

Intensity

Series: I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt

Week Two: Youth Small Group Questions

Correlates with Chapter 6



1. What is your favorite thing to eat ... at home ... in a restaurant?
2. Some of us are reading a book called, “I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt.” In that book, the author talks about how we have “roving appetites” – that we’ve tried to “eat” all kinds of things that we’re sure will fill us up, but ultimately don’t.
 - a. Think back to some things you really wanted in the past—all you could seem to think of was getting these things. What were they and why did you want them so badly? How did you feel after you got them? Where are they now? Would you say that those things really satisfied you?
3. Read Mark 10:46-52.
4. Take a minute and think about Bartimaeus, the blind beggar. Enter into his life. How do you think a typical day was for him? How do you think he felt on a regular basis? What were his worries? How do you think he viewed himself, his life, his future? How did others view him?
5. Are there any ways in which you can relate to him?
6. What do you think Bartimaeus might have heard about Jesus that led him to call out as Jesus passed by?
 - a. In verse 48 Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus and is rebuked by the crowd, but he calls out all the more. What do you think drove Bartimaeus to continue to seek out and call to Jesus? Why didn’t he give in to the crowd and give up?
7. What did you hear about Jesus that originally led you to seek and call out to him? If you aren’t a Christian, what about Jesus attracts you to him?
8. Bartimaeus was obviously very hungry for Jesus and for what Jesus could do in his life. How would you describe your hunger for Jesus right now? Explain.
 - a. “I’m starving!”
 - b. “I could eat.”
 - c. “No thanks, not really hungry.”
 - d. “I’m hungry, but not sure that’s what I would pick from the menu...”
9. If you don’t have a real hunger for Jesus right now, but want to have that kind of intensity, what could you do to develop it? If you don’t want to have that kind of intensity, why do you think that is?
10. What will you actually *do* this week to increase your intensity for God and to get your hunger for him filled? How can this group help you?

Ideas to Illustrate This:

- 1) Have an eating contest (hotdogs, twinkies, pickles, hardboiled eggs, spam, etc.) and give a gift certificate to the winner.
- 2) Have a meal before the discussion where students bring a portion of the meal and eat together, getting to know one another and building community as a group.
- 3) Participate in a fast together as a group before this discussion so that students feel the pangs of hunger as you discuss this idea.
 - a. Taking this a step further, you can partner with organizations like World Vision and participate in a “30 Hour Famine” (www.30hourfamine.org) before this discussion. 30 Hour Famine raises money to provide food for starving kids around the world. You could also do a fast, have students get sponsored, raise money, partner with a local homeless shelter or mission and donate the money to their cause. You can experience this more by working with that mission, taking students to buy food with the money that was raised, and putting on a dinner for the homeless in your community.