

The
ONE
JESUS LOVES

GRACE IS UNCONDITIONALLY GIVEN,
INTIMACY MUST BE RELENTLESSLY PURSUED

ROBERT CROSBY

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Crosby, Robert.

The one Jesus loves : grace is unconditionally given, intimacy is relentlessly pursued / Robert Crosby.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-1-4002-0577-6

1. Christian life. 2. Jesus Christ—Biography. I. Title.

BV4501.3.C763 2014

248.4—dc23

2013032950

Printed in the United States of America

13 14 15 16 17 RRD 5 4 3 2 1

Conversation Starters

Below is a list of suggested questions that can be used with a small group, in a one-on-one discipleship or mentoring setting, or privately in prayerful reflection. These will assist you in taking the insights and biblical concepts in this book further in your own spiritual growth and journey in Christ and with his church.

CHAPTER 1: AN OUTRAGEOUS REQUEST

Remember . . . followers of Jesus look for ways to get closer to God.

- Did you ever dream of having an Aladdin's lamp as a kid?
- What would you have wished for then?
- What would you wish for now?

- What do you think about this mom's request of Jesus?
What does it seem her motivation was?
- How would you have felt if you were one of the other disciples listening in?
- Did Jesus refuse the mom's request? Explain.
- Have you ever made an "outrageous request" of God?
How did it turn out?

THE CROWDS

Chapter 2: The Rings of the Lord

Remember . . . followers of Jesus refuse to follow at a distance; if you're not moving closer, you're moving away.

- Oswald Sanders wrote, "We are as close to God as we choose to be." Do you think this is true? How so?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he asked James and John, "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" (Matt. 20:22).
- Is it ever difficult for you to measure your progress of growing in your Christian faith?
- Is measuring spiritual growth anything like measuring academic development? Explain.
- What are healthy goals of spiritual growth for a Christ follower?
- In which of the six Rings of the Lord do you currently find yourself?
- What would it take for you to get closer to God? What would it require of you?

Chapter 3: Closer

Remember . . . followers want to be only one place—closer.

- What is the biggest thing you've ever asked God for? Are you comfortable sharing that?
- Do our prayers as Christians tend to be "too small," as the quotation from Dawson Trotman asks? How so?
- When in your life have you felt the closest to Christ? Do you remember the time and place? Describe it.
- Which tool would you most likely be inclined to follow in your spiritual development—the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, or the Lord's Prayer? What about that particular tool do you find helpful or interesting?
- What does it take to cultivate closeness (intimacy) with Christ today?
- What about your life and world get in the way of intimacy with Christ?
- How can you overcome those challenges? What will it take?

Chapter 4: Jesus' POV

Remember . . . in the Crowds, we discover how much we need a Shepherd.

- What are some Crowds you recall being a part of?
- Do you have any Crowd memories or stories?
- Have you ever been in a group where something chaotic occurred, like the sheep story in this chapter? Tell about it.
- How does understanding Jesus' POV of you affect your POV of him?
- How has your POV of Jesus changed over the years? What most influenced those changes?
- With which of the "Characteristics of Sheep" do you most identify? How so?
- Does viewing Jesus as your Shepherd help you understand his role in your life? In what ways?

Chapter 5: The Bigger Story

Remember . . . in the Crowds, we follow Christ to the places of watching and listening.

- What is your favorite sports crowd to be a part of? How do you behave when you are there?
- Can Crowds affect or change our behavior? In what ways?
- How long will a person stay in the Crowds before either coming closer to Christ or moving away from him?
- When did you first come into the place of the Crowds in your walk with Christ? Into *the place of watching and listening*?
- What bigger stories do you find yourself drawn toward? What makes them so compelling?
- Have you ever thought of faith as being a part of God's Bigger Story before?
- In what ways is the kingdom of God a bigger story?

Chapter 6: The Day Jesus Followed

Remember . . . in the Crowds, the commotion in our lives has to be cleared so we can hear the words of Jesus.

- Have you ever felt God speaking to you through something a child or young person said? What happened?
- What does the commotion of a crowd look like in your life?
- What are the commotions in your life currently crowding out faith?
- How can you clear the commotion in your life?
- What crowds are in the way of your faith?

