

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

RE: JESUS

OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Jesus Among Other gods (Scott Matthies)

Use the following illustration - ask the members of your group two questions, but don't let on that it is part of the evening's curriculum:

1. Ask if they find it cold in the room. You will likely get a variety of responses.
2. Then ask if anyone knows what the temperature is. Then based on your thermostat show them that the temperature is x (whatever temperature your room is) degrees.

Take a moment to talk about the notion of Truth.

Discuss some or all of the following questions:

1. How do you know Truth exists?
2. What is Truth? After some answers offer the following definition: **When we think about capital T truth we need to bear in mind that we are talking about that which is irrefutable, immutable, and universally applicable. Absolute truth is immune to sincerity, belief, or desire.**
3. Why does it matter to know what Truth is? Circle back around to the temperature questions and ask why there was such a varied response to the first question of whether or not the room was cold...continue on by asking then that if everyone's 'experience' was different does that make it true? No. The truth is that the room is x degrees because the temperature is irrefutable, immutable, and universally applicable. Our experience alone does not give us an infallible perspective on truth. Discuss.
4. In what ways is Truth challenged in your workplace, family, community?
5. What are the consequences of a society devoid of truth?
6. What are the ramifications of Truth in your life?
7. How can you take a step today to live more in line with Truth?

Review the following scriptures and take some time to discuss.

Isaiah 45:19, 59:9-16, John 1:14, 14:6

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth" 76 times...do you think Truth was high on Jesus' agenda?

Various versions of the term truth appear in the scriptures 260 times...Why is there such an emphasis on Truth throughout the entire biblical record? What implications arise for you personally as a result of the answer to that question?

PRAY

Take some time to pray for each other that in the coming week you would be aware of potential 'truth' compromises and to walk fully in the Truth of Jesus Christ.

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

In a 'global village' we are exposed to ideas and philosophies that we typically would not face otherwise. Discuss with your group how this impacts your/their life. Perhaps a good starting point would be the way media and advertising has adapted to a more multi-cultural perspective. Then move through relationships, community dynamics, legislation, etc. Ask for people to look at the positive side and then shift to some of the potentially negative implications of this shift.

Ask your group if they would be able to pick out some of the influences of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam on the western world, within their own community. Ask if or how their worldview has changed as a result.

Take some time to quietly read the following:

John 1:1-5, 3:15, 5:24, 6:27, 6:32-40, 11:25, 14:6, 17:1-5, 18:37, 20:29

Discuss the following question:

If this is True and if I acknowledge this as true what does it mean for me and for my family as we live in a world that increasingly does not believe?

Remind your people that our goal is stand for the Truth of Jesus is a dark world but that we must emulate his example and be people full of GRACE and TRUTH (John 1:14). Meaning that we must be gracious to those around us who do not believe or behave the way scripture exhorts us to all the while remaining consistent on the Truth of scripture, the sole deity of Jesus, and the gift of grace and eternal life He offers to all who will accept it.

PRAY

Take some time to pray with each other that the Lord would give you the courage and wisdom to walk as He did full of Grace and Truth.

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