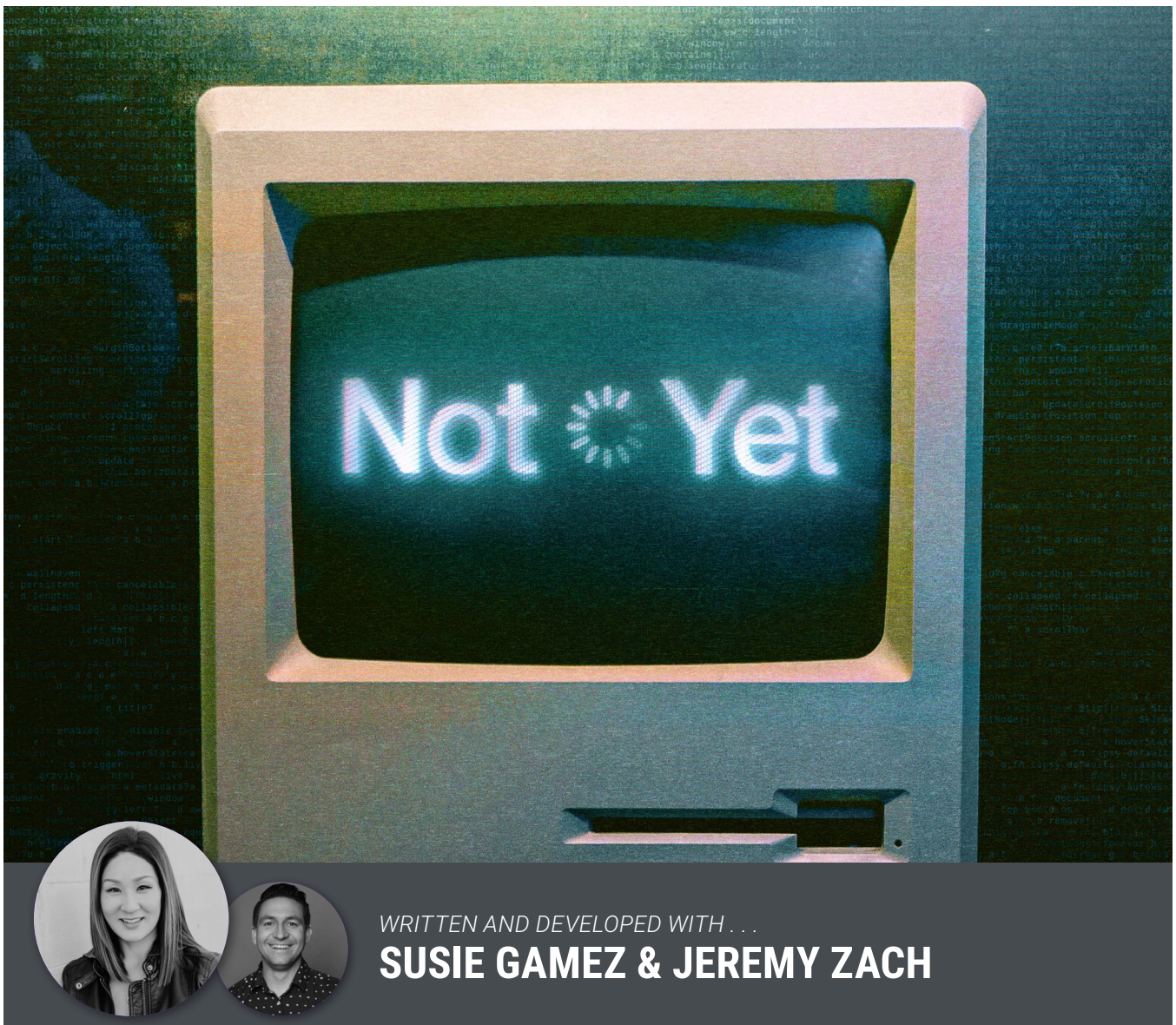




A 4-WEEK STUDY
FROM THE OLD & NEW
TESTAMENTS ON

IDENTITY

FROM OUR ANNUAL **TEACHING STRATEGY**



WRITTEN AND DEVELOPED WITH . . .
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SERIES OVERVIEW

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.**

WEEK 1

This week, we'll explore how God's ability to make things new and beautiful gives us hope for today and for the future.

- **BIG IDEA:** You're a work in progress.
- **BIBLE:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Revelation 21:1-6; Luke 2:52.

WEEK 2

This week, we'll compare God's calling of Isaiah with Jesus' Great Commission to discover the purpose behind why God created us.

- **BIG IDEA:** Your purpose is to be like Jesus.
- **BIBLE:** Isaiah 6:1-10, 42:1-4, 53:3-6; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 11:1

WEEK 3

This week, we'll compare King David's trust in God's plans with Peter's fear Jesus had gotten God's plans wrong.

