



Special Cards

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# Part One

## Jesus took our extra cards on his cross.

### Summary - *Special Cards*

Anyone who has ever played UNO is familiar with the dreaded Draw Two (+2) card, which forces a player to add cards to their hand. Traditionally, everyone tries to avoid having this card played on them. However, I believe that Jesus would prefer for us to play the Draw Two (+2) card on Him rather than on others - He would likely even play it on Himself if He could. When we reflect on how Jesus willingly bore the weight of our burdens on the cross, it becomes clear that He would also choose to carry the burdens of the game, embracing the discomfort and stress on our behalf.

Message Scripture - **Matthew 11:28-30 NIV**

Small Group Scripture - **Mark 15:12-37 NIV**

# Part Two

## Jesus skips our past mistakes.

### Summary - *Special Cards*

Anyone who has ever played UNO is familiar with the infamous Skip card, which forces a player to forgo their next turn. The player who is skipped often feels as though they have been momentarily erased from the game, overlooked by the rest of the players as if they no longer exist. I believe this is a reflection of how Jesus views our past mistakes - as if they have been erased or "skipped." When we consider how Jesus forgave the thief on the cross without hesitation, we should be astounded that Jesus did not dwell on his past wrongdoings. Instead, Jesus focused on inviting him into God's family.

Message Scripture - **Titus 3:4-5 NIV**

Small Group Scripture - **Luke 23:26-43 NIV**

## Part Three

### Jesus reversed our eternal death sentence.

Summary - *Special Cards*

Anyone who has ever played UNO is familiar with the Reverse card, which changes the direction in which players take their turns. This card can be quite useful, as it disrupts the traditional order of play in an instant. I believe this is a reflection of how Jesus reversed our eternal death sentence. All of us have sinned and fallen short, and we deserve death. Thankfully, Jesus - who lived a life without sin - took upon Himself all of our sins on the cross, freeing us from the burden of sin. Three days later, when He resurrected, He guaranteed us a place in Heaven after death, provided we believe in Him.

Message Scripture - 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 NIV

Small Group Scripture - Matthew 28:1-15 NIV

## Part Four

### Jesus gives us freedom to choose our color.

Summary - *Special Cards*

Anyone who has ever played UNO is familiar with the Wild card, which allows the player to choose the color of the card that will be placed on the pile. This card is one of the most powerful action cards in the game; however, with great power comes great responsibility. The outcome of the game can hinge on the decision made with this one Wild card. I believe this serves as a reflection of how God grants us the free will to make a personal decision about our faith. The Wild card of our faith is in our hands. The question is: in whom are we choosing to place our trust? Will we choose the world, religions, or will we choose Jesus?

Message Scripture - John 3:16-18 NIV

Small Group Scripture - John 20:19-31 NIV



# Part One

## Jesus took our extra cards on his cross.

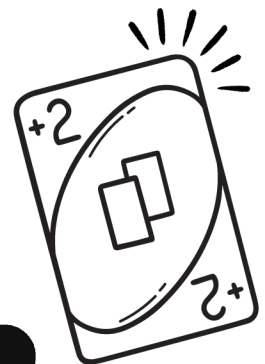
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### Message Scripture - **Matthew 11:28-30 NIV**

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



### ☆ Small Group Scripture - **Mark 15:12-37 NIV**

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when someone plays the Draw Two (+2) card on you?
- 2 How do you feel when people unload all their problems onto you?
- 3 Jesus wants you to give your problems to Him. Why is this important?
- 4 How can we give our problems to Jesus? What does this look like?
  - a What is the heaviest thing you've ever carried?
  - b What stresses or burdens are you dealing with today?
  - c How can we give these burdens to Jesus on the cross? What does this look like?
  - d Jesus wants to take your burdens from you - what does this show us about Him?

How should this change my life?

*Alternative*



## Small Group Scripture -

## Mark 15:12-37 NIV

12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. 13 “Crucify him!” they shouted. 14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” 15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.



21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. 25 It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. (28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”) 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!” 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). 35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” 36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. 37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

## side quest question

(Ask a leader for prayer)

**How can I move forward, free from these burdens?**

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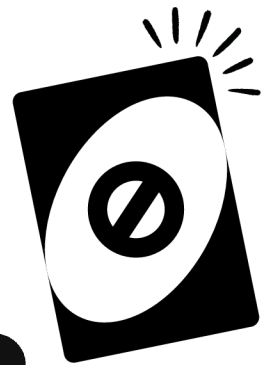
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### Message Scripture - Titus 3:4-5 NIV

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,



### ☆ Small Group Scripture - Luke 23:26-43 NIV

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when someone plays the Skip card on you?
- 2 Have you ever felt left out of something? What happened?
- 3 How do you think the thief on the cross felt?
- 4 Why did Jesus choose to include the thief on the cross?
  - a Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough because of your past? Why?
  - b Do you feel "good enough" to have a relationship with God?
  - c "You don't get right to go to God, you go to God to get right." Thoughts?
  - d What do Jesus' actions on the cross show about His love for us?



*Alternative*



## Small Group Scripture -

Luke 23:26-43 NIV

26 As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28 Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then "'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"' 31 For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals - one on his right, the other on his left.

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.



35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

(Ask a leader for prayer)

# side quest question

Am I worthy of God's love and acceptance?

