



Started

KICK-OFF

NAME _____



NET GROUP

Welcome to your NET group and Big Adventure. At TeenStreet, we meet every day in our NET groups so that we can be a part of each other's journeys. We learn together, encourage one another and share what we are learning and experiencing. Take a few minutes to get to know the others in your group.

Share your name and where you are from.

Try to guess each other's second name or middle name (if you have one).

Share what letter the name starts with and let those in your group each take one guess at what your second name might be. (For example, if your middle name is John, you would say it starts with a "J" and each person in your group would have one guess at what it might be).

A name is a big part of who we are. Have you ever wished you could change your name? If so, what name would you choose and why?

Today in the main session, we heard about how there is a journey for each of us. God invites us to follow Him. We started hearing about Moses and how God invited Moses on this journey.

Moses faced a lot of ups and downs and it was not always easy. In the beginning, when God told Moses that it was time to step forward in faith and action, Moses didn't want to. He asked God to use someone else. He listed reasons why God shouldn't use him. He didn't really know who God was but as he stepped out in the journey, that all changed. God continued to tell him that He would go with Moses and that His presence would be enough. Moses became a man who understood his purpose and identity and the person God called him to be.

Moses isn't the only one in the Bible who didn't seem to fit the perfect example of someone God would choose to work through. As we read Scripture, we see how God worked through imperfect people all the time.

Together we are going to think about some of the people in the Bible who did great things. Then we will take a moment to remember the not-so-great things about them that the Bible also tells us. For example, let's look at Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples. He wrote a book in the Bible! In Matthew 10:3, Matthew describes himself as "the tax collector". Before he was a follower of Jesus, he made his living as a tax collector which was someone who worked for the enemy of the

Jewish people. The Romans had taken their land, ruled over them and forced them to pay taxes to the Roman Empire. Matthew worked for them! You can imagine how unpopular that made him with his own people. He could charge the people more taxes and keep some of the money for himself. Tax collectors were known as traitors, thieves, dishonest people, yet Jesus chose Matthew. His life changed as he accepted Jesus' invitation.

Person's name:	Great thing that they did:	Failure or bad decision:
Matthew (disciple of Jesus)	Follower of Jesus, wrote one of the Gospels, leader in the early church.	Worked for the Romans, took money from his own people.
King David		
Saul (later known as Paul)		
Other:		

Throughout the Bible we see the journeys that God took His followers on. Journeys of excitement, sacrifice, love, forgiveness, journeys into

the familiar and journeys into the unknown. And God has a journey for you. He is inviting you to walk with Him, to use the talents He has given

you to point people to Him and to be a part of the greatest adventure ever told. You are known by God, named by Him and sent by Him. He has a journey prepared for you.

This journey is a journey to understanding more of our purpose and our identity. God has a journey for each of us.

- Maybe some of you have been walking this journey for a while and you want to keep knowing more and growing closer to God.
- Maybe for some of you this is the first time you have heard about this idea of a journey with God and you are new to all of this.
- Maybe some of you were on a journey with God but you got distracted or made some decisions that have caused you to feel really far from God and the journey you were on.
- Maybe some of you have been learning about God and the Bible since you were little but it's never felt like something that was personal or influenced your own life.
- Other:

Which example best describes where you feel you are right now? (If none of these examples describe you, share where you feel you are right now). Share with your group.

Thanks for being brave and honestly sharing with the group. Wherever you find yourself today, we are so glad that you are here and we hope you will join us in August to learn more about Moses and this journey God has for us. But please know that God is real, He is present and He wants to draw you closer to Himself wherever you feel you are in relation to Him today. There is a journey. God created you, loves you, and wants you to know Him.

BIG ADVENTURE

Start off your time talking to God about anything that you heard in the main session or in your group time that stuck out to you. Then pray and ask God for an open heart for what He wants to say to you today. (Talking to God is like talking to a person. It doesn't have to be fancy words, just talk like you do to friend. He can hear you whether you speak out loud, in a whisper, or in your head.)

Today we are going to look at the story of another person who received an invitation from Jesus. Let's see how he responded.

Read Matthew 19:16-26

In this passage a man comes to Jesus. What question does he ask Jesus?

_____ (verse 16)

The man responds to Jesus in verse 20, saying that he has already done the commandments. Jesus knew his heart so He then told him to do the one thing that Jesus knew would show the man where his priorities were. What did Jesus tell the man to do?

