

LG Winter Week 4 - 2/2/20 Ghosting Jesus Leader Guide

“Ghosting Jesus” message series - Week 5

Getting to Know You

1.) Do you consider yourself to be a Christian? If you do, how did you come to understand what it means to be a Christian? At what moment or time do you remember crossing the line of faith?

First and foremost, if you have people in the group that are not Christians, make sure to adjust the following questions accordingly. Do whatever you can to make them feel comfortable and allow them to ask questions if they want.

2.) Is it possible to think you are a Christian but not be one? Is it possible to think you are not a Christian, but actually be one? How can a person know for sure? In your own life, where is your confidence level in your relationship with Christ? We want people to be confident in their faith, so we want to create as much clarity as possible with what it means to be a Christian and how to be sure.

3.) *Optional:* Sometimes we hesitate to tell others about how to “cross the line of faith” because we cannot tell by what they say and do whether or not they are truly Christians. Do you hesitate telling others? Would that be (a) because you *don’t* think they are Christians but can’t know for sure since you don’t know their heart or (b) because you *do* think they are but question their salvation because of some of the things they do? This question admittedly might be a little deep or pressing for week four, but I think it is worth the risk. We often say things like “we can never know” or “who am I to judge,” and we feel uncomfortable talking with them about it. We want to dig in to that idea and to ask if that is really the issue or if we are just protecting ourselves. Or, maybe we’re even justifying our lack of action and intentional living and using those things as excuses for our way of doing life as a Christian. Do your best in leading this discussion. Help people to not feel guilty but instead to find a healthy way to acknowledge and face those fears. . . . I want to communicate that sometimes we claim we “never know” or choose not to judge not because we truly do not know but because we do not want to have to tell someone that we believe the way they are doing life will lead them to hell and on top of that it is also hard for us because if I truly believe they are headed for hell, shouldn’t we be doing more or be more concerned that they are going to hell, so instead of facing all of that, we claim that we do not know or that we do not want to judge.

4.) Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

Into the Bible

5.) Is the Bible clear that there is only one way to God? If you think so, what verses show that? If not, what verses make you question it? It is a common belief in our current culture that there are many ways to God and you just have to choose what fits you and works for you best and be

Spiritual. So we want to get people to search the Bible and see what it says and come up with their answer to this.

6.) Read Matthew 7:21-23; Romans 10:10-13; and John 3:16. How do you make sense of these verses that seem to be saying different things? This question is here because people get confused with what is required of us to be a Christian at times. The best way to get clarity here is to realize that they are not independent separate ideas but instead a belief system that incorporates all of these and allows them to build on one another. The other information to note here is the meaning of the word belief in Bible times versus our current time. Belief for them would have linked to action and life changes whereas for us it is more intellectual.

7.) Read John 14:6. Why is just being a good person not enough? Why is it so hard to think about great people who sometimes act more “Christian” than a lot of Christians--that they are actually not a Christian? The “be a good person” mentality is really common in our culture so we want to talk about why that is not enough as a Christian and also why that is so hard to live with. It may be worth asking if our wanting others to get credit for their good works and being good people is because we want our good works to count. We may partly want to feel like we have “earned it” or at least that part of the good we get is based in our goodness.

Application

8.) Take a few minutes and make a list of people in your life that you want to see accept Christ and enter into a relationship with him. What can you do this week to take the next steps on that journey with them and how can you specifically pray for them? We want to help people be intentional and be a part of what God is doing in our world.

9.) Think of all the people on your list. Write out next to their name everything that you think would be different for them doing life as a Christian. Keep that list visible to you and use it to motivate you to stay intentionally engaged with those people. Sometimes we get caught up in the bad that people may see or hear from us as Christians but forget just how great life with God is and we forget to see that they may enter a life full of God’s peace and love and find their true purpose in life and discover the plan that God has for them. We want to help people focus on the positive and allow that to motivate them.

Blurb

Leaders, with Scott’s message this week being focused on crossing the line of faith, the questions are fairly specific. As always, please feel free to adjust as you feel best according to your group. Also, try to be clear that we can do many things to help others along their journey of faith, but the decision to be a follower is up to them and God. We cannot force either, so try to keep the balance in your discussion between being pushy and not saying enough.

Have a great week!