



LOVE
YOUR
CHURCH



witness

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions in conjunction with the videos and worksheets
in the small group kit for *witness* by Jonathan K. Dodson.

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1. TRUE WITNESS

1. What is beautiful to you about God?
2. *Read Hebrews 1:1-4.* What is beautiful and unique about Jesus in these verses?
3. What other Bible passages or stories fill you with excitement about who Jesus is and what he has done?
4. Think of a time when the actions of a Christian believer made the beauty of Jesus come alive for you. What did they do, and how did it make a difference to you? (See the author's example on page 16.)
5. How easy do you find it to talk about Jesus? How did this chapter make you feel about that?
6. What could you do this week to cultivate being more taken with Jesus?

2. FAITHFUL PRESENCE

1. *Read Jeremiah 29:4-7.* What should the Israelites' attitude be to the foreign city they are living in?
2. Assuming these instructions were followed, how might God's people have ended up blessing those around them?
3. Practically speaking, what could it look like for you to be an economic and social blessing in your community, and to help heal what is broken? (Take a look at the bullet points on pages 33-35 if you're stuck for ideas.) Consider what steps you might take this week, this month, and this year.
4. Why is it a challenge to live a holy life, yet engage with the secular world around us? Are there particular issues or situations where you feel this tension?
5. What did you think of the ideas for prayer on pages 36-37? Could you put anything like this into practice?
6. *Read Colossians 1:20* and spend some time praying for individuals you know who don't know Jesus yet. Ask God to bring "full-orbed shalom" into their lives, and pray for his help as you seek to communicate the message of Christ.

3. IMPLAUSIBLE EVANGELISM

1. How do you generally feel about evangelism? Do you ever feel that it's "implausible"? Did any of the reasons to avoid evangelism listed on pages 46-51 resonate with you?
2. Reread the section "Compassionate Evangelism." What did you find helpful about this description of Jesus' evangelism?
3. *Read Romans 1:18-25.* How does this help you make sense of what is going on spiritually in the hearts of unbelievers? Can you think of some real-life examples? (The section "Many Identities" may help with this.)
4. "The only way for the spiritually resistant to be liberated into the saving love of Jesus Christ is for someone to preach the gospel to them. Spiritual death and resistance can be overturned by a single, eternal, powerful word shared by an ordinary Christian."
Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 and 23-25 and consider what these verses say about being born again. How does this make you feel about sharing God's word with others?
5. In pages 54-56, Dodson writes about how Jesus transforms our identity. Could you write your own short summary of the gospel message in a way that might resonate with people struggling with identity issues?
6. In what other ways is the message of Jesus good news for those around us today?

4. BIBLICAL EVANGELISM

1. “Jesus knew that evangelism is more than just conveying gospel information.” How would you sum up what evangelism is? How has reading this chapter influenced your answer?
2. *Read Luke 18:18-25.* Imagine you were having a conversation like this today. In what ways are Jesus’ words different from what you might expect a modern evangelist to say?
3. Look back at the headings on pages 61-64. Why could each of these be a valuable part of our evangelism? How confident do you feel about putting each of these into practice?
4. Think about some non-Christians you know. What do you think is “the one thing each of them is unwilling to give up”? How could that help you speak to them about Jesus? (Look back at pages 64-66 if you need help with this.)
5. *Read Colossians 4:5-6.* Consider these verses slowly. What could it look like to put each piece of advice into practice? What help do you need from God? You might find it helpful to write out the phrases separately on large pieces of paper and then write your ideas around each one. (Look back at pages 67-69 if you need help for more ideas.)
6. “Paul is describing a person who is deeply interested in others ... [They are not] poised to condemn, nor are they afraid to speak; they are compelled by God’s grace to speak life and hope into the lives of others.” Pray for one another that, by his grace, God would turn you into this kind of person.

5. GOSPEL METAPHORS

1. Could you quickly summarize the “five central gospel metaphors”—justification, redemption, adoption, new creation, and union with Christ? What does each mean, in simple language?
2. Which of these resonates most with you personally? Can you explain why?
3. Imagine you’re using one of the gospel metaphors to explain to a non-Christian what Jesus has done for you. How would you explain it to them, using ordinary words?
4. How confident do you feel about discerning what is driving the non-Christians you talk to, and which gospel metaphor might be most helpful for them? What could help you get better at this?
5. Choose one of the gospel metaphors and look at the Bible passages mentioned by Dodson in connection with it. What does each one tell you? How might you explain each verse to an unbelieving friend?
6. Spend some time praising God for all that he has done for us in Christ. Then turn your praises into prayers for the salvation of those you know and love.

6. COMMUNITY EVANGELISM

1. *Read 1 Corinthians 12.* What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ? Do you ever fall into the trap of thinking some people (maybe yourself, maybe others) are less valuable or important?
2. What would you say your gifts and strengths are? What are you less good at? What would it look like for the members of your group to support one another in each other's weaknesses? (Think about any area of life, not just evangelism.)
3. What could it look like for the members of your group to support one another in evangelism? For example, imagine you meet someone with whom you don't have much in common. What steps could you take to connect that person with someone who "speaks their language" a bit more? Or, imagine an unbeliever came to your small group. What would you do to make them welcome and help them learn about Jesus?
4. Why is it so valuable to connect unbelieving friends with different Christians you know?
5. Do you see your home as a place for evangelism? Why, or why not? What could you do to use your home for evangelism?
6. *Reread 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,* and pray for God's help and wisdom as you all seek to reach out as a body.

7. SHAMELESS PRAYER

1. “There are times when I ... beg God for the salvation of my neighbors and days I flat out forget.” How would you describe your own willingness to pray for the salvation of others at the moment?
2. *Read Luke 11:1-13.* What does this passage teach us about our heavenly Father?
3. How should this impact the way we pray?
4. *Read John 3:36.* Who do you know who is facing the sobering reality in the second part of the verse? How often do you think about how desperate their need is?
5. God promises to give us the Holy Spirit when we ask him. *Read Romans 8:26-27.* How do these verses encourage you and spur you on in prayer?
6. Spend some time discussing your experiences with evangelism and those you would like to pray for. Then use the Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:2-4) to help you pray for yourselves and others.