- How important are quiet places and stillness to building a strong faith in God? Where do you find these?
- What is one thing you often find pressing in on your heart and mind and crowding out your faith, causing it to diminish instead of strengthen? Worry? Doubt? Disbelief?

Chapter 7: Crowdsurfing: Z's Story

Remember . . . in the Crowds, we have to overcome the obstructions around us so we can get a clearer view of Jesus.

- How do you like the retelling of the gospel in this chapter (“I’m going to leave *my* place. I’m going to come to *your* place. I’m going to take *your* place. Then, we’re going back to *my* place,” and so on)? Does it resonate with you? How so?
- Can you identify with any of Zacchaeus’s challenges? Which ones and how so?
- What do you think about this guy, Z? Like him or dislike him? How so?
- Have you come out of the Crowds and followed Jesus? Have the Crowds come out of you?
- When did you find a Crowd in the way of your spiritual growth?
- What are some things that tend to crowd out your clear view of Jesus?
- What would it be like to have Jesus come to your house?

THE FIVE THOUSAND

Chapter 8: The Day Jesus Wanted to Be Alone

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, we follow Christ to the places of feeding and healing.

- Have you ever had an experience like the author's, when you misjudged your child too soon? Tell about it.
- How would you describe the way Jesus must have felt at this point of his ministry when he had just learned of the execution of his cousin John the Baptist?
- Do you remember a time when you received difficult news and just wanted to be alone?
- What might it have been like if at that time a crowd showed up and demanded your attention?
- Has there been a time when you found yourself in the Five Thousand, in a time of receiving something from God? What was that experience like? How did it affect you?
- How did Jesus respond to the Five Thousand? What did his response reveal about his character?
- How does Jesus' response to the Five Thousand inform you of the way he looks at you and your needs?

Chapter 9: Sack Lunch Spirituality

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, we find God can do big things even with our smallest gifts.

- Describe the "perfect sack lunch." What would it include?
- In the story of the Five Thousand, a boy's simple sack lunch was the seed of a miracle. Is there a time you recall God using something small or simple to do something much greater? Tell about it.
- Why do you think Jesus used the boy's lunch that day to begin his miracle? Why not just bring it out of thin air? Wouldn't that have been more impressive?
- What are a few of the interests, skills, or talents that God has given you?

- Is there one of them you have sensed he wants you to use to serve others in ministry? How so?
- What do you have in your hands that God may want to use?
- What will it require of you to put your “sack lunch” in the hands of Christ?

Chapter 10: Something in the Way

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, we are the bread that Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives.

- What is your all-time favorite restaurant? What makes it so good?
- What do you think of the take-bless-break-give sequence in which Jesus handled bread?
- In what ways have you felt God bless the “bread” your life represents?
- In what ways have you felt God break the “bread” your life represents?
- As a Christ follower, what are some things you are starting to learn about the ways of God?
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” What do you think this means in our lives today?
- How do you tend to deal with broken experiences in your life? Do you see God at work even in them? How so?

Chapter 11: My Kind of King

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, we are tempted to see Jesus as the king we want instead of the one we need.

- How about that 24/7 Supernatural Walmart the author mentions? Can you imagine such a place?

- In what ways have you tried to take, make, or force Jesus to do some things in your life?
- What kind of king do you try to turn Jesus into?
- What do you think of the “two Gods” that Tolstoy talked about? Is this true in our lives today?
- Do we tend to try and make God after our image? In what way?
- Is worshiping the God of our own design idolatry? How so?
- What does it really mean to follow Jesus?

Chapter 12: Thinking with Your Stomach

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, we find that Jesus is the bread and drink we most need.

