



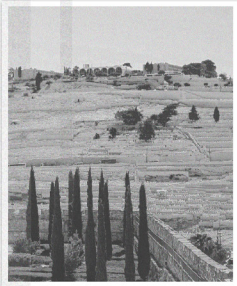
that you may

# BELIEVE

The Purpose of This Book

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Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## “BEAUTIFUL SCARS” discussion questions

1. Do you have any scars you like to brag about? Any that you try to hide? Share a story!
2. Why are some Christians ashamed to be publicly identified with Jesus Christ? Why were so few of his disciples at his crucifixion? Share a time you were reluctant to identify yourself with Jesus.
3. What can make the difference between being ashamed of Jesus’ scars and crucifixion, and actually boasting in them, as Paul says in Galatians 6:14? (Hint: see Galatians 2:20)
4. Most of us have experienced struggling to believe (receive) God’s love. When that happens, what are we usually doing wrong? How would you counsel someone who struggles with this?
5. Why is the cross still shocking, unsightly, and offensive even today? What does it communicate? How then does Jesus “draw all people to himself” through it? (John 12:32)
6. Unlike any other religion, Christianity finds its deepest meaning in the humiliation, degradation, and dishonor of its founder and leader. Read Hebrews 13:10-14 and Acts 5:40-41. Discuss how you might practically obey Hebrews 13:13 in your own world and context?

### The Book of John

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>1</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>2</sup> All things were made through him, yet the world did not know him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.<sup>3</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.<sup>4</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.<sup>5</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.<sup>6</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>7</sup> He was in the world, and the world did not know him.<sup>8</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.<sup>9</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.<sup>10</sup> Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.<sup>11</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.<sup>12</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>13</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>14</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.<sup>15</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

