

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS...
AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED

Movie Study Guide

Becoming Available
to the God Who Qualifies

NGIM
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Not Qualified:
Becoming Available to the God Who Qualifies

By David Geisler and Rachel M. Payne

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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Norm Geisler International Ministries (NGIM)

P.O Box 642 Forest, VA 24551

www.ngim.org

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This is the Study Guide for the movie Norm Geisler: Not Qualified. It is designed for a small group or class for your church, ministry, or school to be used to clarify, discuss, and apply the concepts introduced in the movie. Visit normgeislerthemovie.com to learn more.

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Please do not remove these qualification and expectations from this document.

This Study Guide is still a work in progress as we see how churches, ministries, and schools use it over time. We will post updated versions of this document as we update them from time to time. Check for updates at movie@ngim.org

Foreword

My father, Norm Geisler, was born into poverty, and was virtually illiterate throughout high school. Yet the God of the *possible* did more than help him learn to read the Bible: He made him into a scholar who passed on what he learned to an entire generation of Christian leaders. God empowered him to leave a lifetime of resources for Christians to help further equip them to equip others. By leaving these resources, Norm Geisler left a path for Christians today and for the next generation to come.

At NGIM, our prayer for you is that the issues raised in this Study Guide will propel you to study deeper, using some of the resources that Norm Geisler left all of us. But in your efforts to get better equipped, don't forget that even Norm understood that *God cares most of all about our relationship with Him and that we know Him more deeply*. It's those deeper changes that God made in Norm Geisler's life that allowed him to have a greater impact. His love for God was demonstrated in his service to others, and that love fueled his desire to find and share the answers to questions about the Christian faith. He modeled the kind of servant leadership that led him to put others first, to help them succeed, and to lead them to Christ.

I am truly thankful for what my father taught so many people. He gave us the tools to understand ourselves better by understanding God better, so that we can better share His love with our struggling friends. Even as a young Christian, every time I had a question or concern, my father would have an answer for me! So let me ask you, "*What if you could give that kind of gift to those in your circle of influence?*" I pray this kind of gift becomes a reality for you too.

His Servant,

David Geisler, President, NGIM

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1

Intro - Not Qualified:

I Don't Think I Have the Right Stuff



Who may God be calling me to be, that I feel I am not qualified to become?

When Norm found God, he found a new way of living. But God had prepared Norm before he was born to **become** the kind of person He wanted him to be.

What's in your DNA?

Is there anything God has placed in you that He may want to fulfill in your lifetime?

At the time when Norm came to believe in Christ, Christianity had been ingrained in the cultural perspective of the Western world for centuries. It was so ingrained, that the church didn't feel the need to provide evidence from outside the Bible

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:8-9

to show that Christianity was true. Many even felt that to request such evidence was wrong.

But Norm quickly learned that many do need evidence from science, history, and logic to show that the Bible is true. The questions Norm heard from others were questions he shared, and he set out to find the answers about his **faith** at exactly the time God had planned.

Now you have the opportunity to follow Norm's journey, and to learn what he learned about God, the world, and yourself. What Norm learned profoundly affected his life. *How will the way you think affect who you are becoming?*

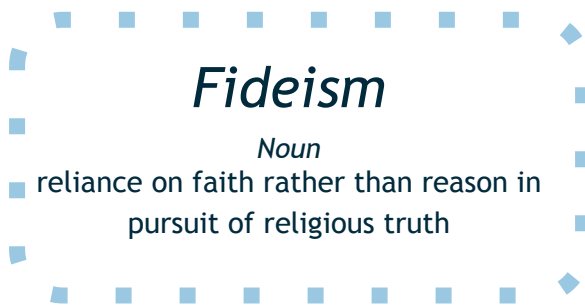
Discussion Guide

I heard the gospel, but I never accepted it. I just kept rejecting it. And I rejected it so much it was like an explosion building up inside of me.

Norm Geisler



JT BRIDGES - *Human experience can't be understood by faith alone.*



Which of these are a good basis for our understanding of Christianity:

- all you need to do is believe.
- reason and evidence can play an important role in confronting the lost.

