

Guide for Growth Group Hosts

Week #5: Which One?

THINK ABOUT IT

What did you do differently based on what was discussed last week? Share it with the group!

MAIN GROWTH GROUP SCRIPTURE

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.” Acts 17:24-25 (NIV)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- We learn a few interesting facts about God in Acts 17. What does the scripture above mean to you?
- That same scripture tells us that God *does not live in temples built by human hands*. The important point here is that God lives in us, and as a result, is always with us. What does this fact mean for every area of your life including difficult circumstances?
- The Bible tells us that God is Triune (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He created the universe out of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, personal, loving, and perfect. Let's focus on this fact: *God created the universe out of nothing*. This means that He didn't use what was around Him to create the universe - He made something out of nothing. In the same way, God doesn't need to use what you currently have around you to create something new in your life. In the midst of bleak and difficult situations, God can create something amazing out of nothing. If you had a friend going through a difficult time, how could you use this fact to encourage them?
- We learn from the Bible that Jesus died on the cross according to God's plan, as the full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead on the third day, spiritually and physically immortal. What does this act say about God's commitment to mankind? What does this act say about God's love for mankind?
- Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works. Salvation must be received by faith. This means that you can't earn your way into heaven by doing a series of good deeds. If salvation is free and is received by the simple act of placing your faith in Jesus, what do you think is preventing some from accepting God's free gift?
- What are the major differences that you observed from the message between Christianity and the other religions?

- (Read the Verse Below) Some people believe that there are multiple routes to the Father. Can you access the Father from any path? What does Jesus say is *the* way to the Father?

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." **John 14:6 (NLT)**

- (Read the Verse Below) The verse below shows God's love and sacrifice for us. The Bible instructs us to love one another because God loves us. Is there anyone in your life that you are refusing to love, and you justify it based on something they've done? What does God say about loving others?

...God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1 John 4:8-11 (NIV)**

- (Read the Verse Below) Sometimes we get this concept confused. We are not searching for God – God has been standing at the door of our heart knocking for years. You didn't find Him - He was searching for you. How does this change your perspective of accepting Christ?

Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in... **Revelation 3:20 (CEV)**

LIFE APPLICATION

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **Romans 10:9 (NLT)**

Have you accepted Christ into your life? If not, repeat this simple prayer:

Jesus, I need you in my life. Forgive me for all of my sins and mess-ups. I'm tired of doing life alone and I need your help. Come into my heart and be Lord over my life. I believe in my heart that you are Lord, that you died for my sins, and that you rose from the dead. Thank you Lord for forgiving me and saving me. AMEN

DIVE DEEPER

Go deeper during the week!

- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at www.experienceheritage.org/blog. You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.
- Read the **Memory Verse** below each day during your quiet time with God. See if you can memorize the verse prior to the next session.

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **Romans 10:9 (NLT)***

PRAYER GUIDANCE

(During the prayer time, see if anyone has a prayer request. Next, have each person in the group say a short prayer for everyone based on the requests.)

Growth Group Checklist

- (After the prayer, decide who will bring the snack next week and share any other announcements.)
- **(Discuss the LifeBUILDERS Group Serve Project with your group.)**
- (Encourage the group participants to have a “quiet time” with God each day to study the bible and pray.)
- (Encourage the group participants to pray for each other during the week.)
- (Remind the participants that they can view the message each week on our website: <http://experienceheritage.org>)