

Process Evangelism Follow Ups

“I WILL DO IT LATER”

1. Read: James 4:13-17- LIFE IS A MIST

Why do you think life would be described as that? Doesn't it seem like 75-80 years is pretty long?

2. Read: Hebrews 9:27- WE WILL ALL FACE JUDGEMENT

Why do you think life would be described as that? Doesn't it seem like 75-80 years is pretty long?

3. Read Matthew 11:28-30- JESUS DOESN'T MAKE LIFE HARDER

In what ways is it hard for you to believe that Jesus' burden is light?

In light of what we have talked about, does this change your thought process on waiting until later to follow Christ?

“I WILL DO IT LATER”

Kickoff Question

- Intro into with story of unexpected something that has happened to you. Have you ever had anything like that in your life?

Life is pretty unexpected, plans don't work out, unexpected death comes along many times. We really have no grasp of what will happen today or tomorrow or any given moment. James 4 is a really great passage to think about this, making plans for our life and neglecting God in the process. Let's read it together and try to understand it more.

1. Read: James 4:13-17

Teach: In v. 14 it says our lives are like a mist, meaning they don't last as long as we think they will last. And the reality is, that small portion that is our life could end at any moment. In v. 15 he says "If the Lord wills, we will live". We never know what is going to happen in the future, or even tomorrow. These people do not know what the future holds for them, no one does. We have a date that we will one day have to come face to face with God and no one knows the time that day will come. That's why in these verses James is warning people that they have no idea what will happen tomorrow and to live in light of that.

Why do you think life would be described as that? Doesn't it seem like 75-80 years is pretty long?

Not only is it important to remember how short life is, but to think about what comes after that..there's many theological books that take chapters and chapters to explain this, but I would love to look at a verse in Hebrews that speaks short and sweet to this.

2. Read: Hebrews 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment"

So what the author of Hebrews is explaining is that we could die any time, and in that very moment, we will face judgement meaning we will either be deemed righteous in front of God because we have accepted Christ's sacrifice for our sin, or we will be judged as guilty and sent to pay for our sins in eternity. We don't want to waste our lives on things that don't matter, we will come face to face with God when we die, we would miss out on good things God wants to use us for, joy he wants to bring us, etc.) Learning all of this, what do you think the danger is in waiting until later to follow Jesus?

Respond But the reason we want to follow Jesus is not just because of eternity, it is also so we can experience a true relationship with him during our time on this earth. I think a lot of people have the idea that following Jesus is going to make life harder, that you're going to have to add more to your schedule and have more rules to follow, but the truth is, Jesus doesn't make more life more difficult, he wants to walk with us through the difficulties and challenges of life.

3. Read Matthew 11:28-30

Explain that a yoke was a harness used by oxen and other animals to ease the work of hauling a load. And what is happening here is Jesus is saying to take his yoke and put it on us. When

He died on the cross, He took the heaviest yoke of our sin and shame onto his own life and carried it for us, he gives us an “easy yoke” if you will so we get to experience true rest and a light burden by trusting fully in him. Jesus doesn’t make life harder.

In what ways is it hard for you to believe that Jesus’ burden is light?

In light of what we have talked about, does this change your thought process on waiting until later to follow Christ?

Leader

Kick Off:

You mentioned last time that we were together that you didn't want to follow Jesus because you didn't want to surrender your life to him. I think that is a very normal feeling for a few reasons.

Reason 1: There are many parts of our lives that we enjoy.

I am guessing that your life isn't terrible. You are probably at the peak of your life. You have the friends you want, the degree you are excited about, and maybe even the guy or girl you think you might marry (perhaps not the last one). But if your honest, life is pretty good. What if deciding to follow Jesus messes that all up? That is a good thought that leads to the second reason.

Reason 2: You may not fully understand what it means to follow Jesus.

When I say you need to make Jesus Lord of your life, what do you think I mean? This is a valid question. I don't want you to decide if you aren't sure what you are choosing to do. Because of that, we could look at a few passages in the Bible to help clarify.

Passages:

Luke 9:23-25 - And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Here Jesus is telling his disciples what the commitment level is. He says that anyone who will follow me must give up everything and be willing to sacrifice anything for me. If you are honest, how does that make you feel?

Jesus wants us to be fully committed to him. What are some reasons you think he would ask for this level of commitment?

Illustration Ideas

- Receiving a medicine that could heal you, but you only finish half of it. Try to connect how this would be the same as only accepting half of the teaching of Jesus because what he offers is the truth leading to abundant life.

24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits his soul?

Many people that met Jesus had the same fear that you did. They thought, "If I follow Jesus, I will lose the things I love." But Jesus reassures that what you will gain will be far greater. You will not forfeit your soul. Jesus is referring to eternity.

