MAVERICK AT THE CROSS

Out of the Dust

An 11-Week Study

LEADER'S EDITION

Eleven songs, the Scripture behind them, and discussion questions
for small groups, Biblical Counseling, and personal study.

Free to copy and use in your church, small group, or counseling ministry.
MaverickATC.com/pastors

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to Use This Study

Out of the Dust tells one story in eleven songs: from a life wandering away from God, through crisis and rescue, to a faith that stands and a hope that looks toward home. Each week of this study takes one song, in album order.

Each week has three steps:

1. Listen. Scan the code on the page, or go to the address under it, to hear the song.
2. Read. Read the Scripture passage listed for that week.
3. Discuss. Work through the questions, alone or together. There is room to write under each one.

Under each question is a short *Aim* in gray. It tells you what the question is meant to help the reader see. Give your group or counselee the *Participant Handout*, which has the same pages without the Aims, so they can wrestle with each question for themselves.

All Scripture is quoted from the King James Version.

THE ELEVEN WEEKS

Week 1	As the Road Goes On	The Origin
Week 2	Sovereign Hand	The Theology
Week 3	Mercy Reaches Down	The Crisis
Week 4	Coming Dawn	The Intervention
Week 5	New Me	The Transformation
Week 6	Grandma's Joy	The Heritage
Week 7	Glory and Grace	The Reflection
Week 8	Hold Steady	The Endurance
Week 9	Standing on the Stone	The Resolve
Week 10	Onward to Zion	The Momentum
Week 11	Victory	The Celebration

Every song also has its own page with the story behind it, more Scripture, and a printable one-page guide: MaverickATC.com/pastors

WEEK 1 · THE ORIGIN

As the Road Goes On

A Redeemed Country song for anyone walking the road alone

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/as-the-road-goes-on

READ

Psalm 107:1–8 and Romans 12:1–2

DISCUSS

1. “Watchin' my back, guardin' my heart, trustin' no one, walking alone.” The man in the second verse is saved and has a peaceful home, yet he's still walking alone. Where have you built walls around a hurt? What have those walls kept out besides the people who hurt you?

   Aim: see that the walls we build to keep people out also keep God out.

2. When God's people hurt you, whom did you start trusting instead? Read Psalm 73:26. What happens when “my flesh and my heart” are all we're leaning on?

   Aim: self-reliance doesn't cure broken trust. God as the strength of our heart does.

3. In the story behind this song, Thomas writes, “Surrender on my own terms isn't surrender at all.” Read Romans 12:1. What pain have you kept off the altar, and what would it look like to hand it to Him?

   Aim: name the specific hurt being held back from God.

4. Read Psalm 107:2, 4–7. The song ends, “Songs for His glory, sharin' now my story.” Where has God found you on a lonely road and led you back? Who needs to hear that story from you?

   Aim: a healed hurt becomes a testimony to share, not a secret to guard.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:5–6 · Luke 15:11–24 · Ephesians 2:4–5 · Hebrews 12:11 · Psalm 147:3

Sovereign Hand

A Redeemed Country song for anyone who can't catch a break

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/sovereign-hand

READ

Proverbs 3:5–6, Romans 5:3–4, and Matthew 7:24–27

DISCUSS

1. The song says, “Trials and tribulations, refining me in all situations.” Read Romans 5:3–4. What does Paul say God works through tribulation, and how does that change the way you see what's hit your life right now?

   Aim: Help the reader see that their trouble is under God's control and being used for their good.

2. In Matthew 7:24–27, the rain and floods hit both houses. The difference was the foundation. When trouble hits, what are you really standing on?

   Aim: Help the reader examine whether their security rests on Christ's words or on their circumstances.

3. What is the difference between what you need and what you want in this season? Where might God be supplying the first, even when He holds back the second?

   Aim: Help the reader recognize God's provision in what they have, not just what they lack.

4. Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” What is one decision in front of you this week where you need to trust Him instead of leaning on your own understanding?

   Aim: Turn trust into one concrete act of obedience.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:3–5 · James 1:2–4 · Matthew 7:24–27 · Matthew 6:25–34 · Philippians 4:11–13 · 1 Peter 1:6–7 · John 15:1–2

WEEK 3 · THE CRISIS

Mercy Reaches Down

A Redeemed Country song for anyone who feels like they're going under

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/mercy-reaches-down

READ

Lamentations 3:17–26

DISCUSS

1. Jeremiah wrote, “My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD” (Lamentations 3:18). Then he wrote, “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope” (v. 21). What did he call to mind, and what do you need to call to mind today?

