

Get Over It! Apathy

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" 27 The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" 29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead. 31 "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. 32 A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Luke 10:25-32

Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. 2The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?" 3Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. 4Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family." 5And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. Mark 6:1-5

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- When you hear the word Apathy, what is the first thing that comes to mind?
- Have you ever gotten so familiar with something that you don't even notice it anymore? How did you realize that you didn't notice it?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What do you think is the biggest contributing factor to the rise of Apathy in our culture? What about in the church?
- Do you think it is possible to be Apathetic in general about life and events happening in the world and not be Spiritually Apathetic also?
- What is it about passion and persistence that causes us to be in the place where God responds? Does our passion change God and His plans or move us into alignment with His plans?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Pastor Lane listed four contributors to Apathy: feeling overwhelmed, comfort, familiarity, and feeling helpless to change anything. Which of those do you struggle with most, and what else would you add to the list?
- How can you embrace righteous discomfort? How will that position you to receive and be all that God has for you?
- What burden have you been blessed with? How are you embracing that righteous discomfort to be a blessing to the world?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, help me to never settle for an Apathetic ordinary life that is so me focused, so comfort focused, that I miss out on what you have for me. Give me a burden to fight for, a hurt to embrace, so that I can be a blessing to the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Figure out what the next step for you to take to expose yourself consistently to that thing that creates righteous discomfort and do it. Contact an organization that is doing something about it and get involved. If you need help finding that place, contact the church and we will help you to the best of our ability.
- Pray! Pray for passion and a burden. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bless you with discomfort so that you will escape from Apathy.