



GREATER THAN | STUDY GUIDE
WITH FRANCIS CHAN

This film series and study guide were produced by Next Step Ministries alongside Francis Chan and Crazy Love. It was watched by thousands of students on Next Step mission trips across the globe. Our hope is that this series will challenge your faith and inspire you to act, knowing that God is ***GREATER THAN*** anything standing in your way.

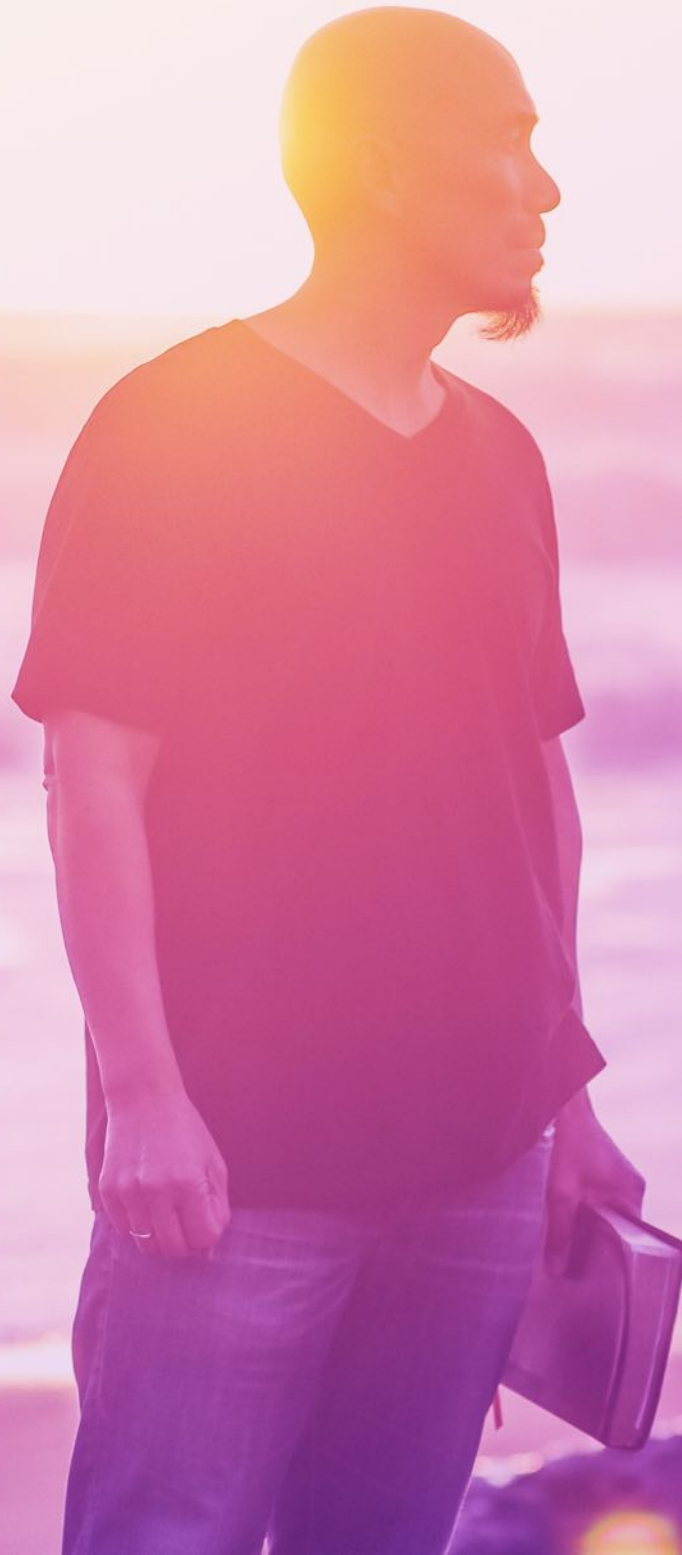
