

# Winter Jam Small Group LEADER GUIDE



*Hello Awesome Kingdom Building Leader!*

*Welcome to the "This is Winter Jam" small group experience. Winter Jam events stir a furious fire for Jesus and His Kingdom come. This 4 week small group study is designed to keep that desire ablaze in the hearts of all who attend, so that it carries over into the heart of your local Church. We are excited that you've chosen to fan the flame!*

*Let me help you get familiar with how the study works. First, I would advise you to take a moment to read the "Jesus above me" creed. This will help you catch the heart and goal of this study's transformational objectives. Visit [JamTour.com](http://JamTour.com) and click the "Deeper Life" tab to read the Creed. After you've read it once, take a moment to breathe it in. People with the kind of passion you just read about could change their schools, jobs, homes, communities, Churches and the World! That's the point! God is going to use you to help make that happen! Secondly, you will note that there's no fluff or filler in this study. We've not given you any cute ice breakers or lame games to hook your group into listening. We feel the way you do, it's time for them to drop the baby spoon and pick up a fork! This is meat so thick we should be serving it up on a B-B-Q grill! Be warned, satan will try to tell you that your group can't swallow it. Remember, he's a liar! They can and they will!*

*Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good!" This study isn't GMO low grade beef, this is solid spiritual meat, and that's the stuff that can satisfy their hungry souls!! The third thing I need to tell you is that you're going to need to roll up your sleeves and put on your Drill Sargent hat to make this study work. People have the tendency to want leaders to bottle feed them, but that's not going to happen. No baby bibs allowed at this table. This isn't milk, it's meat! But, you will need to cut it up for them in digestible parts. You do that by emailing every one a copy of the appropriate week's "JAM SESSION" material before you meet together. Invite them to read it during their devotional times. Have them bring it when you meet (be prepared to have copies in case "the dog eats" someone's paper). Finally, when you meet, follow the Personal prep and Group prep instructions. Then divide the written content up into sections and assign people in the group to read it out loud. Each one is short, so it won't be a problem. Straighten your Drill Sargent hat and give them a stiff shove, and*

*they will step up. Once you've read it all, then go through the Delve section. You may choose to simply ask all the questions yourself and let individuals answer to the whole group, or you may break the room into groups and assign questions to each group. Give them a few minutes to discuss and then have them share their answers with the group. The delve section is not about having the right answers as much as it is about processing the heart of the content. Open the floor up for discussion. Facilitate well by listening and repeating what you heard back in concise thoughts. Then ask if anyone has questions, or ask someone to express the same statement but in their own words. Close with watching the Jesus above me video once more, and end in prayer.*

# [Week 1]

## FOLLOW-THROUGH JAM

### Personal Prep:

*Before you step into the room to lead, step into your prayer closet and be lifted! Invest 2 minutes to be still in God's presence. Just be quiet and listen to yourself breathe. Once you are calm, say this verse out loud to our Triune God, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." (Philp. 4:13) Now, as you embrace that truth, step into your role as Group Leader.*

### Group Prep:

*Start your session by playing the Jesus Above Me video. After you show it. Ask your group to recite any parts of it that they can remember. Note the parts that match up and give them props! Challenge your group to learn the video, not as one person but as a group. Just like the group did in the video. On week four, Winter Jam invites your group to make their own video, upload it to Youtube or Vimeo, then post a tweet saying your Group's name and "This is Winter Jam" using the hashtag #JAMpeople. Winter Jam will watch the videos and will pick a group from each city on its 2016 West Coast and 2017 East Coast tour to get in early and free!*

### Dive:

No one grows out of growing in Grace! Perhaps it's been years since you first tasted forgiveness or you've recently repented of your sin and placed your faith in Jesus for your salvation. New babe in Christ or seasoned Saint, we all experience something called "follow-up." Follow-up is a practice that church leaders and ministers want to make sure happens in the life of someone who believes the claims of Christ in their heart. Even if you've connected with Jesus years ago, this is something you never grow out of. It was a mandate from Jesus, given to us in **Matthew 28:19-20**. He said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." Follow-up is a moment when we want to ensure that you leverage all that God has promised to you in His Word so that you maximize your new life in Christ and become a fully-devoted follower of Jesus.

