

## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening and Closing Activity:

- Pens, fabric pens, markers
- 4x4 inch pieces of material of varying textures and colors, enough for all students (the only requirement is that the material can be written on. Examples include: cloth, fabric, burlap, fake leather, plastic, paper towel, etc.)

As an opening icebreaker for your meeting, give a piece of material to each student. Tell them to study it closely, focusing on its unique look, feel, sound, and even smell. Once they've examined their materials...

#### Ask

- **What is one thing that's unique about your material? Then, say one thing that makes you unique in this group.**

Have your students set aside their materials while you watch the video and work through Session 1's lesson material in the Leader's Guide. After the Sail Home prayer activity, have each student pick up their fabric once again and ask them to write or draw something on the material that represents today's experience. It might be a discovery or a decision; it might be the text from Colossians 1 or Psalm 33; it might be an expression of frustration or anger; it might be ongoing questions; or it might just be a promise to keep asking.

### Additional Discussion Questions

Catch the Wave Additional Questions. After the video,

#### Ask

- **What is it like to be with people who have very different points of view? When is it an opportunity to learn? Why can it be frustrating?**
- **What might help answer the question: *Is there a Creator?* When it comes to this idea, what do you, or what might you, find convincing?**



## Music/Media Option

If you'd like to include another media element in today's session, you might find a song or album that mirrors these struggles, beliefs, or ideas. For instance, U2's classic song *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* powerfully presents the need for spiritual satisfaction—a need that is so common among teenagers. Play the song either from an mp3 player or *The Joshua Tree* CD, and encourage students to listen carefully. Afterward, discuss what responses and feelings the song triggered.

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session, especially if they're interested in what the Bible says about creation. Recommend they check out verses such as these:

- Job 37:2-12
- Psalm 19:1-4
- John 1:1-3
- Hebrews 11:3

## Background/Resources

- *A Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel
- *A Case For Christ* and *A Case for Christ: Student Edition* by Lee Strobel
- *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell
- *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* documentary featuring Ben Stein
- "Why I Believe in the God of the Bible" from Greg Stier's blog  
<http://www.gregstier.org/rants/why-i-believe-in-the-god-of-the-bible>

## Parent Newsletter and Activities

Dare 2 Share Ministries strongly believes in involving parents in the *Maui* series. We encourage you to use the following newsletter to help your parents stay informed and engaged. The newsletter is designed to be sent prior to the meeting in which you will watch the corresponding episode because it summarizes what's coming up and provides parent/teen activity ideas or discussion questions. Feel free to reproduce this letter for use in your youth ministry in either paper or email format.



## Dear Parents,

Our youth group is about to launch into a new nine-week spiritual reality series called *GOSPEL Journey Maui*. This DVD-based series is all about real questions and real conversations. Seven young strangers with very different spiritual worldviews and a Preacher/Wannabe-Surfer hung out for a week in Maui, diving into life's biggest questions: Is there a higher power? What is the purpose of life? What happens after we die? And more... Ultimately it boiled down to this: Can everyone be right? Each episode follows the cast on their journey to discover the truth.

As we dive into the first episode this week, take some time to interact with your teen about what they are viewing and experiencing. This week we'll be focusing on the question: *Is there a Higher Power?*

Below, you'll find some ideas for activities to do as a family this week and also some discussion questions. Feel free to use as few or as many as you'd like as you engage your teen in spiritual conversation.

### Parent/Teen Activities

- Make a point of having dinner together. Have everyone bring to the table an object that represents his or her view of God or a higher power. For instance, this might be a cell phone, a light bulb, a photo, textbook, and so on. Everyone should take turns describing how this object represents how they see God and why. Give each other input and finish by saying a prayer together, asking God to show you who He really is.
- Create a "Connections" poster in your home. Using a marker, divide a piece of poster board into the number of sections as you have family members—plus one. Put each person's name in a different section, and "God" in the remaining section (or, if you feel more comfortable with "Higher Power," use that). Then, over a span of three or four days, fill in all the boxes; each person should write compliments, greetings, encouragements, and funny or touching memories in everyone else's boxes. You can even tack up pictures, drawings or other items—whatever you do, the focus should be to acknowledge each other as beloved family...and friends. Do the same for the final box. Then, after the fourth day, get together as a family and experience the poster together. Then talk about what it means—or might mean—to have God as a part of your family.
- Print out a copy of Colossians 1:15-17. Then go experience nature together: go on a walk, bike ride, hike, or even a car ride. Have someone read the passage aloud, then discuss how it relates to what's around you: how can you see the existence of God in that meadow? What might be God's original purpose for that tree?



## Parent/Teen Discussion Questions

- What's our faith heritage? In what ways do our history and background support our spiritual lives now?
- What kind of spiritual beliefs are displayed in our family? How are these lived out by family members?
- How often do we talk about faith, if at all? How do we encourage each other spiritually?
- How might our family "get on the same page" in the spiritual sense? What are some specific ideas for getting to know God together?

Each week's episode will tackle one of the great questions of life. We are anticipating an abundance of real, relevant discussion in youth group throughout the series and encourage you to take this opportunity to talk with your teen about God, faith and Christianity as well.

Your youth leader,



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## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity:

- A blindfold

Choose one person and blindfold them; all the others gather in a circle around the blinded participant. Spin the blindfolded person around until dizzy. All the others stop still. The blindfolded person has to reach out and feel the face of the person they touch first. If they guess the right owner of the face, they change places.

*Ask*

- **What does it feel like to be disoriented because you've been blindfolded?**
- **Can you think of any other times when you've experienced being disoriented? (i.e., directional orientation challenges or feeling clueless about instructions you received for a task or responsibility.)**
- **How did you feel when you didn't understand the direction or purpose behind something?**
- **In a similar way, do you think life can be disorienting when you don't understand the purpose of life? Why or why not?**

### Additional Discussion Questions

Dive Deep Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

*Ask*

- **How do we know it never brought him satisfaction?**
- **Was everything Solomon pursued in his search for satisfaction wrong in themselves? Why or why not?**

### Music/Media Option

*Hollywood's Not America* is a song by American pop singer/songwriter Ferras and is featured on his debut studio album, *Aliens & Rainbows*.

