PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

HOW JESUS IS FOR YOU WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS AGAINST YOU

JOSHUA RYAN BUTLER

GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

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Joshua Ryan Butler



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This study guide is designed to help you dive more deeply into the concepts at the heart of *God Is on Your Side*: to reflect on them and make them your own, to creatively explore their significance from fresh angles, to discuss those concepts with others or journal on their implications for your life, and to integrate and apply God's heart and vision for you.

This guide can be used individually or as part of a larger group (for example, a book club, a discussion gathering, or another kind of small group). Either way, you may want to grab some paper or a journal to record your thoughts as you work through the sessions. When you use this guide along-side the book, it will help you get as much out of the content as possible.

SESSION FORMAT

This guide is divided into seven sessions, with sessions typically covering two chapters (called mini-sessions) from *God*

Is on Your Side. Each mini-session contains four key components: Prepare Your Heart, Unpack It, Use Your Imagination, and Reflect on It. More on these components below.

Although this guide is structured in seven sessions, go at your own pace. If you're reading the book in a group setting, then it might work best as a seven-week study with participants reading and reflecting on two chapters each week. Or your group may decide to stretch it out to a fourteen-week study. Do what works best for your schedule and timeline.

READING SCHEDULE

If you haven't already read the book *God Is on Your Side*, do so as you work your way through these sessions:

Session 1 Introduction and Chapter 1

Session 2 Chapters 2-3

Session 3 Chapters 4-5

Session 4 Chapters 6-7

Session 5 Chapters 8-9

Session 6 Chapters 10-11

Session 7 Chapters 12–13 and Conclusion

To follow is a summary of the four components you'll find in each mini-session.

1. Prepare Your Heart

This section will help you prepare your heart for the theme of the chapter. Use this space to reflect on an experience from your life that this chapter addresses.

2. Unpack It

Here you'll encounter questions designed to help you recap, unpack, and cement key insights from each chapter. Consider completing this section immediately after reading the chapter to record important takeaways and make them your own so you can return to them later for easy reference.

3. Use Your Imagination

These creative exercises are designed to help you reflect, using your imagination in unexpected ways, on a big idea from the chapter. These work best when you don't rush through them, so set aside ten to fifteen minutes, ideally, for each exercise. Allow your imagination to explore the exercise, and journal your reflections.

4. Reflect on It

These questions are intended to guide you in group discussion (or they can be used as journal prompts for personal reflection) about the significance of the chapter's central ideas for your own life and what it might look like to live out the big, beautiful realities you're exploring in the book.

As you walk through these discussion questions, you'll notice that I often ask multiple questions on the same topic. Don't worry about answering all of them (unless you want to). Feel free to home in on those that stand out to you.

GROUP LEADERS

If you're completing this study in a group setting and you're the facilitator of your group, here are some simple guidelines that can help make this seven-session journey more rewarding. Each session has enough content for sixty to ninety minutes of group time, depending on how long you desire to spend discussing each topic.

If you're part of an established small group going through *God Is on Your Side*, your group is probably familiar with how to review content in studies similar to this one. It may not be necessary to prescribe every detail of the meetings, though this brief refresher may help you prepare for the discussion.

Read and Pray

Before meeting with the group, read the chapters of *God Is* on *Your Side* associated with the upcoming session (see the reading schedule on page XX) and complete the minisessions. Then pray for each person in your group and for your upcoming time together.

Group Members

Encourage every group member to read the assigned chapters of *God Is on Your Side* and complete the mini-sessions before they arrive at each meeting.

Getting Started

Once your group members have arrived, settle into a place free of distractions, where you can sit comfortably for the next hour or so. Then, when you're ready to get started, ask a group member to read the questions, one at a time, from the Reflect on It section. Encourage discussion of these questions and remember to take your time. (You can also allow participants to share reflections that stood out to them from the Unpack It and Use Your Imagination sections, de-

pending on how much time you have and how many people are in your group.)

As you lead your group through this guide, keep these pro tips in mind:

- Make time for each person to share. The goal is to get
 everyone talking so every voice is heard and included
 in the discussion. This doesn't mean everybody needs
 to share on each question, but be wary of a few people
 dominating the discussion.
- Don't make everyone share. This book gets into some sensitive topics. Some people might not be comfortable sharing their thoughts or experiences, or they might be in process and not ready to share yet. Respect that. Don't pressure people to contribute who aren't ready or don't want to.