   Aim: Show the reader that hope returns by remembering who God is, not by waiting for circumstances to change.

2. In Psalm 42 the psalmist talks back to himself: “Why art thou cast down, O my soul?... hope thou in God” (v. 5). What are you telling yourself in this season, and what does God's Word tell you instead?

   Aim: Teach the reader to answer despair with truth instead of listening to it.

3. The song asks, “Oh will I ever be free from my sin?” Sometimes the sin is a slide into doubting God and giving despair the last word. Sometimes it's a sin you hate but keep going back to: “For what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I” (Romans 7:15). Where are you going under right now? Read Romans 7:24–25. Where does Paul find deliverance?

   Aim: Help the reader name their sin honestly, whether it's doubt or a sin they keep returning to, and look to Christ alone for deliverance.

4. Psalm 51:17 says God will not despise “a broken and a contrite heart.” What would it look like to bring your broken heart to Him today, instead of hiding it or trying to fix it yourself?

   Aim: Lead the reader to come to God in their brokenness and trust His mercy to restore them.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 40:1–3 · Psalm 42:5–11 · Psalm 51:1–17 · Romans 7:15–25 · James 1:14 · 1 John 1:9 · Isaiah 64:6

Coming Dawn

A Redeemed Country song for anyone waiting in the dark for the morning

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/coming-dawn

READ

Luke 22:31–34

DISCUSS

1. Jesus told Peter, “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not” (Luke 22:31–32). Satan was after Peter's faith. What does Satan use in your life to pull your eyes off Christ: fear, past failures, accusations, discouragement?

   Aim: Help the reader recognize sifting as an attack on their faith, and name how it comes at them.

2. Jesus prayed for Peter before the sifting began, and “he ever liveth to make intercession” for His people (Hebrews 7:25). How does knowing Christ is praying for you change how you face a season like this?

   Aim: Move the reader's confidence off the strength of their own grip and onto Christ's intercession for them.

3. Read Hebrews 12:2–3. The writer tells weary believers to consider Jesus and what He endured. When you open the Word in a dark season, what truths about Christ and the cross do you most need to be reminded of?

   Aim: Lead the reader to the remedy the song names: going back to the Word to remember who Christ is and what He has done.

4. Jesus told Peter that after he turned back, he would “strengthen thy brethren.” How might God use what you're walking through now to strengthen someone else later?

   Aim: Show the reader that a dark season isn't wasted; God uses those who have come through it to strengthen others.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:1 · 2 Corinthians 5:17 · John 8:36 · Philippians 4:6–7 · Hebrews 7:25 · John 21:15–17 · 2 Peter 1:12–13

New Me

A Redeemed Country song for anyone haunted by who they used to be

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/new-me

READ

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

DISCUSS

1. The song's first verse is a hard list: liar, rebel, hypocrite, “slave of Satan, Jesus hater.” Then: “Not by my works... He gave everything that I might live.” Read Ephesians 2:1–9. What does Paul say we were, and what did God do about it?

   Aim: Ground the reader's new identity in what God did, not in how well they've done since.

2. Satan is “the accuser of our brethren” (Revelation 12:10), but “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” (v. 11). When old failures come back to mind, what does the accuser tell you, and what does the blood of Christ say instead?

   Aim: Teach the reader to answer accusation with the finished work of Christ.

3. Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” Is there a sin you've already confessed (1 John 1:9) that you keep picking back up? What would it look like to leave it where God put it?

   Aim: Help the reader stop rehearsing sin God has already forgiven.

4. The song says, “Things I once loved... no longer desire them,” and ends with a new list: overcomer, believer, kingdom builder, hope giver. Which part of that new life is God calling you to live out right now?

   Aim: Move the reader from looking back at the old list to living the new one.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Romans 7:24–25 · Romans 8:1 · Ephesians 2:1–10 · Psalm 103:10–12 · Revelation 12:10–11 · 1 John 1:9

WEEK 6 · THE HERITAGE

Grandma's Joy

A Redeemed Country song for anyone missing someone who walked with the Lord

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/grandmas-joy

READ

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Leading a group of parents or grandparents? A second set of questions for passing on a real faith is at MaverickATC.com/songs/grandmas-joy-for-parents.

