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The *NEXT* Student Book is the roadmap for your students' event experience. Here are just a few features:

- 48 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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Next: Growing A Faith That Lasts
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Author: Andy Blanks
Design: Upper Air Creative

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NEXT

INTRO

At some point in your life you became a Christ-follower. You heard God's Truth and responded. You knew that you were a sinner and that your sin separated you from God. You learned that Jesus--perfect, holy Jesus--paid the once-and-for-all price for your sins, making peace between God and you. And in faith, you accepted His sacrifice on your behalf, submitting the leadership of your life to Christ, and entering into a relationship with God. At some point this happened to you. And it was amazing.

The problem is that for many of us, our stories don't go much further than this.

The problem is that this isn't how God intended our faith to look. God expects you to grow closer to Him. More than that, God expects you to be the one who cares the most about your spiritual growth. Over the next four sessions, you'll be shown how the Bible talks about a next level kind of faith. But this kind of faith isn't born overnight. It takes intentionality and a willingness to be moved and shaped by God.

Have You Prepared For The Journey?

Ask yourself: Is my heart prepared to hear God's voice? 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 give you a heart that is open to His leading.

You're Holding Your Map

This book you're holding is the road map 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.

Make An Impact, Be Impacted

Keep your eyes and ears open for those valuable moments where God seems to speak to you. But don't miss the chance to impact your friends, and to be impacted 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.

Your journey to a next level faith is just beginning. Be prepared to be changed . . .



