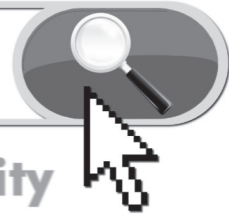


The **Search** for

me |



a journey toward a rock solid identity

Study Guide

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The Search for Me - A Journey Toward a Rock Solid Identity - Study Guide

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The Search for Me

A Journey Toward a Rock Solid Identity

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Opening Thoughts

Our hearts are conflicted! In many ways we yearn for adventure and significance while still craving comfort and security. All too often our fears and insecurities win the day, and so, we find ourselves as spectators admiring from afar those willing to risk the unavoidable discomfort that always stands as a barrier to greatness.

Isn't it time for a change? Doesn't the *status quo* continue to force you along the slow and painful road to nowhere? I've certainly had more than enough of the *same old, same old*. Perhaps you can relate.

Personally, I just couldn't wait any longer! In so many ways we weren't ready to do this production, but I simply couldn't wait for the *perfect* time to begin this powerful project. If I had, we'd still be waiting . . . and wondering. The need is too great and the time too late to warrant further delay on any of our parts.

I'll be perfectly honest up front—this is a *real* production, somewhat short on outward packaging, but strong on plumbing the depths of the central issues of life. From the set to the sound to the limited abilities and mispronunciations of the speaker, you will find plenty of imperfections. But, if you are looking to go beyond the surface to grapple with the core issues of life, I think you will absolutely love this study!

The production of *The Search for Me* study materials has formed an integral part of my personal journey as I walk with God. It's been a lot of work and we've faced so many challenges along the way, but our God has provided the grace and resources to *git er done!* Given the circumstances, the fact that we were even able to produce this series is nothing short of miraculous. Through our struggles He met us in so many ways!

The production of this study has been a labor of love for so many people. I can't begin to mention all them without missing someone who made an important contribution of some sort. All involved would agree, however, that without the dedicated, tireless work of Sam *The Intern* Hakes, the DVD recording of this study would not have happened.

All who have contributed to this work deeply desire to see God's name glorified and His Church made whole. Our prayer is that your participation in this study has a profound, lasting impact on your life and on your relationships with God and others.

Please note that this study was produced as a small group resource to help facilitate the vision and work of Christian ministries. While there is considerable value in going through this study on your own, I believe that the greatest benefit will come from utilizing *The Search for Me* materials in some type of small group setting.

One beauty of a small group study is that you grow together as you walk with God. Each person will approach the journey differently. Some are excited to jump in while others will stand on the bank of the river, dangling their toes in the water as they contemplate their next move. Observation is okay for a season. Please don't drag or push anybody in!

Interpersonal relationships can only go as deep as the level of trust that will be established. Therefore, group discussions should be kept confidential within the group. Possible exceptions would involve a person's physical well-being, anything with legal ramifications, or any other previously agreed upon criteria.

Transformation begins with personal honesty followed by open and honest dialogue with mature people we can trust. We are usually not alone in our issues and we can find great strength through helping each other overcome our struggles. For this reason we have added discussion questions to help you process the material and to grow together as a group.

Each chapter of the study is divided into three sections in order to help you better navigate the material. Viewing and discussing one section per meeting is the most effective way to participate in this study, but we realize that time and circumstances may dictate otherwise.

For those who are tackling an entire chapter per meeting, there is no way you will be able to cover all of the questions. Thus, some questions are in bold-faced font as per our recommendation. What and how much you cover will be up to each individual group. A question that strikes one group at a particular time may not mean as much to another.

Some of the concepts discussed may be challenging to grasp—especially for those unfamiliar with the Bible. That's okay! Everybody has to start somewhere. Don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be ashamed if you don't know where certain things are in that *big book*. Learning comes with time and effort. Going through *The Search for Me* series more than once is highly recommended!

As a teacher I believe that my primary role is to *unlock truth* and to help you *connect the dots* in your understanding of the Christian faith. Knowledge, however, cannot be equated with growth. Personal effort (and risk) will be necessary if you seek to be truly transformed by His truth. A reasonable amount of homework is provided with each chapter. *The Search for Me* study will take you deeper, but what you gain will in part depend upon the effort you expend in positioning yourself to receive.

Again, don't be afraid to ask questions, but please know that an understanding of God's truth comes first and foremost as it is revealed by the Holy Spirit. I recommend that you pray fervently throughout the coming weeks for God to open your eyes and give you the ability to understand His truth. If you continue to pursue God by faith and submit your life to His loving hand, clarity will eventually come—and so will a new found freedom!

Enjoy your adventure!

Bob Santos

Teacher/Guide