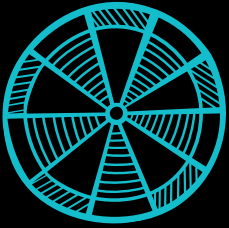


## BAD BET 2



STAY SAFE  
WITH SIMILAR  
PEOPLE



# NAME THE GAME

Let's face it: we live in a culture where divisiveness is common. And in a climate like this, it's tempting to huddle up with people who look like us, think like us, and see the world like we do. Sometimes we huddle for safety or to not feel so alone in the world. Other times, it's to avoid conflict. But while it may be easier to live this way, is it better? What if this approach is a really bad bet that holds us back from living the type of big and full life Jesus wants for us?

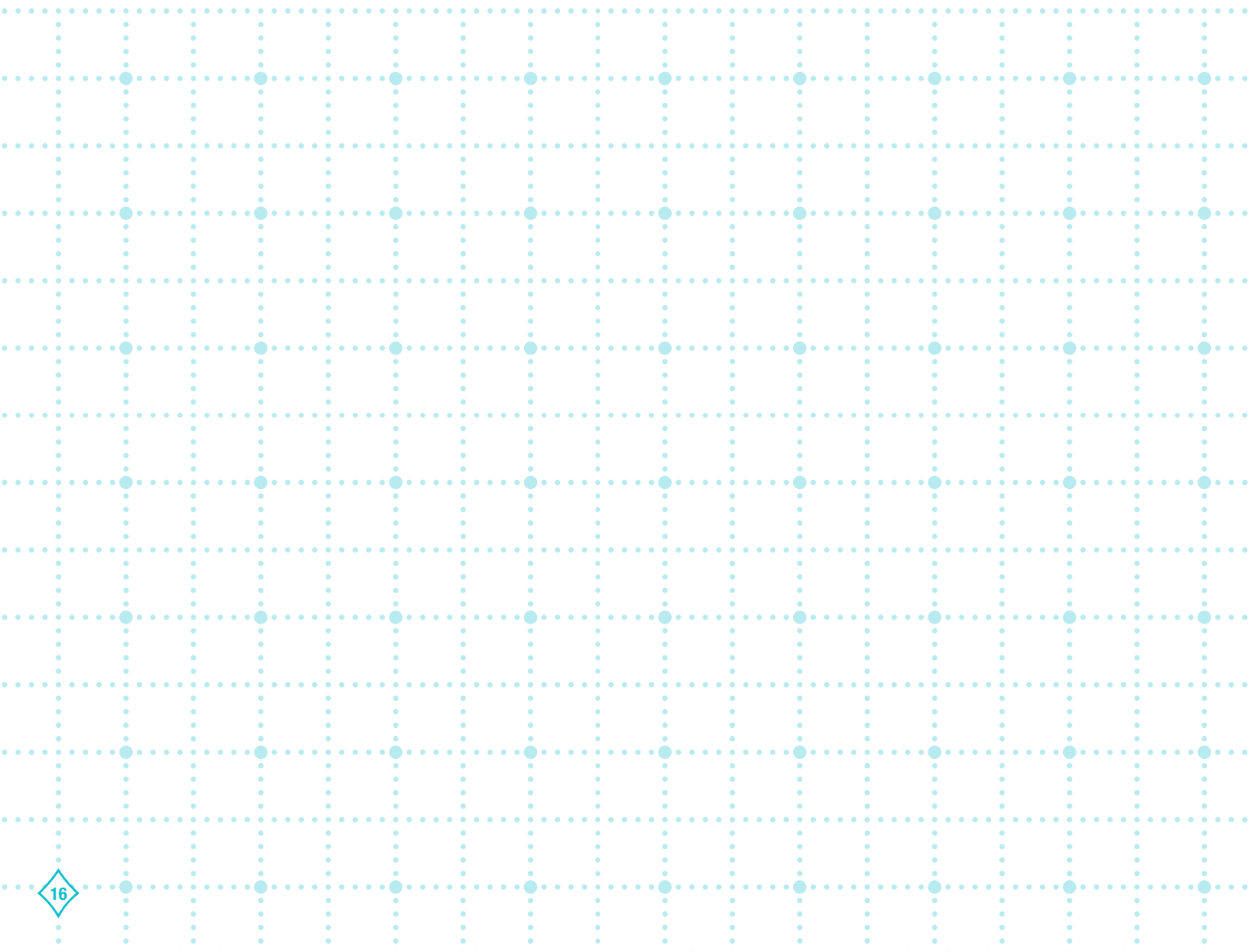
- ♣ In this week's video, Jeff visits the Hoover Dam, an iconic American landmark near Las Vegas. Which iconic landmark is your favorite to visit? Why?
- ♣ People from different backgrounds come together to visit places like the Hoover Dam all the time. But intentionally gathering with people who are different seems less common in today's culture. Most people acknowledge (and even complain) that we live in a polarized world. Why do you think this type of division exists? Have you seen it get better or worse in your lifetime?