**LET
US RUN**
with perseverance

the race marked out for us, **FIXING OUR EYES**

on
Jesus

THE PIONEER & PERFECTER OF FAITH

Hebrews 12:1-2

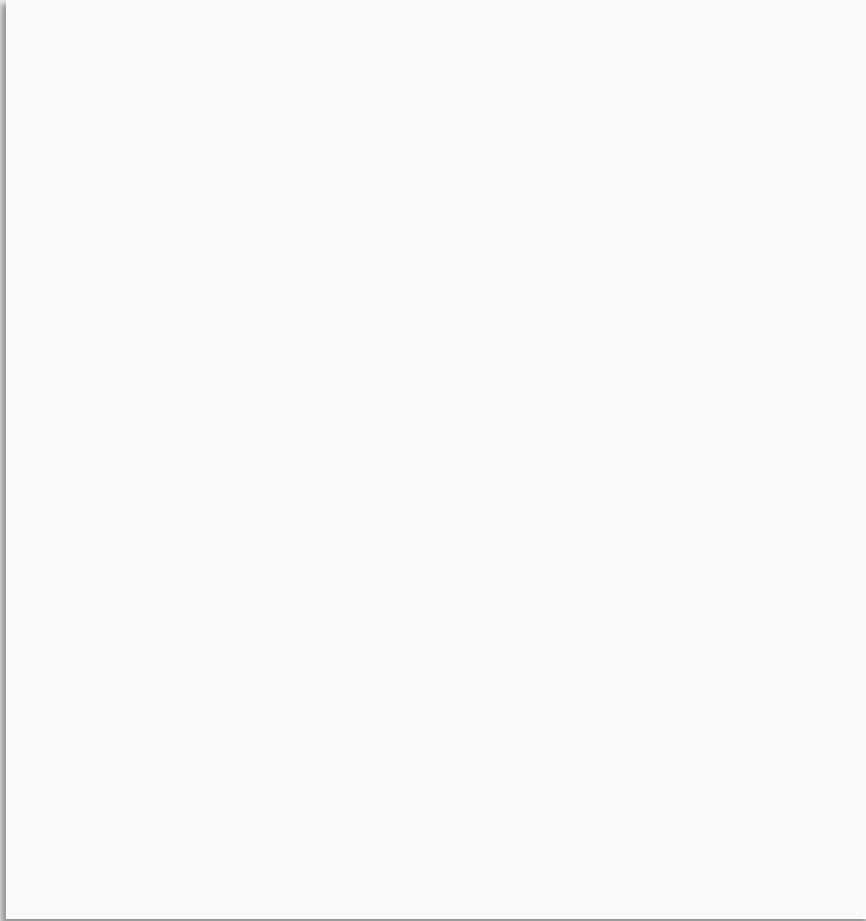
Large Group Notes

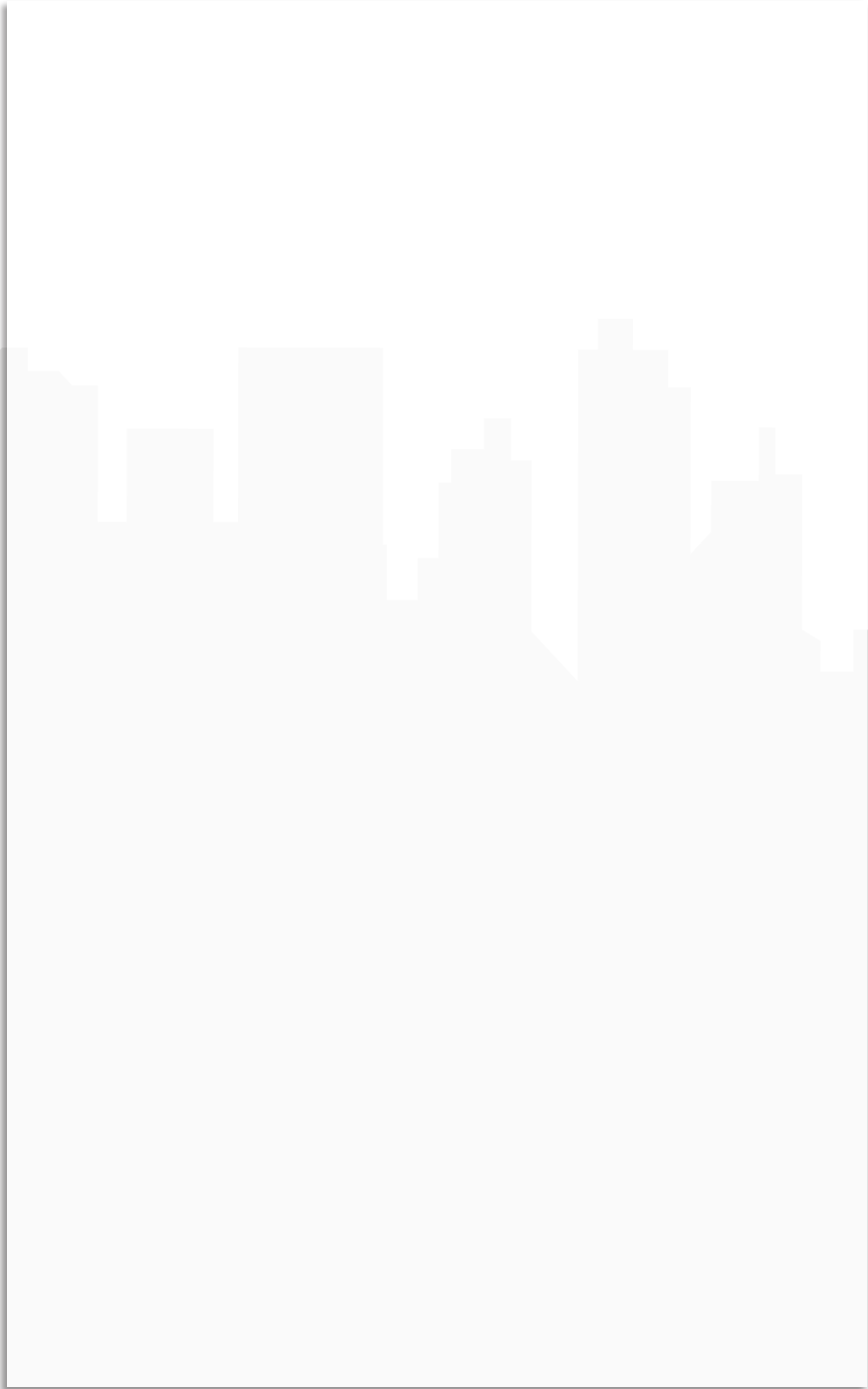
Session 1

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 Session 1 Intro

Think for a moment about the things you care most about.

