

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

# PART ONE

## OVERVIEW

Evangelism is praying for people, serving people, and building relationships. If we use the wrong method, it could turn people off from the message of Jesus. When it comes to evangelism, who you are is your message. It speaks louder to people than the words you say.



#### **BEFORE THE VIDEO, DISCUSS:**

What comes to mind when you hear the word "evangelism"?



### AFTER THE VIDEO, DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why is it difficult to talk about our faith with others? What would cause you to become interested in someone else's faith? What would it take for you to feel comfortable talking with them?
- 2. As Tim said, "If someone is giving an answer, someone must have asked a question." How can you live your life in such a way that it motivates others to ask questions? Have you ever known anyone with this quality? If so, talk about that person—what made their life provocative?
- **3.** Think about someone in your life who is not a Christian. How can you make it easier for the next Christian to have influence in their life?
- 4. When sharing your faith, it can be easy to slide into some destructive habits (treating someone like a project, prioritizing information over relationship, or fighting for conversion over helping someone on their faith journey). Do you agree with this? Why do you think this happens? What can you do to resist this?



#### **MOVING FORWARD**

If you have grown-up in the church, you might have heard it is a Christian's "job" to evangelize. The video offers that evangelism is less about what you do to and what you say, but much more about how you live and who you are. Get quiet and reflect on the areas of your life that show you are a follower of Jesus. Now reflect on the areas of your life where you just blend in with culture/blend in with the crowd. Share with a friend or someone in your small group one area where you believe you reflect the gentleness, respect, and love of Jesus. Share with them one area where there is opportunity for you to grow in to reflect Jesus. Prayerfully offer these areas to the Lord. Make a note in your calendar to follow-up with them in three months to share how the Lord is shaping/reshaping your influence.

# PART TWO

### OVERVIEW

People changing their view of something take time–especially something as big as how they view God. As you think about who you could start investing in, consider these Five Faith Thresholds:

- · Threshold One: Trusting a Christian
- · Threshold Two: Becoming Curious about Your Faith
- · Threshold Three: Open to Change
- · Threshold Four: Seeking After God
- $\cdot$  Threshold Five: Ready to Enter into a Relationship with God

### **BEFORE THE VIDEO, DISCUSS:**

Most of us have heard the phrase, "It's not about the destination, it's about the journey." How do you personally respond to this? Is this just a bumper sticker or statement that has proven to be true in your life?



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### AFTER THE VIDEO, DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS:

- 1. What is your reaction to the "Five Thresholds"? Do you feel like this path reflects your own faith journey?
- 2. People you know may never step past Threshold One. Is it worthwhile to have a relationship with a non-Christian even if you never see them take a step toward Christ? Why or why not?
- 3. It can be hard to know how to interact well with people questioning our faith as part of Threshold Two. How have you dealt with doubts that have surfaced in your faith? How do you balance dealing with your own doubts while connecting with a non-Christian who struggles with similar doubts?



#### **MOVING FORWARD**

In the video, we provided you a way to talk about the Good News of Jesus Christ using John 3:16. Is this the Good News that someone shared with you when you came to faith? What was it about Jesus that made you place your faith in Him? If you're looking for an approach to help you in sharing with others what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus, we suggest this summary of John 3:16:

- God Loved
- God Gave
- We Believe
- We Receive

# PART THREE

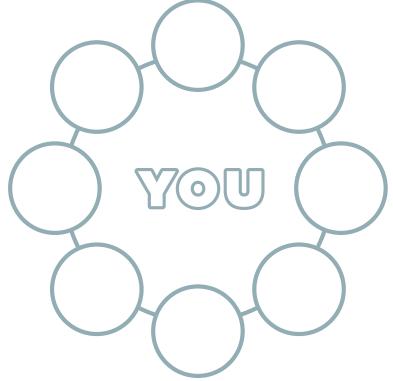
### OVERVIEW

Everyday evangelism isn't about making the people around us projects, but rather, making intentional investments with those in our current or potential circles of influence. Our goal is to help others that we care about to see the better life that Jesus makes available. When we take the time to build trust with someone, we make it easier for them to move toward a relationship with Jesus. For thousands of years, God has been using flawed people like us to keep the church alive and growing.



### AFTER THE VIDEO, DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Who is your "one"? Fill in the circles around you with the groups of people with whom you frequently interact (e.g., co-workers, neighbors, gym acquaintances, parents of your kid's teammates). As you consider these circles, share the name of one person who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus.



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- 2. In which threshold do you think they could be? As a recap, here are the Five Faith Thresholds:
  - Threshold One: Trusting a Christian
  - Threshold Two: Becoming Curious about Your Faith
  - Threshold Three: Being Open to Change
  - Threshold Four: Seeking After God
  - Threshold Five: Ready to Enter into a Relationship with God
- **3.** What are some reasons you might hesitate to share your faith with the person you identified above?
- 4. What will you do? What next step could you take to invest in that person?
- **5.** How can this group help? Discuss ways we can help one another take next steps in this area.

Spend the remainder of your time together praying for the names mentioned. If someone doesn't come to mind for you, ask God to show you who your one person could be. Make a plan to continue praying for these people at future group meetings.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

We've provided a way for you to get tips, encouragement, and reminders to invest in your one person. Simply text INVESTINONE to 555-888 to register for periodic emails to encourage you to keep investing in your one person.



#### SUGGESTED NEXT STUDIES

- Luke: A two-week study on the book of Luke groupleaders.org/bibleproject-luke
- *Follow:* An 8-session study on Jesus' teaching on what it means to follow groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/2016/11/17/follow
- Starting Point: An 8-session conversation on faith groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/2016/11/16/starting-point
- Spiritual Growth: A 3-week study on what it means to have a growing relationship with Jesus groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/2017/3/1/spiritual-growth