

Christian – Session 2 Quitters

Discussion Questions

1. What common characteristics of Christians do you find disturbing? How do they compare with the way Jesus comes across in the New Testament?
2. How convinced are you that God truly loves everyone? Do you see any differences in how he loves people?
3. In your own spiritual journey, how have you grown in experiencing and understanding more of God's love?
4. In what ways have you felt overwhelmed by God's love for you?
5. Who is a person you find difficult to love? Why is loving this person so difficult?

6. What would change most in your community if those who follow Jesus truly loved one another?

Mileposts:

- The New Testament further reinforces the point Jesus taught in John 13:34-35 – that the main characteristic and defining mark of his followers is *how we love*.
- God, in his essence, *is* love, and his love is for everyone.
- Since God so loved us, we owe it to others to love them. We're in a sense indebted to God for his love for us, and in response he asks us to love others.

Moving Forward:

How much attention have you given lately to the love God has shown you, especially through what Jesus has done for you? Are you keeping this in the forefront of your mind and heart? Does your reflection on the life and death of Jesus fill you with an ever-increasing awareness of how great God's love really is? And does it fill you with an ever-increasing awareness of your privilege and obligation to love others? At this moment in your life, let your genuine experience of God's love take you forward into a genuine expansion of your love for others.

Changing Your Mind

In this session's key passage, the apostle John reinforces the teaching Jesus gave about the supremacy of love. Let these words fuel your own lifelong pursuit of love:

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Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7-8

Preparation for Session 3:

To help you prepare for Session 3, use these suggested devotions during the week leading up to your small group meeting.

Day 1

Look over the statements and commands Jesus expressed to His disciples in Matthew 28:16-20. How can this passage help us understand the meaning of the word “disciple”?

Day 2

In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, think about how Paul related to people who weren’t already followers of Jesus. What encouragement do you find here for your relationships with people who don’t follow Jesus?

Day 3

Return to Paul’s example in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. In your own words, describe Paul’s main goal or purpose in his relationships with outsiders.

Day 4

Once again, look over 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Think about the way Paul uses the word “win”. How would you define what he means by this term and what it involves?

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 5. The particular details of this situation may seem obscure, but what are the main principles that Paul appears to be trying to get across here as it relates to our relationships with people who are not followers of Jesus (see especially verses 12 and 13)?