

**D**NOW

Leader Guide

# METAMORPHOSIS

BEN TRUEBLOOD



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LifeWay Press®  
Nashville, Tennessee

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LifeWay Press, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0144.

ISBN: 978-1-4158-7700-5  
Item Number: 005557043

Dewey Decimal Classification Number: 231.2  
Subject Heading: SALVATION \ GOD \ JESUS CHRIST—MESSIAHSHIP

Printed in the United States of America

Student Ministry Publishing  
LifeWay Church Resources  
One LifeWay Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37234-0174

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## About the Writer

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BEN TRUEBLOOD serves as the Director of Student Ministry at LifeWay Christian Resources. He has served as a student pastor for twelve years in the local church and is currently serving as the student pastor at Grace Church in Hendersonville, TN. Ben received his Master of Divinity degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and is a respected student ministry leader. He is driven by a desire to see students come to know Christ, to disciple the next generation of Christ followers, and to serve student pastors and churches in their mission of making disciples.

## About This Product

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Metamorphosis - (mēt'ə-môrfə-sīs) - A marked change in appearance, character, condition, or function.

Many modern day Christians take for granted the powerful change that God develops in us through salvation. Just as the caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, we too are completely remade through salvation. Our lives as believers in Jesus bring about "a marked change in appearance, character, condition and function."

This book is designed for use during a discipleship event or small group study. There are five sessions to guide you through your group discussion. Each session has five sections:

1. *Get Started* will introduce the topic and connect your students to what the key passages talk about.
2. *Think About It* will look at why these areas are important through introducing and discussing relevant Scripture and facts.
3. *Diagnose* will look at how well students are currently living according to the truths introduced in each session.
4. *Move* will challenge students to apply these truths to daily life in order to make an impact on others.
5. *Pray* will help you guide students to talk with God about what they have learned about themselves and God's love for all of us.

These sessions are designed to last about 45 minutes. Your goal as you move through the material should be to keep students talking and engaged. There will be discussion questions to help with this task in this leader guide and in the student book. The left-hand page of each session in this leader guide contains the leader material, while the right-hand page reflects the student book material—including answers to fill-in-the-blank activities as well as to some of the questions pointing back to the Scripture passages for that session. You will also find multiple note pages in the back of the student book that can be used for large group messages or as additional space for small group sessions.

## Related Products

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There are student books that contain questions and other activities for students to complete during the Bible study sessions, as well as prayer suggestions for follow-up.

## Getting Started

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The following five sessions focus on the metamorphosis that occurs in a life that has been impacted by power of the gospel. Throughout this series we will see the process each believer goes through in this transformation. Understanding our new life in Christ is foundational to living out our faith and sharing it with the world.

## SESSION 1

# OUR BEGINNING

### GET STARTED

**W**rite this statement on a large sheet of paper: *You have something in common with every other living thing in the world.* Ask students to write on the paper what they believe that commonality is.

- ▷ Every living thing shares a common theme: that theme is change. Living things are always changing, growing, developing, and processing.

Guide students to discuss the lists they created in the student book.

- ▷ You can see from these examples that change can happen in a dramatic, all at once event or gradually over time.

Use the picture in the student book to introduce this illustration.

- ▷ A caterpillar is a great example of the power of transformation. This small animal goes through a dramatic change during its lifetime. The caterpillar's sole purpose is to spin a cocoon that will ultimately transform it into a butterfly. This is the very nature of the caterpillar and everything in its life leads up to this metamorphosis.
- ▷ Just like caterpillars, we enter this world with a nature that drives our thoughts and actions. Though formed by a holy and perfect Creator, the human heart gave in to temptation (Gen. 3) and sin entered the world. Since then every person has been born with a sin nature, compelling us to pursue godlessness, disobedience and self-satisfaction. Because it is our very nature to sin, we are in desperate need of transformation.

## SESSION 1

# OUR BEGINNING

### GET STARTED

List examples of things that change often:

weather, fashion, hairstyle, attitudes, etc.

List examples of things that change over time:

relationships, physical attributes, ideals, mental capacity, etc.



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**THINK ABOUT IT**

- ▷ Before we can fully grasp our sin nature, we must understand the perfect standard we are measured against.

Encourage students to circle the words in the student book they would use to describe God.

Divide students into groups and instruct them to read and discuss the following verses about the nature of God: Exodus 15:11, 1 Samuel 2:2, Psalm 93:5, Psalm 145:17, Revelation 15:4.

- ▷ God is perfect. His holiness is beyond anything we can fully comprehend. Because He is flawless and righteous in every way, God cannot tolerate or allow sin into His presence. This is why our sin nature separates us from God.

- What does it mean to be separated from something or someone?

# 1 We are enemies of God.

- What is an enemy?  
► What emotions come to mind when you think about enemies?

Guide students to discuss the questions in the student book.

Ask for volunteers to read Romans 8:8 and Philippians 3:18-19.

