



IMMEASURABLY MORE

GOD

LOVE

LIFE

Session #1

AIM: Understand that our view of God effects how we view our life, identity, and behaviour. Discuss misconceptions about God held by young people and raise the question- what is God truly like? How do I fit into his story?

Discussion:

1. We all live our life differently, and we are all unique individuals. However, people around us influence us in our behaviour, our thinking, and our attitude. Who do you think has had the biggest influence upon your life?
2. It has been said that the biggest factor in how we choose to live our life is what we believe about God- do you agree with this? Why or why not?
3. How does our opinion of, or understanding of God change the way we live and act?
4. As a group brainstorm words you would use to describe God:

5. In your own words, write one sentence to describe what you think God is like and share it with the group.
6. Do you think you matter to God? Why or why not?
7. What do you think would be the top 5 things on God priority list?
8. If you were God, what would be the first thing you would change in this world? If you were God what would you think about you?

How we view God influences how we live. Even those who say they don't believe in God are influenced by that. If we believe God is angry, we will live in fear. If we believe that there is no God or that God doesn't care then we won't care and will live for only ourselves. If we believe God just leaves us alone to make it, then life will always depend on our own ability, talents and how other people see us. Sadly, many of us form our ideas about God based on other peoples experiences or on how other people have treated us rather than allowing God to show us himself. We quickly form ideas without even considering that if there is a God he just might be able to show us... This week, why don't you take a risk and ask God to show you what he is like and how he thinks about you... it just might change your life!

Session #2 Immeasurable GOD!

AIM: Explore the God of the bible and understand that he is immeasurably more than all we could ever hope, ever need, ever desire...

1. Imagine you had \$100 million, it was all yours and you had to create the perfect life- what would you buy, what would you fill it with? Write a list of all the things you think you would fill your life with:
2. If you were God- what would you change about the world? If you could be God for a day- what would you fix?
3. If you were God- how would you get people's attention to make them know you were real?
4. Do you think we can ever really know God? why do you think that?
5. In a book called Isaiah, God asks a question of people who are complaining about what he is or is not doing- "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" When we think of God we often try and think of him in terms of other things we know. Why do you think God has a problem with that?
6. It is often said that when we think about God we 'put God in a box'. What do you think that means? What are some of the things that form our 'box'?
7. Get a leader to read from the bible Isaiah 40:12-31. What does God say about himself here? What stands out to you as you listen?
8. We cannot fully comprehend God- every thought we have of God is too small. How can we possibly understand how God made the universe, or the power he has to sustain it. If God really is that incredible- why do you think we get worried that he can't handle our problems?
9. What do you think God would have to do for you to trust him that he really was that incredible as he says in the Bible?

Session #3.... COMBINED GROUP SESSION

YOUR THOUGHTS...

DVD 'How Great is Our God' Louie Giglio

Discussion Prompt Questions:

- What did you think about that DVD? What stood out to you the most?

- Did any part of the DVD challenge your understanding of who God is? How?

- When you look around you at the world, you can easily feel insignificant and small. What did the DVD have to say about that feeling?

- The DVD tells us that Jesus holds all things together- what do you think that means?

- The DVD shows that God is immeasurable greater than anything we could imagine- how does that affect the problems we face in our life?

- How does Jesus fit into the idea of God as seen in the DVD?

- Find a quiet spot and write down your own thoughts about what you have just seen.

Session #4 Immeasurable LOVE

AIM: Understand that God, all powerful and all mighty, loves us with an unbelievable love- immeasurably more than all we could hope or imagine. And that this God is wanting and able to influence and transform our lives, our circumstances, our struggles and our greatest fears. His love infiltrates every area of our life... an immeasurable love and an immeasurable presence of a personal God

Discussion:

1. We all need love- we desire it; we need it; we search for it. And when it is not in our life every part of us suffers. How have you experienced love in your life? How do we suffer when we don't know we are loved?
2. The God of the bible is incredible, he is the star breather, the creator, the one who holds everything together and the one who designed and determined the entire universe. We are so small, in the scheme of things we are but a dot on a golf ball- BUT GOD LOVES YOU. This is the most incredible truth... you are loved by God! What does this mean to you? Do you think Gods love is something that is real? Why or why not?
3. One of the writers of the bible, a guy named Paul wrote a prayer for a group of people in a place called Ephesus: *"I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power with all the saints, to*

grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses all knowledge- that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19) What is he asking God to do for these people? Why do you think he is asking God this?

