

Yesterday. Today. Forever.

Module: Loving the Story

Lesson 4: INTEGRATE/EMULATE

Objectives

- Students will learn to integrate knowledge, wisdom, and belief so that they can understand what it means to live boldly by faith.
- Students will aspire to emulate Christ's love within ourselves, and reflect it upon others in a kind and compassionate way.

Materials Needed

- ☐ Ingredients for milkshake (each makes 1 cup)
 - strawberry: 1/3 cup sliced strawberries, 2/3 tsp vanilla extract, 1/2 cup milk, 2/3 cup strawberry ice cream
 - chocolate: 1 1/3 tbsp chocolate syrup (e.g. NesQuik), 2/3 tsp vanilla extract, 1/2 cup milk, 2/3 cup chocolate ice cream
 - vanilla: 1/3 tbsp vanilla extract, 1/2 cup milk, 2/3 cup vanilla ice cream
 - Leader's note: Have three tables, each with ingredients to make a milkshake (i.e. a strawberry table, a vanilla table and a chocolate table). Be aware of any food allergies in the group e.g. lactose intolerant.
- ☐ Blender
- ☐ 1 cup per student
- ☐ Flipchart and markers

Minds On

To conclude this module, students will be making milkshakes. When you dismiss them, students are to choose one of three tables to join (strawberry, chocolate or vanilla). (If needed, even out the groups depending on how many ingredients you prepared for.) Give each student a cup. When instructed to go, have students fill their cup with the appropriate ingredients (if needed, print the recipe from “Materials Needed”). However, do not blend them yet.

Ask students to vote whether they would drink this milkshake in its current state by raising their hands.

Action

Prompt: Over the last few weeks, we’ve been exploring concepts like knowledge, wisdom and conviction, and thinking about what role they play in our faith journey. Tonight, we’re going to find out what brings it all together. Hopefully, by the end of tonight, you will see how these three things, as great as they are on their own, can become something incredible and powerful when brought together under the lens of discovering and journeying through our faith in God.

Ask students to suggest definitions of these words. Have someone write them on a flipchart.

Divide students into six groups and assign each group a number from 1-6. Have each group complete the following tasks:

1. Come up with 3 examples of knowledge that is very trivial. (e.g. Kim Kardashian was born on October 21, 1980 in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of attorney Robert Kardashian and his wife Kris.) Then give them to group 3 and quietly observe what they do with the examples.

2. Come up with 3 examples of knowledge that is biblical based. (e.g. God loved the world so much, He gave his son...whoever believes in Him will live forever.)
Then give them to group 4 and quietly observe what they do with those examples.
3. Quietly observe group 1 as they complete their task. With their given examples, suggest how each fact could be used or lived out.
4. Quietly observe group 2 as they complete their task. With their given examples, suggest how each fact could be used or lived out.
5. Compile a list of 5 people who you feel demonstrated conviction well but in a negative manner. (e.g. Adolf Hitler, Osama bin Laden, King Saul in the Bible)
6. Compile a list of 5 people who you feel demonstrated conviction well in a positive manner. (e.g. Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Joshua in the Bible)

After all the tasks have been complete, ask each group to summarize their results to the larger group. If possible, write out group 1, 3 and 5's answers on one large sheet of paper, and group 2, 4 and 6's answers on another.

Have everyone return to their groups. Ask them to compare the two answer sheets and come up with some differing factors between the two. When a group has come up with their answer, have them raise their hands. When they do so, give them the passage 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Based on this passage, have them answer the question, "What does this passage suggest is the key difference between the two lists? (Does it differ from your original answer?)" Each group should have a spokesperson to report their discoveries to the larger group. When groups report back, note the similarities in their answers.

Have a student read 1 Corinthians 13 in its entirety. As they are reading, add the milkshake ingredients into the blender. When the student is finished reading,

Prompt: Faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. When you think about what defines our faith, it is knowledge, wisdom, and conviction, but the difference between the examples we just read out is the 2nd half of them are examples of pursuing these things out of faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these reasons why we pursue

them is in the very identity of who God is (1 John 4:8). These three things are what bind our faith together, just as this blender binds all these ingredients together to make something wonderful and delicious. (**Leader's note:** If you haven't already, you should hit the BLEND button.)

Prompt: This is probably the best definition of love that you will ever come across. This is what Jesus is calling us to: a life of love. I can stand up here and talk all I want about the things I know about God, faith, and the bible, but if I'm not doing this out of love, it means nothing. Love transforms us from the inside out. God showed us the greatest act of love by dying for us on the cross, and when that knowledge, wisdom, and belief come together within us, it becomes reflected in our very identity. We are called by God not just to convey knowledge of that belief but to embrace our faith out of love. Knowledge will pass away (end of 1 Corinthians 13:8), but love will always remain.

Consolidate/Debrief

Have students return to their original groups. (**Leader's note:** If groups are larger than 6 people, then divide those groups in half.) Ask the following questions:

1. What does faith, hope, and love look like in your life? How do you allow it to transform you from the inside out?
2. How does our faith become sturdier if we allow God's love to fill us?
3. Jesus calls us to love our neighbours. How can we demonstrate Jesus' love to others?

Afterwards, suggest they pray together in groups that they would live out Jesus' call.

(**Leader's note:** You may choose to gather the larger group and end in prayer.)

You may want to end this lesson, and this module by serving milkshakes to the group or having a party with ice cream sundaes...with, or without spoons!