In **John 10:10**, Jesus said the devil is out to steal, kill, and destroy you. You need to be aware that the moment you get saved, he unleashes an all-out assault against you. He wants to steal the faith you have in your heart. The Word of God is our Source of faith, and Satan wants to snatch it out of our hearts. Jesus spoke about the devil's tactics in a parable about a farm-

er, sowing seeds, and how the birds of the air came and stole them out of the soil. In **Luke 8:11-12**, Jesus said, "The seed is the word of God...the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe." Being aware that this attack happens, it's important that you are ministered to, or that someone follows-up with you. Spiritual leaders want to "shoo" the devil off, like a crow from in a garden, and to nurture the seed that's in the soil of your heart. That process is called, "follow-up." You can see why this is so important to your spiritual growth.

This Four Week Series is Winter Jam's way of following-up with you. We care for you and want to help you. Throughout the rest of this series you will take a journey that will give you more than enough practical steps to arm yourself against the devil's attacks and to nurture your spiritual growth. To start this expedition I want to share one of the most important words I can give you as you begin your journey of trusting Jesus. If you miss this instruction it will cause you great distress and spiritual setbacks. Pay close attention to what I am about to say --Are you listening?-- Okay, here it is. As much as the Bible emphasizes follow-up, it also has an emphasis on follow-through. This one core principle is a serious game-changer for living the Christian life.

Let me repeat myself, "As much as there is an emphasis on follow-up in the Bible, there is also an emphasis on follow-through." I told you what follow-up was; now let's look at follow-through.

In **Mark 8:34**, Jesus said, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." He also said, in Luke 9:62, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Do you feel the sense of personal involvement being stressed in these words of Christ? You see, follow-up is about the Church's helping you, and follow-through is about your helping yourself. Yes, the Church will be there for you; but it won't, and can't, live-out this life for you. You prayed and, with your lips, you made a confession that Jesus is your Lord. Now you must follow-through with your life. This is essential to embrace if you are to experience the abundant life Christ has for you. Now, let's start the Journey.

In **Luke 7:28**, Jesus said that his cousin, John the Baptist, was the greatest prophet ever born! One of the characteristics that made John stand highest among men was the way he stood humbly before God. He epitomized that quality, when he said in **John 3:30**, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John got one glimpse of Jesus, and his heart was ablaze for His purposes! This raging fire of adoration caused him to put aside his own interests, wants, goals, desires, dreams, and self-absorbed affections, for whatever Jesus wanted for his life! His mantra became, "Jesus above Me!" This is the anthem of all, who truly see and come to Jesus!

Those three, powerful words,--“Jesus above Me”-- sum-up the DNA of Winter Jam. The lights, artists, songs, and ministry are all for the undaunted purpose of showcasing Jesus! He is the One you saw in the spotlight at center stage! He was the Ultimate Headliner, the night you came or saw the movie! Over the years, hundreds of thousands have gathered at Winter Jam and received a fresh, anointed vision of Jesus! You saw Him and you gave Him your life!

Rising out of these gatherings is a ferocious force of faith, known as the JAM PEOPLE. Pledging allegiance to the only Sovereign Lord, “Jesus above Me” is the battle-cry of this thriving community of avid believers that you are now a part of. They’re unleashing their God-given purposes and potentials in their local churches with the audacious ambition to demystify the hope-giving power of the Gospel to a hurting world. Yes, that’s right--Jesus saved you, so you can help save others. You do this through serving God in the local church. God will give you the power to pull-it-off, through a heart that cries, “Jesus above Me!”

For the next three weeks, we are going to break that three-word mantra down and build your faith up! An empty tomb in Jerusalem tells us that amazing things await you as you seek to live for the One who died for you!

*Group discussion directed by the following questions:*

**Delve:**

1. Take a moment and think about the term “follow-up.” Now, describe it in your own words.
2. Why do you think “follow-through” is as important as “follow-up?”
3. If “Jesus above Me” were a movie, what part will you play?

