



**THE FOLLOW UP GUIDE TO
“IT ALL STARTS HERE”**

JONATHAN BROOKER



WAY TO GO!

Dear pastor, leader, discipler and/or good friend,

There is nothing like journeying with someone who has made the decision to follow Christ!

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus gave His disciples clear instructions to go and make more disciples. It was never about just getting a crowd together, having great services, or even seeing converts being made. The idea was always to make disciples—people who made the decision to die to self so they could be made alive in Christ and then follow Him fully throughout life’s journey.

I’m thrilled that you’re reading this, because it means that you care enough to help others who want to make that journey. This short packet is here to help you use *It All Starts Here* to the best of its potential.

My hope is that *It All Starts Here* works as a **huge** help in bridging the gap that exists between getting a person to commit their life to Christ and then actually getting them going on that journey.

Let me tell you a bit more about why I wrote it and how it came about as a book.
.....



HOW WE GOT HERE

The service had gone well. Students had made the decision to give their lives to Christ. We prayed with them. But then what?

After a couple years of being a youth pastor I was beginning to feel embarrassed by how unprepared I was for one of my students making this important decision. In fact, I began to realize that a number of other youth pastors felt the same way!

We could talk with them when the decision was made. We could involve them in a small group. Maybe even give them a free Bible. But what we lacked was something to tie all those things together. What I felt like I lacked was something I could put into their hands RIGHT THEN that would explain the gospel message and then talk about the basics of a relationship with God.

So I began looking for something that would do just that. While I'm not trying to say that there is absolutely nothing like it out there, I will say I really searched and searched and struggled to find something that met my simple requirements. It needed to be thorough, covering the full gospel and then many of the basics of the Christian faith. It needed to be theologically on point. It needed to be relationally driven and play to the fact that this learning process should feel more like a coffeehouse conversation than a college lecture.

And after my searching I came to a conclusion: This book doesn't seem to exist yet. It's time that it was written! So pulling from a number of years of sermons and

conversations with newly saved students, I began to compile themes and chapters. You'll find there's a definite flow that, though not directly pointed out, is intentionally there as you move through the chapters. It starts with the gospel and moves from there to how we develop our relationship with God. Then it moves to ways in which we worship God. Then it shifts to how God works within us. Then we look at how we can live daily for God. Then it concludes by looking at how we deal with our struggles, how we can share our faith, and ends with realizing that Jesus is supposed to be our driving force and direction in this new life.

.....



HOW DO I USE THIS BOOK?

So how do you make the most of It All Starts Here? Excellent question!

I think you'll probably end up finding the best way for you to use it in your unique context, and that's great! It's meant to be a personal book and so the expectation is that you personalize it to your situation.

Ultimately, this book was written to be a follow-up to a person making the decision to follow Christ. But even on the very first page, which is meant to be torn out, you'll find that it's also possible that a person who has questions before they make that decision or someone who is wanting to deepen their understanding of what it means to follow Christ may find this book really useful. That's great! Let the journey begin!

Here are some basic pointers that I would give to you if you're looking to lead someone through this book:

1. Have them fill out that first page, tear it out, and give it to you. Immediately.

- This is your way of keeping with them through the journey. It helps you to know what day/chapter they're on. And it helps for long-term follow-up too.

- If you're a pastor, this can help you keep better track of how many salvations you have in a year.

2. Encourage them as they begin.

- *Just tell them why you believe it's important and then ask them why they think it's worthwhile. Having them verbalize it too will just help for them to personalize why this book matters for them.*

- *Beginning anything new can be tough. Having someone who is going along beside you really does help!*

3. Urge them to answer the questions with some real thought.

- *Some will look at the questions as completely unnecessary. Can't you just read the chapters and be done?! Well yes, but then you're not engaging with what you're reading like you could be.*

- *If you're not too short with your answers and you actually are honest, those questions can really make the chapters come alive.*

4. Ask questions along the way.

- *This book was never meant to replace the personal aspect of talking to someone about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.*

- *Ask questions along the way to see how it's going, to see what they're thinking, to see what questions they may have.*

- *Check out these ones below that we've come up with.*

Here are some questions you may consider using with each chapter or after a couple chapters:

“So what did you learn most from what you've read?”

“Was there anything you'd already known in what you read?”

“How does what you read show you what you should know or do?”

“Do you have any questions after what you read?”

These are questions for you to use to track with the person that you may have asked to read the book. I can't encourage you enough to make the call, set up a time to meet up for coffee, send a simple text, *just do something*.

Make sure you have a number of copies of *It All Starts Here* ready for any opportunity you may have to see a salvation occur. Be ready and watch God do what He does best which is drawing people to Himself. This book hopefully helps us to be ready and prepared when that happens!

You may want to have a number of these books available to give away for free to people in your church or ministry who make that decision to follow Christ. However, you may be struggling with how to financially afford to give them away like that. Just remember, you can't afford not to have a good plan for discipling people. So we're just talking about finances here!

For your convenience, I've attached a simple letter you can adapt as you need to suit your specific needs. The idea would be that you could give this to particular people in your church who may be willing to consider underwriting buying these books. If they get a picture of your vision for using this book in your ministry then you may be surprised how willing people are to financially invest so that you don't need to worry about the money...just the lives being changed.

.....

Dear fellow follower of Jesus,

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider what you can do to help our church/ministry in intentionally building disciples. We take this calling that Jesus gave us (Matthew 28:19-20) very seriously, and we believe that you do too.

The call is clear. The opportunities are there. The challenge lies in making sure that when a person makes the decision to follow Christ that they have something in their hand that will walk them through what that decision means. They need to be able to answer that incredibly important question that they'll have: "Now what?"

Recently a book came out that does a great job of taking a person past the point of decision and walks them through what a vibrant relationship with Jesus really looks like. It's called *It All Starts Here* and, as the name indicates, it's all about getting someone started on their journey of following Christ.

It walks through the gospel message starting at creation, going through the fall, to when Jesus died and rose again to pay the price for our sins. It talks about the importance of our response to what Jesus has done, baptism, how we can have a relationship with God, the Bible, prayer, faith, doubt, the church, sharing your faith, and so much more. It's a 31-day journey that covers a lot of ground!

This kind of resource is so important in our ministry because the new believer needs to have this type of teaching right away. We don't want to see one-time decisions turn into once-and-done moments in history. We want to see lives changed. And follow-up is crucial in making that happen.

I believe this book is a resource that would be a huge benefit in helping us to make disciples. It's something that we would like to be stocked up on for when people make that decision so that we have it "ready to go" right away for them. However, in order to make that happen we are looking for some people who would see the vision behind this idea and be willing to donate towards it. We'd like to give these books away but obviously they aren't free for us to get.

So we're asking, would you consider giving financially so that we could order copies of *It All Starts Here* for our ministry so that we can be prepared for seeing disciples made? Any donation at all would be greatly appreciated as we all team up together to see God's kingdom grow as lives are changed for His glory!

Thank you!