DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE REASON FOR JESUS

INTRODUCTION

The Reason for Jesus invites us to ask a question many of us may have assumed we already understood: Why did Jesus come?

We know *what* He did. He ransomed us, forgave us, redeemed us, and made a way for eternal life. But this journey presses us deeper: *Why?* What was the Father's heart behind it all?

This discussion guide is designed to help you sit with that question personally or in a group setting. As you move through these questions, you'll trace the story from the garden to the cross, from the words of Jesus to the heart of the Father, and from the ache of separation to the invitation to come home.

The Father is not asking you to clean yourself up before you come near. Because of Jesus, the way has already been made.

The invitation is simple and life-changing: *Come home to the Father.*

READING
Introduction, Chapters 1-2

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”
John 14:8-9

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1. When you consider the reason for Jesus, what answer first comes to mind?

2. What is the difference between knowing the results of Jesus’ work (salvation, forgiveness, and redemption) and understanding the heart behind His work? Why does that distinction matter for the way we relate to God?

3. In Chapter 1, Jesus’ first recorded words point to “My Father.” Why is that significant? How does this moment begin to frame the rest of Jesus’ life, ministry, death, and resurrection?

4. In Chapter 2, Charles reflects on whether he truly knows God as Father, not only as Lord. Do you see this challenge to see God as Father in your own life? Are there places where your faith feels more like duty and performance than closeness to the heart of the Father?

5. What might change in your life if you more deeply believed God is not only your Lord and King, but your Father? Consider your prayer life, your fears, your view of yourself, your obedience, your relationships, and the way you respond to failure. What would look different if you lived from the security of being His beloved child?

READING
Chapters 3–7

"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
Mark 14:36

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1. What stands out to you about Jesus calling God "Abba" in the garden before the cross? What might this moment teach us about bringing our own fear, grief, dread, or desire to God?

2. Charles writes that Abba is rooted in obedience. How does that challenge or deepen your understanding of intimacy with God? Are there ways you have wanted the comfort of God's Fatherhood without the surrender of trusting His will?

3. What does it mean to become "poor in spirit"? Why would Jesus begin the Sermon on the Mount there?

4. Charles describes being poor in spirit as recognizing that we cannot save or fix ourselves. Where is that easy for you to admit? Where is it hard? What would it look like to stop pretending in that area and come to the Father honestly, as a child in need rather than a performer trying to earn approval?

5. In Chapter 7, Jesus asks His disciples if they want to go away as well. This question asks for faith before understanding. Where do you need the reminder that your circumstances don't get to dictate who Jesus is or what you believe about Him?

READING
Chapters 8 - 15

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:8–9

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1. How does the book describe what was lost in the garden?

2. Why does the enemy attack our understanding of God as Father? Where do you see that strategy at work in your own life? Are there places where the enemy has tempted you to believe God is distant or unkind?

3. Chapter 10 asks, "Who is this God?" How would you honestly answer that question based on how you live, not just what you believe? What gap exists between what you say you believe about God and how you actually relate to Him?

4. Chapter 12 asks, "To whom do you bow?" What are the subtle ways we bow to someone or something other than God? Which rival "kingdom" most often competes for your trust and obedience?

5. In what ways do people still "sew fig leaves" today to cover shame, hide sin, or try to manage their own brokenness? Which "fig leaves" are you most prone to reach for?

READING
Chapters 16 - 23

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6

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1. Why do you think we resist seeing sin as seriously as God does? What happens to our understanding of the cross when we make sin small?

2. Where do you notice yourself striving to earn what Jesus has already paid for? What might it look like to receive grace as a child instead of trying to prove yourself as a servant?

3. Which do you tend to emphasize more: God’s justice or God’s mercy? What happens when we lose either one? How does the cross help you see the Father more clearly?

4. Which truth is hardest for you to receive personally: that your sin is truly serious, that Jesus truly paid for it, that the Father truly wants you home, or that you cannot add anything to what Christ has already done?

5. How has your view of God been shaped by earthly fathers, authority figures, wounds, or disappointments? What would it look like for God to correct your image of Him?

READING
Chapters 24 -29

"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

Romans 8:15-16

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1. How do you relate to Paul's struggle in Romans 7: wanting to do good but finding sin still at work within him? Are there patterns, attitudes, fears, temptations, or habits you have tried to overcome in your own strength?

2. Why is the question "Who will deliver me?" so central to the Christian life as opposed to "How do I fix this?" or "How can I improve myself?"

