:

- **PACK YOUR COOLER:** A list of supplies is identified for each lesson.
- **CATCH THE WAVE:** An icebreaker activity and a few opening questions are provided to help your students engage with the DVD material they are about to watch. After a brief discussion time, you will launch into the DVD viewing portion of your lesson. Following the video, there are additional discussion questions designed to help the students begin personally processing through the topic of the lesson. When you are asking questions, don't be intimidated if you are met with silence. Wait patiently for a response—uncomfortable silence is your friend. Remember that Jesus was the master at uncomfortable moments. Sooner or later, someone will start talking.
- **DIVE DEEP:** This section provides the meat of the teaching portion of the lesson. You will dive deeper into Scripture, providing a Biblical perspective on the key question being addressed in the session.
- **SAIL HOME:** This is the personal application section. It will challenge your students to be doers and not hears only and to apply what they've learned to their personal lives.

- **ALOHA:** This section will wrap-up your session, and provide you a natural transition each week to clearly present the gospel and invite students to put their trust in Christ or recommit their lives.
- **BACKGROUND/RESOURCES:** The Leader's Guide provides a short list of where to turn for more information on each session's topic if you or your students want to dig deeper.
- **PARENT NEWSLETTER AND ACTIVITIES:** We strongly believe in involving parents in the *Maui* series by using the weekly newsletter updates which summarize what's coming up and provide parent/teen activity ideas and discussion questions. You can find these in the Parent Letter folder on your Support CD.

### Using the bonus extras on your DVD

Check out the bonus extras on your DVD, and use them to promote your reality series or to supplement the 9 week series and trigger further discussion.

### Customize your reality series!

You understand your group better than anyone, and know what will (and won't) work. As you prepare each lesson, consider what your students are like, and how the time can be most meaningful for everyone. Use the directions and questions in this Leader's Guide as much or as little as you'd like. Treat it as a springboard to a more tailored experience. Above all, be flexible and willing to adjust to whatever's going on (in mid-sentence, if necessary) and recognize that if your discussion times go deep, it is highly likely you will not have time to cover all the questions provided. Each session is intended for students to make their own discoveries and spiritual explorations, guided by the truth of God's Word.

If your group is large, consider dividing your students into smaller groups of 7-8 for the discussion sections of the lesson. You can either have an adult volunteer sit with each group, or you can walk among the groups as the discussions flow, asking each question loudly enough for everyone to hear.

Follow the Holy Spirit's leading throughout, and be sensitive to how vastly different teenagers are—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Some may have been Christians most of their lives, others may have never heard of Jesus, and many may be somewhere in between. Avoid "insider" lingo or Christian catchphrases, which can be intimidating. Guide the discussion in a way that encourages honesty (without embarrassment) and dives below the surface.

May God bless you as you set off on your Journey!

Greg Stier  
President, Dare 2 Share

EPISODE ONE

# IS THERE A HIGHER POWER?

Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 1:5b-6

## PACK YOUR COOLER

- DVD projection equipment
- *GOSPEL Journey Maui* DVD
- Bibles
- Student Books – one for each student
- Pens/pencils
- How BIG is Big? trivia questions

## CATCH THE WAVE

Welcome students as they arrive. Encourage them to interact with other group members and meet anyone they don't yet know.

Divide your students into teams, and run a trivia contest using questions like the following (correct answers are noted):

### ICEBREAKER: HOW BIG IS BIG?

Designate opposite sides of the room as "True" and "False." Read the following True or False trivia questions and have everyone indicate their answers by moving to the corresponding side of the room. After the activity, ask for a show of hands from those who got all the right answers.

- ☐ T The average dairy cow produces 200,000 glasses of milk over their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>
- ☐ F The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is roughly the size of Oregon. [It's roughly the size of Texas.]<sup>2</sup>
- ☐ T The average catfish has more than 250,000 tastebuds.<sup>3</sup>
- ☐ T There are more atoms in a single glass of water, than glasses of water in all the oceans of the Earth.<sup>4</sup>
- ☐ F The sun is 200 times further from the earth than the moon, but the moon is 200 times smaller than the sun.<sup>5</sup> [400 times further and 400 times smaller.]
- ☐ T A standard, old fashioned pencil has the potential to draw a line 35 miles long.<sup>6</sup>



**PRAY**

Settle your students and offer a brief opening prayer. Thank God for bringing each of you here; ask God to help create connections and friendships, bringing you closer to Him and each other.

