

ROAD TRIP

A JOURNEY ALONG
THE ROAD TO REAL WITH YOUR FRIENDS

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WELCOME TO THE *YOUNG LIFE ROAD TRIP!* Here's what lies ahead. For the next seven weeks, you'll be whisked away down the road to real, deep into the world according to God. (OK, maybe "whisked away" sounds a little dramatic, but hey, we're all about drama in Young Life.)

Speaking of drama, you'll need a copy of **GOD'S WORD** for this journey. If you have a Today's New International Version (TNIV) Bible, you'll find that is the version we refer to in this study guide. If you have a different version of the Bible, that's OK too, it just may use slightly different wording. You'll also need about **15 MINUTES** each day where you become completely unplugged.

Also, you'll need **FRIENDS!** Yes, that's right, COMPADRES, HOMIES, whatever — you get the point. Friends aren't absolutely necessary for this road trip, but they will make it much more fun. Plus, if you can find some who are willing to sign on for seven weeks, it would make the people who wrote the subtitle of this study guide very happy. Not to mention your Young Life leader.

OH, we almost forgot. Did we mention your **YOUNG LIFE LEADER?!** Best case scenario: you work through your personal copy of the *Young Life Road Trip* on your own each day, then you meet with your friends and your Young Life leader once a week to share the ride! (Kind of like carpooling, only way more fun.)

(That means no phone, no music, no Internet — for 15 minutes. You can do it! We know you can!)

WAIT! ONE MORE THING! (OK, maybe five — but they're brief.) Every road trip has some special sights or cool places to stop along the way, and this one is no exception. Every few pages, we suggest that you slow down, reflect, pray, memorize, talk with your leader or with God. So that you don't miss these points on the trip, here are some hints as to what you should be looking for:

Memory Lane – Each week you'll find a verse that we suggest you memorize. Sometimes it's on day one, sometimes day three ... you'll see it when you get there. Memorizing God's Word takes practice, repetition and a friend who can help keep you on track. What tricks will you use to help you memorize God's Word? (Sticky notes on the bathroom mirror? Tattoos on the tops of your toes?) Whom will you ask to help you make the most of Memory Lane? (A friend from Young Life? Your Great-Aunt Myrtle?) You have many options (although you probably only have 10 toes). At the end of Week Seven (pg. 114), you'll find a section marked "Memory Lane." Each week, write out your memory verse (once you know it by heart) in the space provided. In the future, we hope you'll return to take many strolls down Memory Lane.

Writer's Way – There are lots of places to record your thoughts on this trip. In some cases, we have specific questions for you to answer. But there is also plenty of room in the margins for your thoughts (and questions). And, no, you don't have to use a #2 pencil.

Take me to your leader – There are places along this journey where we'll suggest you either share what you're thinking with your Young Life leader or get their thoughts on a certain topic. They'll be glad you did — and so will you.

Talk it out, talk it over – Sometimes it's good to stop and talk with God about what you're feeling or thinking. Some people call this conversation "prayer." (OK, maybe A LOT of people call it prayer, but "talking with God" works, too.) In the pages ahead you'll find reminders to pray. Think of these like a scenic overlook — when you pray, your view often improves a lot.

Go the Extra Mile – At the end of some days, we'll offer extra reading for those of you who have time and want more. But here's the rule of reading the Extra Mile: this is not a competition! That is, if you choose not to do the extra reading, don't feel like you fell short.

We hope these travel hints help on your journey. Let's get moving!

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WEEK ONE: You are Here

RELIEF. The weight of the world has been lifted from your shoulders. For the moment, it seems like all wrongs have been made right and all knots untangled. Especially the knots deep inside your stomach. You've been forgiven. Declared not guilty. And filled with a warmth that seems to radiate from the center of your soul. You've met Jesus. And then ...

And then, what? Once you've met Jesus and decided to follow Him, where do you go? What do you do? How do you navigate the road ahead?

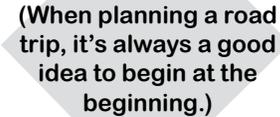
Before you can plan any road trip, you first have to find yourself on the map. You have to find the arrow that says, "You are Here." As we begin the *Young Life Road Trip* together, we first need to ask ourselves, "Where am I, according to God? How do I find myself on *His* map?" Let's explore some answers to those questions for the next few days ...

DAY ONE

When planning a road trip, it's always a good idea to begin at the beginning. Let's begin our Young Life Road Trip together in the first book of the Bible, chapter one.

1. Read Genesis, chapter one, verses 26-31. (The short way to write that reference is Genesis 1:26-31.) According to these verses, who put us on the map to begin with?

What do you learn about your creation from these verses?



(When planning a road trip, it's always a good idea to begin at the beginning.)

God didn't give us exact details on His process in Genesis, but He made it clear that we weren't an afterthought or an accident. He made a thoughtful decision to create us, then patted Himself on the back big time for a job well done. But Genesis is talking about the creation of the first man and woman. What about the creation of you and me?

2. Read Psalm 139:13-14.

Where did God create you?

What word picture does He give to describe His process?

What words are used to describe the quality of His craftsmanship?

What words does God use to pat Himself on the back in Genesis 1:31?

Regardless of how He did, the fact is, God put you on the map to begin with, then marked the spot with a sign that said, "Very good!" This may sound different than anything you've ever heard about your beginnings, but it's a basic truth that helps us get our bearings in this world and allows us to navigate through life with direction. Write in the space below any thoughts, feelings or questions that you are experiencing in response to what you've read today.

**Consider sharing
what you've
written with your
Young Life leader
sometime soon.**