Play the song for your group and talk about why they think this song climbed the charts when it first came out. Ask them what they think some of the themes are in relation to this session.

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Here are some other great verses you can read that talk more about our purpose in life and how to grow deep in your relationship with Jesus. Also encourage your students to read through the whole book of Ecclesiastes to help them understand Sessions 2 and 3 better.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- Romans 8:29
- John 1:3

## Background/Resources

- *You're Next* by Greg Stier
- *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

## Parent Newsletter and Activities

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Dear Parents,

Raising teenagers in our overly busy world today can be challenging. Choosing the right college, who they date, which career path and which school activities to pour time into sometimes get in the way of teen's growing deeper in their faith.

In youth group this week, our topic from *GOSPEL Journey Maui* Episode 2 asks the question "What is the purpose of life?" Now I know what you're thinking; "That is a heavy question for anybody to answer, especially teenagers." Our scripture this week comes from Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Solomon spent his life searching for his purpose and no matter what he did or what he owned he never found true satisfaction.

Spend some time this week discussing the following questions with your son/daughter.

- Ask your teenager to share what they have learned from this week's *GOSPEL Journey Maui* session.
- How can we as parents help you use your time and energy to glorify God?
- What can we do as a family that will build onto God's Kingdom?

We're enjoying the journey!

Your youth leader,



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## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

This game can be played with just two people or up to 50. The game is simple, but can get crazy and fun. The first person says a word...for example, "The." The second person says the first word and ADDS a word..."The clown." And so on. At the end, you might have a complete sentence, something like, "The clown was in the pool when an ant bit his toe and made chocolate pudding squirt from his eye." It has to make sense, but not GOOD sense. The really fun thing is putting twists in the sentence on your turn so that other people have a hard time coming up with a word that fits. It shows that everyone thinks differently and uniquely, and likewise, approaches life differently and uniquely.

Caution your students to keep it clean with a statement like: **I know some of us may be tempted to say something a little risqué here, but just remember that we are a Christian youth group and we could spontaneously explode if that happens. So let's keep this on the clean side, okay?**

### Additional Discussion Questions

Dive Deep Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

#### Ask

- **What are some bad things that Jesus wants to keep out of your life?**
- **After watching episodes 2 and 3 and listening to Zane's story, have you taken Christ's offer for a full life?**
- **Do you want to? Why or why not?**

### Music/Media Option

During the DVD episode, Stellar Kart's song *Activate* plays in the background. Here is a portion of those lyrics: "This is the purpose of my life. This is the reason I'm alive. Don't have time to wait. Activate, activate."

Play the song or watch the music video, then discuss what responses and feelings the song triggered. You may want to have a copy of the lyrics available to refer to in your discussion time.

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session, especially if they're interested in what the Bible says about living a full life and how to grow deep in your relationship with Jesus. Recommend they check out verses such as these:

- John 14:6-7
- Acts 20:24
- Mark 8:34:38
- Jeremiah 29:11-12

## Background/Resources

- *Living a Life That Matters: Lessons from Solomon, the Man Who Tried Everything* by Mark Matlock and Chris Lyon
- *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren
- "Real Life: Opinions on What It Is and Where to Find It" on everystudent.com  
<http://www.everystudent.com/features/reallife.html>

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Dear Parents,

This week in youth group, we will be watching part two of "What is the purpose of life?" from Dare 2 Share's *GOSPEL Journey Maui*. During the video, the cast members are challenged to spend some time journaling their thoughts about their life's purpose. We'll be listening to each cast member share their view of their purpose in life. We'll be ending this week's youth group meeting with a journaling activity of our own.

You can encourage your son/daughter to continue journaling in the weeks to come as we meet for the *GOSPEL Journey Maui* DVD series. Also take some time to discuss the following questions related to this week's lesson with your teenager. Be sure to share your own answers to these questions. Teenagers love to hear from adults, especially their parents.

- Share a time when you felt something you owned or did had no meaning for you. What was it and how did you feel?
- Share with each other what you feel your purpose in life is.
- What would your final words in life be if you had the chance to write them down?

Your youth leader,



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## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

#### Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity:

- “Create Your Own Religion” handout
- Pens

Break the students into small groups and have them create their own religion. On the next page, you can find a template example your students can work from.

When they’re done, ask a few students to share their small group’s new religion with the whole group.

