Deeper Connections

The Forgiveness of Jesus

Six In-depth Studies Connecting the Bible to Life

DVD-Based Bible Study for Individuals or Groups
The Deeper Connections Series

The Miracles of Jesus
The Last Days of Jesus
The Forgiveness of Jesus
The Life of Jesus
Deeper Connections
The Forgiveness of Jesus
Leader’s Guide

Six In-depth Studies Connecting the Bible to Life

Matt Williams
General Editor

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This Leader’s Guide accompanies the
Deeper Connections: The Forgiveness of Jesus
6-Session DVD-Based Bible Study

ISBN 9781628624403

with
Deeper Connections: The Forgiveness of Jesus
Participant’s Guide

ISBN 9781628624410
Thanks for choosing this DVD curriculum. Please take two or three minutes to read this helpful information before you begin. It should answer most questions you may have.

What’s on the DVD?

- Six video sessions featuring six different Bible teachers and a series host. Each session includes an introduction filmed in Israel and two video teaching segments, for a total of approximately 25-30 minutes of video per session.
- Previews of other products your group might want to consider sometime in the future.

What Other Materials Are Needed for a Successful Small Group?

- Television monitor
- DVD player
- Watch or clock with which to monitor time
- Participant’s Guide (one per group member)
- Bible: Old and New Testaments (one per group member)
- Pen or pencil for everyone
Good to Know

- Each session is planned for approximately 60 minutes (typically the time limit in more formal settings), but easily can be expanded depending on a group’s specific situation. See, for example, the table below which compares a 60-minute and a 75-minute session. As leader, determine beforehand the amount of time you will allot for discussion. It is very important to keep track of time and end discussions on schedule, even if they are going well. It is always better to stop a good discussion than to allow it to continue too long.

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- The expanded session outlines, beginning on page 15, will help you navigate between the various DVD segments and discussion times for each session. Feel free to adapt each session to your particular group.
The participant’s guide (and a Bible) is all group members need for a complete group-study experience. The pages in each session that correspond with the video segments—in addition to providing space for taking notes—include pertinent Scriptures, explanatory historical or cultural information, quotes, and photos. The notes follow the chronology of the teacher’s presentation; group members will likely be able to participate more fully in the discussion times by filling in key thoughts and comments along the way. The participant’s guide also includes five personal studies per session, which allows group members to dig still deeper into the Word on their own between meetings.
We all know Christians who are bored with Bible study—not because the Bible is boring, but because they haven’t been introduced to its meaning in its first-century context and how that is significant for our lives today. When we begin to understand some of these “deeper connections”—both to the first century and to the twenty-first century—our lives are transformed.

The idea for the Deeper Connections series grew out of a concern that far too many Bible studies lack depth and solid biblical application. We wanted a Bible study series that was written and taught by biblical experts who could also communicate that material in a clear, practical, understandable manner. The Deeper Connections teachers have one foot in the historical, biblical text and the other in the modern world; they not only have written numerous books, they have many years of pastoral experience. When they teach in the local church, they often hear comments such as, “Wow, I’ve never heard it explained that way before.” Unfortunately that’s because, until recently, Bible professors usually spent most of their time writing books for other professors or occasionally for pastors, and the layperson in the church had little access to this biblical knowledge. Deeper Connections seeks to remedy this by bringing the best in biblical scholarship directly to small groups and Sunday school classes through the popular medium of DVD.
Don’t be scared by the word “deeper.” Deeper does not mean that these studies are hard to understand. It simply means that we are attempting to get at the true meaning of the biblical text, which involves investigating the historical, religious, and social background of first-century Jewish culture and their Greek and Roman neighbors. If we fail to study and understand this background, then we also fail to understand the deeper and true meaning of the Bible.

After making deeper connections to the biblical texts, the teachers then apply that text to life in the twenty-first century. This is where a deeper look into the text really pays off. Life-application in the church today has sometimes been a bit shallow and many times unrelated to the biblical passage itself. In this series, the practical application derives directly out of the biblical text.

So, to borrow the alternate title of *The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkien’s bestselling classic, we invite you to join us on an adventure to “there and back again”! Your life won’t be the same as a result.
About the Video Teachers

**Dr. Darrell Bock** is research professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas. An editor-at-large for *Christianity Today*, he speaks and teaches on the person of Jesus both nationally and internationally. Darrell is the author of more than twenty books, including a *New York Times* nonfiction bestseller and two commentaries on the gospel of Luke.

**Dr. Gary Burge** is professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, and a sought-after conference speaker. His experiences in Beirut, Lebanon, in the early 1970s when civil war broke out have helped him to see how valuable it is to understand the world of the Middle East in order to correctly understand the biblical world of Jesus. Gary is the author of many books, including a commentary on the gospel of John.