Which of these are a good basis for our understanding of the existence of the world and everything in it:

- a story you make up.
- a story someone else tells you.
- a story based on physical and logical evidence.

KENT SUTER - *What would a middle schooler need to know? Well, that is the age when doubt will creep in.*

Have you ever felt that (mark all that apply):

- your faith has just been passed down to you from your parents.
- you want the Christian God to exist, but you aren't willing to pretend He exists.
- you can't figure out the answers yourself.
- if you don't have all the answers then you should not witness.

DAVID INGRASSIA - *What is the role of reason, and what is the role of faith in knowing God?*

What are some natural talents that God has given you that He could possibly use to work through your life?

What are some ways God may want to make an impact through you, that are bigger than what you feel you can do?

What does God's ability depend on?

What does your ability depend on?

GRACE - *I couldn't see God. So, he just seemed like a social construct, the product of people's imaginations. I was no longer sure what I believed. I came to the conclusion that I couldn't know if the physical world existed. And since I couldn't know if the physical world existed, I certainly couldn't know if God existed.*

Churches were not asking the tough questions in those days.

It was kind of "thus saith the Lord."

Here it is: believe it, receive it, and forget it.



Ed Hindson

Are there foundational truths that we can all know about reality?

What are some questions you have heard about Christianity?

What is an answer you have given someone that has helped them view Christianity differently?

What are some ways that others' views of Christianity have made you feel about your faith?

NORM GEISLER - *I'm either gonna have to get answers, or stop witnessing.*

Why would hearing your testimony be helpful for someone who is considering putting their faith in Christ?

What else might be helpful for that person to hear?



God wants to reach the heart.

But He does not bypass the head on the way to the heart.

Memorize

Importance of Knowing The Attributes of God

Now God is the highest model, and
if God is the highest model, then
*we're going to become like what
we think of God...*

So what we think about Him
is of the highest importance
in our life.

*From the lecture The Importance of
Knowing the Attributes of God,
by Norm Geisler*

Verses to Know

- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)
- And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:14-19)
- So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Resource

- *Reasons For Belief: Easy-to-Understand Answers to 10 Essential Questions* by Patty Tunnicliffe and Norm Geisler

