



“And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, ...” Luke 11:2

THE POINT: Many people have written off the Church because they believe the Church has said “no” to them. We’d like to change that thinking and instead, be known for saying “yes” just as God says “yes” to each of us.

INTRO

There are thousands of people in our community who currently don’t attend a church. While there are many reasons for this, perhaps the most common reason is this: Many people have written off God because they believe God has written them off and the church has written them off.

As believers, we know that God is FOR us because He sent living proof: Jesus. God has also shown us this by surrounding us with a community of people who are FOR us. Similarly, He has called us to be FOR that community. In order to show those around us that neither the Church nor God have written them off, we are called to love people in a way that causes those who are far from God to *Think Different* about what they expect from God and from the Church .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answer the questions below as a group:

1. Dean discussed two reasons people think God and/or the Church has written them off: 1) There is anxiety and rejection associated with being known by God or feeling like their past makes them unlovable or 2) they have fallen off the exhausting treadmill of religion attempting to earn God’s forgiveness, love, and favor. Have you been that person? How would you explain the truth of the Gospel to someone who feels that way?
2. Read **Leviticus 24:16** and Luke 11:2. Compare and contrast how these verses make you think about God.
3. Read **Luke 11:11-13**. How do these verses make you *Think Different* about God?
4. Our Heavenly Father made it clear that He loves us and is FOR us by sacrificing His Son and paving the way for us to experience His love and grace. How does this compel you to be FOR those who feel written off? What steps can you take to help them *Think Different*?
5. What difference would it make in our community if children, students, and adults thought differently, or had a clearer image of who God is?



*You can never know what the church can do FOR you
until you experience what the church can do THROUGH you!*

NEXT STEPS

To be a follower of Jesus means to *Think Different* about who God is and what He's done. This thought process should be life-changing and eternity-shaping. It should also change the way we think about the Church; our church in particular. Here are some steps to take to love our community in a way that begins to shift what people think about God and the Church.

- Become a Christian. If you're already a believer, then take the next step of baptism.
- Give generously of your money, time, and talents
- Choose community by becoming part of a Community Group
- Join the Mission by serving in and through the church
- Bring a friend and invite someone to *Think Different*

6. Which steps do you need to take?

7. Spend time praying about these steps and listen for where God is compelling you.

8. If you are part of a Community Group, share your next steps so that you can be encouraged and supported. As a Group, what are some first steps to take to show that your group is FOR our community?

*North Ridge Church is a movement for all people
to discover and deepen a relationship with Jesus.*