



## GOSPEL FLUENCY IN OUR ACTIONS

April 23, 2023

# The Big Idea

### Best Practice

Act in ways that mesh with your identity in Christ and invite a Gospel explanation.

### Passages:

1 Peter 2:11-12, James 2:14-18

### Group Goal:

As followers of Christ, we are called to live in a way that makes others curious. That comes when we live distinct lives that consistently reflect the values and priorities of Jesus Christ.

Real Gospel fluency occurs when what we think and say is aligned with what we do. The Gospel is the power of God that impacts us so deeply that our actions and reactions can reveal Jesus to the world.

All of us want people to like us and to blend in with the crowd. But following Christ has never been about “blending in.” Following Christ means to be like Him, to respond to life and relate to people the way He did, and act on our first love for Him.

# Group Talk

## For Starters

Did you ever act out in school and get in trouble? What was motivating you at the time to do it?

## To Discuss

### Our posture (Read 1 Peter 2:11-12)

Why might viewing yourself as a “temporary resident” help you to resist desires that will bring you harm?

What might “living properly” look like? Share a few practical examples that come to mind.

What is an area you struggle with the most trying to fit in with the culture around you? Why do you think it’s so easy to start looking like everyone else?

What are the biggest ways that you would say you already stand out or are different from the world?

What is the area that God wants you to be more distinct?

How difficult is it to wait on God's timing to resolve controversies or injustices?

### **Our practice (Read James 2:14-18)**

When was the last time someone went out of his/her way to do something good for you? What did that act of service mean to you?

What might keep us from putting our faith into action in our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and other parts of our lives outside of the church?

Is James just going a little over the top here? What is wrong with saying to someone who has no food and clothes - 'go, I wish you well, keep warm and well fed'?

What kinds of things in your life—even seemingly “spiritual” things—might cause you to look the other way when there is a person in need?

*if you claim to be a follower of Jesus, you should be able to look back in your life and see personal changes. Followers of Jesus should see fruit or evidence of their faith in some way in everyday life.*

So, gut check time. Do you see that in your own life? In what ways?

## **Prayer Focus**

Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with people close around you. God loves to answer that prayer in the affirmative – just be ready because it might come when you least expect it! Share a name if there is a particular person you have in mind to share the Gospel with.

## **Leadership Tip**

Next Sunday (April 30) is our LEAD 101 event. It's a great chance to learn some basic group dynamic skills in facilitating a vibrant discussion. If you are an apprentice, or you just like helping to facilitate your group, then consider coming. This training does not automatically oblige someone to be a leader. There is no commitment just by attending. It's just a great way to start the ball rolling on developing them for greater things down the road.

What would you say to a friend who might say to you: “You know what? I think my faith might be dead right now. I just come to church and go through the motions on Sunday, but there's no impact on my life from Monday to Saturday.” How do you respond to them?

How can we help one another to ensure our faith is real and growing?

## **Next Steps**

Identify a mission or local outreach organization that you can partner with in serving. Or consider the list of needs at Daybreak where you could lend a hand.

Is there a person whom you want to share Jesus with? How can you engage them with some questions about where they are in their spiritual journey, and just let them share their life with you? See if you can invite a conversation about Jesus through listening and asking questions.