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- 45 full color pages
- Note takiong areas for large group sessions
- Interacts with the small group lessons your teachers access online
- Features four bonus devotions for use throughout the year
- Biblically solid, culturally relevant, highly interactive

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Are you a person who loves routine? Do you count on things to be what you expect them to be? If you get a little flustered when things aren't how they're supposed to be, you're in good company. Most people are this way. We expect the expected, and when it doesn't happen, we get frustrated and confused.

Have you ever had something that genuinely disrupted your expectations? Something so out of the ordinary that it shattered the status quo? It can feel like absolute chaos. Maybe you found yourself not knowing how to respond. It can be a pretty crummy feeling.

But what happens when God is the one doing the disrupting? When that's the case, it can be beautiful chaos.

God redefines everything about our lives. At the heart of what it means to know and experience God is the process of redefinition. God defines what it means to be new. What does this look like? Great question . . .

The content you're going to cover with your group throughout the next few sessions will help you understand exactly what it means to have God redefine you. Get ready, because it's a pretty remarkable journey.

"BEHOLD, THE FORMER THINGS HAVE COME TO PASS, AND NEW THINGS I NOW DECLARE; BEFORE THEY SPRING FORTH I TELL YOU OF THEM."

ISAIAH 42:9

LARGE GROUP NOTES

SESSION 1

These two pages are designed for you to take notes on during Large Group Sessions. The stuff you're learning will really 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

SMALL GROUP
ONE INTRO

Ever spend much time around a three-year-old? Sure, they're cute and all, but hang out with toddlers for very long and you'll start to uncover an unsettling theme to most of their communication: WHY?

Why is the sky blue? Why do birds chirp? Why is cereal crispy? Why do we keep milk cold? Why do we wear socks? Every tiny detail of life must be examined and put under a microscope for a three-year-old. Leave no stone unturned!

As we get older, we get answers to some of these questions, but then . . . we start asking bigger questions. Who is God? Who am I? Why am I here? These questions are at the heart of what it means to be human. We are hard-wired to ask them and it's important for us to understand the answers. But often, before we've even started asking, the world is giving us answers that aren't true.

Today we are going to redefine those answers, starting with the news of who God is and why He created us. The answer is a radical redefinition of our understanding of our existence, especially the midst of a world that tells us that we are here for our own purposes.

In this session, we're going to unpack what it means for our very existence to be defined by the One who made us. Ready? Let's get started.

SMALL GROUP
ONE GETTING STARTED

Split up into two groups. Your leader will read the questions, and you and your group will have 10 seconds to come up with an answer. It can be the actual answer, or something you creatively made up. Your leader can award points based on creativity or facts.

1. WHY ARE CATS SCARED OF CUCUMBERS?

2. WHY DO WE YAWN?

3. WHY IS CAILLOU BALD?

4. WHY ARE FLAMINGOS PINK?

5. WHY ARE MANHOLE COVERS ROUND?

6. WHY DOESN'T MCDONALD'S SELL HOT DOGS?

7. WHY IS BREAD SQUARE?

8. WHY IS KETCHUP FANCY?

9. WHY DO OVERALLS HAVE BELT LOOPS?

10. WHY ARE THERE HOLES IN CRACKERS?

SMALL GROUP
ONE DIGGING IN

Work through the following pages with your group to start thinking about your big 'why' questions.

MY WHY QUESTIONS

Think about your own big questions about life and existence. Write them down inside the box.

?

NEXT, READ GENESIS 1:26-28 WITH YOUR GROUP AND WORK THROUGH THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. What has just happened in the verses right before this?

2. What do you think it means that God created man and woman in His image and His likeness?

3. How does being made in God's image define our unique relationship with Him?

4. What does God do in these verses immediately after creating man and woman?

5. Based on these verses alone, do you get answers to any of your Why Questions?

NEXT, READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES WITH YOUR GROUP AND CIRCLE OR HIGHLIGHT ANYWHERE YOU SEE THE WORDS "GLORY" OR "WORTHY".

[6] I WILL SAY TO THE NORTH, "GIVE UP, AND TO THE SOUTH, DO NOT WITHHOLD; BRING MY SONS FROM AFAR AND MY DAUGHTERS FROM THE END OF THE EARTH, [7] EVERYONE WHO IS CALLED BY MY NAME, WHOM I CREATED FOR MY GLORY, WHOM I FORMED AND MADE."
ISAIAH 43:6–7

"WORTHY ARE YOU, OUR LORD AND GOD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND POWER, FOR YOU CREATED ALL THINGS, AND BY YOUR WILL THEY EXISTED AND WERE CREATED."
REVELATION 4:11

NEXT, USE THE SCRIPTURES ABOVE TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP:

1. In the Isaiah passage, who is speaking?

2. When you consider the idea that God created humankind for His glory, what are your reactions?

3. In the Revelation passage, who is speaking?

4. What is God's glory and why is He so obsessed with it?

NOW, READ THE PASSAGE BELOW AND ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP:

[1] How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! [2] My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. [10] For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. - Psalm 84:1–2, 10

1. What is the psalmist saying when he talks about "the dwelling place" of God?

2. Now that we live in a time where Jesus has removed the divide between God and man, where is God's dwelling place?

3. How does the psalmist describe the feeling of being in the dwelling place of God?

4. What do you think it means that it's better to be a doorkeeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked?

5. How do you think this relates to your Why questions?

SMALL GROUP ONE
WRAPPING UP

Get by yourself and take a few moments to answer the questions below honestly. You don't have to share these answers with anyone, so try to really look into your heart and give truthful answers, even if they don't seem "right" or "spiritual." If you want, you'll have time to share these with the group, or you can talk privately to a leader about them.

DO I BELIEVE IN GOD? WHY OR WHY NOT?

DO I BELIEVE GOD CREATED ME FOR A PURPOSE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

DO I KNOW GOD CARES ABOUT ME? WHY OR WHY NOT?

DO I KNOW WHY I AM HERE ON EARTH? WHY OR WHY NOT?

"MY SOUL LONGS, YES, FAINTS FOR THE COURTS OF THE LORD; MY HEART AND FLESH SING FOR JOY TO THE LIVING GOD."

PSALM 84:2