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Bluefish TV Presents WHY JESUS? ADULT BIBLE STUDY WORKBOOK Copyright © 2010 Bluefish TV by Bluefish TV

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ISBN-10: 1-57275-235-1 ISBN-13: 978-1-57275-235-1

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Bluefish TV is a non-profit ministry.

Published by Bluefish TV.
Printed in the United States of America.

### **Bluefish TV Mission**

Our mandate is to help people trade in the pursuit of the American Dream for a world that desperately needs Christ.

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# ARE YOU A TRADER?

What do you want to be remembered for? What is your passion? What gifts has God given you? How can you use them? **Does your life matter?** 

When these questions go unexplored, our senses become dull and we find ourselves going through the motions of life and pursuing the American Dream.

The RightNow Campaign is shaping a movement within this generation of people who are willing to **trade** in the pursuit of the American Dream for a world that desperately needs Christ.

Being a **trader** means being intentional with your time, your money and your passions.

A **trader** is a new kind of missionary - not defined by geography - but marked by a willingness to apply the parable of the Good Samaritan and "go and do likewise."

If you are looking for opportunities where you or your group can put your faith into action, search our ministry website **rightnow.org**. We have posted thousands of local and international service opportunities and we have a team of coaches who are available to provide further help.

It's time *right now* for the people of the church to step up and find tangible ways to use their God-given passions and skills to bring hope and change to the world.

Just a few things to check out at RightNow.org



Looking for 1,000 churches to raise up mentors for fatherless boys in your community



Looking for people to give money and raise awareness to solve the water crisis for an entire country

### EVANGELISM FROM YOUR LIVING ROOM

Respond to phone calls and email from those already looking to learn more about Jesus

# JOIN THE FIGHT

Build caregiver medical kits that will go to the frontline battle against AIDS

**©**rightnow.org

# **OVERVIEW**

People have lots of opinions and questions about Jesus. Some think he was a guy with a positive message... a good man who lived back in the day... just a good teacher. Many believe he is the Savior of the world who came to save us from our sins. And today, those who follow Christ make up the largest religion in the world.

With so many different faiths and beliefs in our culture, it's difficult to grasp what makes our faith in Jesus Christ unique. People are asking, "What's the big deal about Jesus? Was he really God, or just a good man? Were his miracles just an illusion? Is Jesus the only way to heaven?" How do we get past all these opinions to find out what's really true?

Instead of looking at culture, we must look to Scripture and find out about Jesus. By examining the Old and New Testament prophecies, his birth, his miracles and healings, his "I am" statements, and his death and resurrection, our faith and love for Christ is deepened.

Miracles confirmed the declarations of his deity. C.S. Lewis famously said that everyone must come to the conclusion that Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or he is Lord. And if we say that he is Lord, then it's our privilege and responsibility to share with others why Jesus is the Savior and Messiah of the world.

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-32 NIV

# DAVID NASSER

As one of the nation's upcoming speakers and visionaries, David Nasser's greatest passion is to connect people to the living God. He has been involved in revivals, citywide rallies, camps, and school assemblies, speaking to over 700,000 people each year.

When David was 9 years old, he was forced to flee his native homeland of Iran with his family. Leaving behind everything, they escaped to the United States in hopes of beginning a new life. In the years that followed, David felt isolated and sought acceptance from his peers, turning to everything imaginable to fit in. At the age of 18, David was saved and found purpose through a deep and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

David's ministry, the *D. Nasser Outreach* (DNO), seeks to effectively present the relevant message of the Gospel using fresh, innovative methods and resources. DNO is growing rapidly as a mentoring and consulting ministry as well.

David has worked extensively with ministries such as *Youth Specialties, Student Life, Acquire the Fire,* and many others. He also works several times a year with the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Team* as a speaker for city-wide youth rallies, *Crusade Testimony*, and *Schools of Evangelism*.

David and his wife, Jennifer, live in Alabama with their children.

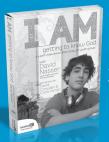


### ALSO FROM DAVID NASSER

### VIDEO-BASED BIBLE STUDIES:

Paul the Apostle
Filmed on Location in Rome





*İ Am* with Chris Tomlin

### **NEW BOOK RELEASE:**

Jumping Through Fires: The Gripping Story of One Man's Escape from Revolution to Redemption





# **ICEBREAKER**

Have you ever watched a birth or given birth? What made being able to experience new life coming into the world so extraordinary?

