

CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN A COMPLICATED WORLD

DISCUSSION GUIDE 2

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Have you ever felt the need to speak up for Christian values but didn't know how?

Whether it was in social media post or in a conversation with a family member, you wanted to stand up for the truth, but you didn't want to lose the relationship. Or, you did speak up, and everyone ended up angry and further entrenched in their opinions.

In this 3-part series called *Christian Witness in a Complicated World* you'll learn how to have hard conversations with people different than you. Whether the topic is politics, religion, or someone's moral choices, there are Biblical principles that simplify the conversation, let the person know you love them, and everyone walks away learning something new.

It's not what you say, it's why you say it.

ITEMS NEEDED

☐ Bibles

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

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| ☐ Pray for your group | ☐ Read through the Discussion Guide | ☐ Refreshments (optional) |
| ☐ Clean meeting area | ☐ Clean bathroom | ☐ Crack front door |

OPENING (10 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: Let's start today's discussion with an icebreaker question—

WHAT'S THE MOST-VALUABLE THING YOU'VE EVER LOST?

After a brief discussion, say: Today in part 2 of our discussion of the series called *Christian Witness in a Complicated World*, we're going to continue our conversation on two more things that seem to be "lost" in the complicated conversations happening today. When we include them in our conversations, it can be a powerful tool towards understanding.

Once again, don't worry, we WON'T get into any one particular political or social issue in this series, (and if we do, my job as a host is to bring us back from the tangent) but we WILL talk about some principles of faith that simplify talking about complicated topics.

But before we get into all of that, let's pray.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

HOST TIP: Please, do not miss this promise to your group that we won't be debating politics or social issues. You don't want to derail the discussion with any topic, and people need that reassurance so they're able to relax and listen with an open mind.

INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE (10-15 MIN)

After a prayer, say: Even if we DO agree with someone on the resurrection, there's still a chance we DON'T agree with them on another issue. But, as we learned in week 2, this could have less to do with the issue and more to do with how we read Scripture.

CAN SOMEONE READ PROVERBS 30:5 AND SOMEONE ELSE READ PSALM 19:7?

WHAT DO THESE VERSES TELL US ABOUT SCRIPTURE?

WHY IS THE QUESTION OF THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE IMPORTANT?

After a discussion, say: The question of inerrancy leads to another question.

CAN SOMEONE READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 ALOUD FOR US?

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE TELL US ABOUT SCRIPTURE?

WHY IS THE QUESTION OF THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE IMPORTANT?

After a discussion, say: The ideas of the inerrancy and the authority of Scripture are important to remember because it's unlikely you'll agree with someone on an issue if you disagree on the inerrancy and the authority of Scripture on the issue.

GRACE AND TRUTH (10-15 MIN)

After a discussion, say: But there is a third scenario where we DO agree with someone on the resurrection and we DO agree with them on the authority of Scripture... but we DON'T agree with them on an issue. That's why, in week 3 we looked at one more thing that's all too absent even in these conversations.

WITHOUT GETTING INTO SPECIFICS, WHO IS SOMEONE THAT FITS THAT SCENARIO FOR YOU—WHERE YOU DO AGREE ON THE RESURRECTION AND ON SCRIPTURE, BUT YOU DON'T AGREE ON AN ISSUE?

CAN I GET VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES FOR US?

JOHN 1:14

EPHESIANS 4:15

1 JOHN 3:18

After the readings, say: As much as we want to learn how to win the argument, these readings all say we need to learn how to show grace in our conversations on the truth. This isn't talking about forgiveness, (it's mercy that withholds punishment!) grace is about giving someone something.

FOR THE PERSON YOU JUST MENTIONED, WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO SHOW THEM GRACE? LET'S SEE IF WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER GET CREATIVE!

FOR THE IDEAS WE JUST CAME UP WITH TO SHOW THEM GRACE, HOW WOULD THAT CHANGE THE TEMPERATURE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM?

After a discussion, say: Week 3 ended with a conversation on how grace is best shown through presence. Which is exactly what Jesus demonstrated to us. Which means, when we are present and showing grace to the people we disagree with, they witness Jesus through us. May God help us all to make it so as we live out our *Christian Witness in a Complicated World*.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

Let's close out with prayer. We'll make sure to pray about these situations we talked about in today's discussion.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?

Host, after taking prayer requests. Then, close the group in prayer. Start by praying for your Christian witness as a group.