



Road Trip: Fill Your Seats | July 11, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

The best road trips are with other people. Uniquely, our faith works exactly the same way.

Key Verses

Romans 12:3-8 (NIV)

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Discussion

If you've ever been on a road trip in a bus with 15 people, you've probably tried to pass the time with a road trip game or two. To involve everyone, you might play something like the "suitcase game," where everyone mentions something they are packing in their suitcase that starts with a certain letter of the alphabet. As you continue with the game, everyone has to memorize everything that has been packed in the suitcase. If you play long enough, you may realize that it's not really the game itself that is so much fun, it's doing it with everyone else.

1. What is your favorite road trip game to play with a group of people?
2. Why do you think a simple game can become really enjoyable when playing with others?

In both our road trips and our faith, the best way to do it is with other people. We were designed by God to experience it that way. But when it comes to the Gospel, sometimes our first reaction can be to grab it tight and keep it to ourselves, to bottle it up and keep it a secret. We can get so focused on our own understanding – praying and studying and journaling alone – that we miss out on all that can be experienced when the Gospel is shared with others. Developing our own faith journey is only part of the puzzle; the key component of the Gospel is sharing or telling it.

3. When did you first hear the Gospel? Did someone else take the time to share it with you?
4. Do you find yourself caught up in your own understanding of faith and the Gospel? Does this keep you from experiencing it with others?

In Romans 12:3-8, we read that we were all designed by God with different gifts and abilities. It's like we are all different parts of one body, parts that have unique functions and roles. And without any of the parts, the body doesn't function to the best of its ability. We were designed to be combined together as one body; each part gets its meaning from the whole body, not the other way around. Because we all have unique gifts and abilities, we are told to live into this identity, without envy, pride or comparing ourselves to others.

5. What are some of your unique gifts and abilities? Do you struggle with envy or pride when it comes to seeing the gifts of those around you?
6. Why do you think God designed us to live alongside one another, giving and sharing of our gifts and abilities? What does it teach us?

What's Next?

It can be really easy for us to focus on getting really good at doing everything "Christian," but when we do that we miss out on being any good to those around us, the different parts of the body.

This week, as you plan your journey, really examine the seats on your bus. Is it just the driver, and nobody else? If there are empty seats, who might you fill the seats with? Who can you be more strategic with about doing life together? Think about 2-3 people you would like to invite onto your bus and reach out to each of them.