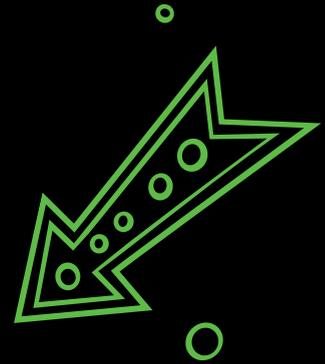


BAD BET 1



**DO WHAT
FEELS RIGHT**



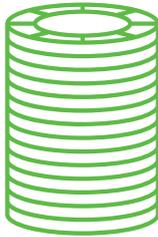
NAME THE GAME

“What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!” Las Vegas represents ultimate freedom in our culture. It’s a place that gives people permission to do whatever they want, without any inhibitions. That kind of freedom sounds great. Many of us spent our childhoods dreaming of the time when we could be our own authorities, free from rules and restrictions from parents or teachers. But is doing what feels right and basing our lives on our own truth really freeing? Or does it actually lead in the opposite direction?

- ♣ If this is your first group meeting, or if you have new people in your group, introduce yourselves.
- ♣ What is one game (card, board, sports, etc.) you are really good at? How did you get good at it?

Before we get going, take a moment to think about how you’re doing right now. Look at the different stacks of chips below. With a pen or pencil, color in the stack of chips to indicate how energized or full you feel in that area.

- ♣ Where do you have a lot of chips?
- ♣ Where are you low?