3. What does it mean to be born again, not merely become a spiritually renovated, improved version of yourself? Why do you think we often settle for improvement when Jesus offers new life?

4. Charles emphasizes that Jesus teaches us to pray to the Father. How does that shape the tone, posture, and expectation of prayer?

5. Do you tend to approach prayer more like a servant, a stranger, or a beloved child? Why? What would need to shift for you to come to the Father with the trust and expectation of a beloved child?

READING
Chapters 30 - 37

"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am… I made known to them your name, and will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

John 17:24–26

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1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father"? How does understanding that He is the perfect revelation of God's heart, character deepen your view of the Father?

2. Which moment from Jesus' life most clearly reveals the Father's heart to you?

3. Why is the Holy Spirit essential if we are going to know God as Father? Where do you need the Holy Spirit to move this truth from your head to your heart?

4. Charles connects the mission of God with the glory of God and the love of God. How do those ideas fit together?

5. What does it mean that the reason for Jesus is not only to forgive us, but to bring us into the Father's love? What changes when you understand the goal of salvation as being brought into the very love the Father has for the Son rather than simply a pardon?

READING
Chapters 38 - 39

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs…"
Romans 8:15–17

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1. What emotions rise in you when you hear the word "Abba"? What does that reaction reveal about how you currently relate to God as Father?

2. Why is adoption such a powerful image for salvation? How does adoption deepen your understanding of what Jesus came to do?

3. How is being forgiven different from being brought home? What would it look like for you to believe that the Father does not merely tolerate you now that you are forgiven, but actually wants you near?

4. Charles describes the gospel as an "inconceivable exchange": our debt paid, our status changed, our identity restored. Which part of that exchange is hardest for you to believe?

5. What is one ordinary moment this week where you can practice living as the Father's child? It might be how you pray, how you spend time with the Father, or how you surrender control.

READING
Chapter 40

"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am… I made known to them your name, and will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

John 17:24–26

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1. How would you answer the question now: What is the reason for Jesus?

2. What shifted in your understanding of salvation as you read this book?

3. What does "coming home" to the Father mean in this season of your life?

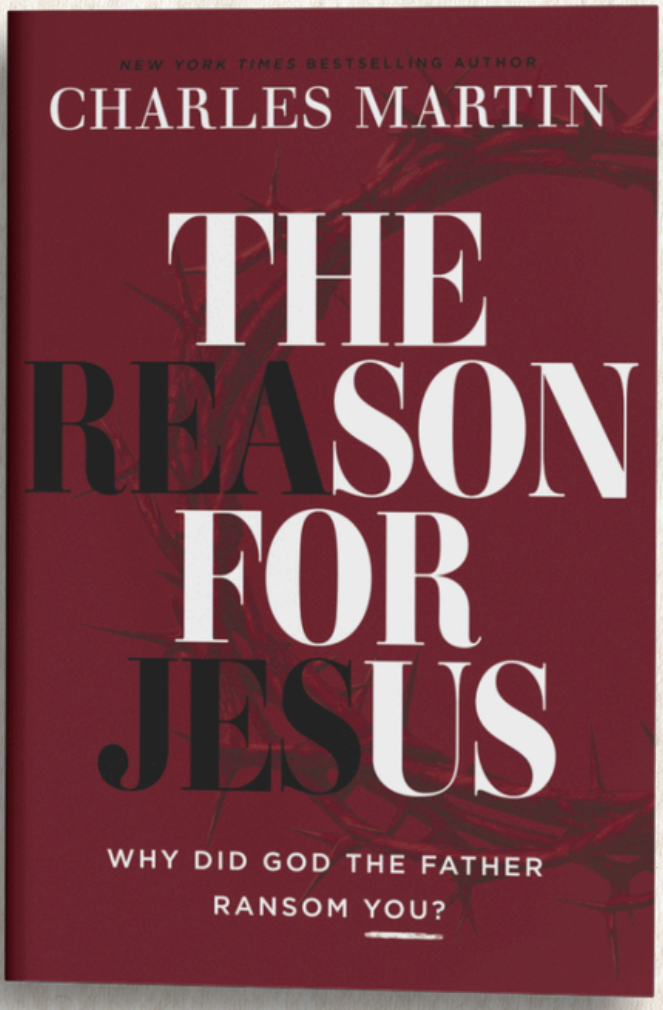
4. What is one next step of trust, obedience, or surrender the Father is inviting you to take?

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