## [Week 2]

### JESUS!

**"JESUS above me."**

#### *Personal Prep:*

*Get alone in a quiet place and read the following verses from the Bible: Exodus 3:9-12; Psalm 57:2; Colossians 1:24-29. Here's the take away from that reading, " You are able to fulfill the calling God has placed on your life! God has called you to this and He empowers you as you proclaim His truth. Breathe that in for a moment. Now, embrace it and step into your role as Group Leader.*

#### *Group Prep:*

*Before you start your session, ask if anyone can recite any part of the Jesus Above Me creed. Don't let anybody hide here, pick someone and have them remember any part of it. Give them props for any citing. Show the Jesus Above Me video. Remind your group on week four that Winter Jam invites your group to make their own video citing the Jesus Above Me Creed, upload it to Youtube or Vimeo, then post a tweet saying your groups name and "This is Winter Jam" using the hashtag #JAMpeople. Winter Jam will watch the videos and will pick a group from each city on it's 2016 West Coast and 2017 East Coast tour to get in early and free!*

#### **Dive:**

"JESUS above Me." It all starts with JESUS. That's Who John the Baptist had his eyes fixed on, when he said, "He must increase, and I must decrease." Jesus was the focus of his adoration and affection. Gazing at Christ Jesus provides the motivation to live the "Jesus above Me"-life.

As you begin reading your Bible (check-out the "Spiritual Ketchup" lesson on the Winter Jam App), you will find multitudes of stories and statements about Jesus. Three of the most motivational are found in Hebrews, chapter one. The writer says Jesus was the Creator of all things, the Sustainer of all things, and the Healer of our deepest pains! These three statements will be our subjects for the next three weeks. Let's hit that first one, now.

At the end of verse two of **Hebrews 1**, the writer says about Jesus: "Through Whom also He made the worlds." This means Jesus was the Agent of creation. Let's rewind a moment, shall we? **Genesis 1:1** says, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth." "God

created," in the Hebrew language, is "Elohim ba-rah!" Which means, God created without the use of any pre-existing material. That's why He's worthy of center-stage, He's the Only One, Who ever can or ever will, tell nothing to do something, and it does it! That's hard for our minds to wrap around.

Speaking about your brain, He made it out of dirt, yet it's capable of some astonishing abilities! This three-pound mass of cells can store over 100 trillion gigabytes of information. There are 32 gigs in an iPad. That means, your brain is equivalent to 4 trillion iPads! It can make fifteen thousand decisions per second, as in the case of the digestive process, following eating. We can taste one part of quinine in a million parts of water. We can smell over one million different odors; and our sense of touch can detect a projection that is only one/twenty-five thousandths of an inch high; DUST! The Bible says in Proverbs **20:12**, "The seeing eye and hearing ear, God made them both!" He is the Creator of all things!

I've had people hear me speak like this, and they get nervous. They exclaim, "You're controversial! Stop being controversial." No, I'm not controversial. I'm biblical! God said it, that settles it. However, it is seen as controversial. So, why do I go there? Why take the heat? Why take the criticism? Why does it matter, so much?--Because, if God can create all this from scratch...I want you to imagine, just for a moment, what He can do with your life!

**Ephesians 2:10** says we are a workmanship. That means "work of art". Thinking of yourself as a work of art might be the farthest thing from your mind. Your past and present struggles may haunt you, and you may be saying, "You don't know the mess, I've made, of my life. I'm no work of art." Let me tell you from personal experience, Jesus can, and will, make something beautiful out of our blunders, and masterpieces out of our mistakes! I'll unwrap more of that on our third week together; but, today let's celebrate that He's the Creator of all things! He is worthy of center-stage of our hearts and lives. He is worthy of the spotlight!-- Worthy of our adoration and affections. He is Jesus, the Savior of your soul, and the God, Who will take the canvas of your life and paint a masterpiece on it for His glory!

*Group discussion directed by the following questions:*

**Delve:**

1. Why do you think it's so important that you keep your focus on Jesus?
2. Let's pretend, you're a judge on America's Got Talent. Jesus just stood before you and did Creation, as His performance. What would you say to Him?
3. What would you like for your life-canvas to look like, at the end of this week? How about in two years? What about five years? Take time to thank God that He is painting a masterpiece out of the stuff of your life, so others can see how great He is.

