

LG Jesus is _____. Spring wk 3 4/30/17 Leader Guide

Before your group meets this week read the “Jesus Is Grace” section (pages 33-82) of *Jesus is _____*.

Getting to Know You

1.) What was the best/most memorable sporting event, concert, or show you ever went to or participated in?

2.) How can you put forth effort without turning it into works or earnings? *This is a tough question that a lot of people struggle with. The general answer is that it is a heart matter; however, it is never quite as easy as that. Try to walk through specific actions and break down and question how that can be positive and how that can be an attempt to “earn it.”*

3.) Most of us struggle with grace. One reason why we do may be because we think that since grace can't be earned, works don't matter. Discuss some other reasons we struggle with grace. (Other examples: if both grace and works are equal, we don't want to think of ourselves as equal to ____; we feel it's unfair; etc.) If you really want to push this question, bring up the issue that *grace* means we are out of control, but *rules* means we are in control--and almost all of us deeply want to be in control.

Into the Bible

4.) Judah Smith talks a lot in the book (pages 37-48) about the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. Is there anything that he talked about in this section that was new or stood out to you? *This is such a great and deep passage I really just wanted to give you and your group time to discuss what it means to people personally.*

5.) Read Matthew 20:1-16. If you were in the shoes of the early worker, do you think you too would have been upset and complaining? What does this passage teach us? How does it apply to our lives today? *It is amazing how quickly something that we were previously excited about can turn to our feeling it is unfair and wrong when we compare it to what other people have/get. Our perspective changes. Take some time to be humble and admit some personal stories of when you have done this, and give others permission to share their personal stories.*

6.) Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 5:6-11. What does *grace* mean to you? How do these verses impact you? *These are incredible passages about the grace of God, and I just wanted to give groups time to discuss the significance and also personal importance.*

Application

7.) In the “Difference Between Religion and the Gospel” chart in Sunday's notes, which one do you struggle with the most? How do you slip into *religion* and out of *relationship* or *grace*? *Make sure this is not a one-or-the-other conversation, and be clear that we often slide back and forth*

from religion to relationship at different points in our walk with God. The desire is to discuss how we get to the point where we spend the vast majority of our time on the relationship side.

8.) In which area of your relationship with God do you spend more of your time--trying to get what God can give to you or seeking to be with God? What steps can we take toward a more healthy relationship with him? **Make sure people do not feel ashamed about where they are on this one, and reinforce that it is not wrong or bad to ask God for things. Many passages in Scripture are personal requests to God, so the issue is about whether you want God or whether you just want what He offers but don't believe His way is actually the best life.**

9.) After reading the "Jesus is Grace" section of the book, is there anything in particular you want to point out, question, or discuss? **Wide open question to allow people to discuss their thoughts on the section of the book.**