

Christ In You: Alive & Free

Supplemental resources for discussion groups

Chapter 6: Offer

Process

How would you describe times when you have tried to serve God in your own strength because you thought it was something you *should do*?

These could be things you're currently doing, not out of your relationship with Christ but out of a sense of obligation or expectation. Most often, these are the places where we are experiencing burn-out, exhaustion (not physical, but soulful), and filled with negativity.

What does it look like for you to offer yourself to Jesus today?

This isn't merely about "ministry" and serving in the church. Encourage people to think about conversations they've had, relationships they are in, things they are doing. Are all of these places areas where you have offered to Jesus, where you're living in dependence on him, and have given yourself completely to him?

Ask the Spirit to reveal to you any areas where you aren't available to him to express himself through you. Write down what he tells you.

This may be a great question to end with and encourage your group to think about this week, instead of sharing in the group. Encourage them not to ignore what the Spirit is doing in their lives, and to sit with him this week.

Reflect

What difference do you think it would make in your world if you let Christ express himself through you?

In every area, he's available, capable, and willing to live through you. What are things you have before you that he's inviting you to trust him with, to live in dependence on him, instead of on yourself or others? Actively choosing to trust him means you start with him: What difference would that make today?

Even if the circumstances don't change and the difficult relationships continue, his peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7) is ours, he's given us the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), and we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:35-37). We are invited to live from this reality in every area of our lives. As Jesus is *the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8), he lives through us, doing what he's always done: loving (John 3:16, 1 John 4:8, John 15:12).

In your life today, how might God want to express himself through you? Will you say yes to him?

Think through the different spheres of life that we have: work, family, relationships, personal, church, strangers, etc. Are there any views you have of others that Jesus would like to address, so that they might see him more clearly through you?