* * *

My hope is, by the end of the book and this guide, you'll have a bigger, more captivating vision of God and how he wants to encounter you in your life. I know I've been affected tremendously by reflecting on the concepts at the heart of the book. I hope you are too.

> In Christ, Josh



INTRODUCTION

On Your Side

s God on my side? Is he really for me? It's easy to answer "Yes!" when life is going well. When your body's healthy, your bank account's full, and your best friends are by your side. It's harder to believe when life takes a turn for the worse. In the wake of disappointment and loss, you can find yourself wondering, Is my Maker for me? Does my Savior have my back? Is God committed to my good?

Where do you go when you wrestle with such questions?

PREPARE YOUR HEART

What drew you to pick up this book? Is there a question, circumstance, or need in your life that you're hoping the pages ahead will address?

Describe a season of life when you found it difficult to believe God was on your side. Perhaps it was a season of loss, hurt or betrayal in a relationship, an unexpected health condition, fear for your financial future, or questions about faith. Perhaps it was something else. Perhaps you're in that season today. In your response, focus on how your view of God was affected by this experience—whether your convictions deepened or changed and so on.

When I say God is on your side, do you have any suspicions, questions, or concerns? That's okay! List those here. Later you can return and see if they are adequately addressed as you work through the book.

UNPACK IT

In It with You, Fighting for You, Working Through You In John 1, how do each of these three key images speak to God being on our side?

- the Word made flesh
- · the Lamb of God
- · the Ladder with angels

On God's Side

God being on your side doesn't mean he picks sides.

- What did the angelic commander of God's armies tell Joshua in Joshua 5? How is this a good corrective to those who try to make God seem like he *takes* sides?
- Jesus came "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Why are both of these important in understanding his posture toward us?
- In what contexts might people say "God is on my side"

when it isn't true to reality?

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Just as people sat across from artist Marina Abramović and were moved by the experience of seeing and being seen, imagine yourself sitting across from Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to encounter Christ. Close your eyes and contemplate his heart toward you. What parts of your story do you hope he sees? What aspects of his heart do you long to know more fully? Take some time with this; then jot down any observations you want to remember.

Why do you think it's so powerful to be seen by someone not just looked at, but truly seen? What might this suggest about our deepest longings and the experience we were made for with God?

How might this frame a reason to read Scripture and pray not to try to perform for God and earn his affection, but rather to encounter the God who pursues us in Christ, who is on our side, who sees us, knows us, and desires to transform us into his image?

REFLECT ON IT

- 1. What are your hopes for this book group? Is there a question, circumstance, or need in your life that you're hoping the pages ahead will address?
- 2. To the extent you're comfortable, describe a season of life when you found it difficult to believe God was on

- your side. Perhaps it was a season of loss, hurt or betrayal in a relationship, an unexpected health condition, fear for your financial future, or questions about faith. What was your perception of God like in that experience?
- 3. Which of these three images stands out most to you? Why?
 - a. the Word made flesh (the Creator entering our side of creation)
 - b. the Lamb of God (the Innocent One stepping onto our side on the cross)
 - c. the Ladder with angels (the Risen One bringing heaven to our side of earth)
- 4. Which message do you most need to hear today: that God is in it with you, fights for you, or wants to work through you? Why? Describe what it might look like to live into this reality more fully.
- 5. Close with a prayer giving Christ thanks for his incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, for specific ways he's worked in the story of your life, and for his heart toward you in being on your side.

1

SET THE GPS

When You Don't Know Where You're Going

hat do you do when you're not sure where you're going? When life's direction doesn't seem clear anymore? Jesus invites you to realign your GPS with his. In John 2, he shows us where his ministry is heading. It's a famous story, where Jesus turns water to wine at a wedding. At face value, we might misunderstand this as simply a display of his power. (Cool party trick, Jesus!) Yet Jesus is doing something much more here.

Jesus is giving us a sign of where his ministry is headed, a glimpse of the destination he's driving us toward. So buckle up; there's a journey ahead. Jesus is taking us to a resurrection wedding—where the rivers run with wine, the celebration never ends, and you encounter your destiny in union with God.