DISCUSS

1. Paul doesn't tell the Thessalonians to stop grieving. He tells them not to grieve "as others which have no hope." What's the difference between an unbeliever's grief and a believer's grief? Where does your own grief look more like an unbeliever's?

   Aim: Help the reader see that hope doesn't erase grief; it changes it, because for the believer, death is not the end.

2. Paul's comfort rests on one condition: "if we believe that Jesus died and rose again" (1 Thessalonians 4:14). How does Christ's resurrection change the way you think about the death of someone who trusted Him?

   Aim: Anchor the reader's hope in the resurrection of Christ, not in feelings or wishful thinking.

3. Is there something you never got to say to someone who has gone home to the Lord? Read 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Philippians 3:20–21. How does knowing where they are, and what they'll be, change how you carry what was left unsaid?

   Aim: Help the reader hand their regret over to God, trusting that for those in Christ, what was left unsaid isn't lost.

4. The hope in this passage belongs only to those who are in Christ. Can you say with certainty that it belongs to you? If not, how can you make this hope yours?*The answer:* A jailer in Philippi asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” and was told, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30–31). Repent of your sin, turn away from it, and put your faith and trust for salvation in Christ alone, who died for your sins and rose again.

   Aim: Make sure the reader's hope rests on their own faith in Christ, and show them plainly how to be saved.

MORE SCRIPTURE

John 11:25–26 · John 14:1–3 · Revelation 21:4 · Psalm 116:15

Glory and Grace

A Redeemed Country song for anyone who needs to remember where grace found them

LISTEN

youtube.com/watch?v=u0yHtJcKQ-o

READ

Ephesians 2:1–13

Glory and Grace looks back before it looks ahead. The first verses describe life without Christ: living in darkness, a slave to so many vices, any hope hidden under a dark heavy veil. Then the Word of the Lord is proclaimed, the veil is torn, and the chains fall off. Looking back at what God saved us from turns into praise for His mercy and grace. And that praise turns toward a new hope: the crystal sea, the streets of gold, and seeing face to face the Savior who died for us. Paul walks the same road in Ephesians 2. He reminds believers that they were once without hope and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12). Then he tells them what changed: “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ” (Ephesians 2:4–5). We were dead, and God made us alive.

DISCUSS

1. The song opens with life before Christ: “living in darkness,” “a slave to so many vices,” “any hope hidden under a dark heavy veil.” Read Ephesians 2:1–3 and 2:12. What did your life look like without Christ, and why does Paul want believers to remember it?

   Aim: Help the reader remember where grace found them, not to sit in shame, but to see how much God has done.

2. The turning point is “But God, so rich in His mercy and grace.” Read Ephesians 2:4–9. How is a person saved, and why does that leave no room for boasting, only praise?

   Aim: Show that salvation is received by grace through faith, not earned by works, so the right response is praise.

3. “His sacrifice was not just for others, but for me.” Why can someone believe Christ died for sinners and still not take it personally? What would praising Him for your rescue sound like?

   Aim: Move the reader from a general truth to personal thanks and praise.

4. The song ends looking forward: “His inheritance now mine… Face to face with Christ my Savior.” Read 1 Peter 1:3–4. What hope do you have now that you didn’t have before Christ, and how does it change the way you face this week?

   Aim: Give the reader a hope to look forward to, not just a past to look back on.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:6 · Titus 3:3–7 · 2 Corinthians 3:16 · Galatians 2:20 · 1 Peter 1:3–4 · Revelation 21:4

Hold Steady

A Redeemed Country song for anyone worn down and unable to see the road ahead

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/hold-steady

READ

Philippians 1:3–14

DISCUSS

1. The song opens in the dark: “Can't see the sun... Blindness creeps in.” The chorus admits, “It's not the picture that you imagined.” Where has your life turned out differently than you planned, and what has that done to your trust in God?

   Aim: Help the reader name the specific disappointment shaking their trust, so they can bring it to God honestly.

2. The song says, “In all things, God is working for our good... called to His purpose.” Read Romans 8:28–29. According to verse 29, what is the “good” God is working toward? How does that change what you expect from this season?

   Aim: Show the reader that God's good purpose is to make them like Christ, not necessarily to restore the picture they imagined.

3. Philippians 1:6 says God “will perform” the good work He began, and Philippians 2:12–13 says, “work out your own salvation... For it is God which worketh in you.” In your hard season, what is God's part, and what is yours?

