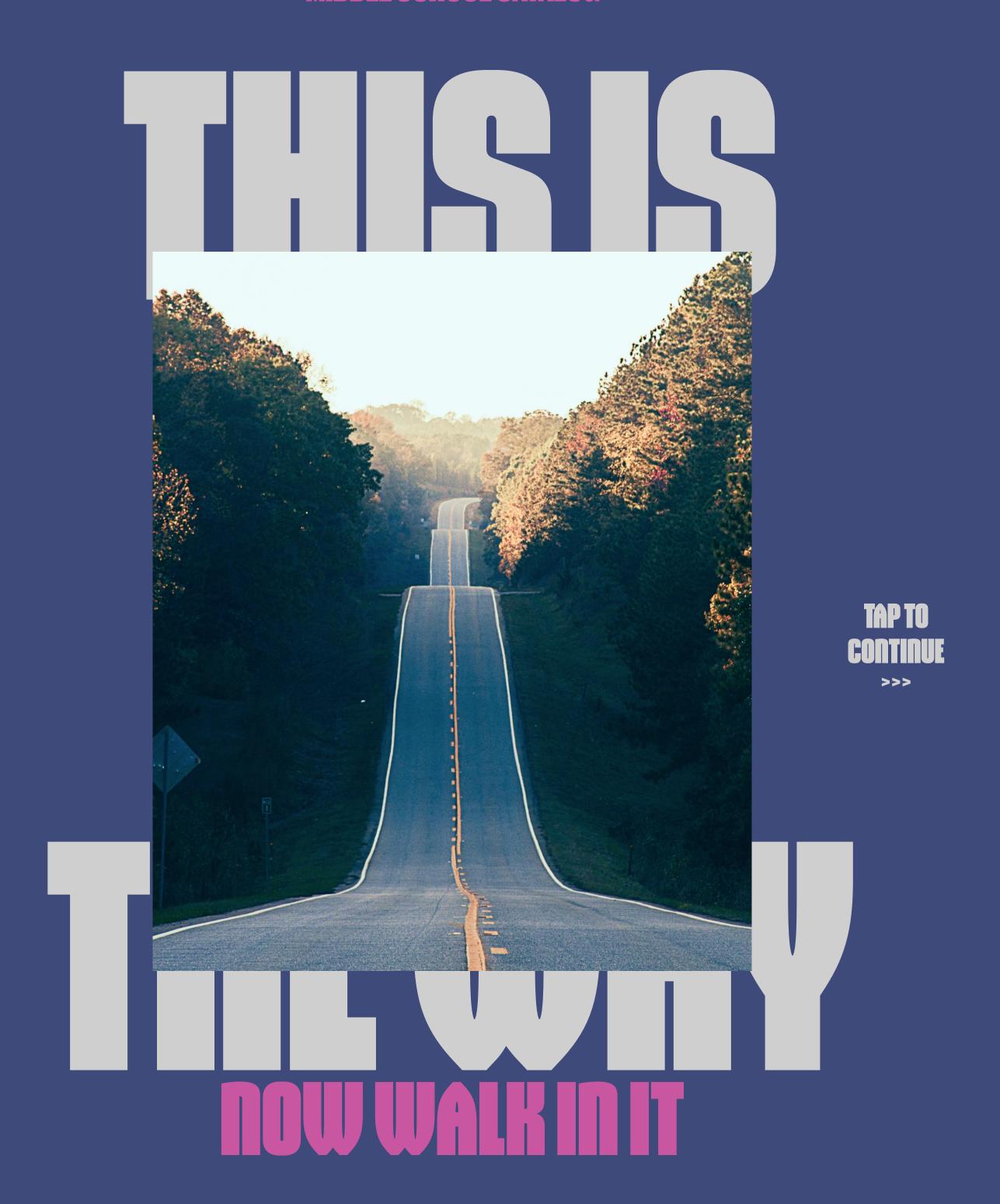
MIDDLE SCHOOL CATALOG



JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH. AND THE LIFE.

# THIS IS THE WAY: NOW WALKINIT

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

In Part 1, "But The Bible Says," we learned what truth is and isn't, why it matters, and how we can identify it.

In Part 2, "To Walk This Way," we focused on how we can apply truth to ourselves and the world.

