

LINSANITY



A three week study of the major themes
brought out in the Linsanity documentary

**ATHLETES
INTERVARSITY**
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

 **INTERVARSITY**
Asian American Ministries

INTRODUCTION:

Week 1: Intro

Week 2: Identity (Matt 3:13-17)

Week 3: Purpose (Mark 6:30-44)

Week 4: Lordship (Matt 19:16-30)

This GIG is to be used after you and your friends have screened the documentary “Linsanity.” This documentary is about a Harvard Intersivity Alumni, Jeremy Lin, and his path to becoming a professional Basketball player in the NBA as well as a cultural phenomenon. In this GIG we will be looking at the several different themes that emerge throughout the documentary and throughout Jeremy’s life. We will also look at scriptures that address these same themes.

1. **Week One: INTRO** The intro week will allow you and your friends to engage with what you watched in documentary and to begin the discussion. This can either happen right after the screening, or a couple days after.
2. **Week Two: IDENTITY** (Matt 3:13-17) We will discuss how Jeremy’s identity developed through his journey and as a result of his faith. This will also offer an opportunity for you to discuss where you and your friends find your identities.
3. **Week Three: PURPOSE** (Mark 6:30-44) We look at the theme of purpose. In this week we will discuss the purpose the Jeremy discovered through his faith and discuss our views on purpose.
4. **Week Four: LORDSHIP** (Matt 19:16-30) We will discuss “Lordship.” Don’t let this word scare you or your friends. It simply means allowing God to be God over your life, your decisions, and your future. It means making God the priority. As you will see in the documentary, Jeremy learned how to make God his top priority and you will have an opportunity to discuss Lordship in you and your friends’ lives.

The purpose of each week’s study is to help you and your friends connect with Jeremy’s story, with their own story, and ultimately with God. The four weeks will begin by watching the Linsanity Documentary and each week will build on the previous, allowing you and your friends to progressively dig deeper into each of your stories as you discuss the theme presented and the scripture that go with them. At the end of this four-week GIG, determine your friend’s levels of interest in these spiritual discussions. If interested, use this opportunity to invite them into a weekly bible study to continue to investigate Jesus in their lives, or invite them to ask God to be Lord over their lives.

This GIG is a resource to help us and others draw closer to God and His purposes for our lives.

WEEK 1: INTRO

1. What did you think about the film? What parts did you connect with?
2. In the beginning of the film, we see the role that family plays in Jeremy's life. They supported each other, helped each other with homework, attended games. What role has family played in your life and dreams so far?
3. Jeremy had to overcome many obstacles and prejudices in pursuit of his dream. When trying to play college ball, he even says "if I was black, I would have had college offers." Where have you had to overcome obstacles or prejudices in pursuit of your dreams?
4. Athletics is often a place that brings people from different races together, but it's not often a place where race is actually talked about. How has race been talked about (or not) in your life or on your teams?
5. Faith played a significant role in Jeremy's life and he even says "nothing will happen that's not according to his (Jesus') plan." What role, if any, has faith played in sports or your life so far? In the lives of people that you have known?

WEEK 2: IDENTITY

Core Principle: Before Jesus began his ministry or accomplished anything God (the Father) declared He was very pleased with Jesus. God wants to do the same for you.

Quote: Jeremy says: "If all I'm good for is selling jerseys and increasing revenue? Am I just a marketing scheme?"

Warm Up: Jeremy felt like he was just being used as a marketing stunt for somebody else's benefit. Has there been a time when you felt appreciated or affirmed based primarily on what you could do?

Read Matthew 3:13-17

OBSERVE (what does the text say?) and **INTERPRET** (what does the passage mean?)

1. Someone retell the story (What's going on here? Who? What? Where? When?)
2. Who is John? Why is John surprised by Jesus' request to be baptized?
3. What happens when Jesus is baptized?
4. Who does God say Jesus is? What is the significance of God identifying Jesus with who he is rather than what he does?
5. How does he feel about Jesus? Does it surprise you that God would say this at the beginning of Jesus ministry, before he has accomplished anything? How does this compare with experiences you've had?

APPLY (What does it mean for me?)

6. If you could hear God's voice now what do you think He would say about you?
7. What do others currently base your identity on? What do you base your own identity on?
8. How might it changes things for you if you knew God was pleased with you at the start of each day, that He sees you for who you are, not what you might or might not do that day?
9. What if you primarily think of yourself as a child of God, whom He loves and in whom He is well pleased? In what areas of your life would it be hard to believe this? What are some ways you could remind yourselves of this?

10. What step can you take toward Jesus this week?

WEEK 3: PURPOSE

Core Principle: Jesus invites us to give our best - to Him. We have gifts, talents, and a purpose - but instead of going it alone, Jesus invites us to let ourselves be led by Him no matter what comes our way. He's asking us to step out and trust Him not just for our sake, but for everyone else's too. Will we let Him and others in to make something great?

