

# **THE SHACK**

## Small Group Discussion Guide

Week #6 February 7 & 8 “Jesus - In Jeans and Plaid Shirt”  
Pastor Bruce Humphrey

**Philippians 2:1-8** If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

**Isaiah 53:1-3** Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

***Notes and Thoughts ...***

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## Small Group Discussion Guide

### Facilitator Guide

Continued blessings to you and your group!

Whether you are an on-campus discussion group, or an established small group, hopefully your group is growing closer to Jesus and one another during these weeks studying *The Shack* series together.

By this time you know that **the questions are not necessarily based on the sermon**. The questions are linked to the Scripture text that is used in the weekend worship and steered by the content of the sermon. **The goal is to dig deeper into the Scripture around the same theme that was preached**, resulting will in deeper conversation around what the Bible is saying, and not necessarily what was preached or read in the text.

We are now in the 6<sup>th</sup> week of *The Shack* series and it is not too early to be planning your “next steps.” Here are some ideas:

1. Plan a social event or service project together. Faith in Action weekend is coming on March 21 & 22 – a great opportunity for that.
2. Plan to attend the Ash Wednesday service together as a group – Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will be the last in *The Shack* series, on the subject of Forgiveness.
3. Take a break after Ash Wednesday and commit to reconvene after Easter.
4. Participate in the follow-on series beginning with Healing Relationships after Ash Wednesday – more details to follow next week.

**If you are facilitating a large discussion group**, you may have noticed that many individuals coming to the session, initially not connected at RBCPC, are now beginning to establish relationships. Hopefully new small groups, or at least ongoing discussion groups, will form as these relationships grow. As we approach the end of the series, please continue to encourage these relationships and small group interaction. **Plant the seed** of thinking about “next steps,” and/ or continuing on in small groups - meeting in homes or on campus, as the individual needs and desires are discussed. It might be a good idea to allow a few minutes for discussion on this subject.

Remember that relationships are at the core of vital small groups. As a facilitator it is partly your responsibility to work at cultivating trust, honesty, respect, and sincerity. In the “Live it” section, try to pick one of the suggestions that ask individuals to *report back next week*. This will encourage more interaction and accountability between the group members.

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### START IT:

- [New groups] What are you most comfortable wearing?
- Share your earliest memory of learning about Jesus.
- How do you define humility?

### STUDY IT:

- Read the Scripture passage aloud. What observations can be made about Jesus from this text?
- What do you think it means for Jesus to have “emptied” himself?

**After a particularly long silence, Mack spoke, “I feel more comfortable around you. You seem so different than the other two.”**

**“How do you mean different?” came his soft voice out of the darkness.**

**“Well,” Mack paused as he thought about it. “More real, or tangible. I don’t know.” He struggled with the words and Jesus lay quiet, waiting. “It’s like I’ve always known you. But Papa isn’t at all what I expected from God, and Sarayu, she’s way out there.”**

**Jesus chuckled in the dark. “Since I am human we have much in common to begin with.”** *THE SHACK*, page 110

- What do you and Jesus have in common? What makes you different? What does it mean to be “human?”
- Share a time when you connected with Jesus in a way that you found humorous.
- For further study, read Isaiah 53:1-3. Reflect on how the humanity of Jesus is described in these scriptures. Does this describe the “common man” to you?

### LIVE IT:

- What is one thing you could do this week to help you relate to Jesus’ humanity?
- Plan to take some time this week to have a conversation with Jesus, for example: find a quiet place, take a walk, look at the stars. Try to spend as much time *listening* as you do talking. Share your plans with the group.
- How might you encourage someone else in Christ (Phil. 2:1) this week?

PRAY IT: (this part will be done by our Prayer Ministry team for this series)