

un christian

WHAT A NEW GENERATION REALLY
THINKS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

... AND WHY IT MATTERS

STUDY GUIDE

Hope's 10 for 10, which launched Nov. 2, 2019, details 10 goals for Hope in the next 10 years! With a fresh, updated vision for the next decade of ministry, we are ready to see the amazing ways God is going to move! This study is focused on goal #6, Inter-Generational.



COMPETE

for the hearts of
new generations
of believers

by developing highly creative, fully functional, grace-based, disciple-making ministries that will proclaim the gospel to 1 million youth and young adults over the next decade via HopeKids, PowerLife, Ignition, Kairos, REVIVE, Vacation Bible School, One Body, The Landing, social media, recorded music and digital teaching tools. Encourage and teach new generations to participate fully in the life of the whole church as a vitally important part of our present (not just future).

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 | Psalm 145:4 | Matthew 19:14



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Session 1:

The Backstory | Discovering unChristian Faith

PRE-READING: Chapter 1: The Backstory
Chapter 2: Discovering *unChristian* Faith

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING: John 13:34-35, John 15:18-19, Galatians 5:22-23

Read aloud:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

John 15:18-19

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Backstory:

1. This book is almost 15 years old, and so much has changed since 2007. Do you feel like the descriptions of the Mosaic and Buster generations are still accurate? How have they changed, if at all? What new generations might we also consider?
2. Do you feel it's important to study what "outsiders" think about Christians? What sort of reactions or responses have you received from outsiders when they learn you are a Christian?
3. How have the actions of Christians over the last 15 years shaped Christianity's image further? What positive and negative influences are impacting outsiders' thoughts on the Church?

Discovering *unChristian* Faith:

1. What have been your experiences connecting with people from other generations about Christianity? Have you ever experienced hostility toward Christianity? In your experience, what is the reason for this?
2. What are Christians famous for in our world?
3. Did any of the findings in this chapter get your blood pumping? Did it bother you? Did you feel the need to explain it away? Have you ever heard someone say that Christians are any of the six things brought up on pages 29-30?
4. What is the appropriate response of the church to these experiences from outsiders? How would Jesus respond?
5. Have you ever had a conversation about Christianity with an outsider? How did that go? What should be our primary goal in those conversations?
6. Is there an appropriate balance between grace and truth in your life? How do you know?
7. Jesus warned that the world would hate us (John 15:18-19); how do we know if that comes from obeying Jesus or misrepresenting him?

CLOSING PRAYER

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PRAYER JOURNALING

Journaling is a wonderful way to talk to God. We invite you to use the following pages during your prayer time as you read through *unChristian* with your group.

Date: _____

Today I read _____ **chapter(s)**

Takeaways as I read...

_____ *How I can apply this to my life...* _____



Dear God,

Teach me...

You are...

I confess...

I'm thankful for...

Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

SERMON NOTES

It is important to make weekly worship a priority. It is also a great thing to do with your group. Use the following notes section to write down key points that stick out to you from each weekend's sermon. Notes are great to refer back to throughout the week so you can keep things fresh in your mind!

Session 2:

Hypocritical | Get Saved!

PRE-READING: Chapter 3: Hypocritical
Chapter 4: Get Saved!

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING: Matthew 23:4,13,25-28; Galatians 3:3; 1 John 1:8; James 5:16; John 15:1-4; Romans 12:9

Read aloud:

They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them...

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to..."

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:4,13,25-28

Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

Galatians 3:3

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have

spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:1-4

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

Romans 12:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Hypocritical:

1. What does it mean to be a hypocrite? What does it mean to be transparent? Why is transparency so difficult? Why is it so important?
2. Have you ever believed that the message of Christ is a moral lifestyle? What does this understanding do to our witness to outsiders? What is the actual message of Christ?
3. Without naming names, have you ever noticed Christians whose lives look no different from outsiders? Why does this matter if the message of Christ isn't to be more moral? Where do our actions and deeds come from? Have you ever met a Christian whose life is dramatically different and more attractive than the lives of outsiders? What does that do to your faith?
4. What are Christians known for in our world? Does your life point people to a life in Christ that bursts with freedom to love, restoration, purity and transparency? How can we go about doing that?

