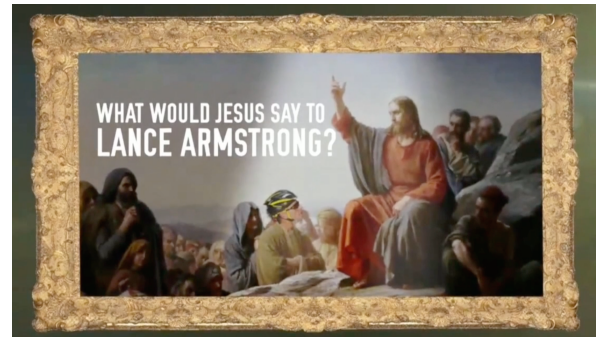




bigIdea small group discussion

Lance Armstrong – the cancer-surviving cyclist who fought back to win seven Tour de France victories and take the sports world by storm. It's one of the most well-known stories of our time. It's a story that was never true. And in the end, it's a story that has more to do with us than we may realize.

We all want to be known for something. Whether it's for being successful or influential or a winner or something else we see as impressive, we spend a lot of time and energy projecting an image of ourselves that we think will gain us acceptance from others. But this isn't who we really are, and if we aren't careful, we'll end up going through life without being truly known by anyone. And this will rob us of ever knowing true acceptance.



BIG IDEA: A lack of confession leads to deception and loneliness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you want to be known for?
2. How do you practice image management?
3. Break up the small group into 3 teams, and have each read the following sections and corresponding questions.
4. Team 1, *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 25:24-34.* How would you describe Jacob and his character in this story? How would you describe Esau? What did Jacob take from Esau?
5. Team 2, *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 27:1-41.* How would you describe Jacob and his character in this story? How would you describe Esau? Rachel? Isaac? What did Jacob take from Esau? What was Esau's reaction? Would you want to be a part of this family?
6. Team 3, *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 29:15-30; 30:25-43.* How would you describe Jacob and his character in this story? How would you describe Laban and his character? How did Laban deceive Jacob? What did Jacob take from Laban?
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read James 5:16.* Do you let anyone know about your struggles? Is there anyone who truly knows you and can accurately pray for you?

GOING DEEPER

1. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Hebrews 10:24-25.* How can we encourage each other? How can we push each other to deal with the shortcomings we try to hide?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Galatians 6:1-3.* What does it look like to be gentle with each other's shortcomings? How can we carry each other's burdens, those things that we shouldn't carry alone?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 14:1 and 15:7.* How can we do a better job of accepting people where they are and then helping them grow into who they need to be?

THINK ABOUT IT

How do you fill in the gaps between the person you project to others and who you really are? Do you give partial information or stretch the truth or bring up your successes every chance you get? Watch yourself this week and look for signs of image management.

MOVING FORWARD

How can you be more transparent? How can you make your real self known to others?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16

