

Jesus vs. Religion

- The **cost** of discipleship is **high**,
but the **cost** of non-discipleship is infinitely **higher**.
- The **fun** of non-discipleship is **great**,
but the **joy** of discipleship is infinitely **greater**.

Jesus wants you to:

- ✓ **Have a strong sense of self-esteem**
1 John 3:1-3, Romans 12
Jesus says: **Remain** in me → Brings rest
World says: Be **worthy** of esteem → Brings neuroses
- ✓ **Live richly**
Proverbs 11:24-25
Jesus says: Be **generous** → Brings joy and freedom
World says: Self **indulge** → Brings bondage
- ✓ **Have great sex**
Proverbs 5:15-19
Jesus says: Here's the **best** way → Pleasure/unity/connection
World says: Do **whatever** you want → Brings insecurity/low view of self and others
- ✓ **Experience true freedom**
Galatians 5:1
Jesus says: **Surrender** → Brings liberation from bondage of self
World says: You are **the god** of your life → Brings bondage
- ✓ **Be single and fulfilled**
Psalm 23, Psalm 62, Matthew 6:33
Jesus says: **Seek** me first → Brings contentment
World says: **Fit in**, seek **him/her** first → Brings resentment
- ✓ **Have an amazing marriage**
Ephesians 5:25-33
Jesus says: **Love** and **respect** → Brings peace
World says: **Compare** and **contrast** → Brings hostility

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of May 26, 2019

As we wrap up the Spring Quarter of Life Groups, we'd love your feedback. Along with an abbreviated study, you'll take some time to reflect on your group experience and then have Communion together. You'll also fill out the online Feedback Forms if you have not done so already. An email with the Feedback Form was sent to you on Monday. Life Groups will take a summer break and resume the week of September 15. Thanks for being part of your Life Group and have a great summer!

If you'd like to stay connected this summer, we are offering a wide range of classes between June and August. See the back of this guide for some of the highlights and visit northcoastchurch.com/classes for complete class details and to register.

MY STORY

- 1 Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- 2 Christopher gave us six things that Jesus wants for his followers that many would think are surprising. Which one or two do you think people would say are the most surprising? Which one or two have been or are now the most important for you to remember?

DIGGING DEEPER

This weekend we saw how God's rules and guidelines are actually about freeing us to experience his presence and abundance! How do the following verses about God's freedom and blessings as we follow him, reinforce this sometimes surprising paradox?

Mark 8:34-35 New International Version (NIV)

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Matthew 23:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Matthew 11:28 New International Version (NIV)

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

As you look back at what you wrote for those verses, which one or two are most important for you to remember during your summer break from your Life Group?

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

- 1 Summer is just around the corner! Do you have any special plans, activities or prayer requests for the next few months?
- 2 Looking back at this past quarter and the Life Group year, how has your group experienced the power of Jesus? Can you think of any Life Group prayers God has answered?

REMEMBERING

Jesus knows we forget things, even when it comes to what he's done for us. That's why Jesus told the disciples at the Last Supper to repeatedly come together and take Communion. Taking Communion is about remembering all that Christ accomplished through his death on the cross and resurrection. It is through this sacrifice that Jesus' grace and mercy are made available to us.

This week, your Life Group will conclude by taking Communion together as the disciples did. To prepare for this, read the following verses and reflect on Jesus' commitment and work in your life as you follow him.

1 Peter 2:22-25 New International Version (NIV)

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."^[a]

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray,"^[b] but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 New International Version (NIV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 15:12-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

What catches your attention as beneficial to remember as you take Communion in your group?

SUMMER SERIES EVENTS

Old Testament Fly-By

PASTOR CHRIS BROWN

Come hear the entire story of the Old Testament in just one evening. From creation to the prophets, hear Chris talk about the generations of people before Jesus. He will bring to life all 39 books in a way you have never heard before!

Jesus and the Religions of the World

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER HILKEN

Who is Jesus to you? We walk in a culture surrounded by people of different faiths with only sound bites and extremes to understand the belief systems they profess. Learn how to engage those around you by being equipped with a basic understanding of what we believe and how we could answer the question, "Who is Jesus?"

Five Dates

MIKE FOSTER

A fun-filled date-night event with humor, fresh insight and practical new strategies for building connection. "Five Dates" is for couples. Married couples. Engaged couples. Couples who are just starting out or who have been together for decades. No matter where you are at in your relationship, "Five Dates" will help you take your next step towards togetherness.

For more information about specific campuses, dates and times, check the Classes insert in your bulletin OR online at northcoastchurch.com/classes

Real Man Breakfast

SPEAKER: FORMER SUPER BOWL QUARTERBACK,
JAY SCHROEDER

Saturday, August 17, 8:15am

Vista Campus Only

Men's Event

The Breathing Room

SPEAKER: MARIE OSBORNE
WORSHIP: LIERIN SCHMIDT

Friday, June 28, 7pm

Vista Campus Only

Women's Event

SUMMER CLASSES

We're offering classes covering everything from marriage and parenting, basic Christianity, personal development and finance!

More classes and info can be found online at northcoastchurch.com/classes