   Aim: Help the reader rest in God's faithfulness while staying faithful in their own obedience.

4. The song's bridge is built from Scripture: Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 11:28, Philippians 4:6–7, and Proverbs 3:5–6. Which of these do you most need this week, and how will you keep it in front of you?

   Aim: Give the reader a specific promise to hold, and a plan to hold it, while they can't see the road ahead.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:28–29 · Matthew 11:28 · Philippians 4:6–7 · Proverbs 3:5–6 · Isaiah 41:10 · Isaiah 43:2 · James 1:2–4 · Romans 5:3–5 · 2 Corinthians 5:7

Standing on the Stone

A Redeemed Country song for anyone afraid when life shakes

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/standing-on-the-stone

READ

Psalm 46

DISCUSS

1. The song opens, “In our own strength, we're prone to fear. Left to ourselves, we'd disappear.” What fear rises up when you think about what's shaking in your life right now, and what does that fear show you about where you've been looking for strength?

   Aim: Help the reader trace their fear back to what they've been trusting.

2. Psalm 46:2 says, “Therefore will not we fear.” The “therefore” points back to who God is. Which truth about Him in verses 1–3 do you most need to hold on to?

   Aim: Teach the reader to answer fear with specific truths about who God is.

3. The first version of this song put its faith in “we.” Where might your faith have quietly become faith in your own strength?

   Aim: Help the reader notice self-reliance that has crept into their faith.

4. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit” (Zechariah 4:6). Name one situation this week where you'll need to stand firm. What would it look like to face it depending on His Spirit instead of pushing through on your own?

   Aim: Move the reader to one concrete act of dependence on God.

MORE SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 20:15 · Psalm 56:3 · Isaiah 41:10 · 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 · Ephesians 6:10 · 1 Peter 2:9

Onward to Zion

A Redeemed Country song for anyone tempted to quit

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/onward-to-zion

READ

Galatians 6:7–10 and Ephesians 6:10–18

DISCUSS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:57–58. Paul says God “giveth us the victory,” then says, “Therefore... be ye stedfast, unmoveable.” How does knowing the victory is already won change the way you keep going when you're tired?

   Aim: Root the reader's perseverance in Christ's finished victory, not in willpower.

2. The song says, “When the enemy attacks, don't let the bullets hit your back. Confront your foe head-on.” Read Ephesians 6:10–18. Where are you tempted to walk away instead of standing? Which piece of God's armor do you most need to put on?

   Aim: Help the reader see where they're retreating and name the specific provision God has given them.

3. Galatians 6:9 says, “let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” What good thing are you tempted to give up on because you can't see the harvest yet?

   Aim: Encourage faithfulness in what's right even when results are slow, trusting God's timing.

4. The song ends with a list: keep walking, singing, praying, believing, learning, growing, trusting, hoping. Which one have you let slip, and what's one step to pick it back up this week?
   Aim: Move the reader from encouragement to one concrete step.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:10–18 · 1 Corinthians 15:57–58 · Romans 6:14 · Romans 8:17 · John 16:22 · Hebrews 12:1–3 · Romans 8:1

Victory

A Redeemed Country song for anyone feeling defeated

LISTEN

MaverickATC.com/songs/victory

READ

1 Corinthians 15:50–58

DISCUSS

1. Where do you notice a defeated attitude in yourself: in your words, your worries, or your complaints? Read 1 Corinthians 15:55–57. What does Paul say has already happened to sin and death?

   Aim: Help the reader catch defeated thinking and answer it with what Christ has already done.

2. The story behind this song describes picturing good and evil as a boxing match between equals. How does Colossians 2:15 change that picture?

   Aim: Replace the picture of an even fight with Scripture's picture of a decisive victory at the cross.

3. The battle is won, but the danger is real (1 Peter 5:8). How do you hold both truths at once: confidence in the outcome, and alertness in the meantime?

   Aim: Help the reader live with settled confidence and steady watchfulness together.

4. The song answers defeat with praise: “We will not be silenced, we will not be cowed... Christ is King.” Which truth about who Christ is (King of Kings, Lamb of God, Redeemer) do you most need to declare over your situation this week, and how will you?

   Aim: Turn the reader from complaining to proclaiming who Christ is.

MORE SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:31–39 · 1 John 5:4 · Hebrews 12:2 · Revelation 21:1–4 · Job 1:12