

Discussion booklet II

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i. How to... (for the leader)

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Students on the discussion booklets



Goel Faroun
(Kefas, Norrköping)

“Good content! Helps students to take the first step and start a Christian discussion with interesting topics based on various Bible passages.”

“It’s definitely a good basis for discussion around a Bible passage, and gives freedom and structure.”



Kristoffer Ohlsson
(Credo Umeå)

“The resource is perfectly designed for a student group context and led to several meaningful conversations.”




Vibeke Wyatt
(Salt&Ljus, Göteborg)

How to...

These devotionals have been designed by Credo Student as a resource for generating discussion and prayer about various aspects of student life as a Christian.

The aim is to get into a Bible passage which addresses the topic, thus letting God's word speak into the discussion and equip us to follow Jesus at university.



One person leads by posing the questions and keeping an eye on the time. It should be possible to read and discuss the passage in 30 minutes, but if you have longer you can engage in a more in-depth discussion.

If you're leading you need to decide beforehand how long the group can spend on each question and if you need to skip any of them. If you want to keep to 30 minutes then no question should get more than 5-6 minutes.

Format

First there is an introductory question to discuss.

Then read the verses given here. It is helpful if everyone has the passage in front of them for the questions which follow.

Next, two or three questions relating to the reading help bring out its meaning and relevance. The idea is to answer these questions with the help of the passage.

After having discussed the passage there are some application questions to open up conversation about how it can affect our lives as Christians and as a student group.



1 - THE GOAL IN SIGHT

Which problems/challenges does your university try to address/solve, eg. through the subject that you study?

READ REVELATION 21:1-8

What's good about New Jerusalem?
Why is everything better there
(v3-5)?

In which ways does the text show that
it would be tragic not to reach New
Jerusalem in verses 1-7? in verse 8?

How is God's solution ultimately
better than the university's solutions
to society's problems/challenges?

How are we as Christians motivated by
the goal (or the end) for humankind?

How can you help students see
how attractive God's salvation is?

2 - HUMANITY AND THE TRUTH

In which ways is truth sought/avoided at university?

READ ROMANS 1:18-21

In which ways is God made known to people according to v19-20?

What do humans do with the truth about God according to v18-21?

How does God respond?

In which ways is this attitude to God expressed at university?

How does this passage shed light on people's relationship to God (apart from the gospel)?

What difference does it make if we understand this?

3 - ATONEMENT

What different views about Jesus are there on your campus?

READ ISAIAH 53:1-6

What would happen to Jesus according to this prophecy?

Why would it happen to him? (v4-6)

What does Jesus' suffering show about the seriousness of sin?

What does Jesus' suffering show about his love?

Why would it be good for students to hear about this?

4 - NEW LIFE

In which ways can it be challenging following Jesus as a student?

READ MARK 8:34-38

How is it to follow Jesus or to not follow Jesus according to these verses?

What are the end results of following Jesus or of not following Jesus according to these verses?

You often hear "be yourself" in our culture. How does Jesus challenge this? In which ways is what Jesus calls us to better?

How does it look to take up your cross in a university context?

Why is it important to be clear about this in order to reach people?



5 - A HEART FOR THE WORLD

What do you think of when you hear the word "evangelism"?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

What things has God done for us according to these verses?

What is Paul motivated to do when he thinks about this?

How does what God has done work as motivation to spread the gospel?

Why is it important that the gospel itself is motivation for evangelism? How does it affect how you spread the message?

How can you be part of the ministry of reconciliation at university?

6 - BRIDGES FOR THE GOSPEL

What makes it easy or hard to build relationships with other students?

READ LUKE 19:1-10

**How is Zacchaeus treated by the crowd?
How is he treated by Jesus?**

Why does Jesus treat him differently (v10)?

What is the effect in Zacchaeus' life?

Jesus intentionally builds relationships to reach the lost. How could it look in a university context to align with his mission?

How could you do that practically - as individuals? As a group?

7 - LIVES THAT SPEAK

What should be marks of a Christian's life?

READ 1 PETER 2:11-3:9

Look at 2:11-12 again. Why is it important to abstain from sinful desires according to these verses?

Peter gives examples of desires to fight in 2:13-3:9. Look briefly at them again. Which examples does he give? And what do they have in common?

How does this shape your understanding of everyday Christian life?

We are to submit to authorities “for the Lord's sake” (v13). How does this underline the importance of submission? What limits does this place on what we can obey?

What in this passage can motivate us to be better at submitting?

8 - IN DEBATE

What experiences do you have of how the gospel is received?

READ ACTS 17:22-34

In which ways is the message adapted to the greek listeners?

In which ways does the message challenge the listeners?

Can you summarise the argument?

In which ways does the gospel challenge your fellow students?

How can we connect to current issues/ debates to call people to repentance?