## [Week 3]

### ABOVE

#### **"Jesus ABOVE Me."**

##### *Personal Prep:*

*You'll need to be in front of a mirror for this one. Take a moment and read Joshua 10:12-14 and John 14:12-13. Let the truth of those words wash over you. Amazing feat, to ask God to make the Sun motionless! And how astonishing is it that Jesus invites us to ask big and God will deliver greater? Here's where the mirror fits in, go stand in front of it, look yourself in the eyes, and say, " These verses are for me. It happened then, it can happen now, and I will see it happen in my group!" Now, as you embrace that truth, step into your role as Group Leader.*

##### *Group Prep:*

*Break your group into sections. Give them pen and paper, ask them to take 5 minutes and write down any part of the Jesus Above Me Creed. After the five minutes is up, play the Jesus Above Me video. As it plays tell your group to put a star next to anything on their paper that is said in the video. Once it's over ask them how many stars did they get and on what parts? Set up a time for your group to practice for their own video. Remember, on week four, Winter Jam invites your group to make their own video citing the Jesus Above Me Creed, upload it to Youtube or Vimeo, then post a tweet saying your groups name and "This is Winter Jam" using the hashtag #JAMpeople. Winter Jam will watch the videos and will pick a group from each city on it's 2016 West Coast and 2017 East Coast tour to get in early and free!*

##### **Dive:**

"Jesus ABOVE Me." Even though we moved on from Day One, we cannot move on from Jesus. He is what it's all about! Today, we will learn why He deserves our unrivaled affection! Not only is Jesus the Creator of all things, but He is also the Sustainer of all things. The Bible says in Hebrews 1:3 that He "upholds the universe by the word of His power."

I was watching a scientific television program that involved those whom they called the most brilliant minds in the world. The show was hosted by the infamous atheist, Dr. Richard Dawkins, and famed physicist, Dr. Stephen Hawking. On the program, they were discussing the origins of the universe. I found what they said to be quite intriguing.

I am sure that you are aware that we live in a Heliocentric Sphere. We are in a universe that rotates around the sun. The sun, on its average, is 12,000° Fahrenheit. They said that the



earth has an oblong rotation around the Sun. It's meticulously balanced at just the right distance from the sun that if it were to move one inch outside of that rotation we would either burn-up or freeze. The experts admitted they were perplexed about how the earth stays in a perfect orbit.--The Bible tells us that Jesus is holding it there by the word of His power! Then, they said something that really displayed the power of Jesus. They said that the earth is tilted at a 23.5 °-angle. But, they said, it should not be tilted at a 23.5 °-angle, because it's physically impossible, due to the mass distribution of water weight around the globe. But, they were glad that it's tilted at 23.5° because it gives us our four seasons. And, if it were not titled at 23.5°, they said, the events that would unfold would be monstrously catastrophic.

There's a whole world out there ignorantly screaming, "I don't need God. I don't need God!"-- WHAT?! Oh, yes, you do! You need Him to hold this world tilted at a 23.5°-angle! The amazing thing is that He is holding it and He isn't even breaking a sweat! Do you know what this means to you? It means that God specializes in operating in the realm of the impossible; and, therefore, we can entrust our lives to His care and control. There is nothing that, or no one who, can do what He can do for you. His power rises ABOVE money and man! He is the Unrivaled, Life Sustaining God of the universe! It's not just a song.--He really does have "the whole world in His hands,"--including yours.

*Group discussion directed by the following questions:*

**Delve:**

1. What is one, big thing, going on in your life that you need to see God do the impossible in? Pray to Him about it, now.
2. Now, take a moment and write out what that issue is; and then write above it, "Jesus has this in His hands."
3. Our universe rotates around the sun. The Son of God deserves to be above everything else in our own, personal universes. Jesus deserves to be unrivaled. What should that look like in your everyday life?