### Additional Discussion Questions

Catch the Wave Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

#### *Ask*

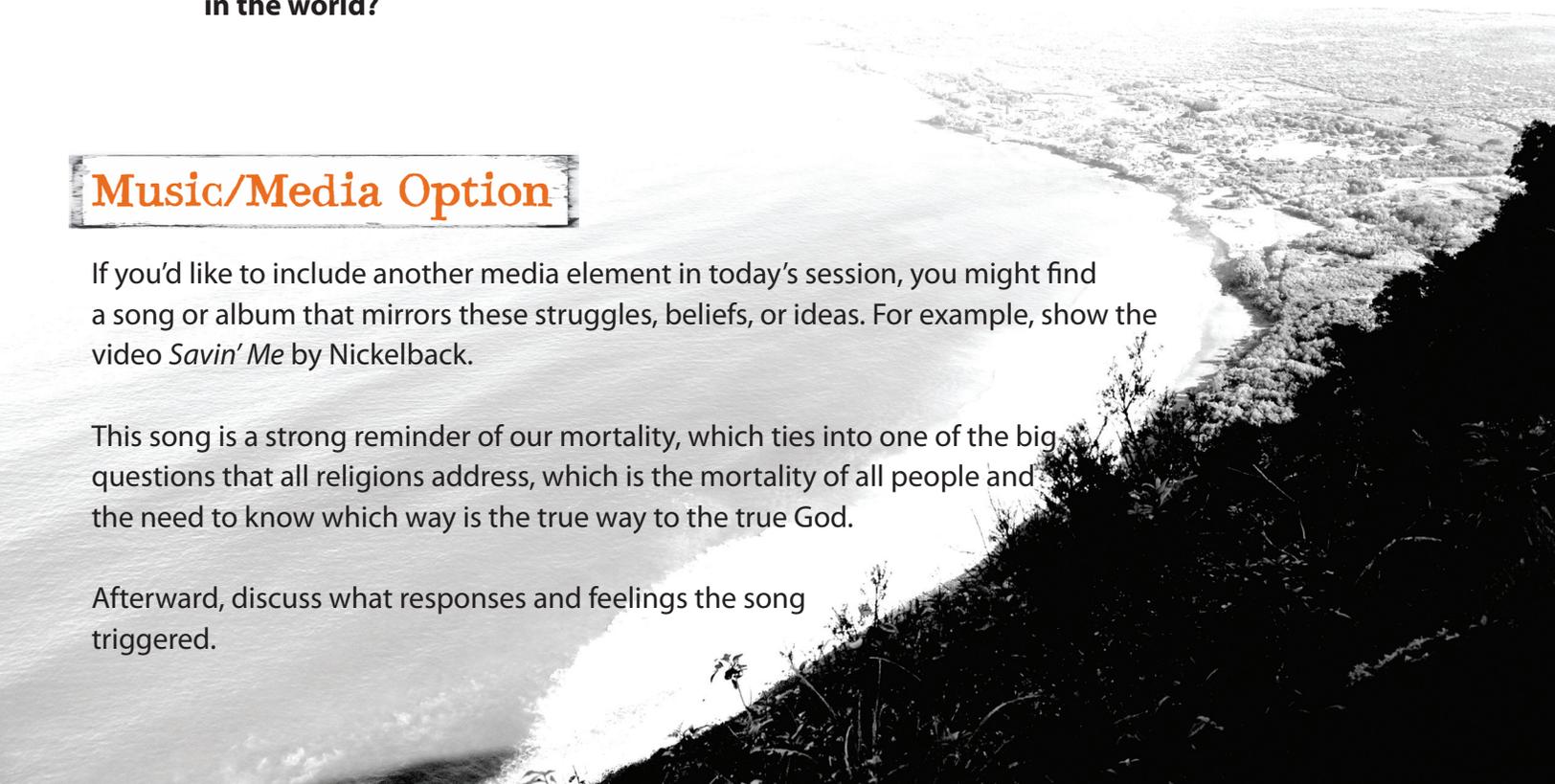
- **Since watching the video, has your opinion changed about whether all religions can be right? Why or why not?**
- **If all religions are just people trying to find God, then why is there so much religious conflict in the world?**

### Music/Media Option

If you’d like to include another media element in today’s session, you might find a song or album that mirrors these struggles, beliefs, or ideas. For example, show the video *Savin’ Me* by Nickelback.

This song is a strong reminder of our mortality, which ties into one of the big questions that all religions address, which is the mortality of all people and the need to know which way is the true way to the true God.

Afterward, discuss what responses and feelings the song triggered.



# Create Your Own Religion

Religion's Name

Central Beliefs

Nature of Supernatural Beings (god/goddess, angels/demons, etc.)

Moral Code

Explanation For:

- Purpose of Life
- What Happens After We Die
- How the World Began
- How the World Will End
- Source of Evil and Suffering

Holy Book

Holy Days

Ceremonies and Rituals

Spiritual Leaders/Teachers



## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session, especially if they're interested in Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Recommend they check out verses such as these:

### Prophecies

- The place where Jesus would be born (Micah 5:2, compare to Matthew 2:1)
- That he would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, compare to Luke 1:26-38)
- How Jesus would die (Psalm 22, compare to Luke 23:23)
- That Jesus would rise again (Psalm 16:8-11, compare to Luke 24:1-8)
- His body was pierced (Zechariah 12:10; Ps. 22:16, compare to John 20:25, 27)
- Not a bone of Him broken (Numbers 9:12, compare to John 19:31-36)
- Buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9, compare to Matthew 27:57, 60)

Recommend they check out additional verses about Jesus such as these:

- Acts 4:12
- Acts 10:43
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- Matthew 1:21
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4

## Background/Resources

- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell
- *Jesus Among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias
  
- "Why I Believe in the God of the Bible" from Greg Stier's blog  
<http://www.gregstier.org/rants/why-i-believe-in-the-god-of-the-bible>
- "How to Share Your Faith With..." on Dare 2 Share's website  
<http://www.dare2share.org/products-resources/worldviews/>

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## Dear Parents,

This week we will be discussing the question: *Why are there so many religions?* Our main emphasis will be on the fact that Jesus claimed to be God and the Bible has unique and supernatural features in terms of its development and fulfilled prophecies. These facts make Christianity unique among all religions and make a convincing argument for it being the only true way to God.

### Suggested activities:

- Take a few hours out on a weekend as a family and visit other places of religious worship (Mormon Stake Center, Buddhist Temple etc.). If possible, call ahead and ask about a guided tour. Use the opportunity to discuss the key difference between Christianity and other religions.
- Have a mock debate where a few family members believe all religions can be right and the others believe that Christianity is the only true way to God. Appoint a judge and whichever side 'wins' gets a reward (i.e., extra dessert, day off from chores, etc.).

Talking with your teen about their spiritual questions can help them find answers to unresolved issues they may be wrestling with and will allow them to plant their faith in Jesus on firm ground. If you come across questions you don't know how to answer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me and I'll do what I can to point you toward helpful resources that will allow you to dig deeper.

Your youth leader,



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## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

#### Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity

- “Can You Earn Your Way to Heaven?” handout
- Pens

Break up your students into groups of 4-5 and pass out the handout found on the next page to each student. The object is to ‘earn’ 100 points to get to heaven. Students can work alone or try to get 100 points as a group—but only one person can go to heaven from the group. After 10 minutes or so, talk to the group about the exercise—because most, if not all of them, will not be able to earn 100 points.

