

WEEK 1: JESUS ENCOUNTERS GRIEVING SISTERS

ICE BREAKER

If you had to describe each of your brothers and / or sisters in one word, what would it be and why?

DISCUSSION

Read through John 11

1. Have you experienced a time when you questioned God for something that happened in your life?
2. How does Jesus respond to Martha's disappointment?
3. What does Jesus' response to Mary show about his nature?
4. Do you find it easy or challenging to trust God with your life and why?
5. Can you think of a time when Jesus has altered your plans for the better? (Even if you could only see it in hindsight!)
6. What is an area in your life where you feel challenged to trust God more, even when you can't understand?

RESPONSE

Write down on a piece of paper any areas in your life where you need to surrender your plans or your pain to God. He is fully trustworthy, he always responds personally to us & he knows what we need most.

TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

Take a step to express appreciation to your siblings this week!

WEEK 2: JESUS ENCOUNTERS A SCEPTIC

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever lost something & found it in an absurd place, where you were least expecting it?

DISCUSSION

Read through John 1:43-51

1.What stands out to you about Philip's response to Jesus & how does this challenge us in our daily lives?

2.How would you describe Nathanael's attitude towards Jesus at first & why is this detrimental to our faith?

3.Can you think of anyone in your life who is sceptical towards Christ & how do you respond to them? (Side note: you may feel sceptical yourself!)

4.Jesus presents himself as personal by showing Nathanael that he knows him intimately – Have you experienced a time where God has shown himself to be personal in your own life?

5.Despite his initial scepticism, Nathanael begins to believe in Christ – how did you come to believe in Christ? (Side note: there may be people in your group who aren't yet saved)

6.Practically, how can we overcome things like pride, doubt & scepticism in our own hearts when it comes to our relationship with Jesus?

RESPONSE

Break into pairs & pray through any pride, doubt & scepticism in your own hearts or encountered by others in your life.

TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

Like Phillip, take every opportunity to invite others to come and hear the gospel at church or in your connect group. Don't be intimidated by scepticism!

WEEK 3: JESUS ENCOUNTERS A DESPERATE FATHER

ICE BREAKER

When you are facing challenges, do you process verbally by talking to others or do you process internally?

DISCUSSION

Read through Mark 9:17-29

1. Why do you think it's important to depend on Jesus when it comes to evil spirits & the demonic?
2. Why do you think the disciples failed to drive out this evil spirit?
3. What stands out to you about this father's interaction with Jesus?
4. Are you someone who naturally relies on Jesus or do you more often try to do things in your own strength?
5. Practically how can we grow in our belief or faith in Jesus?
6. We see Jesus do an incredible miracle here as the boy is freed from torment, once and for all - Is there any area in your life currently where you are desperate for God to breakthrough on your behalf?

RESPONSE

Play the song "I speak Jesus" by Abby Benton & listen to the lyrics as you declare the name of Jesus over the areas needing breakthrough.

TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

Look out for people who find themselves in desperate situations & point them towards Jesus this week.

WEEK 4: JESUS ENCOUNTERS A RICH YOUNG RULER

ICE BREAKER

Are you a person who treasures material possessions or are you more relaxed about your things?

DISCUSSION

Read through Mark 10:17-31

1. How would you describe the rich young ruler's attitude when he approached Jesus & why is this dangerous?

2. Following God involves a great personal cost – have you experienced a time when you took a big step of faith in obedience to God & what was the result?

3. Why do we naturally find it so difficult to be open-handed with our finances & possessions?

4. How can we prevent wealth, money and possessions from becoming a stumbling block in our walk with the Lord?

5. What is the reward of living with eternity in mind while on this earth?

6. Are there any specific areas that you feel God challenging you to be more generous with in your finances or material possessions?

RESPONSE

Play the song "I speak Jesus" by Abby Benton & listen to the lyrics as you declare the name of Jesus over the areas needing breakthrough.

TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

Look out for people who find themselves in desperate situations & point them towards Jesus this week.