

## GO FISH, PART 5: MUDDY WATER

Becoming a Christian isn't about praying a prayer, attending church, or being committed to God. The message of Christ is simple: God loved us enough to give His son, Jesus, to die for us. All He asks of us is that we place our trust in Him and He will give us eternal life.

**BIG IDEA:** *God love. God gave. We believe. We receive.*

One of the biggest challenges of sharing Jesus with a non-believer is navigating through the complexities of Christian theology. In fact, maybe you've shied away from fishing because you weren't confident of your ability to explain all the elements of the doctrine of salvation. Even if you understand that man is born into sin and why bad things happen to good people and how God predestined certain events—that doesn't mean you can explain it all to somebody who's never heard it.

The fact is, oftentimes, Christians make Christianity way too complicated. There are people in this world who have rejected what they think is Christianity; but in reality, they have merely rejected an overcomplicated distortion of Christianity. Meanwhile, they're still waiting to experience an authentic version of the love of Jesus.

Today we'll learn a simple, clear definition of what it means to be a Christian. And as you become familiar with it, you will be equipped to fish without risk of muddying the waters.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Form a circle with your group. Have someone make up a short phrase and whisper it into the ear of the person beside him. Then have the second person whisper it to the third, and so on. (*Continue this process until the phrase has been passed all the way around the circle. Do not say the phrase out loud. Do not repeat the phrase—say it only once per person.*) When the last person has heard the phrase, have him say it out loud. Now compare it to the original version of the phrase. Did it change? Why is it so hard to transmit a simple message?
2. *“Christians have the unfortunate talent of turning the blood of Christ into the mud of Christianity.”* Why do you think Christians make Christianity so complicated?
3. How do you think the average person would describe the requirements for getting into heaven?
4. Oftentimes, Christians make Christianity too complicated. Name some of the ways we make it complicated? Why do you think we do this—make the simple complicated?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read [John 3:16-17](#).*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.* [John 3:16-17](#)

6. To become a Christian, a person needs to know that (*fill in the blanks*):

God \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
God \_\_\_\_\_ us His son.

7. To become a Christian, a person needs to (*fill in the blanks*):

We need to \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus and what He's done FOR us.  
Then we \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of eternal life.

8. In question 3, you answered, *How do you think the average person would describe the requirements for getting into heaven?* How would you describe those requirements in light of this session?

9. Name two people in your sphere of influence who don't know that God loves them and forgives them.

10. If you had to guess, what are some of the complications that have prevented them from understanding God's simple message?

## MOVING FORWARD

Using the four words from John 3:16 that were highlighted in this session, describe some of the ways you are aware of God's love for you; what it means to you that He gave His son Jesus for you; how you know that you are trusting in Jesus for eternal life. Could you explain these experiences to a non-believing friend?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How well can you explain the gospel to someone else? Is it clear and succinct? Or does it involve concepts that only an experienced Christian can understand? This week, memorize the 4 words from John 3:16 presented in the teaching.

## WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on John 3:16-17, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 5:10-13.