**Dr. Scott Duvall** is professor of New Testament at Ouachita Baptist University in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he has won the Outstanding Faculty Award four times. He has pastored various churches, and presently is co-pastor of Fellowship Church in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Scott has written many books on how to interpret, preach, and apply the Bible.

**Prof. Susan Hecht** is instructor of New Testament at Denver Seminary in Denver, Colorado. She is currently completing a doctorate in New Testament from Trinity
Evangelical Divinity School, before which she ministered on college campuses with Campus Crusade for Christ for twenty years in Colorado, Oregon, and North Carolina. Susan has written on the topic of ministry to postmoderns.

**Dr. Mark Strauss** is professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary in San Diego, California. He is a frequent preacher at San Diego area churches and has served in three interim pastorates. Mark is the author of many books, including a commentary on the gospel of Luke and *Four Portraits, One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*.

**Dr. Matt Williams** is associate professor of New Testament at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, La Mirada, California. A former missionary to Spain, Matt preaches and teaches in churches throughout the United States and Spain. He is general editor of *Biblioteca Teológica Vida, Colección Teológica Contemporánea*, and *What the New Testament Authors Really Cared About*, and is the author of two books on the Gospels.

Host **Margaret Feinberg** (www.margaretfeinberg.com) is a popular speaker at churches and leading conferences such as Fusion, Catalyst, and National Pastors Convention. Named one of the “Thirty Emerging Voices” of Christian leaders under age forty by *Charisma* magazine, she has written more than 700 articles and a dozen books, including *The Organic God* and *The Sacred Echo*. She lives in Colorado.
Before You Lead

For the best experience in leading your group, it’s very important to preview the introduction and both video teaching segments for session one on the DVD, plus look over the corresponding pages in *The Forgiveness of Jesus Participant’s Guide*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Also, if you haven’t already done so, read the “For Starters” section on pages 7–9, which provides additional leader helps.

Session Outline

I. Video Introduction (2 minutes)
II. Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
III. Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
IV. Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
V. Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
VI. Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Video Introduction (2 minutes)
Play the video introduction for session one, filmed in Israel with series host Margaret Feinberg, which sets the stage for today’s lesson.

Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
Read or have a volunteer read the Scripture passage noted on page 12 of the participant’s guide, or together listen to the dramatized audio version on the DVD. Then pray that God would open each group member’s heart to the message he has for them. You may also want to refer to the map and/or photo on the same page of the guide, which typically provides the geographical setting/location for the lesson.

Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
Before showing the first video teaching segment for session one, featuring teacher Matt Williams, you may want to familiarize group members with the “Video Teaching Notes” section on pages 13–20 and very briefly explain the various components. Encourage everyone that, just like in school, good note-taking generally results in better retention of the material.

Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
Pause the DVD and discuss the questions on pages 20–21 of the participant’s guide. If your group has more than 8–10 members, you may want to divide into groups of 4 or 5 so that more people will be able to participate. (Do this for the subsequent discussion time as well.) Be sure to stop the discussion at the end of the allotted
time. Remember, this outline is based on a 60-minute session; adjust the number of minutes for your specific schedule.

Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
Show Williams’s second video teaching segment for session one; the corresponding notes section is on pages 22–24 of the participant’s guide.

Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Wrap up by discussing the application questions on pages 24–25. Before you dismiss, encourage group members to work through as much of the “Making Deeper Connections in Your Own Life” section (pages 26–29) as they can before the next session.
Before You Lead
For the best experience in leading your group, it’s very important to preview the introduction and both video teaching segments for session two on the DVD, plus look over the corresponding pages in *The Forgiveness of Jesus Participant’s Guide*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Also, if you haven’t already done so, read the “For Starters” section on pages 7–9, which provides additional leader helps.

Session Outline

I. Video Introduction (2 minutes)
II. Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
III. Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
IV. Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
V. Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
VI. Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Two Aspects of Healing

Video Introduction (2 minutes)
Play the video introduction for session two, filmed in Israel with series host Margaret Feinberg, which sets the stage for today’s lesson.

Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
Read or have a volunteer read the Scripture passage noted on page 32 of the participant’s guide, or together listen to the dramatized audio version on the DVD. Then pray that God would open each group member’s heart to the message he has for them. You may also want to refer to the map and/or photo on the same page of the guide, which typically provides the geographical setting/location for the lesson.

Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
Ask group members to turn to the “Video Teaching Notes” section that begins on page 33, then play the first video teaching segment for session two, featuring teacher Susan Hecht. Encourage everyone that, just like in school, good note-taking generally results in better retention of the material.

Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
Pause the DVD and discuss the questions on pages 38–39 of the participant’s guide. If your group has more than 8–10 members, you may want to divide into groups of 4 or 5 so that more people will be able to participate. (Do this for the subsequent discussion time as well.) Be sure to stop the discussion at the end of the allotted time. Remember, this outline is based on a 60-minute
session; adjust the number of minutes for your specific schedule.

**Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)**
Show Hecht’s second video teaching segment for session two; the corresponding notes section is on pages 40–42 of the participant’s guide.

**Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)**
Wrap up by discussing the application questions on pages 43–44. Before you dismiss, encourage group members to work through as much of the “Making Deeper Connections in Your Own Life” section (pages 45–49) as they can before the next session.
Before You Lead
For the best experience in leading your group, it’s very important to preview the introduction and both video teaching segments for session three on the DVD, plus look over the corresponding pages in *The Forgiveness of Jesus Participant’s Guide*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Also, if you haven’t already done so, read the “For Starters” section on pages 7–9, which provides additional leader helps.

Session Outline

I. Video Introduction (2 minutes)
II. Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
III. Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
IV. Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
V. Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
VI. Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Video Introduction (2 minutes)
Play the video introduction for session three, filmed in Israel with series host Margaret Feinberg, which sets the stage for today’s lesson.

Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
Read or have a volunteer read the Scripture passage noted on page 52 of the participant’s guide, or together listen to the dramatized audio version on the DVD. Then pray that God would open each group member’s heart to the message he has for them. You may also want to refer to the map and/or photo on the same page of the guide, which typically provides the geographical setting/location for the lesson.

Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
Ask group members to turn to the “Video Teaching Notes” section that begins on page 52, then play the first video teaching segment for session three, featuring teacher Gary Burge. Encourage everyone that, just like in school, good note-taking generally results in better retention of the material.

Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
Pause the DVD and discuss the questions on pages 58–59 of the participant’s guide. If your group has more than 8–10 members, you may want to divide into groups of 4 or 5 so that more people will be able to participate. (Do this for the subsequent discussion time as well.) Be sure to stop the discussion at the end of the allotted time. Remember, this outline is based on a 60-minute
session; adjust the number of minutes for your specific schedule.

**Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)**

Show Burge’s second video teaching segment for session three; the corresponding notes section is on pages 60–64 of the participant’s guide.

**Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)**

Wrap up by discussing the application questions on pages 65–66. Before you dismiss, encourage group members to work through as much of the “Making Deeper Connections in Your Own Life” section (pages 67–71) as they can before the next session.
Before You Lead
For the best experience in leading your group, it’s very important to preview the introduction and both video teaching segments for session four on the DVD, plus look over the corresponding pages in *The Forgiveness of Jesus Participant’s Guide*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Also, if you haven’t already done so, read the “For Starters” section on pages 7–9, which provides additional leader helps.

Session Outline

I. Video Introduction (2 minutes)
II. Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
III. Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
IV. Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
V. Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
VI. Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Video Introduction (2 minutes)

Play the video introduction for session four, filmed in Israel with series host Margaret Feinberg, which sets the stage for today’s lesson.

Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)

Read or have a volunteer read the Scripture passage noted on page 74 of the participant’s guide, or together listen to the dramatized audio version on the DVD. Then pray that God would open each group member’s heart to the message he has for them. You may also want to refer to the map and/or photo on the same page of the guide, which typically provides the geographical setting/location for the lesson.

Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)

Ask group members to turn to the “Video Teaching Notes” section that begins on page 75, then play the first video teaching segment for session four, featuring teacher Scott Duvall. Encourage everyone that, just like in school, good note-taking generally results in better retention of the material.

Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)

Pause the DVD and discuss the questions on pages 80–81 of the participant’s guide. If your group has more than 8–10 members, you may want to divide into groups of 4 or 5 so that more people will be able to participate. (Do this for the subsequent discussion time as well.) Be sure to stop the discussion at the end of the allotted time. Remember, this outline is based on a 60-minute
session; adjust the number of minutes for your specific schedule.

**Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)**
Show Duvall’s second video teaching segment for session four; the corresponding notes section is on pages 81–83 of the participant’s guide.

**Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)**
Wrap up by discussing the application questions on pages 83–84. Before you dismiss, encourage group members to work through as much of the “Making Deeper Connections in Your Own Life” section (pages 85–88) as they can before the next session.
Before You Lead

For the best experience in leading your group, it’s very important to preview the introduction and both video teaching segments for session five on the DVD, plus look over the corresponding pages in *The Forgiveness of Jesus Participant’s Guide*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Also, if you haven’t already done so, read the “For Starters” section on pages 7–9, which provides additional leader helps.

Session Outline

I. Video Introduction (2 minutes)
II. Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
III. Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
IV. Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
V. Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
VI. Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Video Introduction (2 minutes)
Play the video introduction for session five, filmed in Israel with series host Margaret Feinberg, which sets the stage for today’s lesson.

Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
Read or have a volunteer read the Scripture passage noted on page 90 of the participant’s guide, or together listen to the dramatized audio version on the DVD. Then pray that God would open each group member’s heart to the message he has for them. You may also want to refer to the map and/or photo on the same page of the guide, which typically provides the geographical setting/location for the lesson.

Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
Ask group members to turn to the “Video Teaching Notes” section that begins on page 90, then play the first video teaching segment for session five, featuring teacher Mark Strauss. Encourage everyone that, just like in school, good note-taking generally results in better retention of the material.

Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
Pause the DVD and discuss the questions on pages 96–97 of the participant’s guide. If your group has more than 8–10 members, you may want to divide into groups of 4 or 5 so that more people will be able to participate. (Do this for the subsequent discussion time as well.) Be sure to stop the discussion at the end of the allotted time. Remember, this outline is based on a 60-minute
session; adjust the number of minutes for your specific schedule.

**Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)**
Show Strauss’s second video teaching segment for session five; the corresponding notes section is on pages 98–101 of the participant’s guide.

**Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)**
Wrap up by discussing the application questions on pages 101–102. Before you dismiss, encourage group members to work through as much of the “Making Deeper Connections in Your Own Life” section (pages 103–106) as they can before the next session.
Before You Lead

For the best experience in leading your group, it’s very important to preview the introduction and both video teaching segments for session six on the DVD, plus look over the corresponding pages in *The Forgiveness of Jesus Participant’s Guide*. Familiarize yourself with the session outline and gather the necessary materials. Also, if you haven’t already done so, read the “For Starters” section on pages 7–9, which provides additional leader helps.

Session Outline

I. Video Introduction (2 minutes)
II. Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
III. Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
IV. Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
V. Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)
VI. Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)
Video Introduction (2 minutes)
Play the video introduction for session six, filmed in Israel with series host Margaret Feinberg, which sets the stage for today’s lesson.

Bible Reading and Prayer (4 minutes)
Read or have a volunteer read the Scripture passage noted on page 108 of the participant’s guide, or together listen to the dramatized audio version on the DVD. Then pray that God would open each group member’s heart to the message he has for them. You may also want to refer to the map and/or photo on the same page of the guide, which typically provides the geographical setting/location for the lesson.

Video Teaching #1: Making Deeper Connections to the Bible (16 minutes)
Ask group members to turn to the “Video Teaching Notes” section that begins on page 108, then play the first video teaching segment for session six, featuring teacher Darrell Bock. Encourage everyone that, just like in school, good note-taking generally results in better retention of the material.

Video Discussion #1 (15 minutes)
Pause the DVD and discuss the questions on pages 115–116 of the participant’s guide. If your group has more than 8–10 members, you may want to divide into groups of 4 or 5 so that more people will be able to participate. (Do this for the subsequent discussion time as well.) Be sure to stop the discussion at the end of the allotted time. Remember, this outline is based on a
60-minute session; adjust the number of minutes for your specific schedule.

**Video Teaching #2: Connecting the Bible to Life (8 minutes)**
Show Bock’s second video teaching segment for session six; the corresponding notes section is on pages 116–119 of the participant’s guide.

**Video Discussion #2 and Closing Remarks (15 minutes)**
Wrap up by discussing the application questions on pages 119–120. Before you dismiss, encourage group members to complete the “Making Deeper Connections in Your Own Life” section (pages 121–124) in the coming days.
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Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni Eareckson Tada, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Joni and Friends International Disability Center, is an international advocate for people with disabilities. A diving accident in 1967 left Joni Eareckson Tada, then 17, a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, without the use of her limbs. After two years of rehabilitation, she emerged with new skills and a fresh determination to help others in similar situations. Joni has written over 50 books and numerous magazine articles. She was inducted into the Christian Booksellers’ Association’s Hall of Honor in 1995 and received the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instant Bible Lessons for Toddlers</td>
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<td>Get toddlers in to Bible learning!</td>
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<td>Instant Bible Lessons (Bible Truths)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meaningful, fun Bible lessons on prayer!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 5-10</td>
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<td>Instant Bible Lessons Preteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Rock Solid Faith)</td>
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<td>8 all-inclusive lessons, with over 60</td>
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<td>activities!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 60 hands-on activities in 8 lessons,</td>
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### 5-Minute Sunday School Activities

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<td>Early Church!</td>
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<td>5-Minute Sunday School Activities (Forever Faithful)</td>
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<td>Preschoolers (Jesus Shows Me)</td>
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<td>Teach little ones about the miracles of</td>
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<td>Jesus!</td>
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<td>over 80 fun hands-on activities!</td>
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<td>52 Games That Teach the Bible</td>
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<td>Bible Crafts on a Shoestring Budget --</td>
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### Girls Devotionals

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### Boys Devotionals

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### Kids Fiction

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<td>Blackbeard’s Revenge</td>
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