### Additional Discussion Questions

Catch the Wave Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

#### Ask

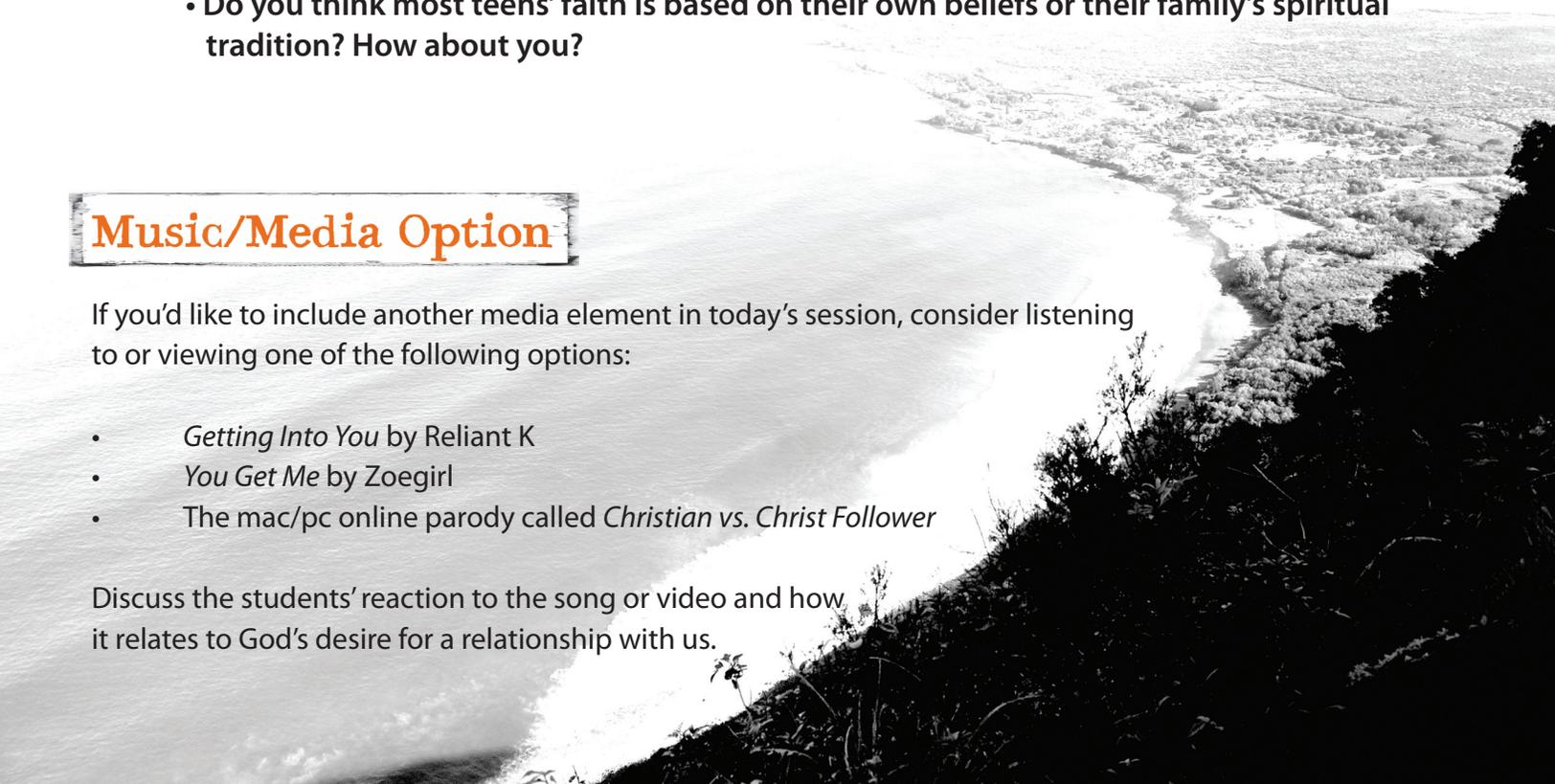
- Jasser was very adamant that there is no free gift—yet Zane and Greg both made the case for the idea that salvation is actually free because Jesus paid the price. Who was more convincing to you? Why?
- Do you think most teens’ faith is based on their own beliefs or their family’s spiritual tradition? How about you?

### Music/Media Option

If you’d like to include another media element in today’s session, consider listening to or viewing one of the following options:

- *Getting Into You* by Reliant K
- *You Get Me* by Zoegirl
- The mac/pc online parody called *Christian vs. Christ Follower*

Discuss the students’ reaction to the song or video and how it relates to God’s desire for a relationship with us.



# Can You Earn Your Way to Heaven?

You must earn 100 points to go to heaven!

Activities <b>Earning</b> Points	Points Accumulated
<b>1 point items:</b>	
Each Bible verse you can say from memory	
Years you've been a Christian	
Each one of Jesus' apostles you can name from memory	
<b>5 points for each occurrence in the past month:</b>	
Each hour you spent in prayer	
Each charitable act (i.e., volunteer at a homeless shelter)	
Each dollar you gave to the church	
Each youth group activity you attended this past month	
<b>10 bonus points:</b>	
Each day you didn't sin once this past month	
<b>Earned Points Subtotal</b>	

Activities <b>Deducting</b> Points	Points Lost
<b>1 point for each occurrence in the past month:</b>	
Each day you didn't pray	
Each time you lied this past month	
Every church service you missed	
<b>5 points for each occurrence in the past month:</b>	
Each time you took God's name in vain	
Each time you lusted	
Each time you prayed but doubted God would answer	
<b>Deducted Points Subtotal</b>	

**Grand Total**—**Earned Points** minus **Deducted Points** \_\_\_\_\_

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session that show the relationship dimension of our connection with God, as well as the fact that this relationship is a free gift. Recommend they check out verses such as these:

- Psalm 91:14-16
- Psalm 139: 7, 9-10, 23-24
- John 5:24
- John 6:28-29
- John 6:40
- Romans 4:5
- Romans 10:9
- Romans 11:6
- Philippians 3:9
- Galatians 2:16
- Galatians 2:21
- Galatians 3:1-3; 9-14; 21-25
- Titus 3:5

## Background/Resources

- *LIVE Holy Bible* for teens from Tyndale House Publishers
- *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby
- *You're Next* by Greg Stier

- "What You Have in Common with God" at [everystudent.com](http://www.everystudent.com/wires/likeness.html)  
<http://www.everystudent.com/wires/likeness.html>

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## Dear Parents,

This week we will be viewing episode 5 of *GOSPEL Journey Maui* and discussing the difference between religion and a relationship with God. Religion, by definition, is humanity's attempt to 'bind us back' to God through works. Relationship with God, however, is the free gift of salvation offered to everyone because of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Take some time to explore as a family some of the ways God communicates that He is relational and desires a relationship with people. Check out the following verses together; then use the discussion questions below to interact with your teen:

- John 1:12
- John 3:16
- John 15:15
- Galatians 4:7
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4



### Discussion questions

- What is the difference between a religion about God and a relationship with God?
- What do these verses show about God's desire to have a relationship with people?

