

DRAWING CLOSE TO  
GOD BY DISCOVERING THE  
TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF

# BELOVED DUST //





## **Beloved Dust Study Guide**

Copyright © 2014 Jamin Goggin and Kyle Strobel

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, without the written permission Pastors.com.



30021 Comercio  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

All Scripture quotations are taken from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV® Text Edition: 2011. The ESV® text has been reproduced in cooperation with and by permission of Good News Publishers. Unauthorized reproduction of this publication is prohibited. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-4228-0307-3

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

20 19 18 17 16 15 14

Printed and bound in the United States of America



Dear Friend,

What an incredible invitation God has extended to us all! God has invited us to participate in his life of love, calling us to deep and intimate fellowship with him. This is the invitation we want you to accept in this curriculum. As a Christian, you have accepted this invitation already, to some degree, but we want you to embrace a deeper fellowship with God than you have ever known. Our desire for the next six weeks is that you would grow in your relationship with God. We want to lead you in new and fresh ways to taste and see that the Lord is good. We are humbled by the opportunity to come alongside of you in your journey, and are excited that you have invited us to lead you. God is already at work in your life in incredible ways—ways that most of us cannot see. Our desire for this study is that it can serve as another step along your journey of faith. May the Lord guide you into his ever-deepening love.

In Christ,

Jamin Goggin and Kyle Strobel







**How to Use This Study Guide** ..... 7

**Session 1:** Created to Be With God ..... 11

**Session 2:** We Are Dust ..... 23

**Session 3:** Hiding In the Dust ..... 35

**Session 4:** The Word Became Dust ..... 47

**Session 5:** Praying With Jesus ..... 59

**Session 6:** Drawing Near With Jesus ..... 73

**Next Step Spiritual Retreat** ..... 87

**Extra Journal Space** ..... 108

**Helps for Hosts** ..... 112

**Answer Key** ..... 118







# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

(Group Leaders Must Read)

## Quick Tips

- This study is designed for use while reading *Beloved Dust: Drawing Close to God by Discovering the Truth About Yourself*.
- We encourage you to schedule an introductory meeting before the six-session study begins in order to make sure everyone in the group has a copy of the book and to watch the introduction video together.
- Before you meet for session one of the study be sure all group members read the Introduction and Chapter 1 in the book.
- Thoroughly read the “How to Use This Study Guide” section before beginning study.

You are about to embark on a six week journey. Your primary resources will be the book, *Beloved Dust: Drawing Close to God by Discovering the Truth About Yourself* along with this curriculum (DVD & study guide). The study guide is structured for group use, but that does not preclude individuals from fruitful use of the curriculum. The study guide is broken down into two primary sections: Group Time and Alone Time. The Group Time sections should be completed as a group each week. During the Group Time you will watch the DVD lesson. The Alone Time sections should be completed individually in-between group meetings. Your Alone Time each week will include a guided prayer reflection and reading *Beloved Dust*.



The Group Time and Alone Time elements inform one another and are both incredibly important to your journey the next six weeks.

Here are some general instructions about these two sections of the study guide:

## **GROUP TIME**

During your time together as a group you will walk through four subsections.

**Group Reflection:** Your group will begin each session by sharing about your “Being With God” exercise from the previous week (see page 9 for details). The goal for this time entails each person in the group briefly sharing what was most meaningful about their time alone with God. There may be pieces of your time with God that you don’t feel ready to share. If this is the case, please know that you are not expected to share everything, but to at least share something about your time.

**Video Lesson:** There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. You will find fill-in-the-blanks and Scripture passages in the study guide that correspond to each video lesson. Additional space is provided for you to take notes based on the teaching.

**Group Discussion:** After your group watches the video you will take some time to discuss what you watched. Since you will have read the chapter(s) in the book that correspond to the video lesson prior to your meeting, you are also welcome to discuss what you learned from the reading as well.



