

GOD SO LOVED...

A student's guide to sharing Jesus at school

YOUTH SERIES STUDENT GUIDE

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WELCOME

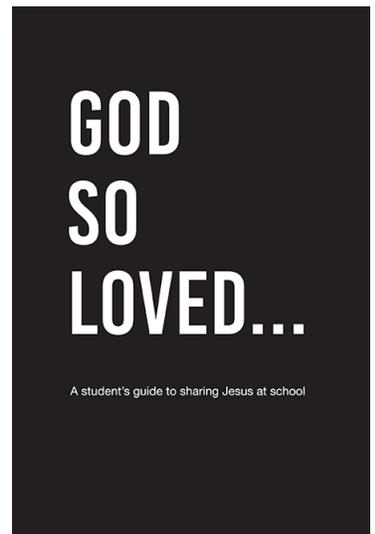
Welcome to the *Student Guide* for *GOD SO LOVED...a student's guide to sharing Jesus at school*. This booklet is designed to go along with the *GOD SO LOVED Youth Series*, and it will help you get the most out of the messages and small group series as your youth pastor/leader guides you and the rest of your youth group. Through this series you will learn how God so loved every person, how to share that love through serving and conversation, and how to explain the Gospel. You will discover ways of helping hurting students around you, and how God can use you to share His love on your team, band, club, or through other common interests you have with your friends. We pray that you are blessed through this series, and that God empowers you to share Jesus at school and beyond!

The *GOD SO LOVED* Team

THE BOOK

GOD SO LOVED...a student's guide to sharing Jesus at school. This book is the first of its kind, designed to help you as students share the Gospel among the many different groups of people you encounter on an average school day. Middle and High schools are filled with diverse groups of people, all of whom need to hear about Christ: artists and athletes, academics and craftsmen, the hurting and the average, everyday teenager. *GOD SO LOVED* is designed to help Christian students share Jesus through serving and conversations with more than 30 distinct groups at school and beyond. This book is filled with real life stories, practical ideas, and powerful questions that lead to great conversations.

It is not necessary to have the book to participate in this series. However, as students you will benefit greatly from owning this book, both during the series, and throughout your journey as you strive to share Jesus at school. *GOD SO LOVED...a student's guide to sharing Jesus at school* is available on Amazon.com, or at www.initiateconversations.com.



USING THIS STUDENT GUIDE

Bring this Student Guide with you to every meeting throughout the series. It contains note pages for the sermons, along with reflection questions designed to help you connect the message to your personal life. This guide also contains questions based on the material discussed in the small group sessions. There will be reflection questions after each small group session, just as there are after each sermon. The Student Guide will also serve to remind you of each week's challenges.

Week 1 Message Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this message?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’” (John 3:1-8 ESV)

Why was Nicodemus' morality not enough to save him?

Have you ever felt like Nicodemus? Like your morality made you better than others?

What is the danger in thinking that way?

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 ESV)

How should this affect your viewpoint on those around you at school?

Who needs Jesus more? You or them?

Life in Six Words- G.O.S.P.E.L.¹

God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

God _____ us to be with Him.

“Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His” Psalm 100:3a.

God created Adam and Eve in perfect fellowship with Him and with the environment.

They walked hand and hand with God

Our _____ separate us from God

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Adam and Even sinned and became corrupt, depraved and selfish.

Their sins corrupted all of humanity.

Sins cannot be removed by _____. (Remind them of the story of Nicodemus)

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:5a.

People have always tried to seek God’s favor through righteous good deeds, but it’s impossible.

All of our righteous acts are like filthy rages to our perfect, holy God.

Paying the price for sin, Jesus _____ and _____ again.

“But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

Jesus died on the cross for all our since, taking our place for the penalty of our sins.

There is not a sin that wasn’t nailed to the cross.

Sin brings death, but through Christ we have life.

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has _____ life.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

It’s by faith alone in Christ alone.

He who believes has everlasting life.

Life with Jesus starts _____ and lasts _____.

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.”

John 17:3

¹ Life in 6 Words/The G.O.S.P.E.L. is copyrighted by Dare2Share. Used by permission. See more resources on this model at www.lifein6words.com

GOD SO LOVED...

us.

WEEK 1 // SMALL GROUP

G _____

O _____

S _____

P _____

E _____

L _____

Who do you want to share Jesus with this week?

Challenge!

