



Revolution: Hone | November 27, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Have you ever watched a movie for the hundredth time, and in that time, you saw something you've never seen before? What if the same could be true for our faith? Maybe it's time we reexamined some things to see if there's something we're missing. Hear more about this below.

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."

Discussion

If you've ever watched a movie or TV show a hundred times, only to see something brand new you've never seen before, it probably surprised you. Or maybe it was something on your way to or from work. You take the exact same route a hundred times, until one day you see something that appears to be brand new, and it catches you off guard. Sometimes, new things show up even when they've always been there. It's usually a perspective switch, or they show up because we've seen the exact same thing so many times.

1. Is there a movie, TV show, or "route" you've experienced many, many times?
2. Why do you think seeing something new when we experience these things for the hundredth time catches us off guard? Has this happened to you? Explain.

The weird thing about our faith is that so many of us do something very similar. We grab hold of something in our faith, package it up, and do it the same way over and over again. And if new things start to reveal themselves, or if someone introduces something that's different than what we have done or believed, we just reject it. When Jesus came to Earth, however, he flipped lots of beliefs and traditions on their heads. The biggest thing that was so revolutionary about Jesus, was that he continually asked the question, "What if we did this a little differently?"

3. Is this pattern true of your faith? Why or why not?
4. Why might this pattern contradict with how Jesus lived and engaged with others while he was on Earth?

In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Paul gives an example of how we can live in the constant tension of desiring our own ways of doing things while also relating to others who may think or behave differently than us. He says in the passage that he enters into the world of a variety of different people. He becomes like them. He didn't necessarily take on their way of life, but kept his bearing on Christ, while also entering into their world and experiencing things from their point of view. He chose to serve people who didn't think or behave like he did, in order to point them to Jesus.

5. Do you find it difficult to enter into the lives of people unlike you? Why or why not?
6. Why might entering into the lives of others – meeting them where they are – be important in introducing people to the gospel?

What's Next?

Often times, as Christians, we spend so much time trying to say the exact right thing, that we forget to even engage with those around us. We want to figure out exactly what God wants from us before we act. It's like we've seen the same movie a hundred times. Because of that, our faith starts to feel dull and boring. But the goal is to draw others closer to God, not to ensure that we have all the right words in a script.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, continue to hone this message. Pick it up and carry it with you. Look at all the places where you engage your faith. Does your faith look like your everyday commute to work? Identify one way you can pick up Jesus' message, engage with it differently, and bring it – even imperfectly – to those around you.