Were you changed at all with the experience?

# **VIDEO NOTES**

PG

# **REFLECT & DISCUSS**

In the video we saw an I Am Second clip where Jason Castro talked about growing up in a Christian home. He shared how his own claim of faith had been empty; he did it just to fit in with his brother. Do you know anyone who does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God (or even have doubts yourself)? What are their views of who Jesus is?

Jason then shared how he came to make the decision to believe in Christ and the experience of praising God on the stage of American Idol. He shared how his goals in life are to be "a loving father, a faithful husband, and a servant of all." What encouraged you by Jason's story?

**Note:** Jason Castro's rendition of the song "Hallelujah" rose to the numberone spot on the iTunes singles chart. He is also the first contestant to ever play a guitar and ukulele on American Idol.

As David Nasser talked about his journey of faith to Christ he said, "When you give your life to Jesus, it's not like a Christian cold that you catch and it goes away. It's a whole new you." What are some similarities between your journey to Christ and David's faith journey?

David read Luke's account of the birth of Christ, where the angel came to Mary to tell her that the prophecies about the coming of a Savior would be birthed through her—something that all Jews were taught. Why is it significant that Luke, the author of the book of Luke, was a doctor?

David explained the criteria of prophecy by saying, "a weatherman predicts the weather. A prophet tells the truth. If it's 99% accurate, it's not a prophecy." Why are prophecies important?

Read Luke 2:21-35. How did Simeon know where to wait for the Messiah?

How do you know that the prophecy came true? How did Simeon react when what he was promised by God came true?

How can studying prophecies produce faith in Jesus?

PG 11

# SEARCH THE BIBLE

Read Isaiah 48:2-5. Why did God announce prophecies to the people?

How do you think we would view the Bible if we didn't have prophecies?

**Read Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 1:26-28.** Isaiah predicts that Jesus will be born of a virgin and you can see that God fulfills that prophecy.

**Read Matthew 1:20-23.** Why do you think it is significant that Jesus was called Immanuel?

Read Isaiah 16:5, Isaiah 37:31 and Isaiah 11:10. According to scripture, who would be the Messiah's ancestors?

Read Matthew 1:1-2, 5-6, 15 and Romans 15:12.

**Read Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1.** What prophecy was written and fulfilled in these two passages?

Read Matthew 4:13-16 and Matthew 2:22-23. Where did Jesus come from?

Read Jeremiah 31:15. What tragedy is predicted in this verse?

**Read Matthew 2:16-18.** What did Herod call for that fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah?

How does knowing that these promises were written 700 years before the birth of Christ, make the claims of Jesus and of Christianity easier to believe?

What can we do to reach those who don't believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah? Is there anything we can do specifically in our community to reach people for Christ?

PG 13

# BE CHALLENGED

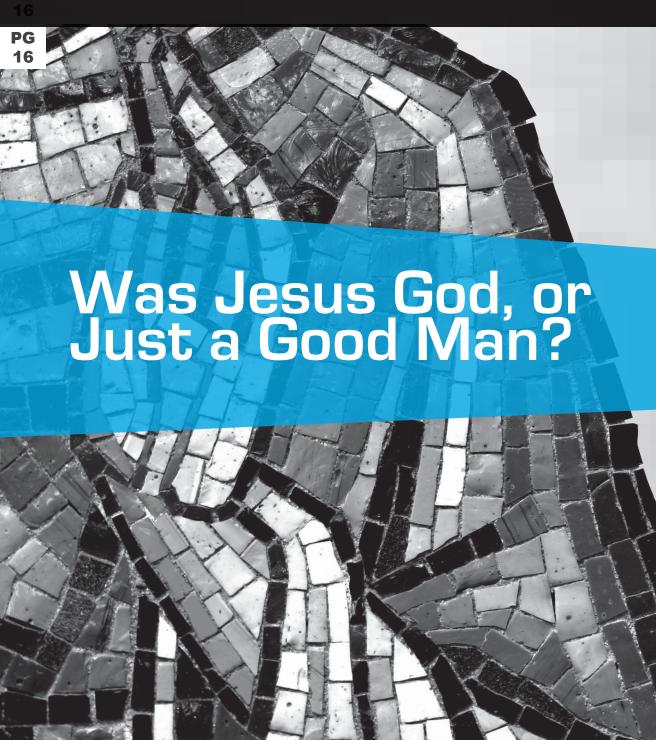
Commit to share your personal testimony of salvation (like we heard from David Nasser) with someone who does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. But don't let it end with your story. Initiate a relationship with them. Go a little deeper and share about the Old and New Testament prophecies that give authority to your belief. Trust in the person of Jesus Christ. Encourage an ongoing dialogue with that person about Jesus' claims. Write down how the conversation went here.