The *GOSPEL Journey Maui* reality series is a powerful tool to engage young people in spiritual conversation. Don't hesitate to ask your teen to tell you about the cast members in the series. Find out which cast member they identify with most and why?

Your youth leader,

# Supplemental Content

## Beach Party Option

### Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity:

- Paper
- Pens

Start your time together with this brief icebreaker. Give each student a slip of paper and a pen, and then divide the group in half. Ask the students in one group to write down the very first line of a story (the beginning) and ask the students in the other group to write down the last line of a story (the ending). Encourage them to work individually and to be as creative as they want—the story can be about anyone or anything...or nothing. They have the complete freedom to let their imaginations run wild (in no more than one sentence). Allow about two or three minutes for students to write.

To help spark ideas, tell students that they should write the beginning or end to a great movie that hasn't been written, or even to their own autobiography.

Then have everyone form a pair with someone from the other group. If you have an uneven number of students, write your own line and partner with a student. Have one teenager read aloud the story's beginning and have the other read the ending. These might make for some strange combinations, so expect some laughter.

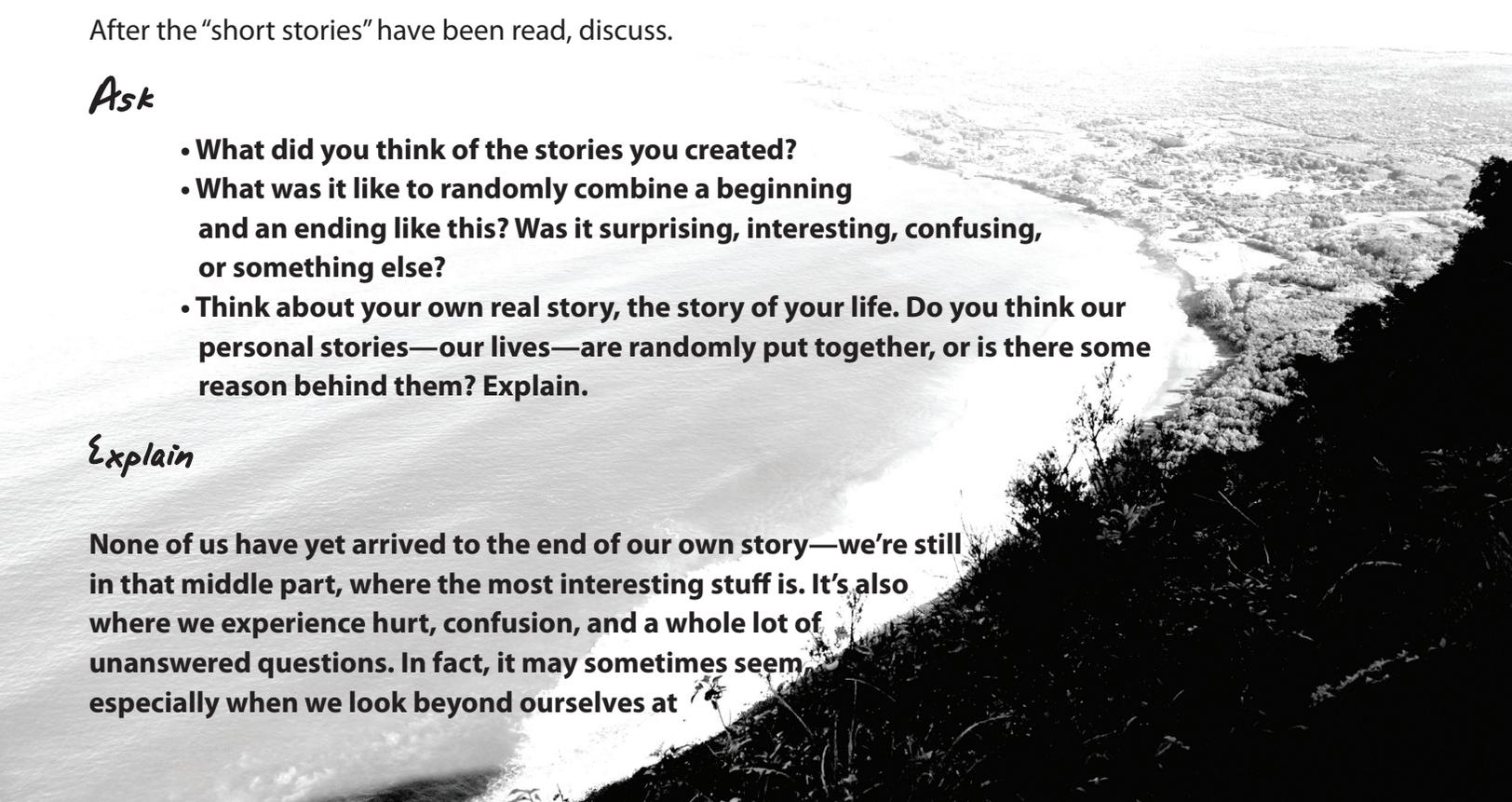
After the "short stories" have been read, discuss.

### Ask

- **What did you think of the stories you created?**
- **What was it like to randomly combine a beginning and an ending like this? Was it surprising, interesting, confusing, or something else?**
- **Think about your own real story, the story of your life. Do you think our personal stories—our lives—are randomly put together, or is there some reason behind them? Explain.**

### Explain

None of us have yet arrived to the end of our own story—we're still in that middle part, where the most interesting stuff is. It's also where we experience hurt, confusion, and a whole lot of unanswered questions. In fact, it may sometimes seem especially when we look beyond ourselves at



the rest of the world, that it's pretty senseless, even random, and that nobody's really in control. We don't know what's waiting at the finish, and we wonder why this part of the story has to be so tough sometimes. Today we're going to talk about just that, and discuss what place God might have in the story.