4. Paul is asking that God might allow these people to know how wide and how long and how high and how deep the love of God is toward them. How do you think knowing Gods love for us can impact our lives? Why do you think so many people don't believe God loves them?
5. Paul says that Gods love for you 'surpasses all knowledge', what does he mean?
6. Saying that we love someone is one thing, but love is best shown. Words are empty without action- and too often people who say they love us and care for us end up being empty dead ends and words. How is Gods love any different? What would God have to do in your life for you to know that his words are not empty but are the real deal?
7. John 3:16 is well known-Jesus says in it *"This is how much God loved the world: he gave his son, his one and only son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, any one can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He*

came to help, to put the world right again.” (The Message, John 3:16-17) What was God willing to do to show his love? How does this idea challenge peoples thoughts that God is angry and out to punish them?

8. Gods desire is that you not only know he loves you but that you experience it. God’s love is shown in and through the person of Jesus- and he offers to be a part of your life. Jesus promise to you is that if you let him, he will show you his immeasurable love for you and will continue to make it real to you every day and in every situation. How does the possibility of that promise make you feel?
9. What do you think is stopping you from experiencing the immeasurable love of Jesus and his presence in your life?

Jesus promises that he is the real deal. He is big enough to create the universe, to breathe life into the stars. Yet he also passionately loves you as you are, as an individual. Nothing you can do will stop him loving you, nothing you can say will stop him loving you, nothing you are facing is too big to stop him loving you. Paul writes “*Nothing fazes [me] because Jesus loves [me]. I am absolutely convinced that nothing- nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable- absolutely NOTHING can get between us and Gods love because of the way Jesus has embraced [me]*” (The Message, Romans 8:37ff). Jesus’ offer to you is the same- he will walk through everything in this life with you, holding you and loving you and making his presence and love in your life known and real- all you need to do is ask him. That is IMMEASURABLE LOVE.

Session #5 Immeasurable LIFE

AIM: In God we are called to live lives that are immeasurably more than the life that the world shows us. Immeasurable purpose, immeasurable worth, immeasurable identity, immeasurable value, immeasurable passion, immeasurable joy, immeasurable peace and immeasurable hope...

Discussion:

1. If someone asked a group of your friends and people who knew you best to describe what your life was like, what it was ‘about’ in a short sentence what would be peoples responses?
2. If YOU could write one sentence about what YOU would want your life to be like- a sentence that wraps up who you are (would like to be) and what you are all about (would like to be about)- what would it be?
3. Respond to the statements below- whether you agree or disagree and who is it that makes you think that- and share as a group?

- I am valuable?

Who tells you...

- I have a reason to live?

Who tells you...

- I know who I am?

Who tells you...

- I know my life matters?

Who tells you...

- I am loved?

Who tells you...

- I am OK as I am?

Who tells you...

- I can have a positive impact on my world?

Who tells you...

- I belong?

Who tells you...

God loves you. He created you, designed you and destined you for something incredible. If you are breathing, and you are alive then God has got an incredible plan for you. Read what Paul wrote to the Ephesians about what God has done in them through Jesus. As you read highlight the things he has done and the things that stand out to you:

“Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah [Jesus], his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs

on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

... I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!”

(The Message, Ephesians 1:3-19)

4. How does it make you feel to know that God thought of you and made plans for your life long before you were even born?
5. Do you think you can live into the plan Jesus has for you? Why or why not?
6. Jesus tells you that you are valuable, that you do have meaning, that you are loved, that you are not an accident but someone chosen by God to live and incredible abundant life, that you belong to his family etc. How do you think your life would change if you decided to allow Jesus to be the one who defines your life and who you are?
7. Why do so many people not accept Jesus way for their life and how he sees them?

8. Jesus offers you a life that is full of incredible promises, hope, love, joy, peace, meaning and purpose. It's yours to accept. What do you think you are going to do with Jesus' offer?

Jesus' incredible promise to you is a life that is abundantly rich in meaning and purpose. He promises that in him you have an identity, in him you matter, in him you can have life that is abundant. Through him you can know that you are loved everyday, in every situation and no matter what. When we accept his offer we are accepted into a family where we can belong, matter, count and have an impact on our world. Sadly many people never accept what Jesus offers and instead choose to listen to what other people are saying about them. Instead they try and do this life on their own and they miss the incredible promises of a God who created the entire universe, who designed them, and who loves them- seriously loves them. It's your decision, and only you can make the choice. For your life- will you choose immeasurable life, in Immeasurable Love with the immeasurable God?