

Imitate

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

Week Three: Youth Small Group Questions

Correlates with Chapters 7–9



1. Do you ever dance when no one's looking and you're all alone? What inspires you to dance like this? What's the weirdest dance you've done? Would you mind showing us your skills?
2. Christians talk about "following" Jesus. When you think of "following Jesus" what typically comes to mind?
3. Christians also talk about "imitating" Jesus. When you think of "imitating Jesus" what typically comes to mind?
4. Some of us are reading the book, "I Became a Christian and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt." In that book the author (in chapter 7) talks about how we often think of following (or imitating) Jesus simply as trying to avoid sin and live a moral life. He claims that although that is true, it should be much more. Do you agree or disagree? Why? What more do you think it should be?
5. The author also mentions (in chapter 8) the monk's idea of "perichoresis" – that God is a God who dances, and we've been invited into that dance with God. That following or imitating looks a lot like dancing.
 - a. Think about God dancing. How do you think God would dance?
 - b. When you think of dancing with God what comes to your mind?
 - c. What do you think it looks like in real life to dance with God? How do we do that on a day to day basis?
6. Read Luke 10:38-42.
7. Both Martha and Mary were people who wanted to follow Jesus but, at least in this instance, they took very different approaches.
 - a. What would you say are the differences between these two sisters? Describe their personalities.
 - b. Would you agree that Mary's approach to following Jesus looks more like dancing than Martha's? Why or why not?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus commends Mary?
 - d. What do you think it would take for you to be more like Mary (in this story) and less like Martha?
8. Someone has said, "There is some music you face; there is other music you dance to. In the energy and movement and teachings of Jesus, I have found the music to dance my way through life."
 - a. Would you say that your life looks more like a dance since you started following Jesus? Explain.
9. How might it impact your efforts to imitate (and become more like) Jesus if you viewed it as learning from him how to dance through life rather than merely trying to not sin so much?
10. What are some "dance moves" we can learn from Jesus? (What are some ways of living we can learn from Jesus?)
 - a. It takes practice to be great at dancing. In what ways can you practice these "dance moves" of Jesus?

Ideas to Illustrate This:

- 1) Have a DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) showdown (if you have access to the game).
- 2) Play a game of Simon Says or a version of the Memory Game—students sit in a circle, and one student starts off with some kind of gesture or move and it is passed down the circle until it returns to the person who started it off. Then they repeat that same move or gesture and add another move or gesture to it. This sequence gets passed around the circle and it keeps building until someone messes up the sequence. Once this happens, they are out. This continues until there is a face off between two people and a winner is pronounced.
- 3) Show a clip from the movie *Napoleon Dynamite* of his dance routine (Chapter 19 “Napoleon Rocks Out”)