

Characteristics of a Kingdom Revolutionary: Session #2 - Adventurous Living

Session Objective: Following Jesus is far different from just 'receiving Jesus'. Why? The answer, of course, is that following requires action, whereas "receiving" is a stationary or "static" act. As followers of Jesus, our lives will take on a revolutionary nature.

Session Intro: This week we are moving out from our introduction into a more specific realm of revolutionary living – the very nature of how we live our lives. Jesus turned the life of his followers upside down. In Luke 9:24, he says that to gain your life you must lose it. Yet all around us, people are frantically trying to save their lives through comfort – material things and relationships etc. etc. At the same time, Jesus says that he has come to give us real life, but many of our students don't really feel that way (many of us leaders don't either). This lesson begins to reinforce the topic that living a revolutionary life is completely different than what we experience in the world around us.

Minimum Prep: Read through the following questions. It would also be beneficial for you as the leader (or all your small group leaders) to read Chapter One in **Seizing Your Divine Moment**. You will note McManus gives some solid illustrations for you - use of the song by U2 – and a great illustration from Halle Barry too! Note "further applications" through the lesson.

Extended Prep: Buy or rent U2's CD "**All You Can't Leave Behind**" or the most recent U2 "Best of". We want the song "**Stuck in the Moment**". If possible put the words on an overhead or powerpoint.

This lesson has two potential endings...both require some elements. A white board, or butcher paper, green and red paper for option one, and option two requires a CD player, overhead projector (or powerpoint) and could lead into a time of communion...all of this is your choice! Choose wisely!

Session Outline

Small Group Questions:

1. What would you consider to be the “adventure of a lifetime”? Why?
2. What elements in an adventure are critical for you?
3. It has been said that an adventure is “an undertaking or enterprise of a hazardous nature”. Why is it so important that there be a hazard in every great adventure?

Read Luke 9:24

4. What does this passage say about the kind of adventurous life that God is calling us to? How is this total revolutionary thinking?

Read John 10:9-10

5. Jesus says in this passage, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” What do you think Jesus meant when he said this?
6. How would you define a full life? How would your friends at school define a full life? What is different between your definition and theirs? Why the difference? How do you explain this?
7. In that same passage Jesus says, “the thief comes only to steal, and kill and destroy.” Is there any way in which the way our world sees “life to the full” as a part of the “thief’s” lies?

Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20

8. What would it take for you to choose life today? What decisions would you need to make in your life? Are there things you would need to stop doing? Are there things you would need to begin?

Further Application:

If you are not doing the extended lesson, you could have the students write out some things they need to stop (you could even have paper with a stop sign on it, or just red paper) and write out some things they need to begin (again you could have green paper, or a go light). Then spend some time in quiet prayer, or if your group is close enough, ask the students to find a person or two who they really trust and in groups of 2-3 have them share and pray with each other. Then conclude with question 10. If you are doing extended prep I do not believe you will have time!

- 9. One author defines the life of adventure this way: “the explosive result that occurs when who God is so shapes who we are that it changes the way we live life. How we view God dramatically affects the person we become. How does your view of God impact your life (positively or negatively)?**

Minimum Prep: If you are ending the lesson at this point, spend some time as a group brainstorming different aspects of who God is. After you have developed this list, spend some time in popcorn prayer (people praying as they feel led), worshipping God and thanking him for an attribute of his character. These can be short prayers that everyone in the group has a chance to pray if they are comfortable praying

Extended Prep: If you are going on in your study...rather than doing the prayer time mentioned above, transition to the song by U2 “Stuck in the <moment”. Play the CD and put the words on an overhead. After the song...ask these questions:

- 10. What kinds of moments lead to people getting “stuck”?**

Leader Say: *There are both positive and negative moments that lead to people getting stuck...think of the person who wins a great award at a young age, but never moves beyond that award – a positive that leads to getting stuck. Rock stars seem to fall into this category, or athletes who retire at a young age, but continue to live off their “athlete status”. Of course we can think of many negative examples – a death of a close relative, a failure of some sort, a rejection by someone....*

- 11. Is there a moment in your life you keep living over and over again?
What would it take for you to break free from that moment?**

Preparation: This question might best be answered individually on a small piece of paper. That way the answer is written, and tangible, but is safe and there isn't the pressure to share with the whole group.

If you have chosen to go this route, you may want to plan for a time of ministry or prayer following your discussion. What if students found one or two others and they prayed for one another in their “sticking points”?

What if students who want to break free stayed behind for personal prayer with a leader? Or maybe you could have those who want to break free from sticking points stand up and a prayer from the front can be initiated. A time of worship and celebration could easily follow, or this could actually lead you into a time of communion, For greater impact have the students put their sticking point on a small sheet of paper that they bring to the front, or nail to a cross, or throw in a fire, or something else like this.