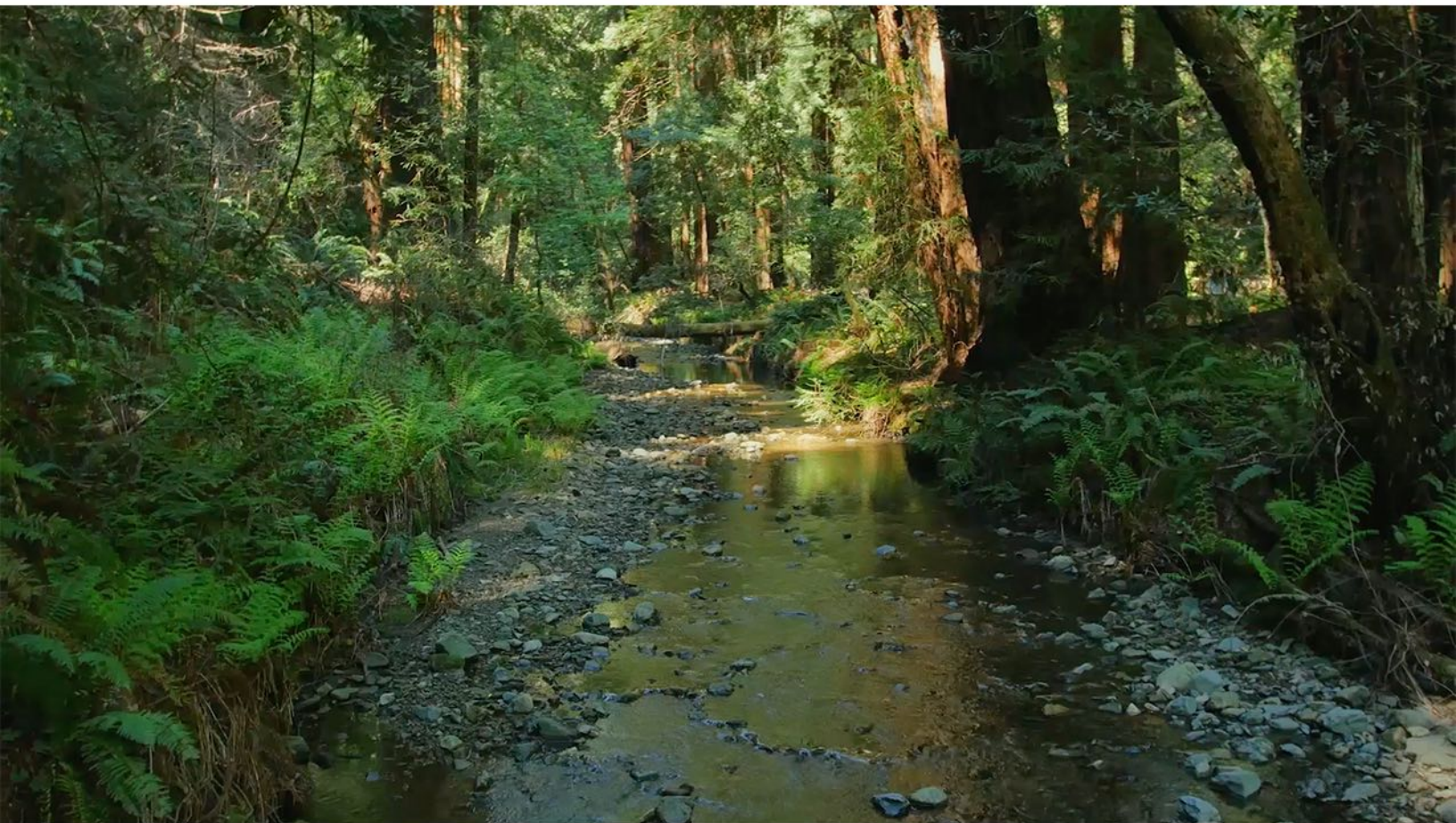


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DAY 1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Do you believe that? This used to be something that people would take for granted and say, ‘Of course everything was created by God, look at the design.’ But we’re growing up in a different time, and now we’re told that this might not be an option.”