- **BIG IDEA:** God's plans for you are good.
- **BIBLE:** Psalm 40:1-5, 8; Matthew 16:13-23; Romans 8:28.

WEEK 4

This week, we'll compare King David's desire to seek God's presence with Paul's encouragement to be led by God's Spirit.

- **BIG IDEA:** Your next step is to get closer to God.
- **BIBLE:** Psalm 27:1-8; Galatians 5:16-17; Proverbs 3:5-6

MEMORY VERSE: "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry." – Psalm 40:1 (NIV)

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE For Middle

Not  Yet

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress**, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

You're a work in progress.

BIBLE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Revelation 21:1-5;
Luke 2:52

- **What's the longest you've ever waited for something? Was it worth it?**
- **On a scale of 1-5, how excited are you to get older and why? How stressed are you and why?**
- **Have you ever felt frustrated about the progress you were making in some area of your life? How did you handle it (or wish you'd handled it)?**
- **What's something you're experiencing right now that feels challenging or pointless? What are some ways God might be able to use the experience to help you grow?**
- **Read Luke 2:52. In the last year, what are some ways you've grown to be more like Jesus "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man"?**
- **This week, what's one way you want to make progress in becoming who God wants you to be?**

Not ☀ Yet

"He has made everything beautiful in its time."

— Ecclesiastes 3:11

HOW HAVE I ALREADY MADE PROGRESS?

HOW COULD I STILL MAKE PROGRESS?

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

DAY 6

DAY 7

WEEK 2

DISCUSSION GUIDE For Middle

Not  Yet

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.**

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Your purpose is to know Jesus.

BIBLE

Isaiah 6:1-10, 42:1-4, 53:3-6; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 11:1

- **When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? Has that changed?**
- **Have you ever thought about the "purpose" of your life? If so, what have you wondered?**
- **When you hear Isaiah's story, which parts can you not relate to? Which parts can you relate to and how?**
- **Read 1 Corinthians 11:1. Have you ever spent time with someone who reminded you of Jesus? If so, what were they like and how do you think they became like that?**
- **Has getting to know Jesus better ever helped you understand yourself (or your future) better too? If so, how?**
- **This week, what's your plan for spending time getting to know Jesus better? How can we help each other do that?**

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

Not ☀ Yet

"Your purpose is to know Jesus."

WHAT DO I NOTICE ABOUT GOD?

WHAT DO I NOTICE ABOUT MYSELF?

WHAT DO I NOTICE ABOUT THE WORLD?

WHAT MIGHT GOD BE ASKING ME TO DO TODAY?

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

DAY 6

DAY 7

WEEK 3

DISCUSSION GUIDE For Middle

Not  Yet

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.**

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

God's plans for you are good.

BIBLE

Psalm 40:1-5; Matthew 16:13-23;
Romans 8:28

- **What's something in the future you're looking forward to right now?**
- **It's okay if it changes, but what's your plan for your future at the moment?**
- **What are some reasons someone might have a hard time trusting God's plans? Can you relate to any of those reasons?**
- **How do you think remembering what God has done in the past can help us trust God in the future? Do you have any examples from your life?**
- **Read Romans 8:28. Is this easy or difficult for you to believe about God's plans for you? Why?**
- **This week, what's something you can do to grow your trust in God's plans for you?**

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

Not ☀ Yet

"God's plans for you are good."

WHAT AM I WONDERING,
HOPING, OR FEARING
ABOUT MY FUTURE?

HOW HAS GOD BEEN GOOD
TO ME IN THE PAST?

WHY DO I TRUST GOD WITH
MY FUTURE?

DAY 1

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DAY 3

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DAY 6

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DAY 7

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a letter to
Not ☼ Yet
me

a letter to
Not ☼ Yet
me

a letter to
Not ☼ Yet
me

a letter to
Not ☼ Yet
me

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE For Middle

Not  Yet

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.**

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Your next step is to get closer to God.

BIBLE

Psalm 27:1-8; Galatians 5:16-17;
Proverbs 3:5-6

- **What's something so easy to do it doesn't require instructions? (But if you had to write an instruction book, what would it say?)**
- **What's something you wish came with an instruction book, but doesn't?**
- **When you're not sure what to do next, who are some people you trust to give you guidance? Why do you trust them?**
- **Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What are some next "steps" you're hoping God makes clear to you soon?**
- **When life is confusing or difficult, what are the benefits of getting closer to God?**
- **While you wait for direction, what's one step you're going to take to get closer to God this week?**

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

Not ☀ Yet

"Your face, Lord, I will seek." — Psalm 27:8

WHEN HAVE I FELT CLOSE
TO GOD IN THE PAST?

HOW CAN I GET CLOSER TO
GOD TODAY?

HOW DO I NEED GOD TO
GUIDE ME RIGHT NOW?

DAY 1

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DAY 7

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