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Describe a time when you felt disoriented or without hope. What were the circumstances? What emotions did you experience? How long did it last? What was your perception of God in that season?

UNPACK IT

Resurrection Wedding

"On the third day," John tells us, "a wedding took place at Cana" (John 2:1). John uses time stamps like this to frame the stories that follow.

- What event does "the third day" foreshadow in John's gospel?
- How does a third-day wedding foreshadow what Jesus has come to accomplish?
- What does this first sign in John's gospel tell us about the destination Jesus has come to take us to?

When You've Run Out

- What social significance did running out of wine have for a family hosting a wedding in that day?
- "My hour has not yet come," Jesus tells his mother (John 2:4). What does "hour" refer to in John's gospel?
- When Jesus turns water to wine, how does this foreshadow what he will accomplish at the cross?

Rivers of Wine

- Jesus makes a lot of wine—roughly 750 bottles. Imagine you're a guest at this wedding, where the party's already been going on for days, when this abundance of top-quality wine gets unexpectedly rolled out. What are you thinking and feeling? Describe your experience.
- Jesus's miracle has an Old Testament backdrop. The prophets said the Messiah would bring a wedding feast where the mountains would drip with wine (Isaiah 25:6–9; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13–14). What might this suggest about why Jesus makes so much wine?
- Why does Jesus make this the first sign of his ministry?
- Beyond wine, what picture do the passages above paint of the future God wants to establish for us as his people?

The Seventh Vessel

- The six stone water jars, John tells us, were "for the Jewish rites of purification" (John 2:6, ESV). Jesus is intentional with the details he chooses for this miracle. What did these rites involve, and what was their purpose?
- How does Jesus's death on the cross fulfill this aspect of the sign?
- Why might John—who loves symbolism—highlight that there were *six* stone water jars?

Best for Last

- The climax of Jesus's first sign is a powerful picture of the gospel. In this living parable, who does the master of the banquet represent?
- Who is the Bridegroom in the gospel?
- In the gospel, how has the best wine been saved for last?
- In the gospel, how is God like the master of the banquet delighting in the best wine poured out by the Bridegroom for his wedding with us as the bride?

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

A little secret: God turns water into wine all the time. Rain falls to the earth, soaks into the soil, and is absorbed by the vine. It eventually emerges in the grapes, which come bursting off the branches. With this miracle, Jesus is not contradicting nature but rather speeding up the process, through *himself* as the vine. Yet there's one more crucial step in the process of making wine: You have to crush the grapes.

Your imagination is powerful. Something happens when we don't stop at simply reading the details of a story but access our creativity to soak in the message more deeply. Draw a picture of each of the following parts of the process described above. It can be a simple picture, but allow your imagination to envision each stage of the process with all the vitality and color of God's creation.

- · rain falling from the sky and soaking into the ground
- a vine's roots absorbing the water from the soil
- · the water traveling through the vine's branches into

- the grapes
- the grapes being plucked off the branches by the gardener
- the grapes being crushed in the winepress and the juice flowing
- · the wine being poured into a cup, ready to be savored

God designed creation to point to Jesus, who was crushed to bring forth resurrection wine. Reflect on the significance of Jesus's sacrifice for you. Write a prayer of gratitude. Try to be specific with aspects of your life that have been transformed by his sacrificial love, his cleansing, and his heart of abundance toward you.

REFLECT ON IT

- Is there a time when you felt disoriented? Perhaps an unexpected event in your life left you feeling hopeless. To the extent you feel comfortable, summarize what happened. (Be brief so there's time for everyone to share.)
- 2. Jesus's miracle at Cana is the first sign of John's gospel, where Jesus *sets the GPS* to show us the destination his ministry is headed toward. How can reorienting our GPS toward our future in God's resurrection wedding bring hope when we feel hopeless?
- 3. The wedding runs out of wine, an embarrassing disaster for the host family. Have you ever had a time when you felt like you ran out, unable to meet people's expectations and disheartened with nothing left to give? Describe what the experience was like.

