BORDERLANDS:
Week 1: Intro

1: WHAT WE SEE: *MOVING FROM CAPTIVITY TO CHRISTIAN MATURITY*
The Christian life is more than being rescued from our problems. Jesus invites us into healing, freedom, growth, and maturity. But transformation requires our participation with what God is doing in us.

The question is not only, "Do I want things to change?" but "Am I willing to follow Jesus in order to change?"

People generally find themselves somewhere along a journey:

- *People that need Overcoming* = lies, wounds, trauma, sin patterns, fears, and "giants."
- *Hurting People Who Need Healing* = places where Jesus needs to restore what has been wounded.
- *Healing People Positioned for Growth* = people discovering that healing is not the destination; maturity is the invitation.

At some point, the question shifts from: "What happened to me?" → "What is Jesus asking me to do with it?"

2: THE ISSUE: *THE GOTTA WANNA*
"Gotta Wanna" = *it means you have an obligation or need (gotta) to possess the desire or willingness (wanna) to do something.*

Key Scripture:
Romans 7:15–25 (ESV) - 15 *"For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin."

Romans 7 shows the struggle: *"I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."*
Christian transformation isn't simply trying harder. It is bringing our will under the transforming work of Jesus. There's a significant difference between: "Jesus, fix this for me." And "Jesus, I'm willing to follow You through what is necessary for this to change."

3: THE PATH: *BORDERLANDS*
The two possible paths:

The Promised Land — Growing Maturity
Experience → Security → Truth → Healthy Choices → Positive Outcomes → Growth

The spiral still loops because Christian growth isn't perfectly linear. Old wounds and insecurities may surface again, but through truth, community, responsibility, and obedience, we encounter them from a new level of maturity.

The Wasteland — Recurring Captivity
Experience → Insecurity → Worldview → Unhealthy Choices → Negative Outcomes → Victim Mindset → Repeat

Being victimized is not the same as having a victim mindset. We may have no responsibility for what happened to us, but eventually we must take responsibility for what we do with what happened to us. Without that shift, we can keep experiencing different circumstances but repeating the same cycle.

The Borderland
The Borderland is the threshold where healing begins requiring responsibility.

We can want: Freedom without surrender. | Healing without vulnerability. | Community without accountability. | Maturity without responsibility.

But eventually Jesus asks: "Do you only want the outcome—or are you willing to follow Me through the process?"

That's the Gotta Wanna moment.

4: THE HOW: *DISCIPLESHIP*
Discipleship as our means to Formation

Key Scripture:
Luke 14: 25-33 (ESV): *"25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."*

Jesus describes discipleship in Luke 14:25–33 as counting the cost and carrying our cross.

Discipleship requires=

- *Humility* - We become willing to ask, "What might God be showing me about me?"
- *Surrender* - Jesus gets the final word, not our wounds, feelings, comfort, or past.
- *Responsibility* - Not taking blame for everything that happened, but taking ownership of our response to it.
    - I may not be responsible for my wound, but I am responsible for pursuing healing.
    - I may not be responsible for the lie I was taught, but when Jesus reveals truth, I am responsible for what I do with it.
    - I may not be responsible for what happened to me, but I am responsible for who I am becoming.
- *Sacrifice* - Some things must be laid down for us to grow

5: The Big Idea:

Jesus doesn't simply rescue us from captivity; He disciples us into maturity.

Key Scripture:

Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV) - *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*

Philippians 2:12–13 captures the partnership: *"Work out your own salvation… for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*
We work out what God is working in.

Philippians 2 gives us hope: God is even at work within our desire - *"both to will and to work."*

So our prayer becomes:
"Jesus, make me willing. Show me what is mine to take responsibility for, what I need to surrender, and give me the courage to follow You."

You Gotta Wanna!

6: Show Teaching Calendar