# SET THE TABLE

## WATCH THE VIDEO FOR SESSION 2

Use the space below to take notes (or doodle, whatever works best for you).



# SHUFFLE THE DECK

Read **Ephesians 2:14-16**.

- ♣ What does it mean that Jesus reconciled people to people at the cross?
- ♣ Jeff shared how Jesus was a bridge-builder. From what you know about Jesus, how did He model this with the way He lived? Share some examples that stand out to you.
- ♣ What does it look like to live in this world today as a bridge-builder? Do you know anyone in your life who does it well? What makes them effective?
- ♣ What have you learned about resisting the pull towards polarization in our culture? Have you changed any habits or actions recently in order to avoid making this bad bet?
- ♣ Being a bridge-builder in a divisive culture can be controversial and challenging. It certainly was for Jesus. What are some challenges you've encountered when you've tried to build bridges?
- ♣ Is it ever okay to wall ourselves off and be protective? How would you know if it is time to do that?

Let's think more specifically about being bridge-builders. Take five minutes to do the **Closer Look Activity** on pages 18-19.

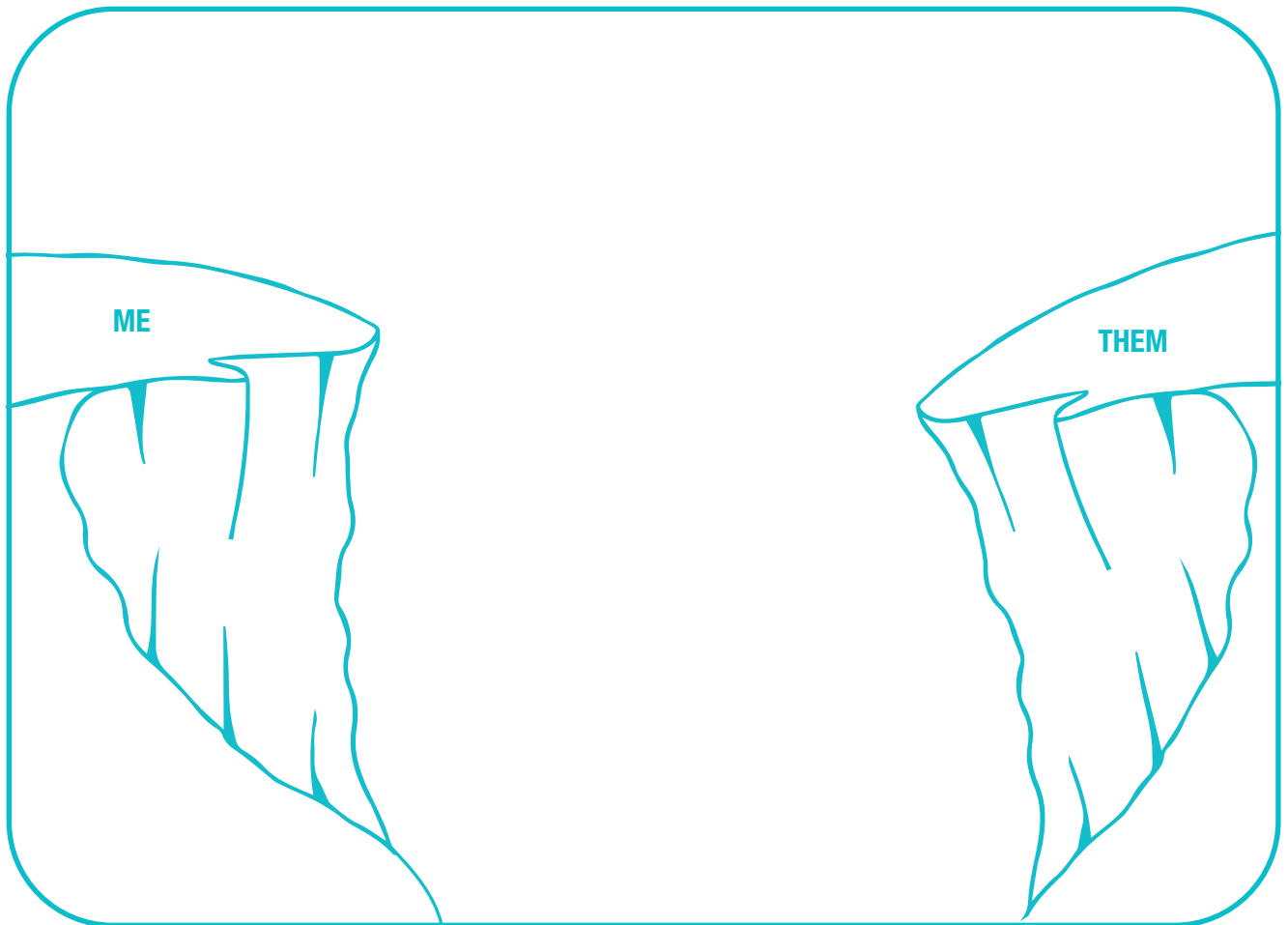
- ♣ Go ahead—show off your bridges to each other. You know you want to! What type of design did you go with?
- ♣ Who are some of the “thems” you wrote down that you feel called to connect with and move towards?
- ♣ What are some specific steps you can take to build bridges to them?

Take a moment to close in prayer. Ask God to help you see like He sees, love like He loves, and build bridges like He builds bridges. Also remind each other about the **Daily Devotionals** on pages 20-21.

# CLOSER LOOK ACTIVITY

## DRAW A BRIDGE

We're serious! You can draw a trestle bridge, a drawbridge, or any other style you like. Take a moment, channel your inner engineer, architect, or artist, and draw a bridge between the two cliffs.



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After you draw your bridge, think about some “themes” that it would be easy to be walled off from but whom you would like to connect with and move towards. It could be a specific person or a people group. List out as many as you’d like.

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What are some specific steps you can take to build a bridge and move towards the “themes” you wrote down?

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# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



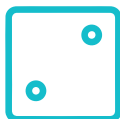
## READ

### JOHN 17:22-23

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

## REFLECT

Jesus prayed that the church would resist the natural pull toward division and disunity. Take a moment and pray for the unity of the church.



## READ

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

## REFLECT

Reconciling means to bring into harmony. How can you bring the harmonious message of God's love to the world today?



## READ

### COLOSSIANS 1:19-20

For God was pleased to have his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

## REFLECT

God made peace through Jesus on the cross. Where in your life today could you use more of God's peace and presence?



## READ

### EPHESIANS 4:31

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

## REFLECT

Being a bridge-builder means watching our heart and words carefully. Where is there bitterness, rage, anger, or slander? How can you get rid of it today?



## READ

### EPHESIANS 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## REFLECT

Christ-followers are commanded to be kind and compassionate. How can you extend kindness and compassion to others in a tangible way?