

Lesson 7 – Into Dark Places - Leader Guide

Opening Discussion:

Leader - Open by following one or more of the following prompts

- Have a few people share how reframing the idea of their walk caused them to think differently since the last lesson?
- How has your perspective and approach to life changed in light of the fact that Jesus believes in you?
- Have a few people share thoughts about their verse or quote it if they memorized it.

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Post Video Discussion

Leader – The hope for this discussion is that your small group members can begin to think about what it means to go to the “other side.” As disciples of Christ, we are called to engage the lost even when it is scary and uncomfortable. This is not just an individual call but also a corporate one for the church.

Discussion:

- Describe the “other side” as it exists for you personally or in our culture today.
- What keeps us from going to the “other side?”
- There is no right or wrong, but as a disciple, would you describe the environment to which you are called to be more like the Orthodox Triangle (highly religious) or the “Other Side” (non-religious)?
 - Why did you answer the way that you did?
 - The call to follow Jesus is never easy. What are some of your unique discipleship challenges in light of your environment?
- Do you think the church has done a good job of getting out of the boat? Why or why not?
- Does anyone have any stories of a time when they got out of the boat? Or maybe you have a life transformation story that includes someone else hearing the call and traveling to the other side for your sake.
- If you are being honest, is there a situation, person or relationship that you feel is too far gone and too dark to be touched by the finger of God? Are you willing to share?

Leader - Ask your group if they would be willing to go around the circle and share a name that comes to mind that they think would require a miraculous touch of God in order to change their life (some of the people will have already shared if you utilized the final question). After participants have shared a name, conclude by praying over these names. You can collectively say the Lord’s Prayer over these difficult situations. (Lord’s Prayer on back of Viewer Guide)

As participants head into the next week, have them be looking for opportunities to go to the other side.

Recommended reading prior to the next lesson: Matthew 16:13-28