SOCIAL LIFE

Friendships, family,
co-workers, neighbors



PHYSICAL LIFE

Health, stress, fitness



MENTAL LIFE

Handling worries, anxiety,
temptation; learning and
exploring new ideas



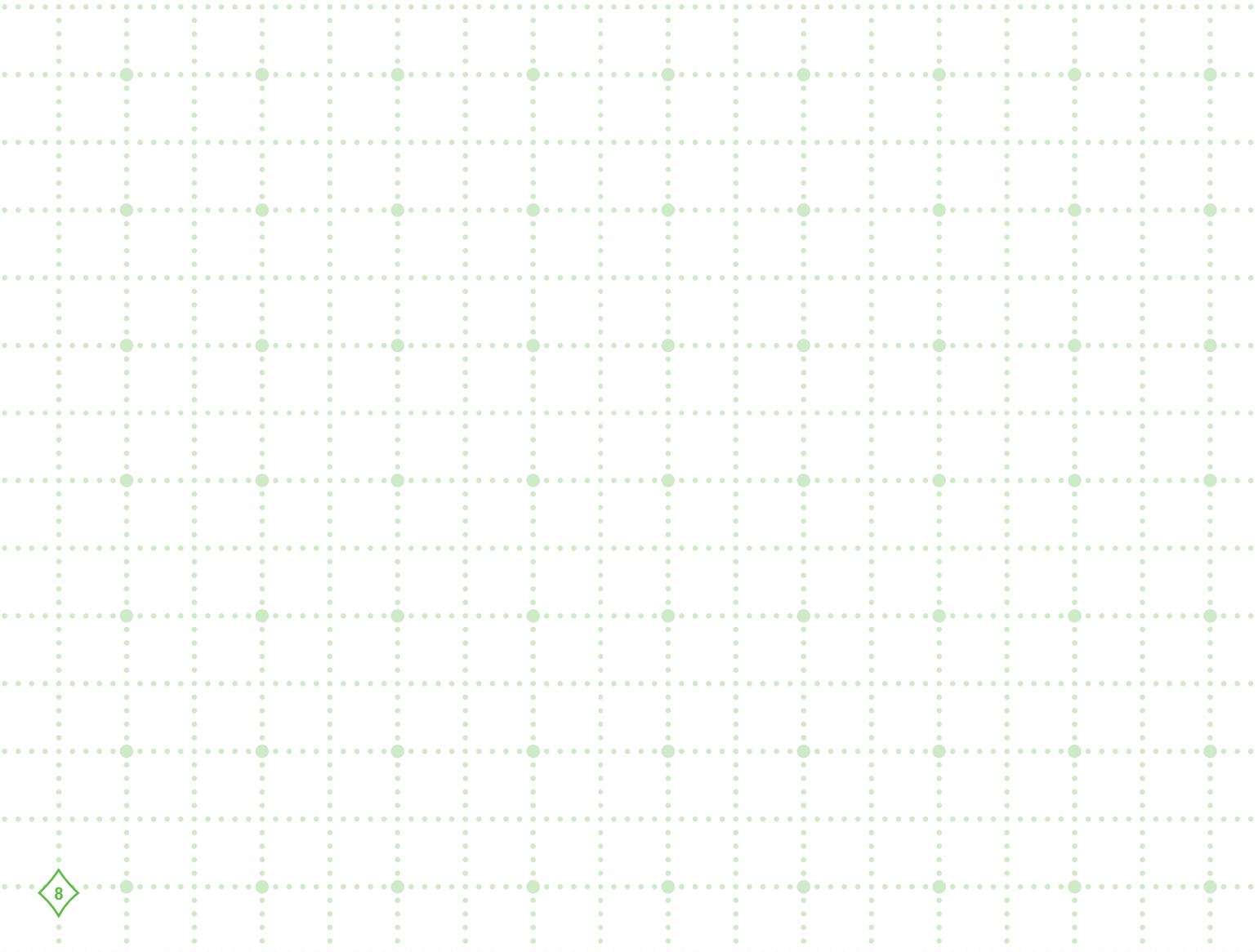
SPIRITUAL LIFE

Connection with God, prayer,
Bible reading, church

SET THE TABLE

WATCH THE VIDEO FOR SESSION 1

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



SHUFFLE THE DECK

- ♣ Would you describe yourself as an independent-minded person? What are the strengths of having that mindset? What are the potential weaknesses?

Read **Galatians 6:7-9**.

- ♣ What does it mean that people reap what they sow? Can you share a few practical examples from your life where you found this to be true?
- ♣ Is it really true that all decisions have consequences? How do you explain when successful people seem to get away with doing a lot of hurtful or harmful things?

Read **Proverbs 14:12** and **28:26**.

- ♣ Proverbs says that our feelings can deceive us: something can appear to be right but actually lead us astray. Can you think of a time where something felt right in the moment but actually led you to a wrong direction or to a big regret?
- ♣ Proverbs also says it is foolish to trust in ourselves—to try to live by our own truth and authority. Yet it's a pretty common perspective in our culture today. Why do you think that is the case? What makes the idea of submitting to another authority really difficult for so many of us?
- ♣ Jesus talked about how true freedom comes from building our lives on what He says to do. He says real life comes from following Him. In your view, what does it mean to follow Jesus?

Have everyone take five minutes to do the **Closer Look Activity** on pages 10-11.

- ♣ Which chips did you circle that are holding you back in your relationship with Jesus? Why?
- ♣ In which areas do you feel like you have room to grow in your relationship with Jesus? Share why with the group.
- ♣ How can we as a group help each other to follow Jesus more closely?

One of the ways we can grow in our relationship with Jesus is to get into His Word for a few minutes each day. That's where our **Daily Devotionals** come in. We've included five daily verses and prompts for reflection to read this coming week. You can find these on pages 12-13.

Take a moment to close in prayer.

CLOSER LOOK ACTIVITY

WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?

Fill in any of the chips below that are keeping you from going deeper in your relationship with Jesus.
There are a few blank chips if you want to fill in your own ideas.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DOUBT | <input type="checkbox"/> | LACK OF MOTIVATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LACK OF FOCUS | <input type="checkbox"/> | ANGER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PAST CHURCH EXPERIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | CURRENT LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | STRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> | UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GUILT | <input type="checkbox"/> | STUBBORNNESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

THE DIFFERENT ROLES OF JESUS

In “A Spiritual Formation Workbook,” author James Bryan Smith shares how Jesus functions in four main ways in a Christ-follower’s life: Savior, Teacher, Lord, and Friend. Here’s how he describes these roles:

JESUS AS MY SAVIOR

He forgives my sins and sets me free.

JESUS AS MY TEACHER

He teaches me wisdom and guides me into truth.

JESUS AS MY LORD

He lives at the center of my life.

JESUS AS MY FRIEND

He understands and comforts me.

For your own life, in which role have you experienced Jesus the most and understand Him the best?

In which role is there room for you to grow in your relationship with Jesus?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



READ

GALATIANS 6:7-8

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

REFLECT

Take a moment to think through your typical day. What are you sowing toward with your habits, words, and actions?



READ

GALATIANS 6:9-10

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.

REFLECT

Do you see yourself as God's masterpiece today? He's working in you in order to work through you.



READ

JEREMIAH 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

REFLECT

Our feelings can trick us if we're not careful. Hit the pause button on your day and do a heart check. Is there anything you need to release to God today?



READ

PSALM 119:99-100

I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes. I have
more understanding than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.

REFLECT

Where do you need insight and
wisdom today? Ask God to give you
understanding.



READ

JOHN 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and
destroy; I have come that they may have
life, and have it to the full.

REFLECT

What does it mean to you to have life
to the full? Where do you need more of
God's joy, peace, and purpose today?