

Message Thoughts

This week we continued examining our Vintage Faith; specifically, how we answer the question “do all paths lead to God?” With the Bible as our guide, we’ve been investigating the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Who is he? What does our world say about him? What did he say about himself?

Discussion

Notes for discussion leader in italics. If it's helpful to read these thoughts to the group, go for it!

**Do all paths/religions ultimately lead to God?
How would your non-church or de-churched friends answer this question?**

Scripture is pretty clear in John 14:6, “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

OK, but what does it mean to get to the Father through Jesus?

Read John 14:15-24

“If you love me, keep my commands.” Simple enough right?

What are some of the commands Jesus has given us? What are some commands that are easier said than done?

Read Matthew 11:28-30

A yoke is a farming tool that harnesses animals to pull heavy plows or trailers.

How can we find rest for our souls in work? Sounds counter-productive...

Read Matthew 28:16-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”

From this passage what do we know for sure about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

Being a disciple means making more disciples.

What does this look like?

How are we living out this command?

Making disciples is different than making converts. Evangelism, or actively telling people about Jesus, is only the first step in becoming a disciple. Discipleship is an ongoing process of learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

How would you respond to a friend who asks, how can I “go and make disciples” if I’m still “a work in progress” myself? If I don’t have my act together, how can I be expected to have an impact in someone else’s life?

That’s the beauty of God’s plan; He uses us right where we are. Just look at Jesus’ disciples! Most of them were young, uneducated fishermen who doubted, questioned, and even abandoned Jesus at his death. If it had been only on their strength and commitment, the Gospel might have died with Jesus. But the early disciples weren’t left alone - and neither are we. Our responsibility is to trust that Jesus is who he said he is and to take the next step as we follow him.

Prayer Does anyone have any prayer requests? Spend some time praying for each other. At the close of this prayer time, ask God to use us right where we are to help reach our world with the Good News of Jesus.