



Leader Guide Session 1

Watch

Play the video segment for session one (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you and your group watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

In 1961, President Kennedy delivered what would become known as the "moonshot speech." He said that America was going to take back the air and reclaim the high ground that is outer space.

But God's plan was even more complex, more crazy, and more audacious than John F. Kennedy's moonshot scheme. He chose to leap-frog past all the problems of sinful humanity by sending his Son, Jesus, to the earth to die on the cross, rise from the dead, and save us from our sins.

We've heard before that the cross is necessary for us to be forgiven from our sins. But we need to understand that the cross is also there to help us with our secrets.

The cross is not just a rescue mission to save us from our sins but also to help us see our secrets in a brand-new light-those parts of us that are just more interesting because they are damaged.

God gave us the gospel and sent his Son into the world to die for us. He now wants us to go out with that same message and work as one to restore the hope of a lost and fallen humanity.

There is a weight to sin. God allowed Jesus, his Son, to deal with that heavy weight of sin so that we would have the fear of death and have the pain taken off of us.

The Hebrew word for forgiveness-the Hebrew word that describes the weight of sin being taken away-is nasa. our God is a God who forgives and takes away the weight of our sin.

Just as John F. Kennedy's plan changed the course of world history, so God's plan has changed the course of all eternity, giving us a possibility for life where previously there was only death.

Discussion

1. America faced a "crisis in the skies" in the late 1950s. How would you describe that crisis? What was President Kennedy's bold solution to address the situation?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-4. What is the "crisis in the skies" taking place in the spiritual realm? What was God's bold solution to address this situation?
3. Just like the moon, we all have a "dark side" that we try to keep hidden-those parts of us that have been damaged. Why do we tend to hide these parts from others?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10. What does Paul say about his weaknesses? How have you seen God use a weakness in your life and turn it into a strength?
5. Read Exodus 34:6-7. What does God say about his character in these verses? How have you experienced the power of God's forgiveness in your life?
6. God can bring change in your past, your present, and your future. As you begin this study, in which of these areas would you most like to experience change?