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- 4. Jesus makes *a lot* of wine (around 750 bottles)! Read Amos 9:13–14. How does the abundant kingdom Jesus has brought confront popular misconceptions people in our culture might have about God?
- 5. Jesus uses water jars from "the Jewish rites of purification" (John 2:6, ESV). This points to the purifying nature of his death (John 19:34). Describe how you feel when you emerge from a long, hot shower or bath. Focus not just on your external state but on what it feels like on the inside. How might this compare to the cleansing Jesus came to bring?
- 6. Do you ever struggle with feeling dirty, stained, or guilty? Where in your life do these feelings show up? Do they make you feel distant from God or unworthy of his love? Consider expressing this to God, either through writing it out in a prayer or through sharing it with the group. Reflect together on the immensity of Christ's love for you—that he would shed his blood to cover you and wash you spotlessly clean—and what this does to stir your affections for God.
- 7. You're invited not simply to attend God's resurrection wedding but to be the bride. What kind of depth of union and vitality of celebration does this imply you were created to experience with God? What might it look like to begin preparing for this future and living toward this reality today?
- 8. Close with prayer, asking God to "set your GPS" and orient your life toward this destination.



BRING DOWN THE HOUSE

When Change Is Painful

hat do you do when change is painful? When Jesus shows up with confrontation rather than comfort, turning your life upside down? When the place where you once encountered God now seems to be crumbling around you? It can be easy to think God is against you, but what if this is part of his being more deeply on your side? What if he goes all bull-in-a-china-shop because he's willing to crash through your distance and crush your idols to get to your heart?

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Describe a time when change in your life was painful. Perhaps Jesus confronted a pattern of sin in your life or convicted you of something you needed to address and apologize for. Or perhaps things you'd relied on came crumbling down around you; a job or relationship you'd thought was stable ended up being precarious. What were the circumstances?

What emotions did you experience? How long did the season last? What was your perception of God in that season?

UNPACK IT

Demolition God

- What Old Testament story did the Passover festival celebrate?
- What animal from Passover is Jesus described as in John's gospel? (See John 1:29, 36.)
- At the climax of John's gospel, Jesus will go up to Jerusalem to be crucified during Passover. What does this suggest about how the temple scene in John 2 and the Crucifixion are connected?
- Many people assume Jesus turns over tables and drives people out of the temple because he's angry with folks selling stuff there. (*Get that bookstore out of the church lobby!*) Why is this an insufficient answer? (*Hint:* Read Deuteronomy 14:24–26.)
- What three examples does this chapter of God Is on Your Side give of Old Testament prophets doing symbolic acts?
- What symbolic meaning does this suggest for Jesus's disruptive actions in the temple?
- List two details from John 2 that show Jesus is not losing his cool but doing something deliberate and premeditated.

Divine Renovation

 Read Jeremiah 7:9–11 for a clue as to why the old temple would one day need to be demolished. What practices that God was confronting stand out to you?

- Compare Jeremiah's list to the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:6–21). How many commands were being broken?
- Why is it a problem that they were hiding out in the temple while continuing to do all these things?
- What do you think God meant by saying his house had become "a den of robbers" (Jeremiah 7:11)?

The Crucifixion as Demolition

Jesus's dramatic performance in the temple is a sign of his own coming crucifixion, where he will be torn down as the true temple. Describe how these details from John 2 foreshadow the cross:

- · cracking the whip
- · driving out the sacrificial animals
- · turning over the tables
- · driving out the people
- · pouring out the coins

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Imagine Jesus's crucifixion as the destruction of a temple. Draw the following images: a sledgehammer, embroidered curtains, coins poured out, a table overturned, a lamb driven away, a cloud, and brick rubble. As you draw each image, reflect on the aspect of Christ's death it speaks to: a sledgehammer (the whipping of his body), curtains (the stripping of his clothes), coins (the cost he paid for sin), a table (his body overturned upon the cross), a lamb (the sacrificial ani-

mals that will no longer be needed), a cloud (the glory departing the temple of his body as Jesus exhales his final breath), and rubble (the burial of his remains). (It's okay if you're not a great artist; feel free to keep the images simple. The point is more to spark your imagination to reflect on the power of Christ's death.)

Close with a prayer of thanks to Jesus for his sacrifice, his willingness to be torn down for you so that you might be rebuilt in him.

Bonus: Consider listening to the worship song "Resurrender." Reflect on your identity as a living temple (the lyrics of this song are powerfully centered on this theme). What area of your life might Jesus be calling you to resurrender in obedience to him?