Illustration Ideas

Eternity Line:

1. Bring a rope or draw a line on the page.
2. Explain that it represents their life.
3. Draw a small spot on the line and say, "this represents your life on earth."

4. The rest of the line represents eternity. Help them understand that life on earth is insignificant compared to eternity. Jesus is concerned with this. He says it may feel like you are losing your here, but look what you are gaining. It is worth it!

Story of Jim Elliot: [quick summary and then end with quote] - **Jim Elliot Quote:** He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot leave to lose.

Rich Young Ruler - Jesus wasn't taking something away he was giving him what he needed.

Gaining the whole world is deceptive.

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

When Paul mentioned flesh, he is talking about the things of the world that we loved. And the word corruption means that those things spoil or don't last.

Have you ever experienced a time when you looked forward to or bought something but it didn't live up to the hype?

OR

Have you ever sacrificed to get something and then later realized it wasn't that big of a deal?

Illustration

- Franklins BBQ in Austin, TX. People wait in line for hours to eat this BBQ. I had it and it was pretty good BBQ, but not worth waiting for hours.
- Turning 16, thought it would lead to freedom but ended up having to run errands for my parents.
- Going to college, thought it would be the greatest thing in the world not being under parents. Missed the home cooked meals, people who cared about me, messes being cleaned up, and my laundry being done.
- Garage sale - Explain how things in our garage sale were once prized items and now we are selling them for 50 cents.
- Iphone: New one every year
- Relationships - you meet the perfect guy or girl and then 6 months later you hate them.

Paul is speaking of this when he uses the word corruption. The things of the world always over promise and then under deliver.

This is going to keep happening over and over again throughout your entire life.

Conclusion:

I wanted to share this with you because I want you to see that Jesus is trying to make your life harder. Instead, he is trying to give you true life that lasts forever.

After hearing this, does it impact your decision at all as your thinking about following Jesus? Are there any areas of your life that you feel like you are holding back from Jesus?

Application - 5 Day Reading Plan

Why should I surrender my whole life to Jesus?

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

Luke 9:23-25 - And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Here Jesus is telling his disciples what the commitment level is. He says that anyone who will follow me must give up everything and be willing to sacrifice anything for me. If you are honest, how does that make you feel?

Jesus wants us to be fully committed to him. What are some reasons you think he would ask for this level of commitment?

Why would he expect us to listen to him?

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- **Jim Elliot Quote**

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Have you ever experienced a time when you looked forward to or bought something but it didn't live up to the hype?

5 Day Reading Plan

Each day go through the following 5 steps with the passages below:

- Step 1: Pray that God would give you the ability to be humble before His Word so that you might submit to them.
- Step 2: Read the passage.
- Step 3: Answer the question, "How is Jesus calling me to live in this passage?"
- Step 4: What is one practical way I can live out what I learned?
- Step 5: Pray for strength to live it out.

Day 1: John 4:1-42

Day 2: Matthew 7:24-27

Day 3: John 15:1-11

Day 4: John 13:1-20

Day 5 Matthew 28:16-20

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE DECISION 121 LEADERS GUIDE

Sometimes, making the decision to follow Jesus can feel like that - like we have no idea what that means or how to do it. Maybe you have a desire to make that decision but you aren't sure what it looks like. Today, we are going to look at a verse in the Bible that gives us a clear answer.

Romans 10:9 says this, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

When you confess your identity, what does that mean? How do you agree with them? How do you declare it?

In what ways could this be similar to confessing that Jesus is Lord?

In light of that, how would that change the way someone lives?

This is what it means to make Jesus your Lord - giving him all authority in your life and as a result, obeying his commandments and living for him.

Next he says you must believe in your heart.

If I told you to follow Jesus that you have to believe, what would you think I was asking you to do?

We use different types of 'belief' when we are talking about things in our lives. We believe all kinds of things in our culture. There are 3 different aspects to believing in Jesus - content(what it is we are believing), persuasion(actually trusting it, not just knowing), and action(doing something because you believe it).

Content

If you believe but aren't sure what it is you're believing, what might be the result?

Persuasion

What if you know the right content, but you don't think its true?

Action

What if you say you believe and are persuaded, but don't have a desire to follow Jesus's commands?

When you look at what it takes to believe, would you say you have this type of desire to believe?

If not, which of the 3 is holding you back?

When you do confess and believe, the Bible tells us there will be evidence. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

What would it look like for someone to become a new creation? (Lead with some examples of your life if they are having trouble thinking of some)

John 6:44 says that no one comes to the Father unless He draws them to himself. Do you want God to give you this desire? If so, lets pray and ask him to give it to you.