## Additional Discussion Questions

Catch the Wave Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

### *Ask*

- **Greg said that every belief system has to deal with the problem of pain. How do you explain it?**
- **What hope might we have in a world full of bad things? In the midst of our own suffering? How do you think we should deal with the problem of pain?**
- **Do you believe God could stop bad things from happening? If so, why doesn't He?**
- **How might we reconcile God's unconditional love with His knowledge that we would experience pain and suffering?**

Dive Deep Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

### *Ask*

- **Does accepting the inevitability of bad things mean we should give up and be OK with it? If not, how should we respond?**
- **How might you use your ability to choose good instead of bad? What role, if any, might you play in preventing pain, either your own life or others'?**
- **How do these verses explain why bad things happen? What about bad things that aren't moral evil? What does it tell us about our current problem of pain?**
- **According to this passage, what else does a seed represent?**
- **What does it mean to you personally that, when you choose to accept Jesus Christ into your life, a new seed is planted? How can this hope change your life?**

Sail Home Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

### *Ask*

- **What can we discover about God in these passages? How might it bring us hope in the midst of pain?**
- **What are the hard rains in your life? How might God be protecting you, or helping you thrive in spite of them?**
- **Priscilla shared how her pain was somewhat healed when she reached out to her mother. How can you experience healing when you're in pain?**
- **In what ways can we comfort others who are suffering? Help them to heal?**

## Music/Media Option

If you'd like to include another media element in today's session, find *The Valley Song (Sing of Your Mercy)* by Jars of Clay. The song is a heartbroken but hopeful prayer by someone crying out for God's comfort. Play the song either from an mp3 player or *Furthermore: From the Studio/From the Stage* CD, and encourage students to listen carefully. Afterward, discuss what responses and feelings the song triggered.

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session. Recommend they check out these verses for more insights about today's topic:

- Isaiah 14:12
- Romans 5:1-8
- Isaiah 53:1-7
- Psalm 23:4

## Background/Resources

- *Disappointment with God* by Philip Yancey
- *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis

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## Dear Parents,

This week's episode of *GOSPEL Journey Maui* will be addressing the question: *Why do bad things happen?* We will be dealing with the problem of evil and suffering and will be discussing the Bible's answer to this difficult question.

It is important that you discuss these kinds of faith-defining questions with your teen. Studies show that teens who wrestle through the challenging questions of their faith during their high school years have a deeper, stronger faith to draw upon once they graduate from high school.

**Here are some ideas for activities to do as a family this week that might help you approach this challenging topic:**

- Over dessert, discuss this C.S. Lewis quote: "We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn.'" (Source: Think Exist Quotations.) Then, read together Matthew 5:1-12, which is part of the Sermon on the Mount. Talk about your reactions to the passage, and take turns sharing ways you are mournful, meek, insulted, or persecuted. Then share the ways God strengthens and comforts you—or ways you'd like Him to.
- Take on a family service project together. Brainstorm ways you can help someone who's hurting, then do it together. You might volunteer at a soup kitchen or rescue mission, make repairs at a halfway house or domestic abuse center, visit friends who are in the hospital, or donate clothes to victims of a natural disaster.
- Have each family member read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 individually, considering how its message relates to your family. Then, have the oldest family member email everyone else the beginning of a prayer that's centered on this passage. The next oldest person should reply to all with the next part of the prayer, and so on until the youngest person finishes the prayer. Print the email and post it prominently in your home so you'll be reminded to pray for your family.

**You might also find some of the following discussion questions helpful as you interact with your teen on this topic:**

- How often do we talk as a family about why God lets bad things happen? In what ways can we communicate more about our trust or lack of trust, understanding or lack of understanding?



- What kind of bad things have happened to our family? What kind of pain are we experiencing?
- Is it important that we accept His healing and comfort in bad times? If so, what steps can we take as a family?
- What kinds of suffering do we see in people close to our family? What can we do about it?

Thanks for partnering with me as our youth group tackles some of these great life questions!

Your youth leader,



## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

#### Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity:

- Paper
- Pens

Read some of the humorous or famous epitaphs below. Then pass out paper and pens and ask the students to take a few moments to reflect on and write out what they want written on their tombstone. After they are finished, ask for volunteers to share what they put down and why.

From a dentist's tombstone in Edinburgh, Scotland:

*Stranger tread  
This ground with gravity.  
Dentist Brown  
Is filling his last cavity.*

From Enosburg Falls, Vermont:

*In memory of Anna Hopewell  
Here lies the body of our Anna  
Done to death by a banana  
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low  
But the skin of the thing that made her go.*

From Boot Hill Cemetery, Tombstone, Arizona:

*Here lies Lester Moore.  
Four slugs  
From a forty-four.  
No Les  
No More.*

From Colorado:

*He was young  
He was fair  
But the Injuns  
Raised his hair<sup>1</sup>*

From the tombstone of Mel Blanc:

*"That's All Folks"*



From the tomb of Alexander the Great:

*A tomb now suffices for him  
whom the world was not enough*

From the tombstone of Robin Hood:

*Here underneath this little stone  
Lies Robert, Earl of Huntingdon.  
No archer was as he so good,  
And people called him Robin Hood.  
Such an outlaw as he, and his men,  
Will England never see again.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>"Funny Stones to Tickle Your Funny Bones," <http://www.webpanda.com/ponder/epitaphs.htm>.

<sup>2</sup>Eulogy, "Famous and Unusual Epitaphs," <http://www.eulogyspeech.net/famous-epitaphs/>.

## Additional Discussion Questions

Catch the Wave Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

*Ask*

- **Which of the three basic possibilities of afterlife concepts do you believe in? (extinction, reincarnation, resurrection)**
- **What logical and physical proof have you come across for extinction and/or reincarnation?**
- **Do you think extinction and reincarnation were made up by people because they are uncomfortable with idea of heaven and hell? Why or why not?**
- **What logical/physical proof is there for resurrection from the dead?**

## Music/Media Option

Show the students clips from the film 'What Dreams May Come' that portrays death [11:47- 14:43] and the afterlife (heaven [24:18-24:20] and hell [60:42-61:34]) in striking terms. [Time codes need to be revised.]