- Did the author’s description of lasagna make you think with your stomach at all? Or what other food item does so the most for you?
- What are your thoughts about this statement from this chapter? “Sometimes the best way to turn our spirits on is to turn our stomachs off, at least for a while.”
- Why is fasting such a prominent spiritual discipline in the Bible?
- Is fasting as important today as in Bible days?
- Do we tend to live our Christian faith too much as consumers and not enough as “worshippers”? How so?
- In what way is Jesus the bread we really need?
- In this chapter, Robert Crosby says, “. . . help alone is not enough. It is also important to extend the hope that is found in knowing Christ. People need help and hope. In fact, with hope they will often find themselves empowered to find their own help.” Do you agree? Explain.

Chapter 13: Crazy Talk?

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, Jesus' words and ways may not always make sense to us at first.

- What did you think of the scenario at the start of this chapter about the middle-school-aged daughter?
- Why do you think Jesus moved to using such a raw metaphorical approach at this time in his ministry of the flesh and the blood? What effect did it have on his followers?
- If you had been Jesus' public relations adviser at this point in his ministry, what would you have urged him to do? Why?
- Was all this talk about flesh and blood crazy talk? How so?
- Jesus' words noted in this chapter set the stage for what we now know as the practice or ordinance of Communion. Have we lost something of the raw or prophetic nature of this practice?
- What is the significance of Communion to followers of Christ?
- Do you have a hard time making sense of other things Jesus said or did? What are they?

Chapter 14: LifeWords

Remember . . . in the Five Thousand, we realize what Jesus says are more than mere words; they are Spirit and life.

- Does God's Word ever seem personal or personally directed to you? How so?
- Which verse or passage of Scripture has felt like a *LifeWord* to you? In what way?

- What do you think about what Tozer said about the spoken word of God and the written word? Have you ever made this distinction before?
- What makes the Bible extraordinary compared to other books?
- Have you ever experienced a *rhema* word in your life? When and what passage?
- What role does fasting play in helping us hear God's Word?
- What role does God's Word play in your life and walk with Christ?

THE SEVENTY

Chapter 15: Follow, Follow, Follow

Remember . . . in the Seventy, we follow Christ to the places of working and serving.

- Were you more of a “follower” or a “leader” as a child? How so?
- What was Jesus calling us to when he said, “Follow me”?
- How do you answer the question: “Where’s your home?”
- How do you answer the question: “Who’s your daddy?”
- How do you answer the question: “What’s your priority?”
- Have you diminished Jesus in any way as the Dorothy Sayers quotation describes?
- What are some of the more surprising or amazing things you are learning about Jesus?

Chapter 16: Do, for You

Remember . . . in the Seventy, we discover we are not just called to do *something* but to do it for *Someone*.

- Who do people tend to mainly work *for* in their jobs?
What motivates their efforts on the job?
- What did the front men do that Jesus sent out “two by two”?
- John the Baptist was a type of “front man” for Jesus. He prepared the way for Jesus. What could we learn from him as followers of Christ?
- What were the roles of these workers?
- Have you yet journeyed into the Seventy? How so?
- This chapter makes the point that “there is a vast difference between *working for* Jesus Christ and *knowing him*.” How would you explain it?
- How does it seem the Seventy got towns and people ready for Jesus’ visit? How does their work relate to our work in ministry today?
- Is there something you believe Jesus is sending you out to do? What is it?

Chapter 17: Don’t Miss the Wow!

Remember . . . in the Seventy, while we do the work, it is essential for us not to miss the Wow!

- What do you do to pass the time when you are waiting for someone in your family?
- What are some important things around us that we often miss because of being too busy?
- What are some things that make you say, “Wow”?
- Is worship a “Wow” in your life? Explain.
- Why was Jesus disappointed with his disciples’ enthusiasm after returning from their mission?
- Does working for God ever tend to remove your sense of worship or wonder? How so?
- With whom do you identify the most—Mary or Martha? In what ways?

Chapter 18: The Locker Room Speech

Remember . . . in the Seventy, we find that Jesus guides us and that his words actually coach us.

- Do you remember any moving locker room speeches in your life?
- What do you think about Coach Brooks's quotation: "When you pull on that jersey, you represent yourself and your teammates. And the name on the front is . . . a lot more important than the one on the back"?
- Do we sometimes wait too long to involve and engage people in ministry? Just how spiritually mature does someone need to be before he can serve in ministry?
- Is ministry just an opportunity we should find for ourselves, or is it something we should actively call people into?
- What would it take for you to travel lighter in ministry? What effect might that have?
- What would it take for you to stay more focused in ministry?
- Are you cultivating faithful ones around you in ministry? How?