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Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

What would it look like for someone to become a new creation?

John 6:44 says that no one comes to the Father unless He draws them to himself. Do you want God to give you this desire? If so, pray and ask him to give it to you.

LEADERS GUIDE - I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY FRIENDS OR MY REPUTATION

Kickoff

Story of sacrificing my time training for a half marathon - it sucked. As the race got closer, had to spend 1 to 2 hours each night running in order to stay in shape. I sacrificed my time, energy, a couple pairs of shoes so that I could get the time I wanted when it came time to run.

Can you think of a time when you made a big sacrifice? (Not necessary to ask)

At some point in our lives, we all have to make sacrifices. I want to look at a passage in the Bible today where we see Paul talk about the sacrifice he made when it came to following Jesus.

Context

Before we jump into it, Paul here is addressing the religious elite, who thought they were in good standing with God because of their good works and how closely they are following all of the rules. Essentially, they had, what they thought, was a good religious reputation that they claimed made them right before God. Let's see what Paul has to say about this.

Scripture

Philippians 3:4b-8

Summarize

Paul says if any one has a reputation to brag about, he has a better one! He goes on to list all of these attributes that may not mean much to us, but were extremely impressive to the people in that culture. Paul was born into the highest ranking family, a religious leader in the most elite group possible; he was following every rule there was to follow.

What would be an impressive resume like Paul's for a college student in today's day?

Read verse 7. The people reading this would have been on board until this verse. He completely flips the script here.

Some would think that's an insane sacrifice. Here are some other huge sacrifices:

Illustration Ideas

Russell Wilson - MVP caliber quarterback sacrifices \$1 million each year on his health so that he can continue playing football.

Parents - sacrifice at least 18 years, about \$250,000 on average, to raise you because they love you

Pledges - sacrifice their dignity, their freedom, and their GPAs so they can be a part of the social elite on campus

All of these sacrifices have one thing in common. These people gave up something because what they were getting in return was worth it.

Why do you think Paul had to sacrifice his reputation and accomplishments to know Jesus?

Paul had more accomplishments than you and me. He says he gives up all of these things for a reason - he said to gain Christ. What could be some reasons gaining Christ is worth giving up all of our accomplishments?

I believe the biggest reason is because Paul believed Jesus was worth it. This relationship with Jesus, who lived a perfect life, yet died in our place on the cross, is better than every single one of Paul's accomplishments.

What would it look like for someone in your fraternity/sorority to count everything as a loss in order to know Jesus?

Application

What are some things in your life that you could sacrifice so that you can know Jesus?

What do we gain from knowing Christ?

Can you think of a time when you made a big sacrifice?

Read Philippians 3:4b-8

What would be an impressive resume like Paul's for a college student in today's day?

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What do we gain from knowing Christ?

Objection: “The world is more fulfilling”

Kickoff question: If you could have your dream life with anything you wanted and could live wherever, what would you want?

I remember when we went on our honeymoon we were SO excited because we had never been to an all inclusive before. There was 7 restaurants, a coffee shop, desserts everywhere, and 24/7 room service. And we definitely got our moneys worth, we had two dinners every night and the first couple nights I was totally fine, but on the fourth night I woke up horribly nauseas throwing up in the bathroom in front of my brand new husband of only four days. What I thought was going to be the best food of my life, did not feel like that in the particular moment. It was not as fulfilling as I thought it would be to eat whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted.

Passage(s):

- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Questions:

Verses 4-8 say Solomon made great works, had houses, planted vineyards, gardens, parks, all kinds of trees, pools to water those trees, slaves, great possessions of herds and flocks - more than anyone else before him, and silver, gold, and the treasure of kings.

How could someone like Solomon who had all of these things still be so unsatisfied?

Solomon describes how he felt as chasing after wind; which sounds absolutely hopeless and frustrating. Can you relate at all to ever feeling like this?

Solomon his whole life tried all these things, but he had to learn there are other things that matter more.

- When was a time that you thought something would be more fulfilling/fun than it really was?

Have you ever been to a garage sale? What are the best finds you have ever gotten from a garage sale? Think about it - those things in a garage sale were once someone else's most valued item, now being sold for 50 cents... it kind of reminds me of this verse in Matthew 6. Matthew 6:19-20 says “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break-in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your hear will be also”

We often think the world will be more fulfilling but this passage is clear that the things in this world will be destroyed. They will all go away one day. There are a few things that matter forever. The only three things that have eternal value are God, his word, and people!

Application/PDO:

Now knowing the truth of what the Bible says, do you still think the world is more fulfilling?

In what ways do you think following God would satisfy you?

Do you want to stop trying to be fulfilled by something that will never satisfy you and trust in Jesus today?