It's time for Part 3: "Now Walk In It." Knowing truth and following it aren't always easy, so when Jesus returned to heaven, He sent someone special in His place to guide and help us — to help us walk.

The Holy Spirit. The Advocate. God's own Spirit, who is loving, powerful, and wise. We can know Him just like we know God and Jesus, and when we do, He can comfort us when we need support and convict us when we need correction.

But the Bible says to walk this way — now walk in it.

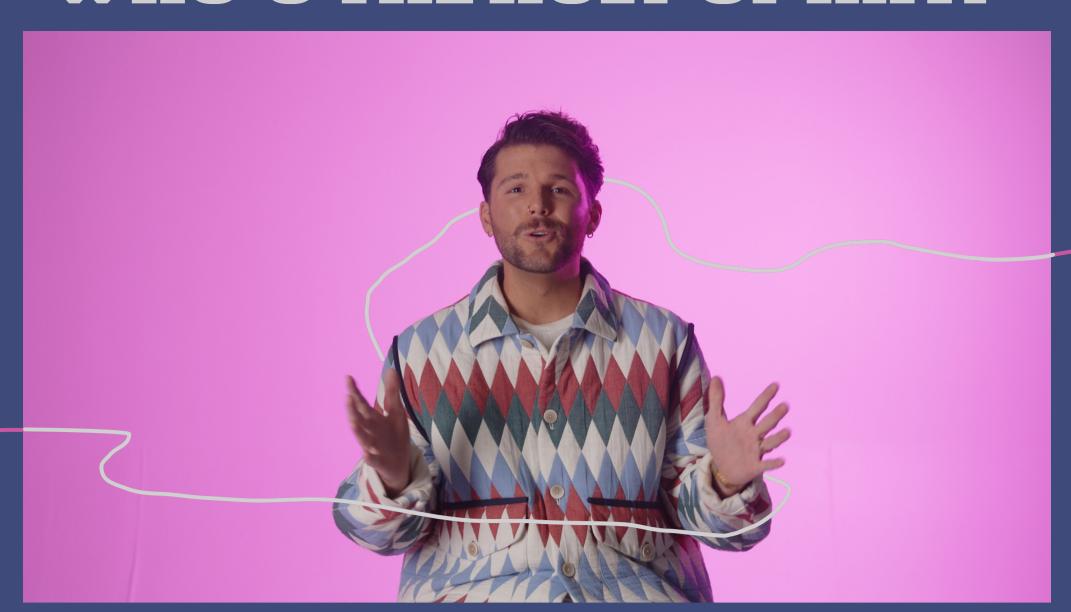
## SERIES UERSES

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

### WHO'S THE HOLY SPIRIT?



### START TALKING (CONVERSATION STARTER)

What's a movie or book you've seen or read that seemed weird or unusual to you?

### WATCHIT-TOGETHER



### THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

#### LEADER TIP

Choose questions that resonate with your group's age, experiences, and current understanding. There's no pressure to cover all the questions — pick the ones that fit your group the best.

- "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost" may sound weird and spooky, like something out of a movie. But really, they just describe God's presence in our lives. How does it make you feel to know the Holy Spirit is a person God's personal presence who helps, guides, and encourages us?
  - How does the Holy Spirit do these things in our everyday lives?
- Why do you think we tend to focus more on God and Jesus when talking about our faith? What makes the Holy Spirit seem a bit different or less talked about?
- Read <u>John 16:13</u>. John says the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth and speaks what He hears. Share a time when you felt the Holy Spirit guiding or helping you make a decision. How did you know it was the Holy Spirit speaking to you and helping you walk in God's truth?

### PKAY

God, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit — our helper, guide, and friend. Help us to notice Him working in our lives on a daily basis. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

this week?

- Read <u>Isaiah 30:21</u>. Why is it important to listen to the guidance and direction of the Holy
- Spirit?

  How would you describe who the Holy Spirit is to a friend? (Leader Tip: Encouraging
- teens to answer this question will challenge what they think they know about the Holy Spirit it can even identify gaps in our own understanding.)

