



Supplies:

- Leader Guide
- Student page for each student
- One copy of Day 1 Paper Onion per group – **PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME!!!!**
- Bible for each student
- Pen/pencil for each student

PAPER ONION:

Ahead of time, wad the last page (page 12) into a little paper ball. Wad page 11 around it. Continue working backwards through the pages until you have all twelve pages layered into one big paper ball (or onion!). The goal is for students to be able to toss the onion around, but also peel off a page at a time and read it. The first page they peel off should be page 1.

To start your study, toss the paper onion to someone in the group. Tell them to peel the outside layer (take off the outside page) and read it. Follow the directions on each page as you work through the inside layers.

The following page has a summary of all the questions, so you can see the big picture of how the group is progressing through the discussion. If you need to adjust as you go, you can always alter the instructions or even have a student discard a layer and skip to the next one.

DAY 1 - “Paper Onion” discussion – Questions on papers wrapped up as paper ball. Peel off and read each layer. Skip layers if needed.

1. I am _____. *Pass the “onion” around the circle. Fill in the blank with your name when it comes to you.*
2. I am _____. *Fill in the blank with something that someone would know (or think they knew) without you telling them anything about you. Example: I am someone who remembers to wear their deodorant. – Toss the “onion” to several different people to answer this question before moving on.*
3. I am _____. *Fill in the blank with something that people who don’t know you very well would be surprised to find out about you. Example: I am a true crime buff. – Toss the “onion” to several different people to answer this question before moving on.*
4. Take a poll:
 - a. Onions are delicious! Pile them on!
 - b. Yuck! Get that stinky onion away from me and my food!
 - c. What is an onion?
5. Prompt the group to discuss: In what ways is our identity like an onion? In what ways is it different?
6. Prompt the group to discuss: is it harder to share the inner layers of who you are with people? Why do you think this is true for some people?
7. Ask the group: Agree or Disagree?: “The teen years are a time in people’s lives when they work to figure out who they are and who they want to be.”
8. Read Psalm 139:1-4. Ask the group: How does the idea of God knowing you completely make you feel?
9. Some people think, “If they knew what I was really like, they wouldn’t like me.” We read in Psalm 139 that God sees and really knows us and our situations. He knows where we have come from. He knows what we struggle with. He knows our disappointments and our scars. He even knows all our failures and inner darkness. Read John 3:17 and Romans 5:8 to see His response to our failures.
10. Pick a partner to alternate reading verses with. Read Psalm 139:5-10. Throw the paper onion to the person in the group who has traveled the furthest distance away from where you are right now.
11. Read Psalm 139:11-12. Ask the group: The words *light* and *darkness* are repeated a lot. What do you think those verses are talking about?

On Your Own (ANY DAY)

WHAT I READ: _____

DATE: _____

WHAT STOOD OUT TO ME?

QUESTIONS I HAVE:

*DID ANYTHING MAKE ME THINK
DIFFERENTLY ABOUT GOD?*

HOW MIGHT THIS CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE?

MY RESPONSE BACK TO GOD (PRAYER):

On Your Own (ANY DAY)

WHAT I READ: _____ DATE: _____

ONE THING THAT STOOD OUT TO ME:

DRAW SOMETHING TO GO WITH WHAT YOU WROTE ABOVE:

MY RESPONSE BACK TO GOD (PRAYER):



Supplies:

- Leader Guide
- On Your Own Any Day handout for each student plus some extras
- On Your Own bookmarks (cut apart) for each student
- Bible for each student
- Pen/pencil for each student

ON YOUR OWN:

Distribute On Your Own Any Day page to each student. They each will also need pens/pencils and a Bible.

Everyone write “John 1:35-51” in the top blank – that’s what we will be reading today. [Leader, be on the alert to help those who need it.] You can pick which side of the handout to use. Give 5-8 minutes to complete.

ON YOUR OWN – NEXT WEEK

We have read through most of the first chapter of the book of John. If you don’t have a different plan for Bible reading, you might want to continue in the book of John. As you are reading, feel free to reread the same passage more than once like we did on Monday and Tuesday.

If you need some guidance, you could continue using the same questions we used. In fact, if it would be helpful, take some extra On Your Own papers to use next week. You can also use these same questions as discussion prompts for friends doing a reading journey together. Give the On Your Own bookmarks.

JOHN 1 SKITS:

Split into two groups. Assign one group John 1:35-42 and the other group John 1:43-51. Tell them they have five minutes to plan. (It isn’t long!) Everyone in the group must do something. (Group members can be characters with lines or without lines, trees, or even buildings.)

Come back together and perform.

DISCUSS JOHN 1:35-51

Everyone open their Bible to the two stories in John 1 for reference.

Questions:

1. What do these two stories have in common?
2. Are there any moments that are significant, but unique to one particular story?
3. If our skits were put together as a two-act play, what would be a good title for it?
4. Jesus sees who we are now and who we can be when we follow Him. Where do we see Him demonstrating this ability in our two stories?
5. In this story we see people gaining a better understanding of who Jesus is. Has your understanding of Jesus changed this week? In what ways?
6. What do you think your take-away from this week will be?

DISCUSS EPHESIANS 3:14-21

Flip over to Ephesians 3:14-21 and read it.

7. We have been using this passage as a prayer throughout this week. Which phrase pops out the most to you today as especially meaningful?
8. Is there anything else specific we can pray for you?

[Close in prayer.]

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