



IN 2008, 24,000 PEOPLE
AND 41 CHURCHES—
BIG, SMALL, SUBURBAN,
CITY—WENT ON THE
SAME JOURNEY.

2009 IS AROUND THE
CORNER, AND YOU'RE
INVITED TO JOIN IN.

HOW IT ALL SHAKES DOWN

CHURCH-WIDE JOURNEY 

Once a year (in the space between the Super Bowl and Easter), a church-wide journey begins. For six weeks, we zero in on one topic. Everyone—from kids to the old folks— is on the same page, learning about the same topics and growing in similar ways. By enhancing each church's weekend message and experience, individual study and small group gatherings, the journey becomes a multi-layered, multi-sensory, multi-community experience. Whether Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Baptist, Catholic, non-denominational...we join as one.

And we'd love for you to take part.

JOURNEY BASICS

THE JOURNEY CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS.

WEEKEND This is our broadest platform for teaching. Although not all churches and groups will go through this process in the same way, we generally consider this the first step of the weekly cycle.

INDIVIDUAL STUDY A journey guide or companion piece provides a way for people to reflect on readings and experiment with doing things on their own during their week. Any “challenges” in the individual materials link to the week’s learning objectives. Individual study should happen before small group gatherings.

SMALL GROUP This is the opportunity to share learning in community. Small group time provides a chance to debrief on individual study; it also provides challenges or discussion prompts for groups to tackle in their time together. Small group experiences have been facilitated in the past via DVDs, games, a group “box” and other printed materials. All small groups have a volunteer host(s) and can happen in homes, diners, parks, you name it.

FOUR TIES UNIFY THE JOURNEY.

BIBLE In all parts of the journey experience, we encourage people to read the Bible every week, and we use specific passages to build and surround the teachings.

PRAYER We provide opportunities and challenges for people to pray in ways that stretch them.

COMMUNITY We facilitate people sharing their experiences in small groups. New groups are encouraged to form—whether they’re based on geographic proximity, life phases, etc. Depending on the content of the journey, pre-existing groups might be asked to stay together or consider whether splitting up (temporarily or permanently) might be a good opportunity for reproduction beyond the group. Churches doing the same study all across Cincinnati (and beyond) is another way for bridging communities.

MISSION Each journey has a specific objective. For example, the mission of the 2007 journey (“Kingdom”) was for people to get a taste of living out the Kingdom of God.

MATERIALS

Crossroads creates the overall branding for the journey and manages the creative execution of personal guides and small group materials. No one makes a dime in the process (well, except the printers), and participating churches are invoiced directly by the printer at costs that leverage the bulk discounts associated with everyone’s orders.

THE JOURNEY STARTS IN FEBRUARY AND ENDS IN MARCH.

At Crossroads, we begin communicating to our own community about the journey in November, so there’s time to recruit and (optionally) train hosts. In January, we communicate more aggressively to give people plenty of time to form small groups before the journey begins.

NEXT STEP?

Check out www.thejourneypartners.com or contact Journey Project Manager, Margie Bajema at 513.731.7400 x556 or mbajema@crossroads.net.

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO RVSP, GO TO WWW.THEJOURNEYPARTNERS.COM.



A STARTLING GROUNDSWELL, A STREET-LEVEL FREEDOM FIGHTER, A CONTROVERSIAL REBEL: **JESUS.**

Let's hit the reset button, or begin for the first time to discover our own beliefs about the most influential person in history.

Let's unclutter our assumptions of Jesus, go deeper than pop spirituality and push through the stained-glass sound bytes.

Let's meet—or re-meet—the God who got dirty with the world. The man people ran to, and ran from. The man who captained boats, ate meals with crooks and call girls, threw hillside parties, made kings panic. The man who brought the world an outlandish message and then said, "Follow me."

JOIN A 1,008-HOUR JESUS EXPERIENCE.
DON'T EXPECT TO FINISH.

02.09  RESET

A JOURNEY 

2009 JOURNEY SUMMARY ('RESET')

THE OBJECTIVE

Engage our church community, friends, neighbors and co-workers in a relational, six-week exploration of the person and implications of Jesus through weekend experiences, personal challenges and small group interactions.

THE METHOD

Incorporate regular prayer, Bible reading (specifically the book of Luke) and small group community to engage individuals' heart, head and hands in uncovering fundamental truths about Jesus.

Resources will constitute a multi-sensory, seeker-friendly, apologetic experience centered on the life and meaning of Jesus as the Revolutionary. These resources, in concert with a personal guide and group-facilitating materials, will enable seekers to make their own discoveries and draw their own conclusions about the significance of Jesus in their lives, and will challenge believers to seek Jesus as the Lord of their lives (not "just" their Savior or bus ticket to heaven). The materials will also provide strong support for believers looking to bolster their understanding of some of the rationale for their faith. The primary content-delivery vehicles will be the weekend experiences in conjunction with a DVD for use in the small group. The personal guide will be more exploratory in nature and will challenge the individual to re-think their existing understanding of Jesus and the Church and to immediately apply new learning via individual challenges.

THE "MAIN THING"

Jesus is real, he meant what he said and this has implications for how you live your life.

CONT'D

2009 JOURNEY SUMMARY ('RESET')

THE FRAMEWORK

Here's a rough conceptual framework for each week. The "question" is the overall question that we're trying to satisfy with the week's materials and weekend experience.

1. JESUS IS REAL

The Jesus of history must be dealt with, and the scriptural accounts we have of his life, deeds and words are reliable.

QUESTION: "Can a rational person buy into this Jesus thing?"

2. JESUS IS UNIQUE

Jesus' claims exclude other options and interpretations.

QUESTION: "Why should Jesus' claims matter to me?"

3. JESUS IS REVOLUTIONARY

Following Jesus demands counter-cultural allegiance.

QUESTION: "What does it look like to be aligned with Jesus?"

JESUS IS REAL

4. JESUS IS LOVE

Jesus came to redraw the battle lines, and self-sacrificial love is the "weapon of choice" for the revolution he came to start.

QUESTION: "What does it look like to love?"

5. JESUS IS ACCESSIBLE

Jesus is accessible to anyone who seeks him, and we can interact and receive from him directly through prayer.

QUESTION: "How can I/why should I get close to Jesus?"

6. JESUS IS ALIVE

Jesus is alive, present and active in leading the ongoing rebellion against the powers of this world and the restoration of his kingdom. The Church is Plan "A."

QUESTION: "Where do I fit in?"

LIVING AS IF JESUS MEANT WHAT HE SAID

THE NUMBER OF SMALL GROUPS EXPLODES.
COMMUNITIES ARE STRENGTHENED.

LIVES CHANGE.