- ▷ Because God is holy and we are sinful, we stand on opposite sides of the battlefield. Our disobedient hearts make us enemies of the One who created us.

**THINK ABOUT IT**

**Circle the words you would use to describe God based on your relationship with Him.**

Glorious	Refuge	Complete	Almighty
Holy	Reliable	Trustworthy	True
Worthy	Beautiful	Righteous	King
Rock	Perfect	Gracious	Merciful
Stronghold	Flawless	Loving	Awe-inspiring

Take one of the words you circled and write out how you have experienced or seen that particular aspect of God in your own life.

# 1 We are enemies of God.

Would you consider yourself an enemy of God?

Read Romans 2:5.

What does this verse say is the cause of the wrath to come?

What actions or attitudes in your own life serve as evidence of your sin nature?

# 2 We are slaves to sin.

How would people in our culture respond to a headline that stated: "There is nothing good within us"?

What is your response to this statement? Do you believe it?

## 2

### We are slaves to sin.

► What is a slave?

► What is the primary purpose of a slave?

*A slave is someone bound to another in submission. The sole purpose and function of a slave is to obey.*

Call on volunteers to read John 8:34 and Romans 6:16.

► What does it mean that we are slaves to sin?

▷ We are chained and held captive to our sin. Just as a slave is bound to his or her master, we are bound to our sin nature. Because we are slaves to sin, we are powerless to produce anything other than sinful actions and attitudes.

Direct students to answer the questions in the student book then discuss.

## 3

### We are completely dead spiritually.

Ask students to define the word “dead” in their own way.

▷ According to Webster’s Dictionary, “dead” is defined as, “Lacking feeling or sensitivity; numb or unresponsive; not having the capacity to produce or sustain life.” The most significant picture is of something that cannot produce or sustain life, something that is completely enslaved to death.

Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:1-3.

► What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

*To be spiritually dead means we don’t have the capacity to produce or sustain spiritual life. Our souls are numb and unresponsive.*

Direct students to answer the questions in the student book then discuss. Reiterate that we enter into existence spiritually dead. Don’t “dumb down” these hard-hitting truths or minimize our sin nature.

#### SESSION 1 • OUR BEGINNING

Read the following verses and write down words that describe our state of being next to each reference:

Psalm 14:3

Psalm 51:5

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 3:10-12

Romans 3:23

Romans 7:18

How does the world’s view on this subject line up with the view that is presented in Scripture?

How does your own personal view line up with Scripture?

It is a popular belief that we enter the world with a “clean slate” and that at some point in our lives we mess up. This is clearly in opposition to Scripture’s view of humanity. We are slaves to sin from conception and there is nothing good in us.

## 3

### We are completely dead spiritually.

If we are spiritually dead, how much of our own salvation can we accomplish? Place a mark on the gage displaying your answer.



## 4

**We are destined for hell.**

Place students into groups and provide paper and markers. Instruct them to create a visual representation of hell. As groups share illustrations, point out any cultural imagery that has become popular when describing hell (red Devil, pitchfork, big party, etc.).

Allow students to share answers to the questions in the student book, then ask for volunteers to read Matthew 13:41-42, Matthew 25:41-46, and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

► **How is hell described in these verses?**

► **Who is sentenced to this place called hell?**

*Everyone who sins. Many may think this is an unfair punishment, but in truth it is absolutely fair. The penalty for sin is death.*

Guide students to fill in the blanks on page 8 of the student book. Answers are listed in your version of page 8.

**DIAGNOSIS**

Since these are difficult truths, ask students if they have questions about any of the passages or points discussed. Invite students to share any of the words they wrote down in the student book.

**MOVE**

Challenge students to consider the reality of their own sin nature by reflecting on Romans 3:23.

**PRAY**

Guide students to finish the prayer activity in the student book.

**NOTE:** At this point, you may be tempted to jump ahead to keep students from feeling "beat up". Please allow the study to end like this so students understand the magnitude of our sinful nature. The hope we have in Christ will be discussed in the next session!

## 4

**We are destined for hell.**

**Why do you think the topic of hell is so controversial in culture?**

**What is the popular opinion in regard to heaven and hell?**

Most people want to believe there is at least some good in them for which they should be rewarded. Popular opinion would say hell is a place for those who do evil things like murder, rape, or child abuse.

Reread 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Scripture is clear that if we are born as enemies of God, slaves to sin, and spiritually dead then hell is our destiny.

**DIAGNOSIS**

This has been a heavy lesson to absorb. Write down some words that describe how you feel as you process the truths we have discussed.

**MOVE**

Write the words to Romans 3:23 in the space provided and spend a moment reflecting on the reality of our sin and separation from God.

**PRAY**

Write your name in the blank next to each point.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was born an enemy of God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was born a slave to sin.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was born spiritually dead.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was born destined for hell.

Express to God how desperate your situation is without Him. Ask Him to open your heart and mind to His truth through this study.