

I Dare You

Module: Historical Pictures of Intimacy with God

Lesson 4: Intimacy with Jesus (the Disciples)

Objectives:

Students will

- understand the concept of different levels of intimacy
- gauge their own intimacy with Jesus

Materials Needed

- ☐ Circles of influence handout (2 per person)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pen/pencils and paper
- ☐ White board/chart paper and markers

Minds On

Hand out the “Circle of Influence” handout to students. Ask them to think about who is in each circle of influence: closest, medium, in life but not close. (They may wish to write names of people in each circle.) After you have given them adequate amount of time to do this ask them to think about how the people in the closest circle influence them.

Action

Discuss how even Jesus had three or four layers of influence as well. You may want to quickly brainstorm a list of times Jesus was with large crowds of people. You could write down some answers on a whiteboard or chart paper. Discuss who would form the second layer of influence. Students may not know that of the disciples there were three who formed the inner circle. Peter, James and John were often brought places that the rest of the twelve were not. They formed Jesus’ inner circle. However, they were not necessarily the best circle of friends.

Split the group in half. Tell one group they will be looking at Matthew 17:1-13 and the other they will be looking at Matthew 26:36-46. Give them a pen and paper and tell each group that as they are reading it they should come up with some questions for the other group to answer. As a guideline they should come up with at least one question about the event, one question about the disciples’ actions and one question about Jesus’ response to the disciples’ actions. Tell them they should end up with 3-5 questions and most of the questions should be thought provoking questions (why) rather than content questions (what). Give them 15-20 minutes to work on this. If your group is larger than eight people you may want to divide each group in half again. You could have four groups with two groups writing on each story, in order to encourage each group member’s participation (larger groups tend to be less focussed).

After you have given each group 15-20 minutes to write the questions, have the groups exchange question sheets. Each group should be given approximately 15-20 minutes to read the new stories and answer the questions.

After this time is up, bring the groups back as a large group to share their answers. It will be interesting to see if the answers each group provides are the answers that the group who initially wrote the questions expected.

Consolidate/Debrief

Ask students to review their circle of influence handouts. Ask them to think about the following questions: Do they believe that the people in the closest circle of influence are the best people to be in their “highest” circle of influence? Might there be changes needed to be made? Most importantly ask students to think about where they would put Jesus. Is Jesus in the closest circle of influence or the furthest? Is he even on the chart? Ask them to think about how Jesus could be closer in their circles of influence.