Chapter 19: Thank You, George

Remember . . . in the Seventy, we find *the love of power* will harm you but *the power of Love* will free you.

- Are we obsessed with power in our culture today? In what ways?
- When have you felt the most powerful?
- Does your faith in Christ make you feel more or less powerful? How?

- Read Jesus' directive in Matthew 5:38–41. What do you think he meant by this?
- Read Ephesians 3:16–19. How do power and love meet in this passage written by Paul?
- Do you feel the tensions of balancing love and power in your life and world? How?
- Have you ever experienced love overcoming power? When and how?

Chapter 20: We Can Work It Out

Remember . . . in the Seventy, we must work out what God has already worked in.

- What is your favorite place to get a burger?
- Which of these questions have you struggled with the most and how?
 - Is there a God?
 - If so, where is he?
 - And what is he doing right now?
- In what ways do you sense God working in you?
- What experiences have you had thus far trying to work *out* what God has worked *in* you?
- Has finding your ministry and how to do God's will been a struggle for you as it seemed to be for the apostle Paul? How?
- Which metaphor most resonates with you when it comes to working out God's will in your life?
 - Producing a crop?
 - Producing a film?
 - Producing a musical composition?

Chapter 21: If You've Seen Me

Remember . . . in the Seventy, we find Jesus came not only to save us but also to show us a perfect Father.

- Did you enjoy the Star Wars movies? Which scene was your favorite?
- Were you surprised when Luke Skywalker found out who his father really was?
- How much of the person you are today is connected to the father who raised you? What was his influence on your life, your nature, and your work?
- Has your earthly father impacted the way you tend to view your heavenly Father? In what ways?
- What did Jesus teach us about
 - the Son of God and his role in our lives?
 - the Spirit of God and his role in our lives?
 - the heavenly Father and his role in our lives?
- When Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father,” what does that tell us about God and his nature?
- Read Colossians 1:27. What does this tell us about our relationship with Jesus and with the people in our lives?

THE TWELVE

Chapter 22: The Following Leader

Remember . . . in the Twelve, we follow Jesus to the places of leaving all.

- This chapter starts by urging us to pull over to a “rest area” and see where we find ourselves. In which of the places of experiencing Christ do you find yourself most

often these days: the Crowds, the Five Thousand, the Seventy, or the Twelve? In what ways?

- Was Jesus a leader or a follower? Explain.
- Much space is devoted in this chapter to defining what Jesus meant when he said, “Follow me.” What did he mean when he called us to follow?
- With which of the twelve disciples of Jesus do you most identify? How so?
- Does following something always mean we have to leave something else? What is one thing that following Christ has called you to leave? What was that experience like?
- Do you agree that as Christians today we tend to focus too much on leadership and not enough on following? Does the church most need better leaders or followers? How can you tell?

Chapter 23: Let's Get This Show on the Road

Remember . . . in the Twelve, as we believe in God's Son, his Spirit pours through our lives like rivers.

- Amid a crowd, do you tend to be a shouter, or are you quiet? Do you prefer to talk with a lot of people or just one or two?
- When was a time that Jesus was silent? Why do you think he was so quiet at that time?
- When was a time that Jesus got loud? What purpose did it serve?
- How did Jesus seem to react to people giving him publicity? Why did he respond this way?
- How did you like learning more about the great water-pouring ceremony? Could you picture what this must have been like for the people in those days? Explain.

- What did Jesus mean when he said, “Streams of living water will flow from within” the person who believes? Have you experienced that overflow of God’s Spirit in your life? How so?
- What part of your life and experience does God tend to really flow through the most?

Chapter 24: The Gospel According to Peter?

Remember . . . in the Twelve, we find that although God is speaking, sometimes we don’t like what he has to say.