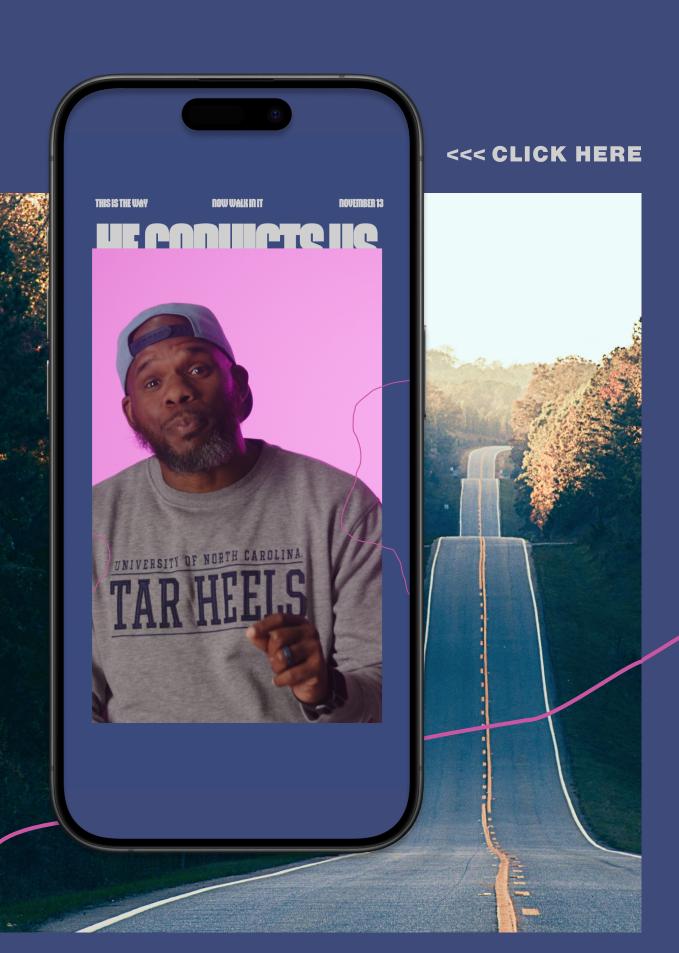
  To understand the Holy Spirit the same way we understand God and Jesus, we need to build a relationship with Him. How can you work on your relationship with the Holy Spirit



Discussion goal: To accept the conviction the Holy Spirit brings.

### START TALKING (CONVERSATION STARTER)

If you could hit a "reset" button and get a do-over for any event or day (e.g., game, conversation, test, Monday, etc.), what would you pick and why?



### WATCH IT-TOGETHER

#### THIIIK IT THKUUGH (AIIV TALK IT UUT)

#### LEADER TIP

Choose questions that resonate with your group's age, experiences, and current understanding. There's no pressure to cover all the questions—pick the ones that fit your group the best.

- The Holy Spirit is better than a sidekick He's God's presence within us, and He's wise, loving, and powerful. What are some ways the Holy Spirit might step in to help when you're feeling stuck in a hard situation?
- Read John 14:16-17. How does knowing the Holy Spirit is always with you make a difference when you feel frustrated, worried, or afraid?

  Share a time when you've felt the comfort of the Holy Spirit during a difficult to
  - Share a time when you've felt the comfort of the Holy Spirit during a difficult time.
- Read John 16:5-8. Jesus called the Holy Spirit our "Advocate," meaning He helps and defends us. When life doesn't go the way we expect and things don't turn out how we want, how can we seek comfort in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit?



God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and comforter, especially when life doesn't go as we plan. Help us remember we are never alone and can find peace and strength in Your Spirit during tough times. In Jesus' name, amen.

ways you think the Holy Spirit might comfort us?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Read Romans 8:26. How does knowing the Holy Spirit helps you in your weakest

- moments make you feel?

  How does the Spirit bring comfort when you don't know what to say or do?
- God is incredible, and He's always there for us! Why do you think Jesus felt we needed the Holy Spirit as our Comforter?
- Comfort isn't always about feeling cozy and happy sometimes it might be strength to keep going or just knowing you're not alone in a tough situation. What are some other

