



## Dancing To Jazz: Contagious | June 6, 2018

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

When we treat people like projects, we don't typically get the results we were hoping for. The Bible suggests something very different.

#### Key Verses

**John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

#### Discussion

In his book, *Blue Like Jazz*, Donald Miller talks about a Sunday school lesson in which his teacher draws a giant circle on the board and asks the kids to think about people in their lives who don't know Jesus. They list these people on the outside of the circle. The goal of the exercise is pretty simple... get the people they just listed inside the circle (where they have a relationship with Jesus) over the course of an entire year. Donald Miller, taking a little bit of creative freedom, invents a couple imaginary friends and coinciding stories about their "conversions." As fun as the stories may have been, when the year ended Donald realized these were the only two people who moved inside the circle.

1. Did you participate in Sunday school as a child? What was your favorite lesson or story?
2. How do you think Donald felt when he realized his imaginary friends were the only ones who moved inside the circle? How might you feel if you were in his shoes?

In our faith, it can be pretty easy to treat people as if they're projects. We are told in the Bible to go out and help others know Jesus more, to disciple and teach them. The problem is, that doesn't usually work if the person is just a project to us. It starts to look and feel like we have to sell our faith to them as opposed to being an authentic relationship. Instead of selling God like a product we could buy at the store, what if we lived out our faith in a way that was contagious to those around us, so that they might look at our own relationship with Jesus and want to know more.

3. Have you ever tried to disciple someone? Has it felt like a real relationship or more like a project? Explain.
4. How would you describe contagious faith? Who in your life has contagious faith that you've either observed or "caught"?

In John 13:34-35, we are told that because God has loved us, we must love others. But instead of trying to sell him like a door-to-door salesman, the method through which other people will learn about God is through the way we live and love others. This kind of lifestyle will be contagious to others; they will notice something different about it and seek to know more. Instead of "selling" a non-believer, if we are authentic about the way we love and seek to know Jesus more in our own lives, others will gradually listen.

5. Why do you think love is so attractive to people? Why might this be the method through which God chooses to reveal himself?
6. Be honest with yourself... Do you think others would notice the way you love people and want to know more? Why or why not?

#### What's Next?

Instead of starting with a convincing argument in a conversation with a non-believer, we should be more contagious with our love, so that they might experience it and hunger for more.

This week, consider how you can be contagious in your faith... the ways that you live out your life that others watch, observe and benefit from. When an opportunity arises to enter into conversations about it, do not be ashamed, but declare the gospel boldly. Think about one way to make your personal faith and actions so attractive that people gather around to hear what you have to say.