



# WHO ARE YOU?

## LESSON 3: Where Am I Going?

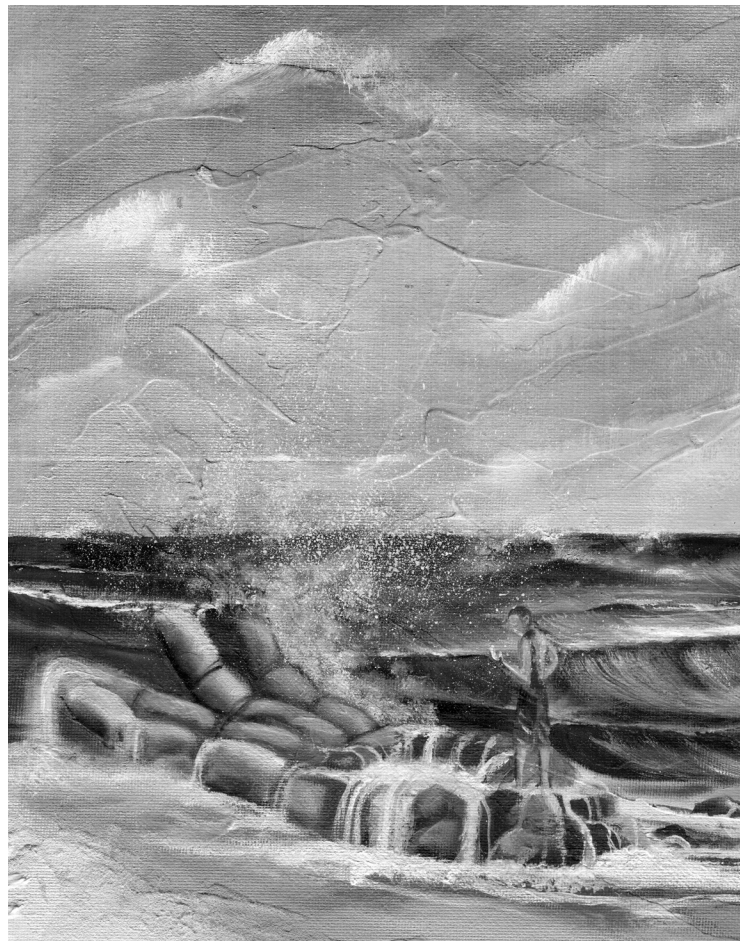
### Lesson Focus:

**Jesus makes it possible for our lives to change completely.**

The last of the three big questions is “Where am I going?” This question is connected to our goals and aspirations. It deals with what we really want from life.

We all hope for a better life. Nicer clothes. A cellmate who is easy to live with. Food that tastes amazing. The freedom to make our own decisions. Spending unlimited time with family or friends—or fixing broken relationships with them.

1. What are some of the things you want right now in your life?

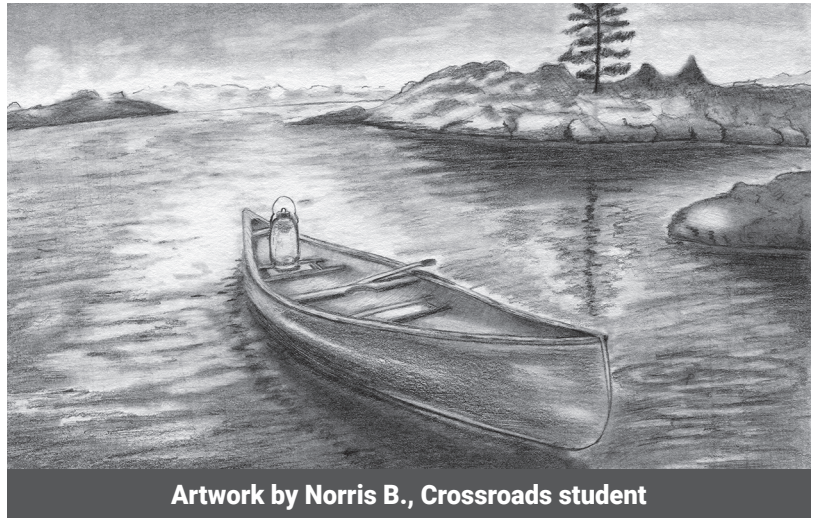


**Artwork by Nickolas H., Crossroads student**

The question “Where am I going?” also addresses something deeper—something beyond day-to-day life. It refers to more than our desire for physical things like a home or financial security. It refers to the type of goals that guide us. It speaks of a longing for hope and purpose. It points to a deeper desire for our lives—a desire to be worth something.

This question also deals with the changes we want to make in our lives. Our answers to this question reveal who we want to be and who we hope we can be. Going to jail or prison can be a sign that something needs to change. It can be a chance to stop and think about life. It can be a chance to start over and do things differently.

2. What things in your life do you wish you could change?



3. What have you tried to do to change your life in the past? Did it work? Why or why not?

The Bible tells us that we can change. It tells us that God wants to give us direction and a greater purpose for our lives. We have to begin by knowing who God is and who God wants us to be. We have to begin by following Jesus. If we choose to do those things, our lives can change and we can make a positive difference in this world. Jesus said it this way:

*A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way. (John 10:10)*

4. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that He wants those who follow Him to have life in the fullest possible way?



Notes/Questions

We don't have to wait until we are in heaven to have the life that God wants for us. It can start right here on earth. Jesus came to earth so we can have a meaningful and purpose-filled life. Despite everything we've ever done, we can have a brand-new life through Him. We see this over and over in the ways Jesus interacted with people in the Bible. He healed the blind man by the side of the road. He offered salvation to a woman others looked down on because of her race and her past. He invited a man who stole and cheated people to be one of His disciples. He changed their lives. He gave them new goals and a new direction.