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session. Recommend they check out verses such as these:

- Luke 17:26-27
- 2 Peter 3:3-7
- 2 Peter 3:10
- 2 Peter 3:11-13
- Romans 14:10-12
- 2 Corinthians 5:10

## Background/Resources

- *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn
- *The Glory of Heaven* by John MacArthur
- *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell
- "What does the Bible say about reincarnation?" at [gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)  
<http://www.gotquestions.org/reincarnation.html>

## Parent Newsletter and Activities

Dare 2 Share Ministries strongly believes in involving parents in the *Maui* series. We encourage you to use the following newsletter to help your parents stay informed and engaged. The newsletter is designed to be sent prior to the meeting in which you will watch the corresponding episode because it summarizes what's coming up and provides parent/teen activity ideas or discussion questions. Feel free to reproduce this letter for use in your youth ministry in either paper or email format.



**Dear Parents,**

This week we will be watching *GOSPEL Journey Maui* episode 7, *What happens after we die?* During our discussion time, we'll be exploring the most widely accepted possibilities of extinction, reincarnation, and resurrection. The main point of our lesson time will be that Jesus' resurrection from the dead, combined with the Judgment Day passage in Revelation 20:11-15, teaches that all people will one day be resurrected from the dead to face judgment and then their eternal destiny in either heaven or hell.

**Here are a few suggested parent/teen activities you might consider using as a springboard to deeper spiritual conversation on this challenging topic:**

- Visit a cemetery and read the various epitaphs. Talk about how you would like to be remembered and how that might play into what happens on judgment day.
- Take the 'what age will you die' quiz found at this website:  
<http://www.blogthings.com/whatagewillyoudiequiz/>.  
Talk about how this can change your perspective on life and Judgment Day.

Engaging your teen in spiritual conversation will help them work through questions they may have and will help to ground them in their Christian faith. So set aside some time this week to explore a topic we all wrestle with from time to time.

Your youth leader,



  
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## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

#### Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity:

- Tape
- Names of famous individuals written on a piece of paper (enough different names so you will have one for each of your students).

For this activity, put the name of a famous individual in the teenage world (real or fictitious, dead or alive) on the back of each student. The participants must then go around the room trying to guess who they are by asking only questions that can be answered with "Yes" or "No."

#### *Ask*

- **If you had the name Jesus on your back, what questions would help you guess your identity?**
- **What questions about Jesus could be answered 'yes' by Him, but not any other famous religious leader? (i.e., Did I raise people from the dead? Was I crucified on a cross?)**

### Additional Discussion Questions

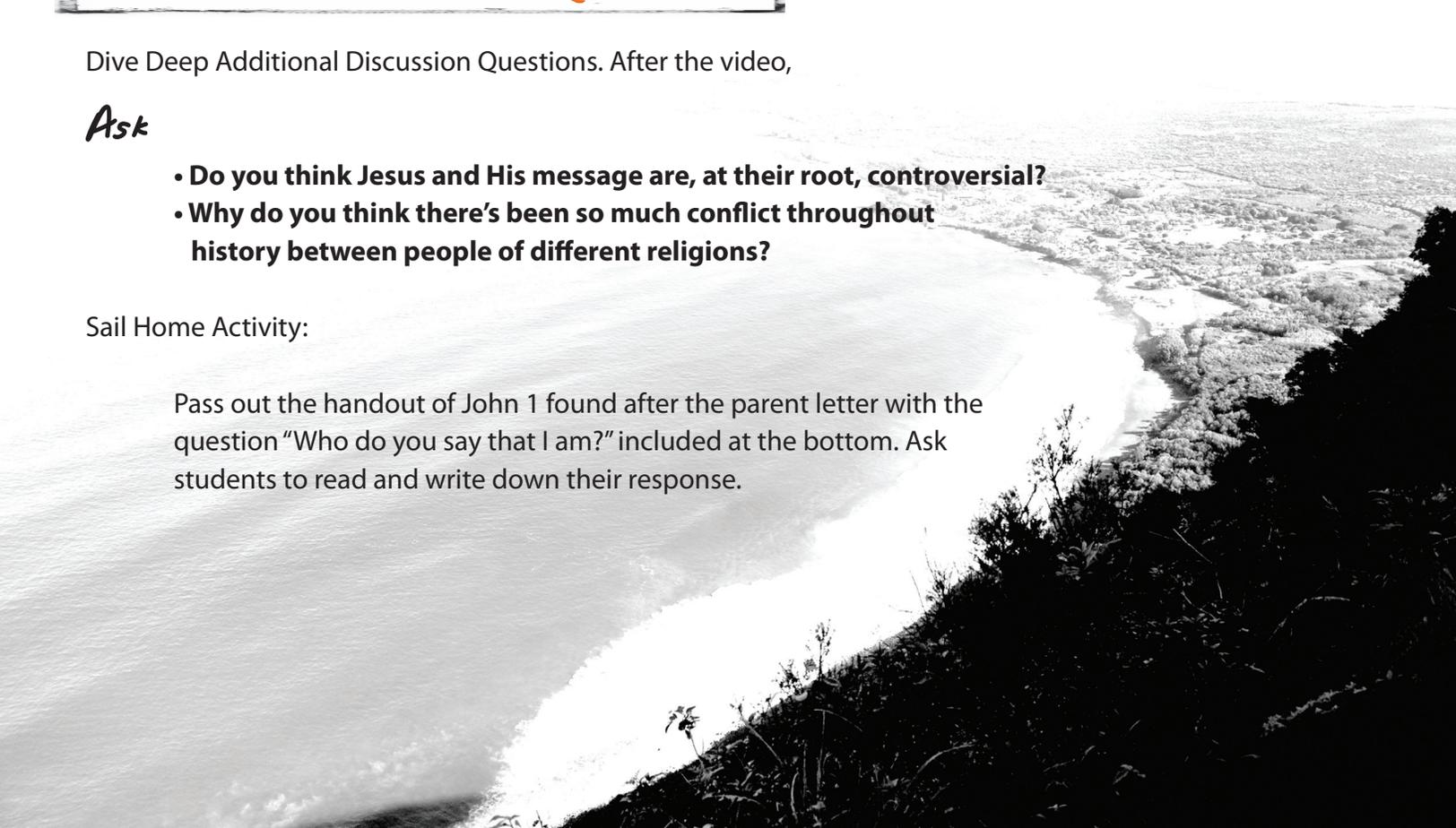
Dive Deep Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

#### *Ask*

- **Do you think Jesus and His message are, at their root, controversial?**
- **Why do you think there's been so much conflict throughout history between people of different religions?**

#### Sail Home Activity:

Pass out the handout of John 1 found after the parent letter with the question "Who do you say that I am?" included at the bottom. Ask students to read and write down their response.