# Part Three

## Jesus reversed our eternal death sentence.

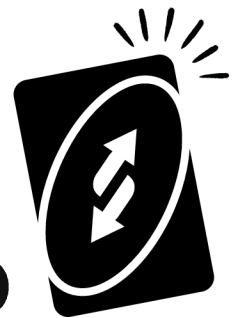
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### Message Scripture - 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 NIV

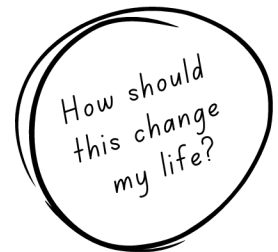
21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.



### ☆ Small Group Scripture - Matthew 28:1-15 NIV

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when someone plays the Reverse card?
- 2 Does playing the reverse card make you feel powerful?
- 3 What does the resurrection show about Jesus' power?
- 4 Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?
  - a Have you ever thought about what happens after we die?
  - b What do you think Heaven will be like? What do you think Hell will be like?
  - c How does Jesus' resurrection show Satan's weaknesses?
  - d Why is faith in Jesus' death and resurrection so important?



*Alternative*

#### Salvation Prayer





## Small Group Scripture -

## Matthew 28:1-15 NIV

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

(Ask a leader for prayer)

## side quest question

**How do I know if I will go to Heaven when I die?**



(Check Romans 10:9)

# Part Four

## Jesus gives us freedom to choose our color.

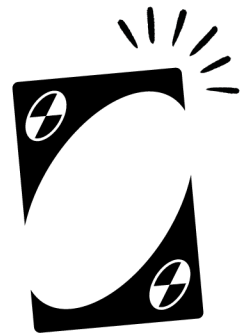
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### Message Scripture - John 3:16-18 NIV

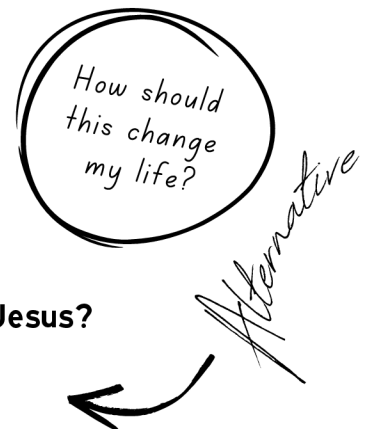
16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



### ☆ Small Group Scripture - John 20:19-31 NIV

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when you play the Wild card?
- 2 How do you decide which color to choose for your Wild?
- 3 Why did God choose to give us free will?
- 4 How should we decide whether or not we put our faith in Jesus?
  - a Have you ever had to make a difficult decision?
  - b What are some doubts (insecurities) that you have about your faith?
  - c What are some assurances (securities) that you have about your faith?
  - d Whom are you choosing to place your trust?





## Small Group Scripture -

John 20:19-31 NIV

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(Ask a leader for prayer)

# side quest question

**Am I choosing to believe in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection?**

————— Salvation Prayer —————

# Matching Event

## Super High Stakes, Overly Serious UNO Tournament

### Summary - *Special Cards*

UNO is a classic game due to its simplicity and accessibility, yet it can also become surprisingly intense. We plan to harness this unique intensity by organizing an UNO tournament that is so serious, it's almost comical. The vision for this event is to host multiple games simultaneously, where both 'nerdy' and athletic students can come together and build connections with one another.

### Enhancement Ideas

Take your funniest youth leaders, dress them in referee outfits with whistles, and have them commit to officiating games of UNO - instant classic. As for rewards, I would make them humorous as well, ensuring that students aren't discouraged after a loss since they're not playing for money or equivalent prizes. There's a large, fake gold chain online that says 'Champion' - it would be hilarious if the winner received it, got their picture taken wearing it, and had that photo displayed in the youth room or the lead pastor's office. Perfect bragging rights!

### Behavior Management

At the start of the event, before any games begin, it would be wise to review the expectations for the evening. This should include guidelines on how to show respect to others and demonstrate good sportsmanship. It's also crucial to go over the tournament rules, as confusion often leads to frustration. Since UNO rules can vary depending on each player's household, it's important to clarify the specific rules for this tournament.

# Part One

## Jesus took our extra cards on his cross.



Small Group Scripture -

Mark 15:12-37 NIV

### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when someone plays the Draw Two (+2) card on you?
- 2 How do you feel when people unload all their problems onto you?
- 3 Jesus wants you to give your problems to Him. Why is this important?
- 4 How can we give our problems to Jesus? What does this look like?
  - a What is the heaviest thing you've ever carried?
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## side quest question

(Ask a leader for prayer)

# How can I move forward, free from these burdens?

# Part Two

## Jesus skips our past mistakes.



Small Group Scripture -

Luke 23:26-43 NIV

### Discussion Questions

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(Ask a leader for prayer)

side quest question

Am I worthy of God's love and acceptance?

# Part Three

## Jesus reversed our eternal death sentence.



Small Group Scripture -

Matthew 28:1-15 NIV

### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when someone plays the Reverse card?
- 2 Does playing the reverse card make you feel powerful?
- 3 What does the resurrection show about Jesus' power?
- 4 Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?
  - a Have you ever thought about what happens after we die?
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(Ask a leader for prayer)

side quest question

How do I know if I will go to Heaven when I die?



(Check Romans 10:9)



# Part Four

## Jesus gives us freedom to choose our color.



Small Group Scripture -

John 20:19-31 NIV

### Discussion Questions

- 1 How do you feel when you play the Wild card?
- 2 How do you decide which color to choose for your Wild?
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## Small Group Scripture -

John 20:19-31 NIV

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(Ask a leader for prayer)

# side quest question

Am I choosing to believe in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection?

☐ Yes, I believe

☐ I dk yet

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