***Faith and reason
are connected.***

Prayer Focus

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

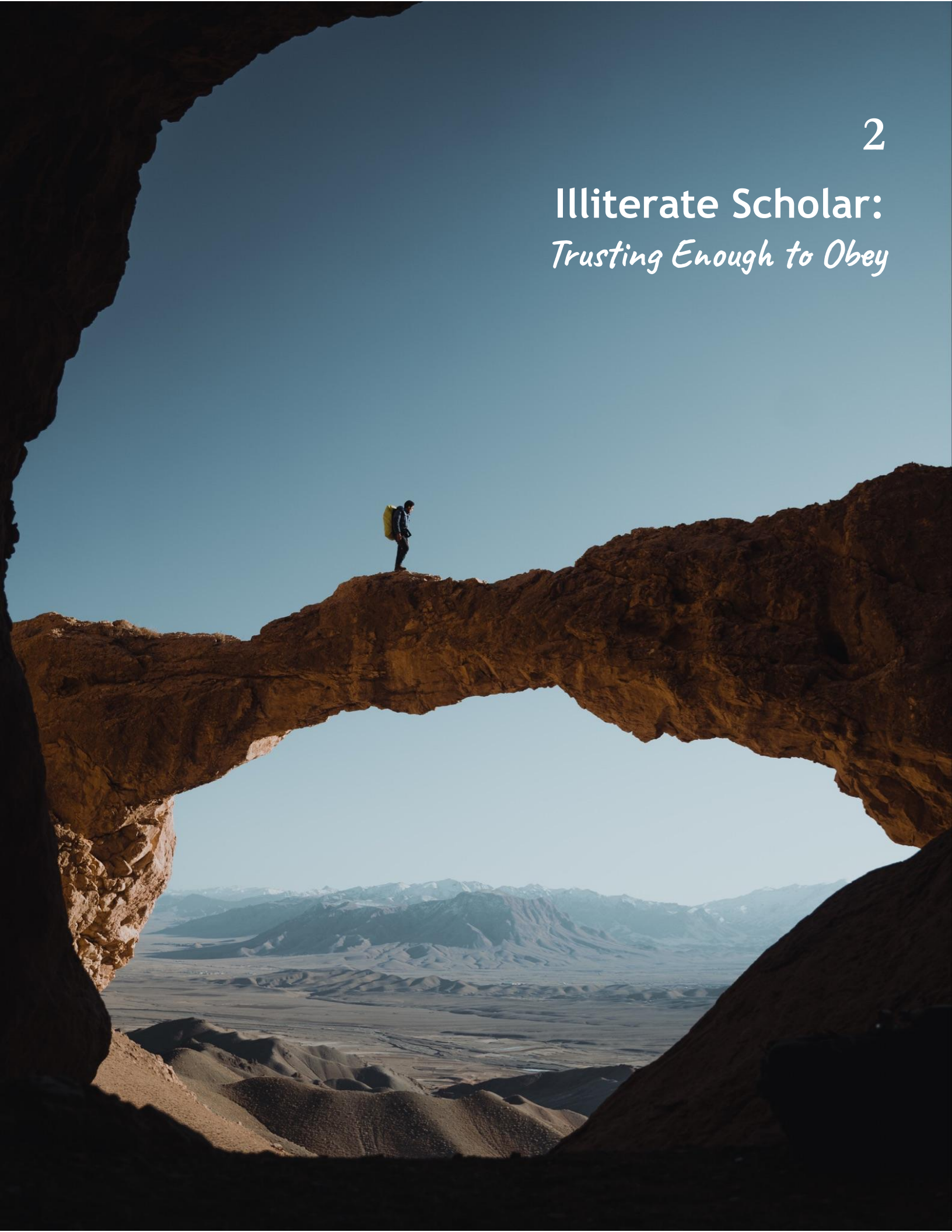
Isaiah 53:6

Read Isaiah 53. Ask God to help you to see your life through His perspective. Ask him to help you answer this question: If I thought I was made of the right stuff for God to work through me, I would trust Him to:

This Week

Ask three Christians, “What were your biggest barriers to believing in Christianity?” Then ask, “What was one event, thought or reason that played a major part in helping you believe in Christ?”

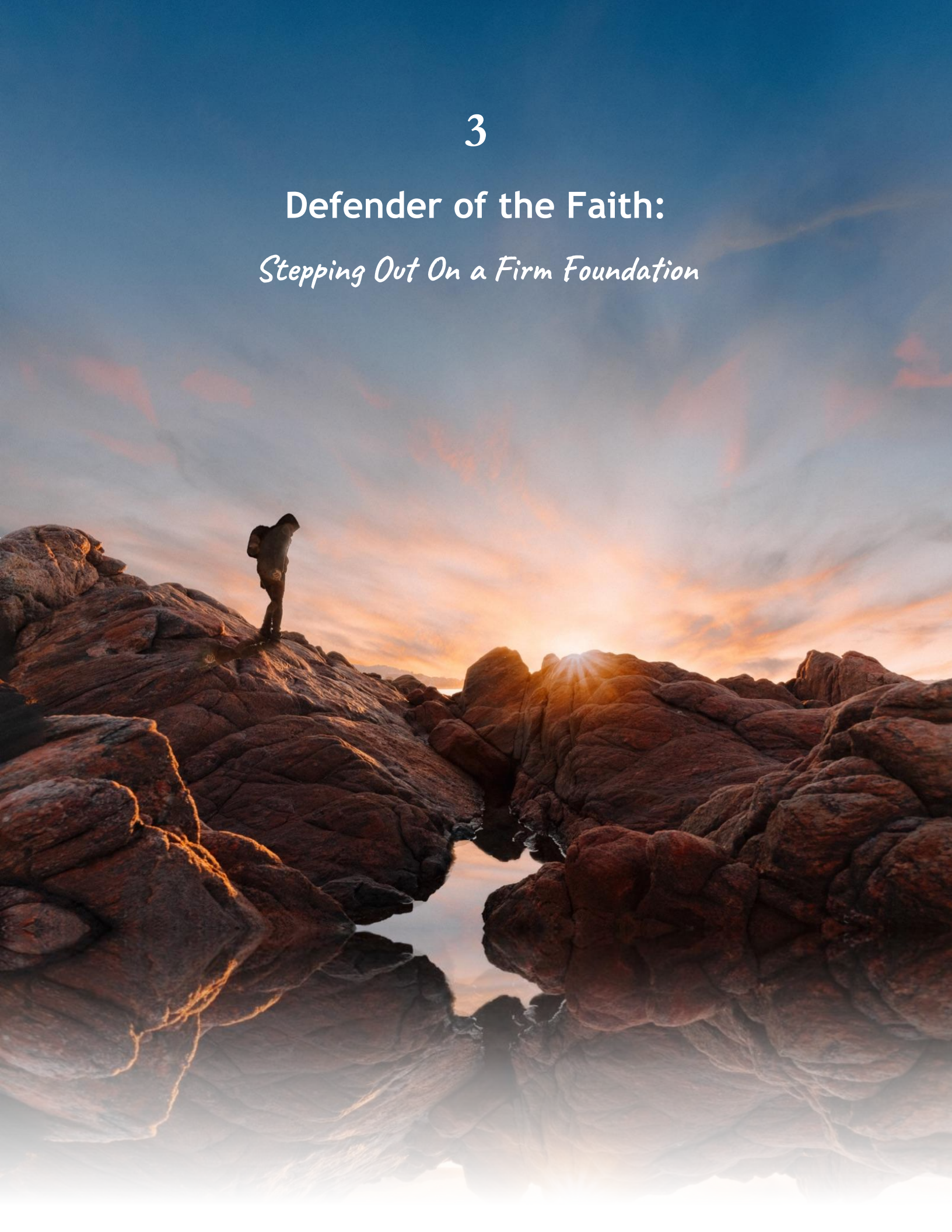
Illiterate Scholar:
Trusting Enough to Obey