REFLECT ON IT

- 1. Is there a time when Jesus confronted sin in your life or when things you'd relied on came crumbling down around you? Describe the experience. Was the change painful? Where did you find the motivation to do the difficult thing or the strength to endure the aftermath?
- 2. Read John 2:14–15. Have you ever wrestled with understanding why Jesus turned over tables and drove people out of the temple? What insights from this chapter of *God Is on Your Side* stood out to you to

Track 3 on Team Night (Live), Hillsong Worship, Hillsong Music and Resources LLC, 2022.

- help make sense of this scene?
- 3. Sometimes people call this event the cleansing of the temple, but Jesus isn't cleaning up the temple—he's symbolically tearing it down. Why do you think God cares so much about the purity of his people? What does it do in your heart to know he's committed to building you up on a firm foundation, even when such change is painful?
- 4. In Jeremiah 7:9–11, God confronted people hiding in the temple when they weren't living according to his ways. Describe some contemporary ways we hide in church while living far from God. What circumstances have you seen in your life or the lives of people you know? Or what broader themes have you observed in the church at large?
- 5. This chapter describes the death of Jesus as the tearing down of the true temple. Talk about Jesus's crucifixion as a temple being torn down. What details stand out to you? How do images from this scene in John 2 foreshadow the cross?
- 6. We get to "bring down the house" in worship of Christ our King, in response to all that he's done for us. How is worship as a response to what Christ has done for you more powerful than trying to use worship to get him on your side? In what ways are you inspired to worship Christ more fully—whether in the weekly gathering with your church or in all of your life—in light of his great love for you?
- 7. Jesus wants to make you a living temple. In what areas of your life do you sense him calling you to a deeper level of obedience? Feel free to share these with the

20 GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE *PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE* group, then to pray for one another along these lines.

BECOME THE BELOVED

When You Don't Feel Wanted

here do you go when you feel unwanted? Maybe you look for affection in the arms of another. Maybe you lower your standards and settle for someone who treats you like dirt. Maybe you self-harm to feel something again or rely on substances to numb the pain. Maybe you isolate, protecting your heart by locking it in a cage where no one can hurt you again. If you feel rejected, dropped, or discarded, there's good news: Jesus is on his way.

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Think of a time when you felt unwanted. Perhaps you experienced rejection in relationships, the disappointment of unrequited affection, or the solitary confinement of being alone. Perhaps that's even a season you're currently in. Describe the season. What were the circumstances? What emotions did you experience? How long did it last? What was your perception of God in that season?

UNPACK IT

First Encounter

On his way through Samaria, "Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by [Jacob's] well" (John 4:6). The well might seem like a passing detail, but it echoes significant scenes in the Old Testament. Read the following passages and jot down which brides were first met at a well, as well as any details you see echoed in John 4:

- Genesis 24:12–19
- Genesis 29:1–14
- Exodus 2:15-21

The renowned Jewish scholar Robert Alter describes the well as a betrothal type-scene, common in ancient Hebrew literature, with the following five elements. Skim through John 4 and write down which verses correspond to these elements:

- 1. The future groom journeys to a foreign land.
- 2. There he encounters a girl at a well.
- 3. One of them draws water from the well. (*Note:* Pay attention to the discussion of living water, who will give it, and what that water symbolizes.)
- 4. The girl rushes home with news of the stranger's arrival.
- 5. A betrothal is concluded after he has been invited to a meal. (*Note:* There isn't a literal betrothal in the John
- Robert Alter, The Art of Biblical Narrative, rev. ed. (Basic Books, 2011), 62. A representative can stand in for the future groom, as in Genesis 24, where Abra-

passage, since Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman is platonic, yet look for which verses echo this element.)

Boundary Crosser

- Why did Jews and Samaritans avoid each other?
- If Jesus doesn't *have* to go through Samaria for geographical reasons, why does John tell us he "had to" go there (John 4:4)? What drives him there?

Thirst Quencher

- Jesus offers the woman "living water" (John 4:10). What kind of water sources did *living water* refer to in the ancient world?
- Why were such water sources vital to ancient peoples?
 What benefits did they bring?
- How does living water represent the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- Why is it significant that Jesus is the one who gives this Holy Spirit to his bride?