_____ (verse 21)

Jesus knew the man would not want to do this. Jesus was showing the man that eternal life was not something he could earn by doing good works. (Jesus explains this more in Matthew 20) In Matthew 19:17, Jesus said, "There is only One who is good." He was referring to God. Then later in verse 26, the disciples ask Jesus "Then who can be saved?" And Jesus responds, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." Eternal life is possible because, through Jesus' death and resurrection, He made it possible for us imperfect people to have a relationship with a perfect God. Going to heaven when we die and having a relationship with God is not

something we can be good enough to get, we can't earn it. It's not about our efforts, it's all about what Jesus did for us. Jesus was helping the young man examine his own heart, his values and his beliefs.

How did the rich man respond to Jesus' instruction and invitation?

_____ (verse 22)

The rich man walked away. He could have started on a journey walking with Jesus! He could have become one of His followers and actually talked and learned from Jesus! But he chose to walk away instead. His possessions were more important to him. He could have been a part of the greatest adventure in history but hundreds of years later he is known as a nameless man who walked away because he loved his stuff more. He is known by what held him back. He missed out on the journey.

What were his top priorities? _____

What about you? What are your top priorities? Take a moment and think about what you love most, what you spend most of your free time on, what you hold as most important?

Are these priorities helping you on your journey with God? Or are they distracting you or keeping you from starting on this journey?

You have heard today that God has a journey for you. How are you going to respond to this invitation? Are there any regrets or fears that are keeping you from this journey? What more do you need to know or understand before you would feel ready to start the journey God created you for? Or maybe you have already started the journey, is there anything keeping you from going further? Write your thoughts here.

To end your Big Adventure, talk to God about what you wrote above. Then join your NET group again when you are finished.

BACK TO YOUR GROUP

We hope this group time is an opportunity for you to get to know and encourage one another. However, if you don't feel comfortable answering some of the questions, that's okay. You can just say pass when it's your turn to answer.

What did you think about the reaction of the rich young ruler?

Are there any things or people in your life that are keeping you from following Jesus or moving forward in your journey with Him?

If you want to join Jesus on this journey that He has for you, what would the next step look like for you?

If you have already started this journey, what do the next steps look like for you? How can you go deeper in your faith? Describe where you are at in your journey.

Who or what helps you in your journey?

Would you be interested in attending TeenStreet Experience in August? Let your coach know so that they can make sure you get the info for the next event.

DIGGING DEEPER

This portion of the Bible study is for you to do later at home, if you want to. It's a chance to dig deeper into the message that we talked about today.

As we walk with God on the journey, we discover more of our identity. We are fully known by God (and that's a good thing!).

Read Isaiah 40:26

What does the verse tell us to look at in the sky? _____

Who is the creator of these things? _____

According to the verse, how does God refer to the stars? _____

Do you know how many stars there are in the sky? Take a guess: _____

According to studies at the University of Santa Barbara, "The number of stars in a galaxy varies, but assuming an average of 100 billion stars per galaxy means that there are about 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 (that's 1 billion trillion) stars in the observable universe! This amount is equal to about the number of grains of sand on ALL of the beaches on planet Earth!"

That is A LOT of stars and God knows them by name.

How do you feel when you think about the magnitude of God's knowledge and ability?

God, who created everything and all billion trillion of the stars (that He knows by name), created you and loves to think about you! He knows all about you. He created you purposefully and He wants you to have the joy of using the gifts and abilities He has given you on this journey that He has prepared for you. He wants you to know Him on this journey and to know His love for you. It's greater than we can fully understand but we can spend today and every day after knowing and living in His great love for us!

When was the first time that you understood that God loves you and knows you?

How has this understanding of His love impacted your life?

Sometimes, it can be difficult to remember and walk in the reality of God's love for us each day. We can get distracted with other things or more concerned about what other people think of us. Turn in your Bible to Ephesians 3:14-19 and read these verses.

What are these verses talking about?

“May we have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is.” (Ephesians 3:18) The apostle Paul wrote these words to the people living in Ephesus telling them what he was praying for them. We can pray this for ourselves too! That we would know more and experience more of God’s great love for us and that we would walk this journey knowing His love every step of the way!

Read through Ephesians 3:14-19 again but this time pray these words back to God.

Consider reading these verses every morning to start off your day knowing how much God loves you.

See you in August at TeenStreet+!

