

JOHN ELDREDGE

BEAUTIFUL

Outlaw

EXPERIENCING THE PLAYFUL, DISRUPTIVE,

EXTRAVAGANT PERSONALITY OF JESUS

LEADER'S GUIDE



WELCOME

You've gotta love Jesus' playfulness. After two of his disciples encounter the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, they excitedly go and tell their fellow disciples what happened, and "while they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you'" (Luke 24:36).

Here are Jesus' friends standing around, probably with their eyes and mouths open wide, as they hear this astonishing report. Surely they wonder, *Can it be true? Is Jesus really alive?!* And then Jesus just sort of pops in, as if to casually say, "Hey guys, what's up?" How much fun he must have had blowing his friends' minds in that moment! Imagine their surprise, immediately followed by shouts of joy, cheering, and laughter as they exchanged hugs in celebration. Jesus is indeed playful, and he delights in joining his friends and surprising them with the unexpected.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO LEAD THIS STUDY?

We get together and Jesus shows up. Seriously, it's that simple. And he doesn't just show up; he *reveals* himself, like he did for his disciples, and it causes us to love him even more. That's how our small group works. A handful of folks get together with a hunger to know Jesus with openness and honesty, and Jesus honors that and shows up every time.

You don't have to be a pastor or have a seminary degree to lead a group of people through this study. Just invite a few folks over, watch the video, and talk about it. This leader's guide will give you what you need to prepare for the time and facilitate a meaningful

experience. All you need is a willing heart, a little courage, and Jesus will do the rest. Really.

HOW THIS STUDY WORKS

The *Beautiful Outlaw* video series is presented in 18 sessions which correspond with the 17 chapters and epilogue in the book. You can do this video study without the book, but it will be far, *far* more powerful if you and your small group read the book as part of the experience.

Each week you and your group will:

- Read a chapter of *Beautiful Outlaw*.
- Answer a few pre-session questions in the participant's guide.
- Meet together and watch the corresponding video session in which John reads the chapter from his book. This way you will “experience” the chapter as a group as well as refresh your memory of what you read individually.
- Talk about it.

That's it! By the end of the 18 sessions, your group may want to continue with other resources to help you love Jesus and live life in deeper intimacy with him. Check out what we have available to facilitate more spiritual growth and relational connectivity in your group at www.ransomedheart.com.

This series can be used in classroom settings, such as in Sunday school classes, though you may need to modify the discussion time depending on the size of the class.

A FEW TIPS FOR LEADING THE GROUP

- Setting really matters. If you can choose a living room over a church meeting room, do it! Pick an environment that's conducive to people being able to relax and get real. Do what you can to remove all distractions (turn off background music, ask everyone to turn off their cell phones, silence your house phone, etc.). Set the chairs or couches in a circle—you don't want a classroom feel.
- Good equipment is important, too. Try and meet where you can watch the video sessions on a screen big enough for everyone to see and enjoy. Get or borrow the best gear you can.
- Stick to the schedule—begin and end at the same time each session. The people in your group are probably busy, and if they can trust you to be a good steward of their time, they will be more willing to come back week after week.
- Your honesty sets the tone for your time together. Be willing to answer questions personally, as this will set the pace for the length of responses and will make others feel more comfortable sharing.
- Keep in mind the goal: connecting with Jesus and with one another. Be aware of the religious spirit—don't get distracted by arguing over controversial topics, and don't let the “doctrine police” rule a meeting with their theological rantings. Focus on the key thoughts mentioned in the participant's guide.
- Don't be afraid of silence or emotion. Welcome awkward moments.

BEAUTIFUL OUTLAW LEADER'S GUIDE

- Don't dominate the conversation. Even though you are the leader, you are also a member of the small group, so don't steamroll over others in an attempt to lead.
- Prepare for your meetings—spend time in prayer and review this leader's guide before each meeting. You'll feel less nervous about leading if you do! In fact, the most important thing you can do is to pray ahead of time each week:

Jesus, come and lead our group. Rule over our time together and rescue us from every distraction. Show us who you really are, that we may know the true you. Come for each person tonight.

Spirit of God, free us in every way to know Jesus as he really is. Open our eyes to see him. Deliver us from everything false about Jesus and bring us what is true.

Okay, let's get started!

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Outlaw

A COMPANION FOR INDIVIDUAL
AND SMALL GROUP STUDY



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE
for Beautiful Outlaw Book and Video Series

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