

LifeGroup Study
GOING VIRAL: Trustworthy
2022-03-13
Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome back to our series, Going Viral. The goal of this series is to grow our passion for and engagement in evangelism – sharing our faith in Jesus with people in our lives. If you were to sketch out a step by step process for how people come to trust Jesus, the first step would be that they come to trust a follower of Jesus. This means we must be people who are worthy of trusting. As followers of Jesus, it's important we represent Him well as we do things like keeping our word, being a leader in our neighbourhood and loving sacrificially. The goal of today's study is that we would be trustworthy people, representing Jesus well to our world.

ICEBREAKER: My Trustworthy Friend

Think back to your days in elementary school or high school, to someone you would describe as a trustworthy friend. This is a friend you could trust with a secret, someone you could share anything with, a person you knew "had your back". What about this person makes you remember them as trustworthy? **Describe your friend to the group.**

STUDY:

1. On Sunday Pete said for a person to trust Jesus, they must first be able to trust a follower of Jesus. **What about this have you been thinking about since?**

2. Think back to your journey to becoming a follower of Jesus. Who did God put in your life to influence your decision? **How did trusting that person factor into our decision to trust Jesus?**

I AM AN AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS

A key part of being trustworthy comes from my identity as an ambassador for Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 5: 20 we read, "So we are Christ's ambassadors ..." NLT. What does God mean when He calls me His ambassador? How should this impact how I see myself and how I live? Let's explore these questions.

3. The dictionary defines an ambassador as “a diplomatic official appointed as representative in residence by one sovereign or government to another – an authorized messenger or representative.” **How might this definition help us think about what it means to be an ambassador for Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: In your LifeGroup you likely have some group members who see themselves as ambassadors for Jesus and others who don't. It's easy to think the job of ambassador belongs to someone else, or only “super Christians” get to be ambassadors. But God says that if we are following His Son, we are ambassadors for Him. Helping our group members live in this reality is a key goal in today's study.

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

4. In verse 11, Paul says his motive for sharing Jesus with others is a “fearful responsibility to the Lord” NLT. This fear is not a cringing dread but a healthy reverence for God's authority and calling in our lives. **How does this idea help shape your identity as an ambassador for Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul's motive should also be ours. Because God has called us to be His ambassadors and commanded us to go, we should respond from a place of loving obedience, knowing He is with us every step of the way. (see Matthew 28:18-20)

5. In verse 11 we read how as ambassadors we are to “work hard to persuade others” about who Jesus is. **What might this look like today?**

LEADER NOTE: Working hard to persuade others begins with my identity. Just as an electrician works hard at his trade, our identity as an ambassador for Jesus should shape our intentionality and drive to share our faith. There are many creative ways we can work hard to persuade others. As Pete mentioned on Sunday, being a trustworthy person is key. Loving others by getting to know them, listening to their story and caring for them is also key. Encourage your group members to share any stories they might have about how they have been working to share their faith in Jesus.

6. In verses 14-15, Paul reminds us that as ambassadors for Jesus, we have been transformed by Him. We have died to our old life and been raised up to live for Him. **Why is this truth so important when it comes to our identity?**

LEADER NOTE: Being an ambassador for Jesus isn't about me trying to fit into a role. It is about living into my new identity in Christ. This is what Paul meant when he said that “... those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for

Christ ..." vs. 15 NLT. Some of your group members may be trying to become someone rather than simply living in who Jesus says they are. Invite your group members to rest in the truth that they are a new creation in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17).

7. In verse 18, Paul says that "... God has given us this task of reconciling people to him." NLT. **What does it mean to be a reconciler for Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: Reconciliation is a theme Paul teaches on throughout his letters, but its fullest meaning is in what Jesus did for us on the cross. On the cross, Jesus identified himself fully with sin, so we humans could be restored to relationship with God. This reconciliation turns enemies into friends and gives us a new identity as reconcilers. For us, this means we get to share this invitation with others – "be reconciled to God!"

8. In verse 20, Paul says, "We are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us." NLT As ambassadors, we have an appeal to make to people He has in our lives. **How might God use your testimony to appeal to your friends?**

LEADER NOTE: Our testimony, the account of how Jesus has made us right with God, is a powerful way God can appeal to others. Think of your testimony in three parts, my life before God, my decision to follow Jesus, and how my life has changed since becoming a follower. Ask your group members to share any stories they have of how God has used their testimony to speak into the lives of others.

INVOLVE AND INVITE

In part 1 of this series we talked about a key action Creekside calls us take – INVOLVE AND INVITE. This action is a key strategy for how we can share our faith with others. First, we involve ourselves in the lives of our neighbours, people we work with or go to school with – people in our world. Then, as God opens doors, we can invite them to check out the claims of Jesus.

9. INVOLVE – Think about your circle of relationships these days, people you work with, play with, go to school with or live near. **Who is God giving you opportunity to be involved with these days?**

10. INVITE – As you think about those relationships, **what doors might God be opening for you to invite them to check out the claims of Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: At Creekside, we want to create opportunities for you to invite your friends to check out the claims of Jesus. This could be a simple invitation to someone to join you for

church. It may be an invite to our next Alpha group. Or it may be an invitation to get together for coffee or a meal. INVOLVE AND INVITE is a key action we can take as ambassadors of Jesus.

PRAYER

This week let's pray for opportunities to share our faith with others.

- Pray for the people God has put in your life, people who are not yet followers of Jesus. Ask God to show you how you might be involved in their lives and, as He gives opportunity, invite them to check out the claims of Jesus.
- Pray for Creekside as we put together opportunities like our Sunday services and Alpha, places where you can invite your friends to hear about Jesus. Ask God to use these ministries to draw people to Him.
- Pray for the church in Ukraine. Ask God to strengthen His people and to give them many opportunities to point people to hope in Him.