



A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God

Leave the rules behind

LIFE 
GROUPS

Leader Check-in

In the video, Larry explains the difference between religion and spirituality; what are the differences and what does it mean for you?

Discover

Read Romans 14:1-4. What is the problem according to Paul? What attitude is Paul expecting from the Roman believers?

What rules do you live by that affect your opinions of others?

Read Romans 14:13-23. What does Paul mean when he says it is wrong to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble?

Paul challenges our tendency to view ourselves and our way of living as the only thing that matters; what does Paul urge us to consider instead?

Describe a time when you sacrificed something important for the sake of another.

Fully Own

Read Romans 14:23 again. What determines whether our spiritual life is on track? How do you feel when another person judges you based on his or her standards?

What can you do to stay on track with God's plan for your life? Develop a plan to stay spiritually healthy.


God uniquely created you; how can you live a "uniquely better" life with Him as the goal?

How does God want you to love Him? What are your "next steps" for living a life fully in love with God?

Challenge

Take some time this week and think about your personality—your likes, dislikes, temperament, etc. Write a brief description of your relationship with God. How could you improve that relationship?





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You don't need more faith or passion

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Leader Check-in

In the video, Larry described his own perspective on faith. What is yours? What about your perspective on passion? Would you say you need more of both when it comes to God?

Discover

Read Hebrews 11:1-2. What is the biblical definition of faith? What would change in your life if you embraced faith?

Read Hebrews 11:6. What do you think is the meaning of the statement, “Without faith it is impossible to please God?”

Read Hebrews 11:32-40. What are the two outcomes that the people of faith experienced? Is out come a good determiner of faith? Why or why not?

What you consider your perspective on faith—what might need to change in light of this session?

Fully Own

Larry spoke about faith being a simple act of obedience—what area of your life do you need to practice more obedience?

Read Acts 12:1-17. What did it do to Peter's faith when the angel came and spoke with him? Can you describe a time when God answered your prayers? How did that experience affect your faith in God?

What does it say about us when we only have faith when we are getting what we want?

What is God asking you from you? How might you go about obeying Him today, this week, or this year?

Challenge

Talk with a family member or friend about a time in your life when you saw God come through despite your doubts, concerns, or anxiety. Use the opportunity as a chance to practice small, obedient faith.



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You don't need someone else's habits or gifts

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Leader Check-in

How would you explain, “best practices overload?” Can you identify with trying to emulate Christians you admire?

Discover

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. In your own words, explain what problem Paul is addressing. What examples could you give of how this passage relates to best practice overload?

Can you remember a time when you acted a certain way that was not you, only to fit in? Explain that time in your life. What caused you to live that way?

Reread verses 22-25. What does Paul point out about the “weaker” or “less honorable” parts of the body? Explain in your own words why there is no insignificant or unimportant parts of Jesus’s body.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What is the most important thing we need as we participate in God’s Kingdom? What makes it difficult to love others who are different from us?

Fully Own

Make a list of the people in your life whom God has placed there for you to love. How are they different from you? Has it every made you uncomfortable? Why?


Read Matthew 25:21-23. How does this passage relate to using your gifts from God? As you look at your own gifts, how could you improve on how you use them?

What does it reveal about ourselves when we fail to use our gifts from God? If you were in God’s position, how would you react to people not using their gifts well?

Develop some strategies for using your gift well. What things should you remove in your life in order to use your gifts more effectively?

Challenge

Reflect this week on something you do really well. Take the time to think about how you can use that gift to serve God’s people. Come back ready to discuss how you put this into practice.





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Don't let tools become rules

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Leader Check-in

How would you explain balance after watching the video? Describe a time in your life when everything felt balanced. What threw you off balance?

Discover

What are some widely believed spiritual myths?

Read Acts 4:32-5:11. What disciplines were the people of the church practicing in Chapter 4? What are some examples of this happening today?

What did Ananias and Sapphira do that was so bad? How were they hoping people would perceive them? What were the consequences of their behavior?

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What season are you in right now? What does Jesus want you to do today? What in your life is so out of balance that it would cause you to fall over?

Fully Own

Describe a time when you were tempted to participate in something for appearance's sake. Why did you feel the need to do it? What was the result?


In your opinion, where is the value in spiritual discipline? Which discipline do you think is most important?

What needs to change in your life in order for you to focus more on the fruit instead of the disciplines? How might this change help your relationship with Jesus?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. According to this passage, what should we focus on? What do you need to do in order to see those fruits in your life?

Challenge

Make a list of the top three fruits you want to work on. Develop a discipline or strategy to help you accomplish your goal. Pray that God would help you and that ultimately He would be glorified in your actions. Come back next week ready to report on your progress.



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Is it a sin to be average?

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Leader Check-in

What disciplines and strategies did you implement this week? How did it affect your life?

Discover

How did Larry describe the difference between leadership and discipleship? How would you compare the two? In your experience, how have they been confused?

Read Mark 10:35-45. What does this passage have to say about discipleship and leadership? What do you find interesting about this passage?

In your opinion, what are the major difference between the steps to discipleship and the steps to leadership?

Read John 21:20-22. In light of our discussion about discipleship, what jumps out to you about Peter's questions to Jesus? What does that mean for us today? How should we obey God?

Fully Own

Is your community, church, or work calling you to leadership? If so, what can you do to protect your discipleship journey from your leadership development? If not, how can you focus on your discipleship path?

Read 1 John 2:6. What is your next step? How can you model your life after Jesus's life?

Read John 14:15. How does this verse relate to discipleship and obedience? How can you apply this verse to your life?

Who in your life needs more light shown on them? How could you become a brighter light for those around you?

Challenge

Every morning this week stop and ask God what your next small step of obedience should be. Write it down on a piece of paper and put it where you can see it each day. Share it with the group.