



# IMMANUEL CHURCH

**Conversation Starter:** Glass Case of Emotion  
January 22, 2017

**Opening Questions:**

- Have you ever struggled with cynicism? Maybe it's been with God or life in general? What are some of the common phrases you hear yourself say that reveal your cynical thoughts?
- In what ways do you struggle with trust? What past experience has caused you to be less real today because of it?

**Looking at Scripture:**

- Read **Job 23:1-13**... What parts of this passage stand out to you most? What spots do you identify with the easiest?
- Why is it so scary to be real with our feelings when it comes to God and church? What makes us think we need to put on our "Sunday best?"
- When did you last get real about your own character? Do you think we're able to have an honest assessment of ourselves? Why or why not?
- God is a god of integrity, right? He's true to his word, right? Be honest: how often do you doubt that truth? Do you think we need to claim that sometimes, even when we may not be "feeling" it?
- Do you trust the process? What frustrates you most about it? Why is it easier to assume it's not a good thing at the end of the tunnel?

**Application Questions:**

- The bottom line this week was: **REJECTING CYNICISM STARTS WITH EMBRACING REALISM.** How do you plan to practically live that out this week? What areas do you need to get real with God (maybe others too) in?
- Fill in these blanks with your group:
  - I feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
  - I am \_\_\_\_\_ but God is \_\_\_\_\_
  - This \_\_\_\_\_ is temporary, but God's purposes for me are seated in eternity
- What do you imagine life/Christianity would be like if we truly were honest, vulnerable and real? In what ways can we make that reality today?

*End your time together praying for one another; pray God keeps us from cynicism and skepticism. Pray He helps us take regular leaps of faith...unafraid, unguarded and fully trusting.*