Take this G.O.S.P.E.L. message to school with you! Share with at least one friend what you learned during this session, and take note of how they respond!

Week 1 Small Group Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this session?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

Week 2 Message Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this message?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” (Matthew 16:13-16 NIV)

What would make Jesus ask a question like this? If Jesus is God, He already knew the answer to the question. So what would make Him ask a question instead of just telling the disciples the truth?

3 Keys to great conversations:

- 1.) _____ centered
- 2.) Ask _____ questions
- 3.) _____ and _____

Questions to start conversations:

- How's life treating you?
- Tell me about your family?
- Where did they grow up?
- What gets you excited?
- Who are your favorite people?
- What's your favorite thing to talk about?
- What's the most significant part of your childhood?

What was that like? Was it easy to get them talking?

What did you learn about your partner that was interesting to you?

Who do you feel you should start a conversation with at your school? How do you feel more prepared to do so?

Challenge!

Think of one person you can have a conversation with this week— someone who needs Jesus. Start a conversation, and practice asking powerful questions!

Week 2 Small Group Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this session?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

Week 3 Message Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this message?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

ICEBREAKER BINGO

Eye color:	Favorite holiday:	Height:	Favorite superhero:	Favorite place to visit:
Grade:	Favorite color:	Birthday month:	Favorite song:	Gender:
One day I would like to be: <i>(career)</i>	An activity I like:	Free Space		Age:
Right or left-handed:				
Favorite movie:	Town I live in:	Social media preference:	Number of siblings:	Favorite TV show:
Favorite animal:	Where I was born:	I play: <i>(instrument or sport)</i>	Favorite ice cream flavor:	Hair color:

“For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23 ESV)

What does it mean to share Jesus in your everyday activities?

What are some ways you could begin sharing Jesus in your group or among your friends at school?

How does sharing common interests with others help us share the Gospel with them?

Paul describes himself as a servant to all. In what ways are we serving others when we find common ground?

Where do I begin? You begin by _____!

What happens when we serve others selflessly?

In what ways does our service prepare the way for us to share the Gospel?

What are some ways you could serve your group? What would they love? What do they need? What would really bless them?

Serving is good, but serving alone cannot connect others to Jesus. Why is that?

What are some simple ways you can begin communicating your belief in Jesus once you've earned the right to be heard through serving?

Challenge!

This week become a servant. Pick a place and start. Connect with your group and find a way to serve them. Take note if your service leads you to having a conversation about Jesus!

Week 3 Small Group Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this session?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

Week 4 Message Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this message?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-8 NIV)

What does it mean to share in Christ's sufferings?

What does it mean to look at your suffering as a blessing?

What are some of the hurts you see in your school? What are some of the deep challenges and needs?

Ways you can help those in need:

- Bullied and hurting people want someone who can stand up for them.
- Lonely people need someone to listen to them and spend time with them.
- Become a friend by taking a genuine interest in them.
- Everyone needs someone to be faithful in love and actions.
- Be accepting and invitational towards everyone.

What are some ways you can cheer up a friend who is going through difficulties?

What is something you can do to help those who are feeling lonely or bullied or outcast?

In addition to serving, what are some ways to start sharing your faith with them?

Challenge!

This week talk to a person in need, a person who is hurting. Take an interest. Start a conversation. Become a friend, and show them you care. Hurting people want to know that someone is willing to invest in them. When you begin helping them on the road to healing, sharing Jesus becomes much more natural!

Week 4 Small Group Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this session?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

Week 5 Message Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this message?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

GOD SO LOVED...

my testimony.

WEEK 5 // SMALL GROUP

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.” (1 John 1:1-4 NIV)

What makes it so important that we not just experience Jesus, but that we also declare Jesus?

What would have happened if John never shared his experience with Jesus?

What makes our actions just as important as our words?

What was your life like before you come to Christ? How is it different now?

In what way is your story intertwined with God’s story?

DISCOVERING MY STORY¹

What was your childhood like? were you a church-goer? Was a life in Jesus something you pursued? If not, did you believe in anything remotely spiritual?

When was the first time you remember hearing about God, Jesus, or the Christian faith? How old were you? What was your immediate response to the Gospel?

If you grew up knowing Jesus, was there a time that you remember it really clicking? Can you explain this turn of events?

If you resisted your first hearing of the Gospel message, what was the main reason you didn't believe it at first?

What ultimately changed your heart toward the Gospel message?