- How would you describe Peter? His personality? Do you identify with him? In what ways?
- Who would people you know say Jesus is? Your friends? Family members? Coworkers? Classmates?
- Who does the Bible say Jesus was and is today?
- Who did Peter say Jesus was? How significant a statement was that in his day?
- What were the implications and risks of Peter’s confession of Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God”?
- Which of Jesus’ promises to Peter most impresses you?
- How do you think the other disciples felt when Peter proceeded to rebuke Jesus? How must Jesus have felt?
- What are the keys of the kingdom and their significance? How did Peter end up using them? How can we use them in our world today?

Chapter 25: The Line Jesus Drew in the Sand

Remember . . . in the Twelve, ordinary people receive an extraordinary call from Christ.

- In what ways were Jesus’ disciples ordinary?
- What new boss would want to select an ordinary

leadership team? Why do you think Jesus chose ordinary men instead of extraordinary ones?

- Read the call of Christ in Matthew 16:24. What did Jesus' call require of his followers then? What does it require of us today?
- Which aspects of Christ's call in Matthew 16 do we tend to neglect the most today?
- In what ways is Christ's call to our lives
 - a call to intimacy? What does it mean to be intimate with God?
 - a call to humility? What does it mean to be humble before God?
 - a call to serenity? What does it mean to accept your cross with serenity?
 - a call to loyalty? What does loyalty to Christ look like today?
- What does it take to make Jesus your priority today? What will it cost you to do so?

Chapter 26: The Power of A.S.K.

Remember . . . in the Twelve, we find that following Christ faithfully involves asking him boldly.

- Have you ever learned something about God from a child? Tell about it.
- Have you experienced the power of the A.S.K. experience in prayer? How?
- What things do you tend to ask God for the most? Does that tell you anything about yourself?
- What place did prayer have in Jesus' earthly life and ministry?
- What effect did prayer seem to have on Jesus?

- How would you describe prayer and the place it should play in the life of a Christ follower?
- What is a passion or vision you believe God has placed on your heart? Are you A.S.K.ing God about it? Can we pray about it together right now?

Chapter 27: Get Your Joy On

Remember . . . in the Twelve, the way of Jesus is the way of joy; to follow him is to follow joy.

- Is joy an emotion, an attitude, or a choice?
- What often brings you joy?
- Was Jesus joyful? After all, he was “a man of sorrows” (Isa. 53:3 NASB), right?
- Do you tend to be joyful, or do you have to work at it? How do you work at joy?
- Which of the seven joy-giving disciplines do you practice the most often? Which is one you need to try more often?

1. reading
2. singing
3. giving
4. communing
5. meditating
6. serving
7. enjoying

- How do you like the C. S. Lewis quotation at the end of this chapter? In order to get your joy on, have you learned how to tell your emotions where to get off? What does it take?

Chapter 28: One in Every Crowd

Remember . . . in the Twelve, we are always doing one of two things: we are *following* or *falling back*.

- What do we know about Judas?
- How would you describe Judas's personality?
- What interactions did Jesus have with Judas that we find in Scripture?
- When do you think Judas and his commitment to Christ fell apart? What could have led to his undoing?
- When have you been tempted to listen more to the Crowds than to Christ?
- Has faith ever been more of an act for you than a relationship? How so?
- What aspects of Judas do you sometimes see in yourself? Are you tempted to be unfaithful or disloyal to Jesus and your faith in him?
- Why do you think Jesus still called Judas friend when he was betrayed and arrested?

THE THREE

Chapter 29: Mama's Prayers

Remember . . . in the Three, we follow Christ to the places of suffering and glory, to the depths and the heights.

- Have you or someone you've known seen the influence of a mother's prayers at work? In what way?
- What did you think of the story of Monica and her son Augustine?
- Which of these experiences of knowing Christ are the most real in your life right now?

- Learning to *listen to Christ*?
 - Learning to *receive from Christ*?
 - Learning to *work for Christ*?
 - Learning to *walk with Christ*?
 - Learning to *suffer and reign with Christ*?
-
- What has been one of the heights you have experienced in life? Did you sense Jesus there with you? In what way?
 - What has been one of the depths you have experienced in life? Did you sense Jesus there with you? In what way?
 - In what way is it significant that James and John became two of the three closest disciples to Jesus? Was it an answer to prayer?