Five Husbands

- While it might be easy today to assume this woman had five husbands because of her own immorality, why is it more likely that she had been rejected and mistreated by men?
- From another angle, however, the Samaritan woman also likely represents the checkered past of her people. Describe the Old Testament backdrop that sug-

ham's servant discovered Rebekah for Isaac.

gests the symbolic significance of the five husbands.

Tell the Town

The Samaritan woman runs back to tell the whole town about Jesus.

- How does the Samaritan woman's response speak to the evangelistic calling of the church?
- How do the Samaritans respond when they encounter Jesus?

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Jesus is the boundary-crossing, thirst-quenching, stone-rolling seventh husband! He is the one your heart was made for. Where did you first meet him? Reflect on that season of your life and how you came to know him. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your memory back to key moments and details from your story. Draw images that represent that season. For example, if you were addicted, you might draw a symbol of what you were addicted to. If you were lonely, you might draw a symbol of your emotional state at that time. If Christ brought peace, you might draw a picture of a dove. The point here is not to draw the "right" picture perfectly but to catalyze your imagination with symbols that represent where Christ met you, what that encounter was like, and the impact it made on your life. If you don't like drawing, consider narrating the story of your first encounter with Christ.

You can use these symbols in the future. When you feel haunted by your past, when you're worried about being unwanted, when you experience fear in your relationship with God, go back to the well—back to that place where you first met, where you encountered Christ's love for you and heard him call you his own. Tell your testimony—not just to the town, but to yourself. Recount his covenantal love for you. Preach the gospel to your heart. Let his commitment to you refresh your heart.

REFLECT ON IT

- What are your favorite first-encounter scenes? This
 could be a scene from a movie or another piece of pop
 culture. Or if you're married, it could be the moment
 when you first met your spouse. Or it could be a funny
 or romantic story from a couple you know.
- 2. Jesus "sat down by the well" (John 4:6). What stood out to you the most from this chapter's discussion of the biblical motif of the well as the location where a groom first meets his bride? Why is it significant to remember where we first encountered Jesus and how he captivated our hearts?
- 3. Jews and Samaritans hated one another for religious, political, and cultural reasons. What types of people are you tempted to write off today or distance yourself from, rather than pursue with the love of Jesus? Within the church, what unnecessary dividing lines do you see fracturing the bride Jesus came to unite? (That's not to say we shouldn't have convictions or healthy boundaries, but focus on any unnecessary dividing lines of hostility that stand out to you.)
- 4. Jesus crosses multiple boundaries to get to the woman at the well. What cultural divides or lines of hostility

- might he be challenging you to cross in order to pursue people around you?
- 5. What boundaries did Jesus cross to get to your heart? What unlikely places did he enter in your life to make you his own? How can remembering this aspect of your story remind you how much you are wanted by God as his beloved?
- 6. Jesus offers living water. What popular substitutes does our culture offer to try to quench our thirst for meaning and significance? Why do you think Jesus is able to quench our thirst in ways far beyond any of the substitutes out there?
- 7. Unlike Nicodemus, who approached Jesus at night, the Samaritan woman encounters him in the light of day. While Nicodemus represented the old temple, the Samaritan woman foreshadows the church as a new and living temple. How can encountering Christ vulnerably "in the light," rather than hiding "in the dark," make you a living temple for his presence? Have you experienced this in your own life?
- 8. The Samaritan woman runs excitedly to tell the whole town about Jesus. What did you think of this chapter's suggestion that sharing what Jesus has done in your life should be similar to announcing an engagement? How might it change evangelism to approach it less like a chess match and more like setting someone up on a blind date with the person you think is best for them?
- 9. Where did you first meet Christ? How did you encounter him? What season of life were you in? There will likely not be time for everyone to share their

fuller story, so aim for a simple thirty-second to oneminute summary that just gives a few key details, such as (1) where you lived, (2) how old you were, and (3) what about Jesus drew you to him. If you aren't yet a Christian, you might simply share anything you find interesting or compelling about Jesus currently. (*Note:* For the sake of time, it could be helpful for the group leader to use a one-minute timer to keep everyone on track so that everyone gets to share.) After everyone shares, take time to pray and celebrate the work of Christ in one another's lives.