Here is another example:

*At sunrise he [Jesus] arrived again in the temple courtyard. All the people gathered around him there. He sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman. She had been caught committing adultery. They made her stand in front of the group. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught sleeping with a man who was not her husband. In the Law, Moses commanded us to kill such women by throwing stones at them. Now what do you say?" They were trying to trap Jesus with that question. They wanted to have a reason to bring charges against him.*

*But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. They kept asking him questions. So he stood up and said to them, "Has any one of you not sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her." He bent down again and wrote on the ground.*

*Those who heard what he had said began to go away. They left one at a time, the older ones first. Soon only Jesus was left. The woman was still standing there. Jesus stood up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Hasn't anyone found you guilty?"*

*"No one, sir," she said.*

*"Then I don't find you guilty either," Jesus said. "Go now and leave your life of sin."\* (John 8:2–11)*

5. What do you think the woman thought was going to happen to her when the crowd grabbed her?



Notes/Questions

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\* An asterisk after a word or phrase indicates that it is defined in the Glossary of Terms on page 7.

6. How would you have felt if you were the woman standing in front of Jesus? Circle the words below that describe how you would have felt. Feel free to add your own words.

Scared

Angry

Frustrated

Shocked

Trapped

Hopeless

Ashamed

Surprised

Offended

Other:

Jesus did not react to the woman in the way we would expect. He did not react the way the crowd expected, either. They were hoping that He would command them to stone her. Instead, He asked a question: "Has any one of you not sinned?"

7. How did the crowd react to that question? Why do you think they reacted that way?



## Notes/Questions

Jesus asked the crowd if any of them had ever sinned. Remember the definition of sin we talked about in Lesson 1? We continually do things we should not do. We hurt others and we hurt ourselves. We act in ways we know are wrong. We do things that reflect the brokenness in the world. We do things that are the opposite of what God wants us to do. We do things that keep us from a real relationship with Him.

8. What would your answer be if Jesus asked you if you had never sinned? Could you have thrown a stone at the woman?

We learn from reading the Bible that Jesus Himself never sinned. He was the only person remaining with the woman at the end of this story. He could have thrown a stone at the woman. He could have given her the death sentence she deserved, according to the law.

But even though the woman was clearly guilty, Jesus forgave her. He told her that she was no longer guilty in God's eyes. He told her

that she could have a different life. She did not have to keep living the life that brought her in front of Him. Her life did not have to continue to be one of judgment and shame.\* She could start again and do things differently.

9. How would you feel if someone told you that you were completely forgiven\* for something serious that you did in your past?

10. If you were completely forgiven, would you think about yourself differently? Would you act differently? How would your life start to change?

The Bible tells us that a new life is possible. Christianity is built on one single radical idea: you don't have to stay the way you are.

You, too, can receive a verdict of "not guilty" from God and live a new life. In fact, that is the reason Jesus came to the earth. The Bible says, "God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him" (John 3:17). Sin is a part of our life, and it messes up every part of who we are and who we try to be. Jesus came to fix that.

But how does that happen? How does knowing Jesus and following Him change our lives? Think back to what we talked about in Lesson 1. Adam and Eve sinned and brought pain, death, and brokenness into the world, and that still affects the world today. But our lives don't have to stay that way. We can experience the life God wants for us now. We can begin to live the way God intended us to live when He created the Garden of Eden.

Jesus came to the earth to die on a cross and rise from the dead so that we can truly live (John 10:10). He can give us a life filled with freedom, hope, and purpose, regardless of where we are or what we have done.

Remember the story of the prodigal\* son? God is waiting for you to come home. He is waiting to wrap you in His arms and call you His child.

When you choose to believe in God, admit you have sinned, and accept what Jesus did for you on the cross, you become a member of God's family. You can be like the men and women who are part of God's story in the Bible. God can and will use you to change the world.

11. Have you accepted God's forgiveness and God's promise of a new life? If you have, how has it changed your life?

## Action Step

Look back at the list of things you wish you could change that you wrote in question 2. Which one can you start working on today? Pray about it, asking God to help you figure out what you need to do. Think about what steps you need to take in order to make that change happen. Do you need to sign up for a class? Do you need to ask a friend for help or accountability? Do you need a mentor to encourage you to start making this change? Write the steps you need to take below:

**Step 1:**

**Step 2:**

**Step 3:**

Congratulations! You have completed the first Crossroads course! We have enjoyed studying with you. We hope and pray that you will continue to study with us. When you return this lesson, we will send you the first lesson from the next course.

- Do you want to know more about becoming a Christian? Do you have questions about how to do that? Mark this box and we will send you more information!

## Glossary of Terms

**Each lesson contains Bible names, terms, and ideas that may be new to you. We will do our best to provide definitions that are easy to understand. You will see an asterisk (\*) the first time each term appears in the lesson.**

**Forgiven** — A word used to describe a person after God has removed the sin from their life (see “**sin**”). When God forgives us, He no longer blames us for our past, and He cancels any debt we owed Him for sins we committed.

**Prodigal** — Someone who wastes a lot of money and time and does not value what they have.

**Shame** — A result of sin (see “**sin**”); closely related to guilt. It is an awareness that we will never live up to God’s expectations.

**Sin** — An action, thought, or spoken word that goes against God’s divine plan. When we commit sins, we do things that are wrong and break God’s laws. Sins are the things that we do—or fail to do—that make us less than perfect. Sins keep us from growing closer to Jesus.

Use this space for **prayer requests, questions for the mentor who will review this lesson, or comments.**  
You can also use this space to **write a poem or draw.**



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