Chapter 30: Mountain View Lodge

Remember . . . in the Three, we not only remember the events in Jesus' life; we enter into those events in ours.

- Why do you think Jesus chose Peter, James, and John as the three closest disciples? What did they have in common?
- What was the transfiguration of Christ all about? What was its significance in the life and ministry of Jesus?
- What do you think of Peter's idea to set up three tents on the mountain? What do you think he had in mind? What might have motivated him?
- What is the difference between God's will and God's ways?
- Does it seem Peter sometimes wanted to do God's will *his way*? Do you ever get that way?
- This chapter talks about our identification with Christ. Identifying with Jesus in the events of his life is a great part of our growth in him. In what ways do we experience

- a baptism?
 - a transfiguration?
 - a crucifixion?
 - a resurrection?
- In what ways will we experience an ascension?

Chapter 31: Cloudy Christianity

Remember . . . in the Three, as the clouds around us get darker, we begin to hear God's voice clearer.

- What kind of weather do you prefer: warm, sunny days or cool, cloudy ones?
- What clouds are you currently facing?
- Are clouds a blessing or a curse?
- What do clouds do? How do they affect us?
- If there were no clouds, what would we be missing?
- In what ways is God like a cloud by day or a fire by night in your life?
- "Moses' most intimate times in the presence of God were cloudy experiences." Have you found this to be true in your walk with Christ? How so?
- Are the clouds pushing you away from God or calling you closer to him?
- While you may find it hard to see what lies ahead, do you look more fully to the one who can?
- Did you know that the God of the sun and light also often comes in the clouds?

Chapter 32: Disney's Dynamic Duo

Remember . . . in the Three, we are drawn deeper into the Passion of Christ, into his joys and sorrows.

- What is your favorite Disney film of all time?
- Can you see Disney's Dynamic Duo at work in that film? Or in other Disney Films? How so?
- Do we tend to practice a more shallow version of Christianity today than in the time of the early church? Or even fifty years ago? How so?
- What does it mean to be a deep follower of Jesus?
- What does it mean to know Christ in his sufferings?
- What does it mean to know Christ in his glory?
- How prepared is your faith
 - to be filled with a joy unspeakable? How would you deal with that?
 - to be battered and challenged by struggles and hardships? How would you deal with that?

Chapter 33: Weeping with Christ

Remember . . . in the Three, we come to see our struggles not as difficult events that isolate us from God but as challenges that help us draw closer to him.

- In your experiences of growing in your faith in Christ, have you experienced anything that could be described as
 - *a hearing faith*? How so?
 - *a tasting faith*? In what way?
 - *a serving faith*? Describe it.
 - *a following faith*? How so?
 - *a deepening faith*? In what way?
- Have you experienced any Gethsemanes in your life? How did they affect you and your faith?
- How well are you holding the cup of your life? Or facing the challenges and opportunities that are uniquely yours?

- What kind of stress was Jesus going through in Gethsemane? What weights must he have felt?

Chapter 34: Cowboy Disciple

Remember . . . in the Three, we become more impressed with the God of power than the power of God.

- Do you know anyone who has the type of personality of Maverick from the movie *Top Gun*? How would you describe him or her?
- How do you think James and John got their nicknames from Jesus of the Sons of Thunder or Thunder Boys?
- When James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven on the Samaritans:
 - What were they thinking? Where did they get such an idea?
 - What kind of a king were they serving?
 - What kind of a kingdom were they building?
 - What does this incident reveal about the will of God and the ways of God?
- Is there a bit of the Cowboy disciple in you? How so?
- Do you tend to *react* or *respond* to challenges?

Chapter 35: Speechless

Remember . . . in the Three, we discover what God desires from his followers is not another speech but an attitude of worship that leaves us speechless.

- Has anything ever left you speechless? Tell us about it.
- Who are two biblical characters you would like to meet for coffee? What would you like to ask them?

