



### WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT:

Here is an overview of what we're talking about. Listed below the summary is a "parent cue" to help you dialog with your child about the session. The question is intended not just to be asked by you, but to be responded to by **BOTH** of you. Use this opportunity to find out what God is teaching your child, and allow your child to see what God is teaching you as well.

### GodView:

#### Series Overview

What comes to mind when you think about God? Who do you believe God is? How do you believe God interacts with you personally and with your world? These are questions we are going to be addressing over the next three weeks. You see, every one of us has a Godview whether we think about it or not. For many of us, it's just a vague impression formed when we were younger. For some, it's an image of Someone against whom we have a strong resistance. For others, God is personal and mysterious, offering an adventure to anyone ready to pursue a relationship with Him. While we can never really know *everything* about God—because He's that big and that mysterious—the things we can learn about Him shape the way we respond to whatever life brings. That's why author A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

#### Session One (September 25)

No matter who we are, we all have a Godview. And the way we think about God affects how we interact with our world. Many people struggle because they have a negative or distorted view of God. This first week, we will take a look at the life of one of Jesus' closest followers who struggled for the very same reason. In the end, we want to challenge students to begin to see how their view of God shapes the way they live.

**Session One Parent Cue: Both of you grab a piece of paper, and take three minutes to write down all the things that come to mind when you hear the word "God." Both of you be honest, and don't just write the words that you think you should. There's no grade for this.**

#### Session Two (October 2)

Many of us have a distorted Godview because we think God's *primary* goal is either for us to be good or for us to be happy. While there may be some truth in those statements, if we see those as His *primary* goals, then we walk through life with remarkable—and self-made—expectations. Then, when those expectations aren't met, our faith is shattered and destroyed. This week, we want students to see that following God is bigger than our expectations. Following God requires surrendering control.

**Session Two Parent Cue: When you think about the things you pray for or about, or the verses you hang on to, or even the way you perceive God, are those all based on your own personal happiness? How would our prayers and likes look different if we were more concerned about surrendering control?**



### **Session Three (October 9)**

The tendency for each one of us is to think we have God all figured out. But this week is about one simple truth—we don't. This week we want students to see how the more they come to know God, the more they will realize they'll never really know Him completely. There is always more of God to know. He's that big, that mysterious, that amazing. At the close of this series, we hope your student will walk away with the desire to pursue a relationship with God and to know God more every day.

**Session Three Parent Cue: What is mysterious to you about God? Is it comforting or frightening to know there are things about God we don't have figured out? Why or why not?**

### **Session Four (October 16)**

For the past 3 weeks, we've challenged youth to rethink their Godview. This week, we will take time for each youth to experience what the scripture says about who God is.

**Session Four Parent Cue: What scripture that you read is most memorable? What about your Godview do you feel might be changing?**

### **FOR PARENTS ONLY:**

Each one of us is "about" something. Something is going to define your life and mine. It will. I know that when I die, my kids are going to stand around and say many things, but inevitably it will get reduced to a sentence or two that begins this way: "Dad was . . . "

#### **You WILL be defined.**

The reason I love to think about the now is because we still are able to change and influence what our lives will be about. The sad part is that too many people don't think about what their lives will be about. We just kind of live it, and in the end, we hope it will be good enough. And I know my drift (when I'm not intentional) is to make my life about things that matter less, not more. So what's it going to be about for you? Who do you want to be?

Take some time this month to think about what you want your life to be about. Think big. Think small. And then be intentional about not letting this summer sneak by without your notice. Your life will be about something. So will mine.

What will define your life? You can either decide what your life is about, or your life can drift towards something. But either way, your life will be defined by something or someone.

(Inspiration taken from Cary Nieuwhof [http://connexuscommunity.typepad.com/carey\\_nieuwhof/2008/05/you-will-be-def.html](http://connexuscommunity.typepad.com/carey_nieuwhof/2008/05/you-will-be-def.html))

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