

TOTAL REVOLUTION in ME

Session #3: From My World To God's World

Session Objective: We often make the mistake of thinking that all that separates the non-Christian from the life of faith is the correct information: If we could supply them with this information they would then become Christians right? Wrong! The problem in our culture is not ignorance it is apathy. The same logic invades our discipleship process with teens. We assume that the crucial issue is content: If we tell the kids the truth about salvation and Jesus then they will live out his will, right? Wrong! Satan has all the right information about Jesus and he knows the Bible better than you do but it isn't helping him any and the correct information, by itself, is not helping our teens much either. It's time to haul out an abandoned concept: submission. The objective of this session is to help students realise that the **TOTAL REVOLUTION** of self required by God involves the movement of 'me off the throne' and God onto it. In this session students will ask the questions:

- Sure there is a God; but what difference does it make?
- What comes after belief?
- How do I put God on the throne?
- How will my life and this world be different with God in control?

Minimum Prep: Read through the entire session outline. Prepare an environment where discussion can occur. For this session it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you do the extended prep.

Extended Prep: Print out the overhead provided after the student handout and photocopy it onto a transparency slide. Use the following movie clips for cultural punch.

- The movie "**Instinct**" tells the story of Dr. Ethan Powell, an anthropologist who becomes fascinated with gorillas in Rwanda. A group of people looking for Powell shoot and kill one of the gorillas. Powell, in a murderous rage kills one of the men and is sent to prison. Dr. Theo Calder goes to visit Powell and receives a session in dominion and control. Some of the small group questions depend on the use of this clip running from 1 hour and 13 minutes in until 1 hour and 16 minutes. The clip begins with Theo entering Powell's jail cell and ends with a close up of Theo's face.

Session Outline

Leader Preamble:

Too often as Christians when we go out there to share our faith we lead with our theology! We think that all that separates our friends from salvation is the correct information and if they just knew what we know all would be well. So we lead with our theology. My friends, the problem in our country is not ignorance it is apathy! Let me demonstrate. (Display slide, one stat at a time) A recent Angus Reid survey asked Canadians the following question: "Do you believe that Jesus Christ was crucified, died and was buried but was raised again to eternal life?" 94% of people who attended Church said yes. You would expect that. 74% of the people who do not attend Church also said that they agree with that statement! The survey asked another question: Do you believe that Jesus Christ is NOT the divine Son of God? 89% of Church attenders disagreed with the statement, meaning that they DO believe that Jesus is the Son of God and 65% of the people who do not even go to Church also disagreed meaning that they too believe that Jesus IS the Son of God. My friends, your non-Christian neighbours know all of what they need to know about God, they just don't care! And so leading with your theology is not going to cut it, they need to know why that information matters. As Christians we sometimes make the same mistake in the way we approach the faith journey. We think that 90% of the battle is getting the facts straight. I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone say: "All you need to do to be a Christian is believe in Jesus". Let me ask you a question: Do you think that Satan, the Big Cheese of the Big House Down Under, believes in Jesus? Do you think he believes that Jesus of Nazareth walked the earth, did miracles, was crucified by the Romans, was buried in a borrowed tomb and was raised to life on the third day and taken up to heaven to sit at the right hand of God Almighty? Do you think he believes that? Of course he does! He was there when it happened! Well then, let me ask you a question: Is Satan a Christian? No?! I thought all you had to do was believe in Jesus? The truth is that belief is not faith. There is a little something that has to be added to belief before it becomes saving faith. That little something is total submission.

Tonight we are going to be talking about the movement from 'my world' to 'God's world' and that is a journey into total submission. Let's watch the following clip from the movie "**Instinct**".

Small Group Questions:

1. What does Ethan mean when he says: “We have only one thing to give up – our dominion. We don’t own the world.”
2. Whose world is it anyway? Check out Psalm 22:27-28.
3. Ethan believes that the world is a mess because humans have an unstoppable urge to be in control. The Bible says exactly the same thing! The whole point of the creation and fall story in Genesis is that the world was working perfectly until we decided that we could play God; right after that everything went to hell in a handbasket. Do you believe that given enough time, human beings could create a happy, peaceful, healthy and fair world without God’s help? Why or why not?

This should be an interesting discussion. Don’t forget that “Post-Modern” does not mean “Anti-Modern”, it means “Beyond Modern”. There is quite a mix out there in youth culture. Some students still believe that technology, science and human progress will eventually solve all the world’s problems (modern view) while others have completely lost faith in the human quest and can be either hopeless or faith-full. This strange mix should make for fun discussion. Try and make room for each view to be expressed.

4. Perhaps the only thing our culture likes less than the idea of absolute truth is the notion that we should live our lives in submission to a power outside ourselves. James 4:6-7 says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God”. Do you think your life would be better or worse with God in charge instead of you? Why?
5. Why is it so hard to let go of the control we have over our lives and our destinies?
6. Why in the world would anyone want to give up control of their will to God? What qualifies God to be in control of our lives?

God made us. He is eternal and knows much more about life than we do. God loves us and wants the best life for us. God understands the moral, physical and spiritual laws of the universe that operate around us.

7. What is one way your life would look different if you were in total submission to God's rule in you?

Answers like: I would stop doing drugs I guess. I would be more patient. I would respect my parents.

1. What is one way this world would look different if all the people on it gave dominion to God in all things?

Allow #7 and #8 to go around the circle so that everyone can chip in.

9. Why is belief by itself not an indication of faith?

It doesn't cost you anything. It doesn't change anything.

If you sense that this message has penetrated the heart of any student consider asking: Is there anyone who would like to move beyond belief into faith tonight by submitting to God's rule in every corner of their life? Don't worry, God will do all the work. God is like a master surgeon, its just not enough to believe it, you have to get up onto the operating table and hand him the scalpel. He won't force himself on anyone, but he does love you more than life itself and he wants to partner with you in the remaking of your life.

Comments and Feedback:

Leader Note: This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.

Appendix 1 Slide: Canadian Beliefs

Source: Angus Reid Group, National Survey, January 1994 and 1996, Sample Size 3386.

1. Statement: "I believe Jesus was crucified, died and was buried but was resurrected to eternal life"

Church Attenders: 94% Agree.
Non-Attenders: 74% Agree.
2. Question: "Do you agree or disagree with the statement: Jesus is NOT the divine Son of God"?

Church Attenders: 89% Disagree
Non Attenders: 65% Disagree
3. Statement: "I feel that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God provided a way for the forgiveness of my sins".

Church Attenders: 89% Agree
Non Attenders: 55% Agree

Conclusion:

It is not ignorance that is holding Canadians back from God, it is apathy.