- What do you imagine Elijah and Moses talked with Jesus about on the Mount of Transfiguration?
- Of all the characters in the Old Testament, why were Elijah and Moses the two who visited Christ on the mountain? What was their significance to that event and moment?
- What effect does the Father's voice seem to have on this story of the Mount of Transfiguration? What effect does it have on Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond to the various people who spoke to him on the mountain?
 - To Peter?
 - To Moses and Elijah?
 - To the heavenly Father?
- What was the purpose of the Mount of Transfiguration?
- In what ways is our salvation a kind of "transfiguration"?

THE ONE

Chapter 36: Crucified with Christ

Remember . . . in the One, we follow Jesus all the way to the cross, to the place of sacrifice.

- At this point in your faith journey, which of these do you honestly tend to be more focused on?
 1. Your questions
 2. Your needs
 3. Jesus' mission
 4. Jesus' life and its events
 5. Jesus' glory and his sufferings
 6. Or do you focus more on *Jesus himself*, his presence?

- Here are the three prayers Jesus prayed on the cross:
 1. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
 2. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34).
 3. “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46).
- Which of Jesus’ three prayers would be the most difficult for you to pray? Explain.
- Which of Jesus’ three prayers was the most beautiful? How so?
- What does the cross mean to you? To your life right now? To your past? To your future?
- Do we tend to hurry past the cross and rush to the resurrection? How so?

Chapter 37: The One Jesus Loved: Seven Giveaways

Remember . . . in the One, we find that one of the best ways to get closer to Christ is to follow the steps of the One who followed him the closest.

- What are some things you are surprised that we do not know about Jesus from the historical records?
- What are some things you are surprised that we do know about Jesus from the records?
- Which of the clues about the One closest to Christ do you find the most compelling? Explain.
- How was it that only one of the Twelve seemed to make it all the way to the cross? Explain.

- What are some possible reasons that one gospel writer included so many more of Jesus' words than the other three?
- What can you learn from the One closest to Christ that can help you come closer as well?
- What was it that drew Jesus to the One?

Chapter 38: Risen with Jesus

Remember . . . in the One, we find that resurrection is more than an event we celebrate; it is a person and a power we experience in our lives.

- What does it mean to be risen with Christ as a Christ follower? What will it mean in the future? What does it mean right now?
- Which sister do you most identify with as a Christ follower, Mary or Martha? Why?
- Martha was disappointed that Jesus hadn't shown up sooner. Ever felt that way toward God? Explain.
- What does it mean to have *overcoming faith*?
- Is the resurrection
 - an event? How so?
 - an experience? Describe.
 - a power that changes lives? In what ways?
 - a positive attitude? Tell more.
 - a faith booster? How so?
 - Jesus himself? In what way?
- How can a resurrection that happened two thousand years ago bring life to your situation today?

Chapter 39: John's Favorite Word

Remember . . . in the One, we find a faith that always abides, that clings to Christ's words, his ways, and his will, come what may.

- What is your favorite word?
- What was one of John's favorite words?
- How did you like the story about the Crosby Clip? Has an object or emblem given to you ever held similar influence? How so?
- What does it mean to abide as a Christ follower? What does it involve?
- Do you find it difficult or easy to abide in Christ? Explain a bit.
- What aspects of abiding do you most need to work on and develop?
- In what ways did Jesus abide during his earthly ministry?
- Which of Jesus' disciples had the hardest time abiding? How so?

Chapter 40: John's Best-Kept Secret: The 14:21 Principle

Remember . . . in the One, we find as we do what Jesus says, he reveals more to us of who he is.

- What were the tensions and emotional dynamics present at the table during the Last Supper?
- What was the 14:21 Principle that John caught?
- How would you explain it?
- Why did others seem to miss it?
- In what ways might the 14:21 Principle be significant to you in your journey of faith?
- What role does obedience to Christ play in our faith walk and journey?

- What role should love play in our faith walk?
- What do love for God and obedience to him have in common?
- What qualities did John have in his life and faith that you would like to emulate?
- What were some of the responsibilities of faith that John took seriously?
- What privileges did John enjoy?
- Who is “the One Jesus Loves” today?