

THE **crossing** **small groups**

An Enchanted Reality Sermon Discussion Leader Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To take the next step in knowing, feeling, and living out the enchanted reality of following Jesus.

Sermon Refresher: Dave talked about how many of us know on an intellectual level what it means to follow Jesus, but too often we lack the imagination to be stirred and gripped and moved by what following Jesus truly means. To follow Jesus isn't just to know intellectual things. Rather it is to see and know and experience the enchanted reality of all that Jesus has done for us and all that Jesus offers us.

Icebreakers:

1. What is something you are thankful/grateful for right now?
2. What cares, concerns, or hardships do you have right now? What is weighing on you?

Discussion:

1. Dave started the sermon by saying that the things we *think* we know about following Jesus are actually a barrier to following him. Summarize what he means. Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. What are some false images, pictures, or ideas you have seen, heard, or experienced about what it means to follow Jesus? Where do you think these came from?
3. To follow Jesus is to realize that we are "in Christ." Just like Patrick Mahomes' victory is KC fans' victory, Jesus' wins are our wins. What belongs to Jesus now belongs to us. What does it mean to be "in Christ?" What has Jesus won for us? What do we gain when we are in Christ?
4. Jesus' "wins" aren't the only wins available for the taking. Our culture offers us wins as well. Two examples: If you get your kids into the right school, you've won. If you move into the right neighbourhood, you've won.
 - (a) What other cultural wins have you seen, heard, and/or experienced?

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- (b) Where and how do you find yourself pursuing these?
- (c) What effect does this pursuit have on you? On others?
- (d) Why are these ultimately less satisfying than the wins Jesus secured for us?

5. Earlier we shared about our cares and concerns and hardships. Jesus does not expect us to carry these alone. The reality of following Jesus means that he wants us to give those to him. We see this in Matthew 11:28-30:

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

In what ways do you need to hear this right now? What might it look like for you to give your cares and concerns and hardships to Jesus?

6. The following passages describe different aspects of the enchanted reality of following Jesus. Take a minute to read them silently on your own. As you read, reflect on what stood out the most. What do you need to hear and feel the most right now? Why? When you are done, discuss your reflections with the group.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 6:5-7

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

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1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Sharing and Prayer:

Ask others what they would like prayer for this week in light of the discussion. It could be a truth they want to believe or asking for help to abandon the pursuit of certain cultural win. Leaders, when the time feels right please close in prayer.

Digging Deeper (optional):

For the next two weeks, take some time each day to read and reflect on the attached "Who I am in Christ" handout (next page). Write down which of these verses were most relevant and applicable for you. If you really want to take this deeper, meet up with someone in your small group - or another friend - and talk to them about it.

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

I Am Accepted in Christ

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified.
1 Corinthians 6:17	I am united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit.
1 Corinthians 6:20	I have been bought with a price; I belong to God.
1 Corinthians 12:27	I am a member of Christ's Body.
Ephesians 1:1	I am a saint.
Ephesians 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Ephesians 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
Colossians 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ.

I Am Secure in Christ

Romans 8:1,2	I am free forever from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Romans 8:33,34	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Romans 8:35	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
2 Corinthians 1:21	I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
Colossians 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Philippians 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy in time of need.
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I Am Significant in Christ

Matthew 5:13,14	I am the salt and light of the earth.
John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ's.
1 Corinthians 3:16	I am God's temple.
2 Corinthians 5:17-20	I am a minister of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians 6:1	I am God's coworker.
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Ephesians 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

*Taken from *Living Free in Christ*, by Neil Anderson. © 1993, Regal Books.