For some of you this is athletics. For others it's your appearance. And for others, it may even be your grades.

Think about the way you approach the things you care about most. You probably don't have to be told to practice or to try hard in a game. You probably don't have to be reminded to do your hair or makeup. Most likely, no one is reminding you to study for the big test.

You take greater ownership in those areas of your life in which you care the most.

What if you were asked the same question about your faith? Who owns your spiritual growth? Who has the most ownership of the process by which you grow closer to Christ? Who is the person most responsible?

For many of you, if you were honest, the answer would be someone else. A parent or guardian. Or a youth worker. Maybe even a grandparent. For many of you, there is someone else in your life that pushes you, encourages you, and may very well (up to this point) care more about your relationship with Christ than you.



Session 1 Getting Started

What's the next level? Answer the following questions as a group discussion.

Over the next few sessions, you'll be talking a lot about taking your faith to the next level. Let's spend a few minutes thinking about what the next level looks like in the real world.

For each of the scenarios listed below, discuss with your group what it would mean to go to the next level. (See how many "next levels" you can come up with for each.)

Scenario 1: The Athlete

You're a high school athlete in your chosen sport. What is the next level for you? What would it mean to continue to play after college?

Scenario 2: The Actor

Let's say you like making movies with your friends. Or maybe your school has a drama club and you perform in plays. What is the next level for you? What would it mean to continue to excel as an actor?

Scenario 3: The Designer

You love to design. Whether it's doodling, goofing around in Photoshop, painting, or creating pictures on your phone, if it's art, you love it. What is the next level for you? How do you continue to pursue your art as you grow up?

Scenario 4: The Entrepreneur

You love to start things. Charities. Organizations. Food drives for the homeless. Businesses selling things you've made. What does the next level look like for you?

Session 1 Digging In

Work with your group to read the passages and answers the questions below.

Part 1: Read Hebrews 5:11-14

¹¹We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Can you pick up any clues in the text about the mood of the author? How would you describe the author's mood as he addresses his audience?

Why was he so frustrated? What was his biggest issue with his audience?

What would you think of a friend of yours who, instead of joining you at Taco Bell or wing night at your favorite restaurant, brought a baby bottle with him or her when you went out to eat?

Why do you think some people are guilty of approaching their faith in the same way? In other words, why do you think so many teenagers come to faith in Christ but don't take their faith seriously enough to actually grow in their knowledge and love of God?

Part 2: Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

This is Paul writing to a different audience. And yet his argument is the same as the author of Hebrews. How are they similar?

Paul addresses the Corinthians' spiritual immaturity. He says they should be people who live by the Spirit. But instead they are living as worldly people. What do you think it means to live by the Spirit?

Why do you think he would describe the spiritually immature Corinthians as worldly?

Part 3: Read Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

What in your life "entangles" you, keeping you from growing in your faith as you should?

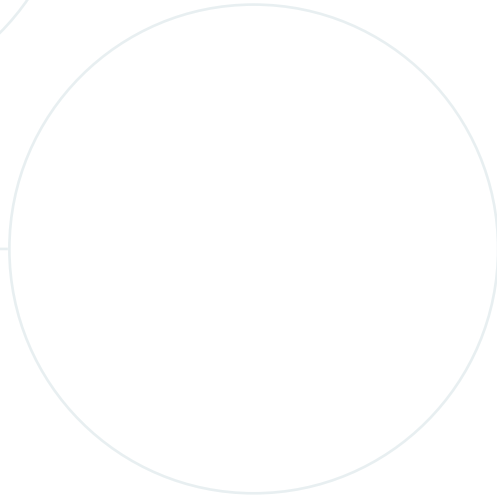
What insights does Paul share on how we can stay focused on growing our faith? (Hint: There are at least two.)

Session 1 Wrapping Up

This is your chance to start something new. Spend some time thinking about where your faith is and where you want it to be.



Where I **Was**
in my Relationship
with **Christ**



Where I **Am**
in my Relationship
with **Christ**



Where I **Could Be**
in my Relationship
with **Christ**