

# A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God

## Leader's Guide



## Welcome

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Sometimes what we believe about the Christian life comes from a single but prominent point of view—an older Christian we look up to, a preacher, or a parent. However, is there only one way of living the life of a Jesus follower? This series tackles popular assumptions about Christian living that create stress and failure rather than growth and joy.

## Series Overview

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### **Week 1: Leave the Rules Behind**

Larry discusses the difference between religion and spirituality. You will learn that the Christian life is more about a relationship with a person rather than a list of rules to follow.

### **Week 2: You Don't Need More Faith or Passion**

We often blame our lack of faith and passion for the times when our relationship with God feels off. However, Larry explains that we actually do not need more of both.

### **Week 3: You Don't Need Someone Else's Habits or Gifts**

Learn what it means to experience “best practice overload.” In this session, Larry will talk about how we can become obsessed with what other Christians are doing. It is not our job to copy them; it is our job to obey Jesus.

### **Week 4: Don't Let Tools Become Rules**

Some Christians will say that balance and spiritual disciplines are necessary for living a healthy Christian life; however, nowhere in the Bible can you find commands for these things. Find out why these are important, but not mandated for healthy Christian living.

### **Week 5: Is it a Sin to be Average?**

Discover the difference between leadership and discipleship. Larry will explain why everyone should be a disciple, but not all are supposed to be leaders.

## Discipleship Insights

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- Every group meeting is an improvisation. No matter how much you prepare, there is always a chance someone will ask a question you cannot answer or that the discussion will go somewhere unexpected. Maybe someone in the group has a crucial need you will have to address. Alternatively, maybe the Spirit will give you a new understanding of how a passage applies to your group.
- Before you start the video, think of some fun icebreaker games that you can play with the group. Remember that people want to get to know each other as well as study God's Word.
- You as the leader will be setting the tone for the study. If you offer a comment that is authentic, vulnerable, or a bit challenging, then others will feel that they have permission to do the same. You will cultivate meaningful conversation and growth.
- Take the challenges seriously even if they seem weird! You never know what God can do through something different in your life. Break free from your normal routines and try something out of the box.
- This is a great study for people who have questions about their faith—and especially for people with questions about Christianity. Use this study as an opportunity to invite someone new into your group who might believe something different from you.