Quote: Jeremy says "I wrote down my thoughts so I could look back and remember...that God has been faithful. I only play for God."

Warm Up: Jeremy, like many of us, is driven by a clear sense of purpose. We also see just how many others are involved in Jeremy's story. There are those who support him (like his brother and pastor), and there are people that he supports (like kids at the basketball camp). What's your main purpose in life right now? Can you think of a time when pursuing that made you feel alone? Have you ever had a mentor or friend support you in your purpose, or someone that you supported in their purpose? How did that affect you?

Read Mark 6:30-44

OBSERVE (what does the text say?)

1. Someone retell the story (What's going on here? Who? What? Where? When?)
2. Where were the disciples coming from before this episode? Why was the crowd there?
3. What was Jesus' response to the disciples? What was Jesus' response to the crowd?

INTERPRET (What does the passage mean?)

4. The disciples had just finished doing some great work - but instead of a time of rest, a huge and unwanted responsibility appears. Why didn't the disciples want to deal with the crowd? What do you think the disciples were focused on?
5. What was Jesus' attitude toward the crowd? What was Jesus focused on?
6. Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples to give the crowd something to eat rather than just do it himself?
7. How do you think the disciples felt about the amount of food they had to offer? What does Jesus tell them to do with the slim resources they had?

8. How did the disciples feel at first when Jesus made this request of them? How do you think they felt as they were giving all that food to all those people?
9. Jesus obviously didn't need the disciples to do this miracle – yet he purposefully involves them in the process. After it was over, what do you the lesson would've been for the disciples?

APPLY (What does it mean for me?)

10. When we focus on ourselves, we can overlook or ignore other people's needs. Can you think of a situation now where Jesus might be asking you to change your outlook or actions?
11. When we take all the responsibility upon ourselves, we can become afraid or stuck, unable to find a clear and meaningful purpose in our lives.. But Jesus knows our talents, gifts, desires, and he wants us to give them to him so he can direct us in the best way to use them. What would it be like if Jesus was the one to lead you? Where or how do you hear Jesus asking you to entrust yourself to him?
12. Because the disciples did what Jesus asked, they got to be part of something incredible. They let go of their self-focus and the ways they felt inadequate. What would it be like to be invited to be part of something incredible, instead of having to do it all yourself or look out for yourself?
13. Jesus didn't ask one disciple to feed the people alone - he called them to do it together. Likewise, Jesus doesn't want us to find our purpose in life alone – he invites us to journey with others who trust him. Are there any people or friends in your life who trust Jesus? What Christian partners or mentors might Jesus be pointing you to spend more time with?
14. What step can you take toward Jesus this week?

WEEK 4: LORDSHIP

Core Principle: Jesus wants to be the top priority of your life. To be the top priority, Jesus is inviting us to re-arrange or even give up other priorities... But Jesus is promising that what we will receive is much more fulfilling than we could imagine.

Quote: Jeremy says "A perfect plan doesn't always mean it ends up the way you want it to end up."

Warm Up: In Jeremy's story we see him fight for a place only to be sent to the D League and called back up and sent back down again and again. It left him wondering if it was worth it. What's a story in your life where you risked something precious to you in order to get something more valuable?

Read Matt 19:16-30

OBSERVE (what does the text say?)

1. Someone retell the story (What's going on here? Who? What? Where? When?)
2. Describe the rich young man as thoroughly as you can from this passage.

INTERPRET (What does the passage mean?)

3. Why do you think Jesus asked the man to sell all of his possessions? Was it really about the possessions or about something else / deeper?
4. Why do you think this was so hard for the rich man to do? What are all the ways giving up his money would have affected him?
5. What do you think about the man's response? What did the man end up giving up by NOT following Jesus?
6. What is Jesus like according to this passage?

APPLY: (What does it mean for me?)

7. What part of this story stands out or surprises you the most? Why?
8. How do you feel about Jesus after reading this story?
9. The sad truth is that the rich young ruler had not kept all the commands. In fact, he had broken the very first one and made money his god. If you were the rich young ruler, what 'riches' would be really hard for you to give up?

10. If you're really honest with yourself, what are your top five priorities in life?

For some of us, God isn't even in our top 5 priorities, what would it look like for God to move into your top 5? What would change? What blessings might you experience? What would be hard for you? What, like the rich young ruler, would you need to give up?

For some of us, God may be in our top 5 but He is honestly not consistently number 1. What would need to change for God to move to the top of your life? What would change? What blessings might you experience? What would be hard for you? What, like the rich young ruler, would you need to give up?

11. What step can you take toward Jesus this week?

This awesome resource was written and edited in collaboration between:

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