Today you saw the powerful story of Jason Castro. As he shared about his relationship with Jesus, consider how you would share your story with others. You can visit <a href="mailto:iamsecond.com">iamsecond.com</a> to see more stories and find some tools that help you share your faith with others.

# **FURTHER STUDY**

**Read Luke 2:41-52**. What do you think about 12-year-old Jesus' response to his parents: "Didn't you know I had to be in my father's house?" (vs. 49)

What did Jesus' response reveal about his identity and mission? Does his purpose and mission look the same as yours today?



# **ICEBREAKER**

Who do you say that I am?

PG

# VIDEO NOTES

# **REFLECT & DISCUSS**

In the video, David Nasser talked about how Jesus came from "humble beginnings." What were some of the details that made him seem so ordinary? Do you relate to any of that?

David said, "Jesus is the most controversial, the most worshipped, the most hated, the most revered, the most misunderstood person to have ever walked the earth." Why do you think that is?

In the video, David described Caesarea Philippi, saying it was "a place where a lot of idol worship and pagan rituals took place ... a god who was half goat, half man was worshipped here ... and people would do all kinds of ungodly practices here." What kind of idol worship exists in our society today?

In the midst of all the idol worship found in Caesarea Philippi, what were the disciples telling Jesus that people were saying about him?

What did Jesus ask the disciples?

How did Simon Peter answer?

How do we know this is the right answer?

Why is believing that Jesus is the Son of the living God an important decision for each of us to make?

In the video we saw an I Am Second clip where football coach Joe Gibbs talked about growing up and being told in school that two amoebas hit in a puddle of water and he was the result. Joe didn't believe this, however, and came to realize that God was his Creator and wanted him to do great things here on earth. What have you been told or taught about Jesus that contradicts what the Bible says?

Joe said that he's a very average person who God has allowed to enjoy some of the most exciting things in life. He said, "God wants us to live an abundant life." Do you sometimes feel like an average person and wonder if God can really give you a meaningful life? Explain.

**Note:** Joe Gibbs has done a lot of "above average" things in life: Led the Washington Redskins to eight NFL playoff appearances, four NFC Championship titles, and three Super Bowl titles. He's won three championships under his NASCAR team: *Joe Gibbs Racing* and has coauthored and authored several books.

PG 19

# SEARCH THE BIBLE

Lewis Trilemma - Only one of the three answers can be correct.

- 1. **He is a Liar.** This conclusion maintains that Jesus was not God and he knew it, but he purposefully lied and said he was God to deceive people.
- 2. **He is a Lunatic.** This conclusion maintains that Jesus was not God but was crazy and mistakenly believed he was God.
- 3. **He is Lord.** This conclusion maintains that Jesus' claim, that he is God, is 100% true.

**Read Luke 2:41-52.** The word "father" is used by both Mary and Jesus. What is the difference?

Read John 1:49-50. How did Nathanael see Jesus with a new pair of eyes?

**Read John 20:31.** John said that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and by believing, we can have life in his name. How can we know if we are not experiencing the life that God intends?

**Read Romans 1:3-4.** What proof does Paul offer as he claims that Jesus is the Son of God?

What role does the Spirit play today as we seek to know who Jesus is in Scripture?

PG 21

**Read John 10:36.** How is your faith encouraged or strengthened knowing that Jesus himself says that He is God's son?

**Read John 8:58-59.** What does Jesus mean when he says "before Abraham was born, I am"?

Why do you think the people who heard picked up stones to throw at Jesus?