## Music/Media Option

If you would like to include an additional media element in this week's session, consider showing the music video *One of Us* by Joan Osborne. Discuss how the life and claims of Jesus directly answer the question that the video puts forward.

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session that show the claims of Jesus of being God. Recommend they check out verses such as these:

- Colossians 2:9
- Colossians 2:15
- Mark 14:61-64
- Titus 2:13

## Background/Resources

- *The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus (Student Edition)* by Lee Strobel
- *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell
- *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis
- *Venti Jesus Please* by Greg Stier
  
- "Is Jesus God?" on everystudent.com  
<http://www.everystudent.com/features/faith.html>

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**Dear Parents,**

This week we will be discussing the question *Who is Jesus?* and exploring His claims of being the Son of God, the Messiah, and even God Himself. One of the key concepts we'll cover is the idea that Jesus was either God, or He was lying, or He was crazy—C. S. Lewis' famous "Lord, Liar, or Lunatic" trilemma. How a person answers the question of *Who is Jesus?* is the most critical question in the world.

In this week's episode of *GOSPEL Journey Maui*, Greg asks the cast to read the following chapters from the Book of John: John 1-5, 9-10, 18-20. This week consider reading these passages together as a family and discussing the following questions:

- What do these passages tell us about Jesus?
- Why is our view of Jesus and our response to 'who do you say I am?' so critical?

This episode will be a powerful opportunity for teens to hear the message of the gospel, so encourage your teen to invite their friends who need Jesus to join them at youth group this week.

Your youth leader,



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# John 1

## ***The Word Became Flesh***

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning.

3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

6There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

## ***John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ***

19Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

21They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

22Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

24Now some Pharisees who had been sent 25questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## ***Jesus the Lamb of God***

29The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the

world! 30This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' 31I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

32Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

### ***Jesus' First Disciples***

35The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

37When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

39"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

40Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

### ***Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael***

43The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

44Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

47When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

48"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

49Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

50Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." 51He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

## Who do **you** say that I am?

## Supplemental Content

### Beach Party Option

#### Pack Your Cooler for this Optional Opening Activity:

- Make up a list of 'Would You Rather' conundrums and read them to the group. For example, would you rather:
  - ⇒ Have sand in your shorts or water in your ear?
  - ⇒ Give up your computer or your pet?
  - ⇒ Have a mansion in the middle of nowhere or an apartment with 5 friends?
  - ⇒ Be forgotten or hatefully remembered?
  - ⇒ Know for certain that there is a heaven and how to get there, or just hope your belief system is right?

Ask your students to share their answers and the reasoning behind them.

#### *Ask*

- **What message does someone's answer to these kinds of questions communicate about them?**

Transition to the next section of the lesson time by explaining that this episode of the series will be addressing the question "What is Jesus' message?"

### Additional Discussion Questions

Catch the Wave Additional Discussion Questions. After the video,

#### *Ask*

- **Did any of the answers surprise you? Why or why not?**
- **How could so many different responses come from everyone reading the same passages from the Bible?**



## Music/Media Option

Have the students close their eyes and play the song *This Little Child* by Scott Wesley Brown.

### Ask

- What makes Jesus such an unlikely candidate for the Savior of the world and the King of kings?
- How would the world be different if everyone trusted Christ and lived life like Jesus?
- Why did Jesus come to earth the first time in such humble circumstances?
- How do you think His return the second time will differ from the first?

Discuss their responses and how the song ties in with your discussions.

## Supplemental Bible Verses

Encourage students to read more Scripture passages after the session that paint the full picture of Jesus Christ as fully human and fully divine. Recommend they read the complete selection of passages Greg assigned to the *Mau*i cast: John chapters 1-5, 9-10 and 18-20.

Recommend they check out additional verses such as these:

### Jesus' Humanity

- Luke 2:40, 46, 52
- 1 John 1:1

### Jesus' Deity

- Romans 9:5
- Titus 2:13

## Background/Resources

- *Why I Am a Christian* by John Stott
- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
- *A Case for Christ: Student Edition* by Lee Strobel
- *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Phillip Yancey

## Parent Newsletter and Activities

Dare 2 Share Ministries strongly believes in involving parents in the Maui series. We encourage you to use the following newsletter to help your parents stay informed and engaged. The newsletter is designed to be sent prior to the meeting it describes because it summarizes what's coming up and provides parent/teen activity ideas or discussion questions. Feel free to reproduce this letter for use in your youth ministry in either paper or email format.



## Dear Parents,

This week we will be watching our final episode of *GOSPEL Journey Maui*. We have watched the cast wrestle with some of the greatest questions of life. Along the way the cast has experienced a wide range of emotions as they discuss these important topics from their own personal worldviews.

This week's episode will address the question "What is Jesus' message?" During our youth group discussion time, we will be exploring the concept that Jesus had to be more than simply a 'nice person' when we consider what the Gospel writers relayed about His life and teachings.

This week engage your teen in conversation about their reactions to the *Maui* reality series. What new thoughts or emotions have they been experiencing along the journey?

As a possible family activity related to this week subject matter, consider renting and watching two or more different films about Jesus and compare and contrast how they portray Jesus from the Bible. Discuss what the films have to say about Jesus and why various films differ so radically in how they depict Jesus and His message.

This week will find us at the end of our reality series, but the journey is just beginning. Please continue to discuss these great questions of life with your teen and your teen's friends in the weeks and months ahead. They are some of the most important questions your teen will ever ask or answer!

Your youth leader,



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