3

Defender of the Faith:

Stepping Out On a Firm Foundation



A person with a backpack stands on a path leading to a beach, framed by trees. The scene is misty and overcast, with a large tree on the left and another on the right. The path leads to a beach with waves in the distance. The person is standing in the middle of the path, looking out towards the ocean. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

4

Bulldog for Truth:
How to Find the Right Path

5

Teacher:

I Can't Do It Alone



Mentor - Influencer:

There's More to Me Than What's on the Surface



What does God want me to make available to Him in my life?

Norm found that he did not have to *be qualified* for God to be able to work through him. He only had to be *available*. But even he was surprised at how *much* God was able to work through the life he could have felt was *not qualified*!

What are you holding onto in your life that you need to surrender to God's will?
Do you trust Him enough to take that first step?

God is already at work in everyone's lives around us. When we are available to Him to work through us, it will transform the way we live and the way we interact. We will want to find out how God is working in others' lives, and how we can

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with *the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15

co-journey with them toward God's love. As we journey, our priority must be to put Christ first in our lives, so we can **become** more like Him.

When we **know** who we are, *because we know who God is*, we can **know** it is God who *qualifies* us to **become** the kind of person He wants us to **be**. As Norm learned, "We cannot **know** ourselves **truly**, unless we **know** our God **truly**...The quest for ultimate satisfaction will never be fulfilled in anything less than the ultimate. That's why we need to **know** the **true** God."

What is God calling you to trust Him to work in and through your life?

*The steadfast love of the Lord
never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE MOVIE NORM GEISLER: NOT QUALIFIED

Follow Norm's Journey

*To Discover the Truth
About God, the World,
and Ourselves.*

We cannot **know** ourselves **truly** unless we **know** our God **truly**. The will of God is never contrary to the Word of God. Because God's **truth** goes beyond *reason* but not against *reason*. That's why I can **trust** God for the things I don't **know**, because of what he's revealed to me that I do **know**: 1) All religions in the world are a system of error with some **truth** in the non-essentials. 2) Christianity is a system of **truth** with some error in the non-essentials. 3) The laws of **logic** apply to **reality**. You don't have to just believe, you can **know** that it's **true**.

6 Lessons on the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of truth, the existence and real-world application of worldviews, and the importance of actively developing a Christ-like character through evangelism and discipleship.

*We become like what we think of God.
Norm Geisler*

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End of Preview