**Closing Prayer:** At the close of each session you will find a prayer. This prayer is designed to be prayed out loud by the group leader to close your time together. Group leaders should feel free to provide space for others to pray at the end of the group time before they pray the “Closing Prayer.”

## ALONE TIME

During your alone time in-between your group meetings you will be guided through three subsections.

**Being With God:** Each week you will be invited to spend 20-30 minutes alone with God in prayer. This prayer exercise is designed to invite you to explore what had been previously taught and discussed in the last group session. Find a time during the week that works best for you to take time alone with God, but we strongly encourage you to try and do this prayer time before you begin your reading in preparation for the next group meeting.

**Reading Reminder:** It is important to note that for this study all reading will be done in advance of each group meeting. For example, before your first group meeting you will need to read the Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Beloved Dust*. Since you need to read the book in preparation for each week’s meeting we have included a reminder specifying which chapter(s) you need to read to be prepared for the next meeting.

**Reading Notes:** Reading *Beloved Dust* is a central part of your experience during this six-session study. This space is provided for you to take notes and write down questions as you read.







ONE

# CREATED TO BE WITH GOD //

*To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be  
alive without breathing.*

- Martin Luther



How would you characterize your relationship with God right now? Does God feel close or distant?

[illegible]



What are you expecting from this study? What hopes or desires do you have as you enter into the next six weeks?

This image shows a single sheet of aged, cream-colored paper with horizontal ruling lines. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and faint brown spots, characteristic of old paper. There are 20 horizontal lines in total, evenly spaced across the page. The lines are a dark color, possibly black or dark blue. The paper is oriented vertically in the frame.



## VIDEO LESSON //

*Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

GENESIS 2:7

We are \_\_\_\_\_

*God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.*

GENESIS 2:3

*This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.*

PSALM 132:14

God chose to be \_\_\_\_\_

The Christian life is about \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer must be a \_\_\_\_\_



**GROUP DISCUSSION //**

What resonated with you most?

---

---

---

---

---

What was new or surprising?

---

---

---

---

---

How can this impact your life with God in the day to day?

---

---

---

---

---



## CLOSING PRAYER //

Father, how incredible it is that you desire relationship with us. We are amazed at the fact that you, the creator of the universe, seek an intimate and personal relationship with us. May we learn to be with you, knowing that you are always with us. May we learn to be with you as we work, as we eat, as we watch television, or go to church. We desire you. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.



Set aside 20-30 minutes this coming week to do the following exercise. Be sure to find a quiet space where you will not be distracted or interrupted. Walk through each prompt. Use the space below the prompts to write your reflections. Open your heart to God and be honest with him. Remember, he knows you fully and loves you unconditionally. He is with you.

STEP  
ONE

Begin your time by celebrating God’s commitment to be with you. God created you to be with him. He has given himself to you. Allow this truth to grip your heart. Consider how this can impact your everyday life. Spend a few minutes celebrating this reality. Thank him and praise him for his presence in your life. Open your heart to him.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



God, have I made the Christian life more about being a good person than being with you?

[illegible]



# ALONE TIME

This image shows a single sheet of aged, cream-colored paper with horizontal ruling lines. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and faint smudges, characteristic of old stationery. There are approximately 20 horizontal lines spaced evenly across the page. The edges of the paper are slightly irregular, and there's a subtle gradient of color from top to bottom.



[illegible]



## READING REMINDER //

Before your next meeting be sure to read  
**Chapters 2 & 3** in *Beloved Dust*.

Two reminders about reading...

- 1 **Read prayerfully.** Remember, the goal is not to simply get the content, but to be with God. So, underline, highlight, pause, and listen; do whatever will help you respond to God's invitation as you read.
- 2 **Read thoughtfully.** If there are concepts or ideas shared in the book that generate questions for you, be sure to write them down so that you can discuss them during your next group meeting. There is great value in processing with others what you are learning.



[illegible]