



Welcome back to the Road Trip! Last week, we took some time to evaluate the RISK of stepping out in faith along the road to becoming a passionate Christ follower. As we begin the journey of faith together, we must take some time to make sure we're headed in the right direction, so we can make it to our destination. Our goal this week is to answer the question, "How can we know for sure we're on the right road?"

- **Is there a time in your life that you were traveling somewhere, confident that you knew the way, but wound up headed in the wrong direction? Tell your story.**

- **Are you the kind of person that flies by the seat of your pants, or are you more apt to use GPS, maps, etc. to find your destination? Will you stop to ask directions?**

- **On Sunday, Eric talked us about using the Bible as our Road Map for becoming a passionate Christ follower. How have you been using your Bible to help you map out the journey ahead of you?**

- **READ *John 5:39*. What does this verse tell us about the importance of the Bible in being a passionate Christ-follower?**

- **READ *Romans 15:4*. Someone once developed an acronym for the Bible: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. What does this verse teach us about the results of learning from the Bible?**

- **READ *Psalms 119:41-45*. This passage gives us three key words for using the Bible in becoming a passionate Christ follower: TRUST, HOPE, and OBEY.**
 - **What do you think it means to TRUST the Bible?**

 - **In what ways does the Bible give you HOPE as a Christ-follower?**

 - **Why do you think it is important to consciously OBEY rather than just reading it and knowing it?**

- **What is your NEXT STEP in looking to the Bible as a ROAD MAP along the journey of becoming a passionate Christ-follower? How will you step up to the challenge of going to the next level?**



Auburn, Alabama

Hey GG Leaders!

Growth Groups
Leaders' Travel Guide
Week of May 18-24, 2008

I haven't heard from most of you yet regarding the information I gave you last week, so I'm going to reiterate it this week. PLEASE be sure I get the necessary feedback within TWO DAYS after your group meets.

Before you begin your discussion this week, we have several housekeeping items to take care of:

1. We will be continuing Growth Groups on a weekly basis through the END OF MAY.
2. On the week of June 1-7, we want every Growth Group to find a *Get-Off The Couch* activity to serve our local community. If you need ideas, please let me know immediately so we can help you plan.
3. For the remainder of June through the second week of August, I encourage your groups to find times to do things together. If you want to continue to have discussion time, I will be providing a set of 6 study guides that you can use whenever your group decides to meet. These questions will be based on the book *I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt* by Vince Antonucci. It's a great book with a crazy title that will challenge you in how you think about faith and life. If you want a book, let me know and I will get you a copy. If any members of your group want a copy, we will make some available for them to buy.
4. We will be kicking off our Fall Semester of Growth Groups within a couple of weeks after school starts. We will then be having a *Connection Party* early in September to establish some new groups or to remix some of the existing groups as we deem appropriate.
5. Following your Growth Group meetings, I ask that you email me feedback on how the discussion went (within 2 days of group meeting): andrew@journeytogether.net. The information I am looking for in such an email: Who was there, who was missing, general input on the flow of the discussion, who really seemed to connect with the discussion and/or experience some life-impact decisions, any prayer requests you deem appropriate for the church leadership, any other feedback you consider appropriate.
6. I need a list of names from every Growth Group Leader telling me exactly who is involved in your group on a regular basis. This will assist greatly in establishing new groups in the fall.

Thanks again!

Andrew



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As usual, the first two questions are ice-breakers to give your group an opportunity to loosen up and laugh a little before the discussion begins . . . These particular questions may or may-not be helpful later on in the discussion, so don't spend too much time here . . . just enough to get the group focused.

- **Is there a time in your life that you were traveling somewhere, confident that you knew the way, but wound up headed in the wrong direction? Tell your story.**
- **Are you the kind of person that flies by the seat of your pants, or are you more apt to use GPS, maps, etc. to find your destination? Will you stop to ask directions?**
- On Sunday, Eric talked us about using the Bible as our Road Map for becoming a passionate Christ follower. **How have you been using your Bible to help you map out the journey ahead of you?**

This questions is a very real diagnostic question. Be sure to take a little time to allow everyone in your group to answer before moving forward. As you listen to the answers, it will help you know where in the following discussion you need to focus, and it will help you work through the last question with your group?

- READ *John 5:39*. **What does this verse tell us about the importance of the Bible in being a passionate Christ-follower?**

You may have to coach your group through to find the answer to this question. The answer we are looking for is that to be a Christ-follower, you need to know Christ. In order to know Christ, you must find Him in the Bible.

- READ *Romans 15:4*. Someone once developed an acronym for the Bible: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. **What does this verse teach us about the results of learning from the Bible?**

There are three key words we are looking for in this question: *instruction, encouragement, and hope*. You may want to take a little time to insert some follow-up questions about each key word:

- How does the Bible instruct us?
 - How does the Bible encourage us?
 - What is this “hope” that this verse is talking about?
 - How does the Bible give us this hope?
- READ *Psalms 119:41-45*. This passage gives us three key words for using the Bible in becoming a passionate Christ follower: TRUST, HOPE, and OBEY.
 - **What do you think it means to TRUST the Bible?**

This may be a challenging questions for your folks to think through. However, getting a grasp on TRUST is a major issue that could potentially break your folks free from issues they are dealing with. **TRUST is simply confidence in the certainty of something.** As that relates to the Bible, trusting the Bible means that we have confidence that what we are reading is true and are certain that the promises it gives us are from God.

- **In what ways does the Bible give you HOPE as a Christ-follower?**

HOPE and TRUST are closely related. However, HOPE in this context essentially takes TRUST to the next level. Generally, when the Bible talks about HOPE, it infers a level of certainty that our everyday use of the word HOPE may not include. But, that certainty is not conjured up or received blindly. Our hope is built on the confidence of what we know about God and the promises He has given us for the future. Both this confidence and understanding the promises of God are dependent upon us knowing and understanding the Bible.

- **Why do you think it is important to consciously OBEY rather than just reading it and knowing it?**

One of the greatest complaints about Christianity is that people perceive it as a legalistic set of rules to be followed. When we start talking about “obedience,” it is easy to make this jump. However, as verse 45 points out, knowing and obeying the truths taught in Scripture actually brings FREEDOM, not the bondage people complain about. The problem occurs when we get things out of order. If we focus on obedience BEFORE the trust and hope, there is bondage. However, if we focus on the trust and hope first, obedience sets us free from the influences of everything else around us, including our own selfish desires. Knowing something without an appropriate response is hypocrisy, another major hurdle to those far from God. If we are going to be passionate Christ-followers, we need to follow Christ with the same kind of trust and hope that Jesus had when he obeyed the Father’s will to the point of death on the cross.

- **What is your NEXT STEP in looking to the Bible as a ROAD MAP along the journey of becoming a passionate Christ-follower? How will you step up to the challenge of going to the next level?**

I encourage you to take some time to develop answers for each member of your group. I also encourage you to revisit the application from Sundays message:

- READ it
- MEMORIZE it
- DO it.

Find out what steps each group member are planning on taking as their next step. If someone seems to be making a significant step, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!