In what ways do people today "throw stones" at those who claim to follow Christ?

# BE CHALLENGED

Think of a neighbor, co-worker, friend, or family member who needs physical healing in some certain way. How can you creatively meet that need this week, whether it's through providing clothes, food, gas, money, conversation, time, etc.? Use the opportunity to share who Christ is and how he can heal their physical and spiritual needs. Think back on the points in the Lewis Trilemma as you share Christ's claims.

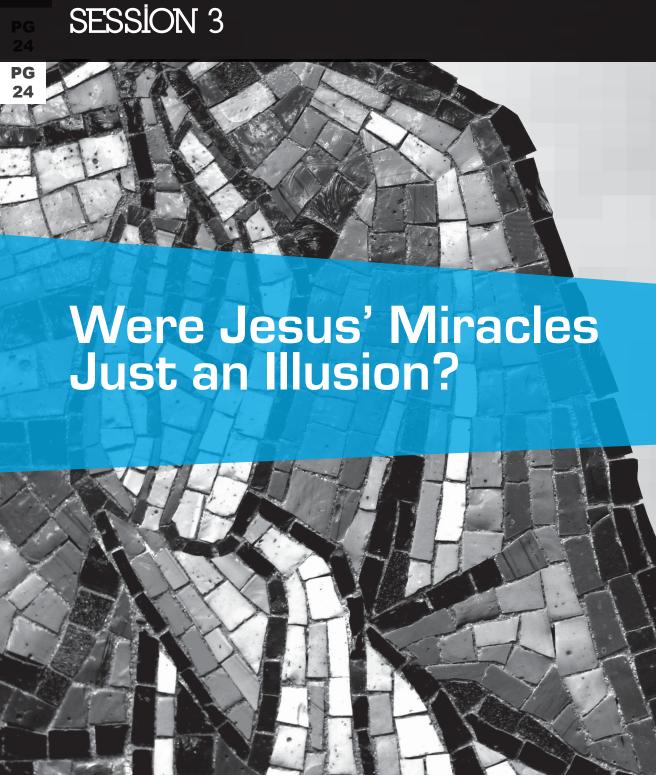
Today you saw the powerful story of Joe Gibbs. As he shared about his relationship with Jesus, consider how you would share your story with others. You can visit <a href="mailto:iamsecond.com">iamsecond.com</a> to see more stories and find some tools that help you share your faith with others.

# **FURTHER STUDY**

Read **Luke 5:17-26.** What was the man's greatest need, even greater than the healing of his paralysis?

How did Jesus' ability to physically and spiritually heal anyone in the power of his will, prove His deity?

How does his ability to forgive sins encourage you in some of the sins you struggle with today?



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# **ICEBREAKER**

Have you ever seen a famous magician like David Blaine, Criss Angel or David Copperfield on TV? What are some of the tricks you saw them perform? Did you enjoy watching the tricks, or did you find yourself preoccupied with figuring out how they were done?

What if the magician was actually telling you the truth when he claimed that everything you witnessed was a real miracle and not an illusion? How would that change how you felt about him?

# **VIDEO NOTES**

# **REFLECT & DISCUSS**

In the video, David Nasser listed many of the miracles that Jesus performed: Jesus calmed the storm; walked on water, caused the disciples to catch many fish; fed 5000 with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish; healed Peter's mother-in-law and the nobleman's son; cast out demons and raised the dead. How do you think the disciples felt when they saw the miracles?

How do you feel when you read about these miracles?

In explaining miracles, David said, "A miracle is an uncommon act of God. It's where God gets the attention, to help us believe more in Him by doing something that brings us to awe and brings us to worship ... so that we would believe." Why were these miracles important in showing who Jesus really was?

Why do you think people try to disprove or deny that Jesus' miracles were authentic?

**Read Matthew 11:20-24.** David talked about how Jesus loved the city of Capernaum, and even considered it his "own city." But Jesus cursed Capernaum because the people of these cities had heard his message and even seen his miracles but they still refused to repent and believe.

In what ways would it have grieved Jesus' heart to watch them reject his love and forgiveness?

As we look at modern-day America, with our many churches, Christian television and radio, Christian websites and blogs, Christian schools and clubs, Christian conferences and camps, what are some of the parallels between America and Capernaum?

