



2020

LEADER BOOK

NAME:

INNOVATOR

LESSON 1 CREATED BY GOD

You are not an accident.

You are not a mistake.

You are not less-than or useless.

You are intelligently and lovingly designed by God, the Creator of the universe who loves you more than you can imagine and wants to use you to fulfill an incredible purpose in this world. You have been given incredible talents, resources, and influence for the purpose of reaching your family, your school, your community, and our world for Christ.

In case you didn't know it, you know you are loved by God. Not only that, but you are specifically called and gifted to accomplish His work in this world. Far too many of us as Christians fail to realize this. Instead, we think we are not good enough, talented enough, or holy enough to do anything for Christ. We think the problems of this world are someone else's problem or just too big for us—or sometimes even God—to deal with, and we just go through the motions of life: showing up to church, staying out of trouble in school, and trying to fit into the world around us as well as possible.

This passive approach to the Christian life causes serious problems. Studies show that less than 50% of Christians will ever share their faith. That means that less than 50% of Christians will ever go out and share the life-changing message of love that is the Gospel with a person who does not know Jesus. This has led to disastrous results for the spiritual state of your generation.

Several years ago, a study was done that found that only 4% of your generation would follow Christ? Whether you knew that or not, you will likely think, when you hear that low number, that this study must have been skewed, or at least that the writers are being a little overdramatic in order to draw attention to their work; however, more recently, another study was conducted, and they found that only 4% of this generation has a biblical world view. That study was not overreacting or even hypothetical; it has, in fact, become reality, because we as Christians are not rising up to be who God has called us to be.

With 96% of your generation not following Christ, you—and we as the church—have a big challenge facing us, but thankfully God has created us to be able to come up with, and implement, big solutions. This is why this study is called “Innovator”. Innovators don’t just see

problems, but instead see solutions. Innovators see things we do not even know we need or want yet, and come up with creative ways to meet those needs. Most importantly, innovators actually get up and do something about actually seeing those solutions come to fruition.

That is where you as a Christian can stand out. Christians all over the world, even many non-Christians, know that there is something not right with the world. The issue is that all people do is talk and complain about it. You can actually do something about it, change the lives of your friends, and change the course of the world for generations to come.

Here’s an example. Twenty years ago, two guys were playing a video game. One looked at the other and said, “Wouldn’t it be great if when we had to quit playing, we could take the game with us and keep playing?” Fast forward a couple of decades later and you’ll see the introduction of the Nintendo Switch. All those years ago, those guys saw a problem and came up with a solution but did nothing to actually take action and do anything about it. They clearly missed out on a huge opportunity!

Video games are trivial, and even if the Nintendo Switch was never invented, we would be completely fine. Imagine what happens, though, if you, like those guys did with their video game, follow the pattern of countless Christians before you? Meaning that you see the problem, maybe even come up with an idea to solve the problem, and do nothing about it.

You have probably heard this happen in sermons and around holiday dinners. A bunch of grown-ups griping about the world around them, and griping about young people, and at best thinking of solutions but not doing anything about it. Just because this is the norm for most Christian circles does not mean this has to be the Christian life you live.

You can bring about change.

You can be different.

You can be an innovator.

Throughout history, there are stories of human beings seeing problems and coming up with innovative solutions:

Johan Vaaler saw a stack of paper and said, “That needs to be clipped together.”

Alexander Graham Bell saw that we needed new ways to communicate.

Gandhi saw that a nation needed to be freed and could do it through non-violent means.

Steve Jobs saw that the computer could be used by everyday people for creative purposes.

These are just a few of countless examples of innovators throughout history who changed the course of the world through seeing a problem, coming up with an innovative solution, and then working to see that solution come to fruition.

It is time for you to do the same thing but on a much grander scale and for a much greater purpose.

Sure, you may come up within an invention, change the way we use technology, or start a political movement, but you can do it for the purpose of building God’s Kingdom, which is the only thing worth devoting your time, talents and treasure too.

Hopefully, you can clearly see the problem—only 4% of your generation is choosing to follow Christ. God has created you to be part of the solution. What we need to figure out is exactly how will you fit into God’s story of redeeming and changing the world, what unique and innovative talents and ideas you will bring to the table, and what you will sacrifice to see the vision God gives you come to life. A vital first step in that process is understanding exactly who you are in case the world around you, and even those close to you, have convinced you of a lie about your identity and place in this world.

So...let’s dive in.

1. YOU WERE CREATED BY GOD.

Read Psalm 139:14.

You were fearfully and wonderfully made by the Creator of the Universe. The same God who took the time to make sure the earth perfectly tilted on its axis and the exact distance we need to

**LESSON 1
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What impact does the fact that you are created by God have on you?
2. What impact would it have on your friends if they heard that message?
3. What do you think your purpose might be right now in this season of life?
4. What does it mean to you to see the world the way God sees it?
5. What are some ways you can love your neighbor in your community?

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STUDENT BOOK

NAME:

INNOVATOR

LESSON 1 CREATED BY GOD

2. YOU WERE _____.

READ PSALM 134:14

3. YOU WERE _____ IN HIS IMAGE.

READ GENESIS 1:27

**4. YOU WERE _____ FOR A
_____.**

READ JEREMIAH 29:11

**5. YOU CAN SEE THE WORLD THE WAY
_____.**

READ MATTHEW 22:34-40

A. CHRISTIANITY ISN'T JUST ABOUT

_____ **OUT OF**
_____.

b. THERE IS USUALLY A THIRD WAY-

_____ **-TO SEE THINGS.**