## [Week 4]

### ME

#### **"Jesus above ME."**

##### *Personal Prep:*

*The devil has a way of discouraging group leaders. One of his tactics is to remind us of everything we have ever done wrong. This weakens our passion as we flinch under the weight of condemnation. Today this stops! Open your Bible and clear your throat because you're going to be reading the following verses out loud! Romans 8:1-2, Ephesians 1:7-8, 1 John 1:9. Satan is on the run, you are totally forgiven and free from all guilt and shame! Now, go lead you some Jesus Above Me people who are going to change the world!*

##### *Group Prep:*

*Today you won't play any video. Your group is the video! Have them recite the creed. Consider it a practice run. After your session, film them saying it. Don't forget to post a link to the video in a tweet that says the name of your group and "This is Winter Jam", #JAMpeople. Have your class RT it and spread the heart cry of Christ's Church to a world of hurting people!*

##### **Dive:**

"Jesus above Me." He is the Creator of all things, the Sustainer of all things, and the Healer of our deepest pain. Time forbids, as do my abilities, to unwrap all the soteriological truths that are in Hebrews 1:1-3. But what can be said is that these verses provide a panoramic view of the redemptive intervention of Jesus Christ to bring healing to the hearts of all, who suffer from the fall-out of a sin-cursed world.

After His fight with the devil in the wilderness, Jesus is in the synagogue, quoting Isaiah 61, that He came to preach the Gospel to the poor and heal the broken-hearted. That is why the Psalmist exclaimed in Psalms 147:3, "He came to bind-up the broken-hearted and heal their wounds!" I can testify of his healing love.

Everybody's story is different, but the hurt is the same--real and painful. I was born in a mental institution, son of a mentally-insane, homeless prostitute. Abandoned at birth, I suffered unimaginable abuse under the hands of sick, twisted, perverted predators. They beat me, sexually molested me, and tortured me with burning cigarettes. When I was one month shy of being four years old, I was adopted. My new parents adopted me for \$200. I am so grateful for them. But we grew-up in a neighborhood my mom calls "the ghetto." It was a rough

place to grow-up. My cousin's boyfriend got his heart blown-out by a shot in the back. Another relative got shot, at point-blank range in the head, with a double-barrel, sawed-off shotgun.

My home-life was almost as terrorizing. To cope with our poverty, my dad would get drunk; and when he did, he got violent. He would beat me and scream in my face, "Is this all \$200 got me?! I wish I would have never bought you!" Those words crushed me. That rejection was a catalyst that propelled me to live a self-sabotaging lifestyle of massive alcohol and narcotic abuse. I wanted to be numb. I wanted to anesthetize the pain. But, I soon came to a haunting realization that the highs never got stronger than the hurts! I wrestled with suicide. Which ended up landing me in a mental ward, myself, in Goose Creek, SC. I was hurting so deeply.

Then, one day, someone told me about a Creator, a Sustainer, a Healer-- named, Jesus. He shared the Gospel with me. That night, February 24, 1989, I repented of my sin, received Christ's gift of salvation, and He healed the deepest wounds of my soul. I've always been haunted by the voice of my dad, saying, "I wish I had never bought you!" That night, God breathed in my heart with a loving, strong whisper, and said, "Tony, your dad hurt you by saying that he regretted buying you for \$200. Now, may you find healing in My words:--'I have never regretted purchasing you with the priceless blood of My Son.' " I am loved by God! I am treasured by Divinity--and so are you!

The Apostle Paul said it was the love of Christ that compelled him not to live for himself, but for others, so that they might experience life in Christ. Paul gave his life for the cause of Christ. God's love for us, displayed in Jesus, tells us He is worthy of our complete allegiance and adoration. Like John the Baptist, we should have a raging fire of adoration that causes us to put aside our selfish interests, wants, goals, desires, dreams, and self-absorbed affections, for whatever Jesus wants for our lives. He is worthy of every cost, we might pay to decrease, so that He may increase. The price He paid, to die for us, propels us to pay the price, to live for Him: a "Jesus above Me"-life. Welcome to the family of JAM PEOPLE!

*Group discussion directed by the following questions:*

**Delve:**

1. Take a few minutes and write-out parts of your story. What was your life like, before you met Jesus? When did you meet Him? What difference has there been, or will there be, since you've surrendered to Jesus?
2. If you were presenting at the Oscars, and had to write-out an appreciation for a "Best Leading Performance in a Real-Life Rescue, Love-Story" by Jesus, what would you say to Him?

3. Read and sign the JAM PEOPLE CREED at [www.jamtour.com](http://www.jamtour.com), then go an create your group video reciting the Creed. Post a link on twitter with your Groups name saying, "This is Winter Jam" #JAMpeople