Get Saved!:

1. Have you ever felt pressure to help people "get saved" when sharing your faith? Did you ever feel that from Christians before you came to faith in Jesus? How does this approach impact outsiders?
2. What is it that outsiders desire in spiritual conversations? How do other generations view Christians' authenticity? How do we be more authentic with people?
3. Have you ever believed any of the six myths discussed on pages 70-73? If so, how has that impacted how you share your faith with others?
4. When was the last time you shared your faith with an outsider? How did they receive it? What went well? What didn't go well? How do people typically come to faith in Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 3:

Antihomosexual | Sheltered

PRE-READING: Chapter 5: Antihomosexual
Chapter 6: Sheltered

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING: Matthew 5:28, Romans 3:23-24, Romans 5:19, Matthew 5:13-16, John 17:14-18

Read aloud:

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

John 17:14-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Antihomosexual:

1. What sort of emotions did this chapter stir up in you? Why do you think you felt this way? Where does your understanding of homosexuality come from?
2. Have you ever been frustrated with how the church handles this conversation? What would you like to see changed about it? How can you help bring about that change?
3. Are there some crimes and sins that God cannot forgive? What is the truth about all people and sin? Does avoiding sin earn us salvation? How does a person receive salvation?
4. Did this chapter change your thoughts on the topic of homosexuality and how the church engages with people they disagree with? If so, how?

Sheltered:

1. Have you ever heard outsiders talk about Christians being sheltered from the world? What was your response to hearing that? Do you feel sheltered, or removed, from the things going on in the world?
2. Do you feel like you have to leave your brain at the door to be a Christian? Why or why not? How has Christianity gained a reputation as being unintellectual? How has your Christian faith allowed you to speak intelligently about issues facing the world? How does Christianity answer the questions that people around you are asking about life? What questions have you had about the world that Christianity has helped you answer?
3. How are Christians contributing to education, government, literature, music, art, medicine, science and social justice today? Where is there an opportunity for Christians to be an influence in those areas?
4. How can Christians respond to a world that considers them sheltered? How do we balance our personal integrity and purity with having influence with outsiders? What can help us to do both?
5. Have you ever been offended by something in the world? What does it communicate to outsiders when we are offended? What does offense reveal to us? How can the church better engage intellectuals and the overlooked? Have you ever been in their shoes? What did you need from the church?

CLOSING PRAYER

When your conversation is finished, take some time to close your group meeting in prayer. Give everyone a few minutes to share a prayer request. Then, have someone in your group close the group in prayer. If you want, have someone open the prayer and another person close.

NOTES:

Lined area for notes, consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

un
christian

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 4:

Too Political | Judgmental

PRE-READING: Chapter 7: Too Political
Chapter 8: Judgmental

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING: James 2:12-13, 1 Timothy 2:1-3, 1 Corinthians 5:12, Matthew 7:1-5

Read aloud:

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:12-13

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior,

1 Timothy 2:1-3

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

1 Corinthians 5:12

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Matthew 7:1-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Too Political:

1. Who are people that come to mind when you think of Christianity? What sort of influence do they have?
2. Do you ever feel like Christians use politics in an unChristian way? If so, how? Do you get involved in politics? Is being involved in politics unChristian? How can we be engaged with the political process in a Christlike way?

3. What are the methods, attitudes and motivations that outsiders see in Christians that turns them away from the Good News? What do these things say to outsiders?
4. Where is God calling you to serve him? What area of culture?

Judgmental:

1. Have you ever felt judged by a Christian? How did that feel? Have you ever been told by an outsider that Christians are too judgmental?
2. How do our actions sometimes communicate judgement rather than love? What does that look like? How can we change this perception?
3. What errors in judgement have you noticed in your life? Do you ever feel the temptation to judge others in order to look better for other Christians?

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Specific Prayer Requests:

Amen.

Session 5:

From unChristian to Christian

PRE-READING: Chapter 9: From *unChristian* to Christian

OPENING PRAYER

Take a few minutes to open your group meeting in prayer. Thank God for joining you, ask him to guide your conversation, and request that he reveal his truth to you.

BIBLE READING: Genesis 12:2-3, Isaiah 58:10, Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:44, Matthew 25:34-40, Mark 9:35, Luke 4:18, Luke 15:3-7, Luke 15:11-32, John 3:17, John 15:13, Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:17, 2 Timothy 4:6, 1 John 3:16-19, Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 3:2, 2 Peter 3:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From unChristian to Christian:

1. How are you currently serving others? In what ways is God calling you to serve someone new? As you read the Bible verses on pages 213-214, do you think those are things people would use to describe you as a Christian?
2. What does it mean to have a lifestyle of compassion?
3. What is your next step after reading this book? How can you help reach outsiders and new generations with the Good News?

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