Were there any life occurrences— a death in the family, illness, a miracle, a new relationship, etc.— that stood out as a landmark to you on your journey of faith?

¹ Compiled from *Initiate: Powerful Conversations That Lead to Jesus*, Chapter 6.

How did God use these landmarks to pull you into a relationship with Him?

What attracted you to know more about Jesus? What part of your relationship with Him has influenced you the most?

What about your life changed after you made your decision to be a Jesus Follower?

GOD-STORIES

When did God do something meaningful or significant in your life?

When did you enjoy and experience pleasure in your relationship with God?

Have you experienced intimacy or renewal in your relationship with God? If so, when?

GOD SO LOVED...

my testimony.

WEEK 5 // SMALL GROUP

Has God spoke clearly to your or gave you guidance? If so, when?

When has God worked through you to accomplish His purposes?

Challenge!

This week share your testimony or God-story with at least one person!

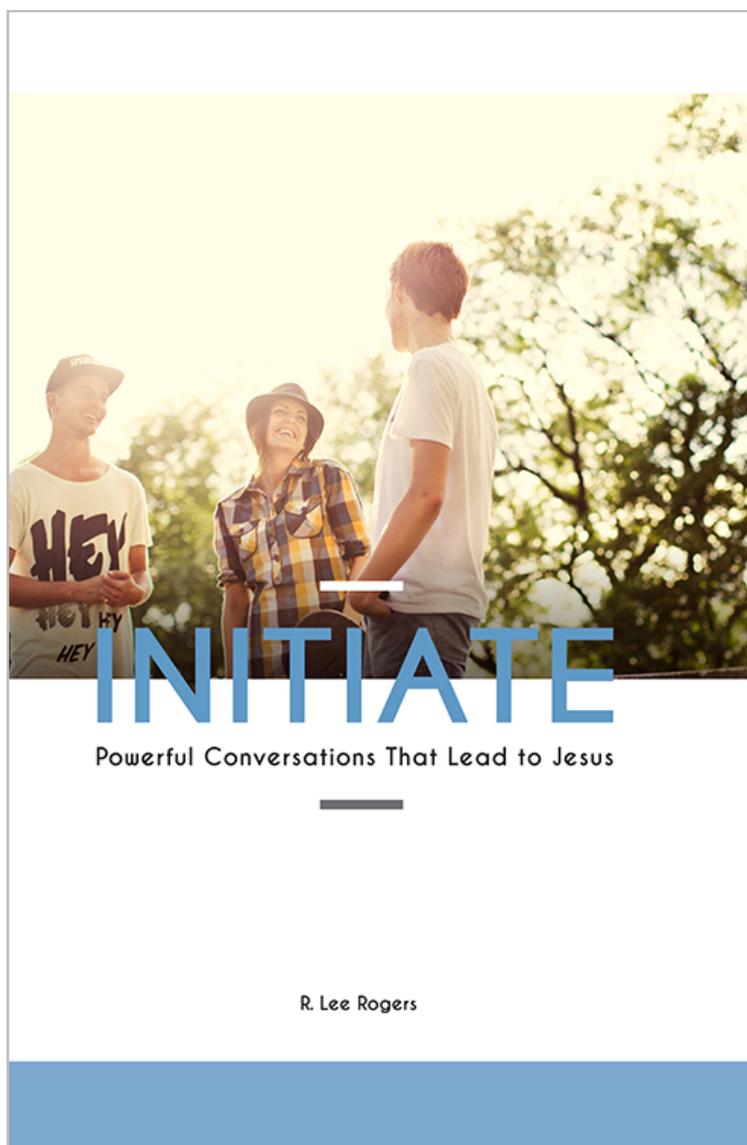
Week 5 Small Group Reflection:

What stuck out to you during this session?

What is God telling you?

What will you do to apply this to your life?

Also available from Missional Basics



Initiate: Powerful Conversations That Lead To Jesus

Lee Rogers

Of all the challenges a Christian faces today, sharing the Faith with others can be one of the most intimidating. But it doesn't have to be! What if sharing the Gospel could occur naturally in a conversation about family, hobbies, or dreams? Anyone can learn to have powerful conversations, great relationships, and discover natural opportunities to share the Gospel in the process!

Available in print and eBook at www.initiateconversations.com, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and iBooks.

Accompanying Sermons and Small Group Lessons also available at www.initiateconversations.com.



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