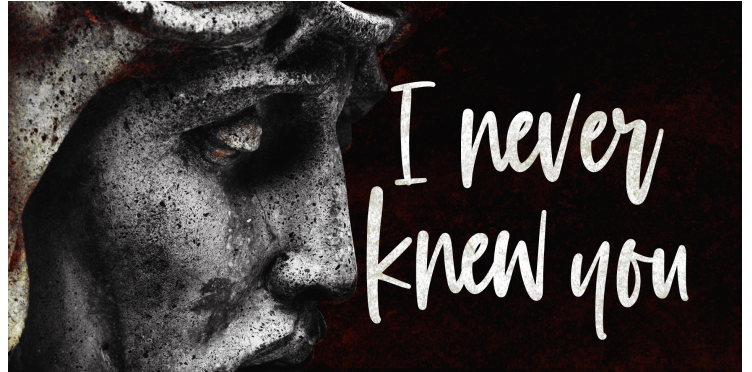


Does the enemy know you?



Start Talking. Conversation starter for your group.

- What are some of the craziest ways you've tried to make money?
- Have you ever desired to be famous, if so, in what way?
- Do you believe people still have the power to heal and cast out demons today?

Start Thinking.

- Read Matthew 28:18-20 just to remind yourself of the mission.
- Read Acts 19:11-20
 - How would you describe the people of Ephesus? Is it similar to today's society?
 - Why did the sons of Sceva fail to exercise the evil spirit with Jesus' name? How did God use this incident to glorify the name of Jesus even though the exorcism ended in failure?
 - Why do you think the Ephesian Christians continued to practice magic arts even though they believed in the gospel?

Start Sharing.

- Practicing magic and sorcery was the norm for Ephesians, and the Ephesian believers were no exception, although they had placed their faith in Jesus. Consider the following things that are normal or accepted in our culture:
 - Stress
 - Complaining or gossiping
 - A consumerist attitude towards life and relationships
 - Accumulation of wealth for our future
 - Sexualised culture (e.g. normalizing pornography, "sexual health" and "sexual freedom")
- Which of the above might we unthinkingly engage in even though it runs contrary to the gospel?
- How do those things we mentioned above run contrary to the life that Jesus calls us to live?

- There could have been a variety of reasons why the Ephesian Christians continued to practice magic arts:
 - Did not see a connection between their faith and habit of magic
 - Trusted more in the magic arts to maintain control over their lives
 - Too costly to give up the magic arts after all they had invested
 - Too difficult to live counter to the culture

- Which of the reasons do we relate to the most?

Start Doing

- What is God calling you to do for Him?
- Is God calling you to any practical application? What positive steps can you take? Is there any active repentance necessary?
- Pray/Recite Ephesians 3:16-21
 - 'I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.'

CHURCH NEEDS:

- Prayers for Pastor Chris in Israel
- Youth Ministry needs male and female leaders (Contact Pastor Rod)
- More Life Group Leaders (We are growing so more groups are NEEDED)

EVENTS TO PROMOTE:

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