Psalm 33:6

**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and by the breath of His mouth all their host.**

We're often told we're only cosmic accidents; the result of a big bang some 14 billion years ago. Our culture tells us everything happens only as a coincidence and that there's no ultimate purpose to life.

God tells us otherwise.

Do you ever stop and think about this truth? God tells us He is the Creator of everything, literally everything, but do you honestly believe that? Or have you bought into the lies that our culture force feeds us?

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

How often do you spend time marveling at God's creation?

Come up with a list of some of the greatest marvels of creation that you had the opportunity to see or would like to see one day.

Why do you believe it is important to "lift up your eyes" and spend time reflecting on God's glory and creation?

This verse also tells us that God knows each of the billions of stars by name and not one is missing. This is an incredible truth. What does this mean for us when we start to get worried or scared that God isn't watching out for us?



“God says you could look at creation and you would see Him. Somehow you would recognize that there was something behind all of this, someone behind all of it.”

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

We are told in this verse that God's qualities have been clearly seen since the beginning of the world. We have no excuse to ignore God or say we can't see Him. God is behind it all.

So if we have no excuse, why do you believe we make excuses? Have you ever gone through a period of life where you have questioned the existence of God?

What made you think that God wasn't there or didn't care?

When we begin to neglect our relationship with God, or question his existence and creation, we are essentially saying that we're the center; we're the creators and directors of our own lives.

How has this worked out for you before? Have you ever tried to follow your own path and pushed God off to the side? Explain.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

God is in charge of it all and He designed and made everything. There is no excuse to say, "There is no God, I'm glad all of this randomly happened!" No, we look up and can't help but say, "The heavens truly do declare the glory of God."

“When the Bible would describe this Being, it wasn’t just another version of us, and a bigger version of us. But the people who interacted with Him said, ‘No, no, He calls himself Holy.’ Holy, meaning set apart; completely different from us.”



I Timothy 6:16

He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion!

When we think about God we often place our human limitations and ideas on Him.

For example, maybe you have a strained relationship with your father who treats you like you aren't ever good enough for his love and affection. Then we, in turn, place the emotions of our earthly father onto our perceived emotions of our heavenly Father and suddenly we believe we can never be good enough even for God's love.

Have you done this? What earthy limitations and emotions have you placed on God?

But the Bible tells us that He is holy, immortal, and beyond what we can ever comprehend.

Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

This is the God we serve. He is a God beyond our comprehension and He alone is the one who gives us life and breath and everything we see.

How does this knowledge change how you see God? Is God approachable to sinful mortals like us? Why or why not?

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.



“He determined exactly when and where we would be born. He orchestrates the situations and circumstances in our lives so that we may feel our way towards Him and find Him.”

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.

If God has determined exactly where and when we would be born then that means there is a very specific reason that you're alive today.

So why are you here? Are you living as if your purpose is to make yourself known or are you living to make God known?

Are you actively feeling your way towards God by pursuing a relationship with Him?

How are you pursuing this relationship? Do you spend time in His word? Do you pray? Worship Him? Spend time in quiet wonder and awe of His creation?

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Our culture may tell us that there is no rhyme or reason to life other than to have fun and get ahead in life. But we know we are here for so much more. We have been called out of darkness and into His light. But are you still living in darkness?

What are some areas of "darkness" that you may still be living in? A secret sin? The way you treat others? The way you treat yourself?

“God orchestrated this, and this was another step of you feeling your way toward Him and finding the Creator of all of this.”



Acts 17:26-27

From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us.

God isn't some unapproachable being that's sitting up in heaven looking for ways to smite or ignore us. God wants us to find Him. He wants to have a personal relationship with you.

He has put different people into your life at various times and has caused things to happen all so that you may find your way to Him. And once you find your way to Him, what becomes of your previous life? You suddenly have a new purpose.

So what is your purpose? How can you begin, even in small ways, to live out that purpose?

God can and will reveal what He has orchestrated for your life. You only need to take the time to ask and listen.

Exodus 9:16

But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you My power and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

You are alive this minute, on this day, in this year to declare and reflect the glory of God. What could be a better purpose than that?