In the video we saw an I Am Second clip where single-mother, Shawna, talked about her dreams for marriage, but how her marriage never fulfilled those dreams. But she realized that if she put Jesus first, he would fill her brokenness and become her "husband." What do you find amazing about Shawna's faith even though a "miracle" never happened in her marriage?

Shawna said that she doesn't know how her story will end, but that she has a Savior who is awesome: "I am the one that's living paycheck to paycheck, but I am so happy." In what ways have you had to trust God to supply all your needs when you had no way in doing it yourself?

WHY JESUS?

# SEARCH THE BIBLE

**Miracle: Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand. Read John 6:1-15.** (See also Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44 and Luke 9:10-17.)

When Jesus performed this miracle, he was validating his own claims; that he was the Son of God. But what else can we notice from Jesus accepting the young boy's offering?

Skeptics would say that Jesus hid all the bread and fish in the field the day before so it would look like he was multiplying it, or no one was really hungry, so the 5 loaves and 2 fish were plenty, or the disciples lied about his miracles and aided him in pulling off these "tricks." How would you reply logically to a skeptic?

Miracle: Jesus Walks on the Water (and then commands Peter to join him). Read Matthew 14:22-32. (See also Mark 6:45-52 and John 6:16-21.)

Skeptics would say that Jesus really just tip-toed on a sandbar or jetty, or he used props, or he really walked on ice. How would you reply logically to a skeptic?

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Miracle: Jesus Calms the Storm.

Read Matthew 8:23-27. (See also Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25.)

Skeptics say the Jesus was a weatherman who could predict the exact time a storm would stop and start or there was no storm that night but a shadow from the moon made the sea look uneven, or the disciples were dreaming. How would you reply logically to a skeptic?

Miracle: Jesus Heals a Paralytic. Read Luke 5:17-26.

What did the actions of these men reveal as they brought their friend to Jesus?

What did the men really need?

What did Jesus do even though they weren't there for the right reason?

What can we learn from the crippled man's friends?

Do you know anybody who's in need of the miracle of forgiveness? How can you "bring" them to Jesus?

### BE CHALLENGED

In the left blank below, write down some of the seemingly "little things" you can give to God this week. (Think about a specific talent, desire, relationship, task, fear, worry, conflict, struggle, etc.) After you write them down, read the verse to the right. Watch God do big things for his glory through what you offer to him.

Little things I can give:	Big things God promises:
	Psalm 28:8- The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. <i>NIV</i>
	1 Sam. 12:22- For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. <i>NIV</i>
	James 1:5- If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <i>NIV</i>
	Isaiah 43:2- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. <i>NIV</i>
	Philippians 4:6-7- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <i>NIV</i>
	Galatians 6:9- Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <i>NIV</i>

Today you saw the powerful story of Shawna. As she shared about her relationship with Jesus, consider how you would share your story with others. You can visit iamsecond.com to see more stories and find some tools that help you share your faith with others.

# **FURTHER STUDY**

**Read Matthew 27:15-44.** In Matthew's account of Jesus' excruciating and humiliating pain and suffering on the cross, what details do you notice about his humanity?

How does Jesus' great sacrifice on the cross encourage and deepen your faith today?

How does Jesus' resurrection from the dead encourage and deepen your faith today?

WHY JESUS?



# **ICEBREAKER**

Have you ever bought an off-brand product that looked like the real thing? What was it? Did anyone you know think it was the real thing?

When purchasing a brand name product, how can you really know if you're not being ripped off?

# **VIDEO NOTES**

PG 33

# REFLECT & DISCUSS

During his mock trial, Jesus had the opportunity to avoid crucifixion. What would he have had to do to avoid the death penalty?

How is the fact that Jesus was "pierced" and "crushed," parallel with the making of olive oil? Why did Jesus have to die?

What happened after Jesus was taken off the cross that changed the course of history and made Christianity distinct from all other faiths?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-17.** What makes Christianity the "real thing" and not a counterfeit?

How can people see the "real" us, instead of an imitation?

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Read Luke 24:49-53. Where is Jesus today?

**Read Revelation 19:10-16.** What emotions do you feel when you think of the battle of Armageddon?

Why is it so important that we settle the question, "Why Jesus?" as it pertains to the battle of Armageddon?

