

DNA of a Christ Follower

Small Group Resources

Lesson 4: Truth Based

Opener:

What's the "best" lie (funniest, most entertaining) you have ever heard or told? (The leader should have an example of one to share, while the others are thinking.)

Or

Play a quick game of "two truths and a lie".

- A person shares three statements about themselves, two of which are true, one which isn't. The others try to guess the lie. Have a few people do this.

Open in Prayer

Review: (optional)

The first three traits of a Christ Follower were:

- Lover of God
- Lover of People
- Holy

Of the three, which would you say is a growth area for you?

[For the leader to share if necessary, to remind people what the traits actually are:

- A lover of God is a person who, experiencing God's love for them is moved to worship and unconditional obedience of Him.
- A Christ follower is a lover of people, someone who acts in the best interests of others, because they recognize the inherent value of people and love the God who loves every person.
- A Christ follower is holy- someone who endorses God's declaration of their holiness by setting themselves apart for him, and by increasingly behaving in ways that reflect that set apartness. More concisely, A Christ follower is holy and growing and holiness.]

The topic this week is "Truth Based"

Among other things it means to Bible Based.

If a non-Christian asked you why you believe the Bible, what would you say?

[Leaders: Be sure to challenge any churchy answers like "Because it's God's Word" > Why do you believe it's God's Word? Push your people to give an answer that would be at least somewhat compelling for someone who was sincerely seeking.]

- This could be a substantial discussion in some groups

How would you challenge this idea if you were with someone who believed it?:

God(purportedly) speaking to Neale Donald Walsch in his book Conversations with God:

What about the Word? "Listen to your feelings. Listen to your highest Thoughts. Listen to your experience. Whenever any one of these differs from what you've been told by your teachers or read in your books, forget the words. Words are the least reliable purveyor of Truth."

[Leaders, be sure to make it clear that this quote is false, unbiblical and irrational]

How does scripture challenge the ideas in this quote?

To be Bible Based means to know it, believe it and apply it.

How many of you have read the Bible through completely?

- Ask those who have to share how the exercise impacted them.
- Challenge those who have not to make a commitment to do so either by the New Year or by the end of 2016 or some other timeline. Or perhaps make a group commitment for everyone to do so by a certain date. Or, perhaps a commitment to read the New Testament by a certain date or whatever variation works for you group.

Part of knowing the Bible is memorizing portions of it.

Who has benefited from memorizing scripture, and what has the benefit been?

Consider memorizing a passage of scripture together as a group over the next few weeks.

Some suggestions:

- Psalm 19.7-11; Keeners: Psalm 19 in its entirety
- Psalm 100
- Matthew 5.3-12 (The Beatitudes)
- Romans 12.1-2
- Galatians 5.22-26 (Fruit of the Spirit+)
- Revelation 21.1-8

Or, different people could select different passages and have them ready to recite by a set date.

Applying the Bible is an essential part of being Bible Based.

- **How have you applied the Bible recently in your life?**
- **How has it affected a decision or action?**
- **Is there any area where you have had difficulty or reluctance in applying something you know the Word is calling you to?**

What is your biggest question about the Bible?

[Leaders, please collect these and forward them to Daren or Kevin, as this will inform a related message in the New Year.]

Sharing and Prayer.

You may want to close with the prayer from Ephesians 3.14-21 (another great passage to memorize!)