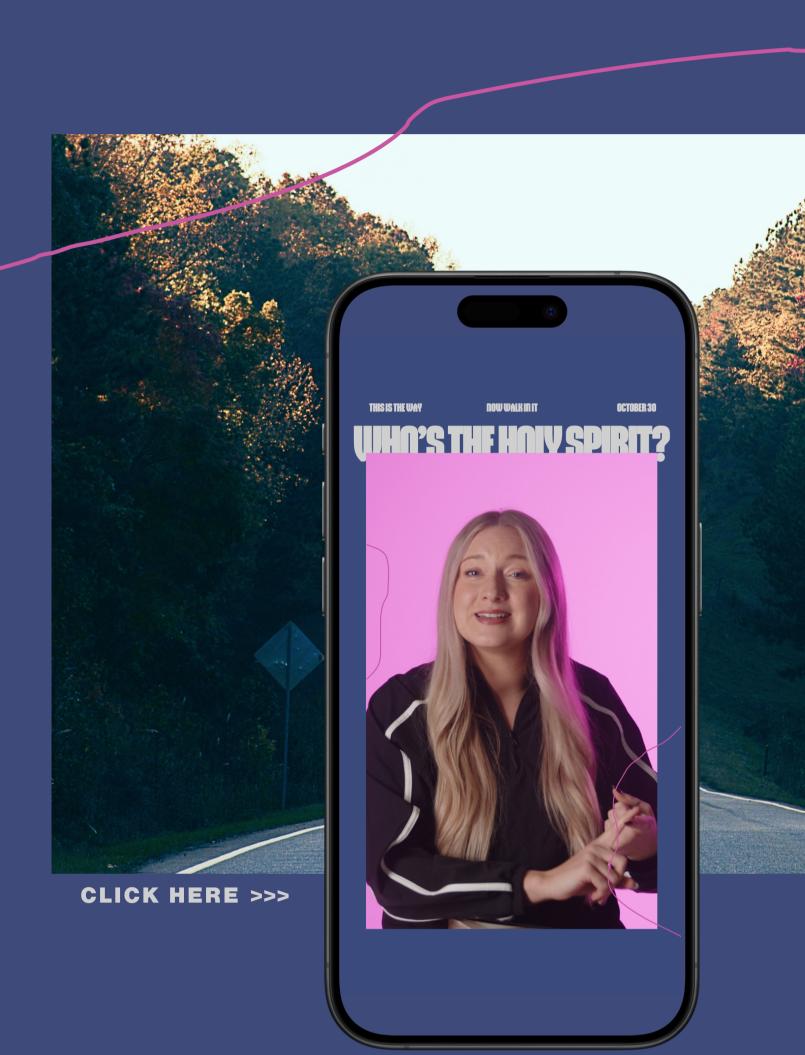


Discussion Goal: To understand truth can be tested.

### START TALKING (CONVERSATION STARTER)

 Imagine you have two friends. One is telling you the truth, and the other is lying to you about something that happened to them. How do you decide which one is telling the truth?

### WATCH IT-TOGETHER



### THINK IT THROUGH (AND TALK IT OUT)

#### **LEADER TIP**Choose question

Choose questions that resonate with your group's age, experiences, and current understanding. There's no pressure to cover all the questions—pick the ones that fit your group the best.

- What are some characteristics of a trusted friend? Have you ever thought about the Holy Spirit as a friend? Why or why not?

  The Holy Spirit is a trusted friend who convicts us (helps us understand) when we've
  - The Holy Spirit is a trusted friend who convicts us (helps us understand) when we've done something wrong — when we've turned from God's truth. How do you think the Holy Spirit does that?
- Read <u>2 Samuel 12:1-13</u>. God used Nathan to show David the wrong he had done. Sometimes the Holy Spirit works the same way, convicting us through others. How do you think the Holy Spirit uses people or situations to help us see when we've messed up? How should we respond when we recognize we need to change?
- wasn't right? That's what conviction feels like. The next time you think that, how can praying and asking the Holy Spirit for guidance help you?

Have you ever felt a little "nudge" inside telling you something you said, did, or thought



God, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit who convicts us when we walk away from Your truth. Help us to stay close to You through the Spirit and to seek His help whenever we're struggling. In Jesus' name, amen.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How can you seek out the Holy Spirit's help in deciding what's true? (Ask yourself these three questions: What is \_\_\_\_\_ saying? What does the Bible say? What's true about this, and what is not?)
- Conviction is a nudge that says,"Hey, maybe that wasn't the best decision."
  But condemnation says things that make us feel stuck in shame and guilt. How can we
- tell the difference between those two when they happen?

  If God is loving, why do you think He would convict us or point out when we're doing something wrong? Conviction might not feel like love at first, but how can it be a way of

protecting us and helping us make wise choices?