In the video we saw an I Am Second clip where actor Stephen Baldwin talked about "living a life of self-absorbance" and "having it all" while maintaining a lucrative career in the movie business. But how eventually, Stephen realized Jesus was the Savior of the world. He started reading the Bible and applying it to have a greater understanding of what it meant to have faith in Christ. "That's when it became real," he said. How does reading and meditating on Scripture allow you to grow in your faith? Why is it critical to know God as he's revealed himself in his word?

# SEARCH THE BIBLE

**Read Matthew 27:22-26.** After Jesus was arrested, the Jewish chief priests and elders decided to put him to death so they handed him over to the Roman governor, Pilate. What do we see about Pilate's character in verse 24?

How do you see "people-pleasing" pressure in behavior today?

Have you ever been faced with a choice that could have cost you your reputation? What happened?

Read Matthew 16:24-26. What does it mean to gain the whole world?

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How do you think these verses relate to Pilate's behavior?

Can you share a time when worldly things meant more to you than doing God's will?

**Read Matthew 27:27-31.** Why do you think the Roman soldiers were willing to humiliate and mock Jesus?

How do you see people mocking Jesus today? Have you ever been ridiculed for claiming Jesus as Lord?

**Read Matthew 27:32.** We can only imagine the humiliation, scorn, and unbelievable burden that Simon experienced in carrying Jesus' cross. Would you have willingly carried that burden if you were asked?

How have you found joy in choosing to deny yourself and help someone else through a difficult time?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Who deserves the punishment of death and what is "death"?

What do these verses say to us about the sacrifice of Jesus?

**Read John 14:5-7.** Is Jesus the only way to heaven? Do you believe that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life ... that no one comes to the Father except through Jesus?

PG 39

### BE CHALLENGED

Write out some truths in Scripture based on David's teaching that struck a chord with you in this series.

Choose three people you'll commit to pray for to know Jesus as their Messiah. Pray that God will use you as the tool to bring them to Jesus. Write down how you can be an influence in their faith journey.

Today you saw the powerful story of Stephen Baldwin. As he shared about his relationship with Jesus, consider how you would share your story with others. You can visit <a href="mailto:iamsecond.com">iamsecond.com</a> to see more stories and find some tools that help you share your faith with others.

# **FURTHER STUDY**

**Read Revelation 21:1-5.** How are you comforted that God is in the process of making *all* things new and that one day he's coming back to restore everything?

What ways have you seen his grace in your life in the past, and how can you trust in his future grace?

# MORE VIDEO RESOURCES FROM bluefish tv.com

For over 25 years, Bluefish TV has been creating video resources to engage audiences with spiritual truths. As a non-profit ministry, our goal is to create videos to help you teach. Over 90,000 churches have turned to Bluefish TV for their video teaching needs. It's our privilege to serve God and serve the church by creating these video resources.

Here are some additional resources from Bluefish TV. Check out www.bluefishtv.com for video previews and to order these for your ministry.

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with Chip Ingram and featuring Kurt Warner and Dave Ramsey Living Intentionally & Loving Biblically

### **Parenting: The Early Years**

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10 Biblical Traits Your Kids Will Remember You For

### **Uprising**

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### The Sacred Echo

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### **Paul the Apostle**

with David Nasser What Culture Doesn't Want You to Hear

### Facing the Unknown

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A Modern Look at the Life of Abraham

### **Free Market Jesus**

with Donald Miller How Our View of Culture Shapes Our View of the Gospel

### No Plan B

with Todd Phillips
Your Part in God's Remarkable Plan to Rescue the World filmed in Africa

### What if ...

...our small group made a difference in our lives? with Alan Danielson 4 Questions Every Small Group Should Ask Themselves

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with David Nasser Answering Tough Question About Our Savior filmed in Israel

### Conflict

with Doug Fields Overcoming Stress In Your Relationships

### Am I Happy?

with Sean McDowell
The Search for Something More

### Choose

with Marcus Goodloe

### **Friends**

with Sean McDowell

### **Paul in Rome**

with David Nasser

### I AM Getting to Know God

with David Nasser

### Sex. Dating.

with Hayley and Michael DiMarco

### **Teens vs. Parents**

with Mark Matlock

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