**EXPLAIN**

Sometimes the bigness of things can be mind-bending, can't it? But when you think about it, there is also a different kind of "big" that has little to do with the physical dimensions of an object. This other kind of "big" has more to do with something being extremely important and highly impacting. And that's what our new series we're kicking off today called *GOSPEL Journey Maui* is about—the big, important, impacting questions of life.

Now many of you may be thinking that I'm talking about questions like...

- Should I go to college and if so, where?
- Who should I date?
- What kind of job do I want?
- What will really make me happy?

All of these are seriously big, important questions. They impact your present and your future. But there are actually some even bigger questions looming out there for you to explore—questions that will lay the very foundation for how you answer all the other questions life will throw your way. These very biggest questions are pivotal to who you will become, and how you will approach life.

Questions like...Is there a higher power?

How you eventually decide to answer this question will have a lifelong impact on how you view yourself and the world around you. It's an important question to think about. Seriously.

**ASK**

- Why do you think this question causes so much fear, controversy, and confusion? Why is finding the answer so tough?

**EXPLAIN**

Tough questions. Honest talk. Real answers. That's what we're here for. I hope you're prepared for something extraordinary, because we're going to embark on an adventure that'll change lives in this room. Guiding us along this adventure is a fascinating group of students, each with a totally unique background and point-of-view. As we watch this first episode of *GOSPEL Journey Maui*, we'll get to meet the cast and dive into our first big question: Is there a Higher Power?

**PLAY**

Show "Is there a Higher Power?" the first episode on the *GOSPEL Journey Maui* DVD. After the video is over, discuss.

**EXPLAIN**

Turn to page 4 in your student book. There you'll see photos, and a brief bio of the various cast members. Think about which cast member you most relate to, and answer the question you find at the bottom of page 5.

**THE CAST**

Dare 2 Share posted an ad on Craig's List to intentionally gather together a mix of young strangers from diverse religious backgrounds, then filmed their controversial spiritual conversation while living together in a Maui beach house for a week.



**Emma** – A Buddhist from Boulder. This freewheeling spirit is full of quotes from Buddha and excited to learn from everyone else, while teaching them the latest yoga moves.



**Jasser** – A Muslim high school senior and honor student who is eager to effectively represent Allah and the Quran as the pathway to ultimate truth.



**Pristilla** – A sweet-hearted Seventh Day Adventist, who struggles with being torn between her faith and what the world has to offer.



**Rachel** – A New Ager who believes God is a black woman who bakes cookies (a la *The Matrix*). Her God embodies unconditional love, and would never allow a literal hell.





**Zane** – The straight-up evangelical Christian. Radically converted just a few years ago, he is a strong proponent for Jesus as the sole way of salvation.



**Jonathan** – Jewish by heritage. Agnostic by choice. Nicknamed the 'walking encyclopedia', this part-time model, part-time bouncer and full-time partier is no brainless brute.



**A-Rae** – A recent convert to Mormonism, she was raised in a Baptist church, went to AWANA as a child and attended Disciple Now as a teenager.



**Greg** – The Preacher Man who sparks intense discussion as he introduces a new question each day and brings the Biblical perspective to the unfolding spiritual journey.

After watching the first episode, which cast member do you most identify with and why?

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#### ASK

- Is anyone willing to share with the rest of us who they most related to and why?
- The cast began the day on the top of the volcano. Priscilla said it was how she pictured heaven. And Jasser said that every piece of art has an artist. This is the big question raised by nature's awesome beauty: *How did everything get here?* What do you think?
- We're not standing on a volcano surrounded by ocean right now, but what evidences around us might point to the existence of a divine Creator?

### YOUTH LEADER HINT BOX

If these questions spark a bigger conversation about evolution and creation, be ready with a clear but relatively simple exploration of apologetics. To help you, check out Greg Stier's blog entry, *Why I Believe in the God of the Bible*, found at <http://www.gregstier.org/rants/why-i-believe-in-the-god-of-the-bible/>. Share as much or as little of the article as you'd like, and give students time to weigh in with their reactions.

### DIVE DEEP

Greg read an interesting passage from the New Testament. Let's take a closer look at that Scripture to see if we can make some ground on these questions.

Ask for a volunteer to read the Colossians passage found on page 6 in the student book.

### COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (NIV).*

### ASK

- What does this passage say God is *like*? What stands out to you most personally? Why?
- If there is a God, what does this passage say this God wants with you? Would you want to know this God personally? Explain.