

CORE: The “S”

Word

Pathfinders

03/23/2022

OPENING QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been fooled? Gotten scammed? Been deceived to believe something that you found out later was not true? Share a story about a time this has happened to you.
- What kind of paths might seem right, but might separate us from eternal life with Jesus-or paths that might be good but aren't the way to experience forgiveness of our sins and promise of eternal life?
- Go through highs and lows of the week.

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

Read: Multiple Verses

The path that leads to God

1. Proverbs 14:12
2. John 14:6
3. Matthew 7:13-27

Paths can be destructive or can lead to life

Read the verses below, and work on the questions together as a group. Be ready to share.

Every Group: read Matthew 7:13-27

Read Matthew 7:13-14 and John 10:7-9: which will you take?

Jesus says that the gate to the kingdom of heaven is “narrow.” This doesn't mean that it is difficult to become a Christian or believe in Jesus, just that there is only one gate or path that leads to eternal life with God.

1. What do the verses from John say about the “gate”?
2. What are some words that describe the “wide” gate? What are some words that describe the “narrow” gate? How would you explain these with ideas or language from our current culture?
3. Why do you think the way is a narrow road?

Read Matthew 7:15-20: what kind of fruit will you produce?

False prophets were really common in Old Testament (before Jesus) times. They told people what they wanted to hear, saying that it was God’s message; in reality, they were just telling people the things that sounded good to them at the time. In these verses, Jesus is warning that false prophets—or teachers—were just as common in his time as they were before he came to earth. Today, false teachers are just as common. Jesus says to watch out for those whose words “sound religious” but who are really motivated by money, fame, sex, or power.

1. What would a “false teacher” look like today? How do you recognize that they are false? (hint: don’t just use Jesus’s words, think about examples, and who the false teachers talk about the most).
2. Name 3 examples of “good fruit” in the life of someone who follows Jesus (hint: being a “good person” isn’t a fruit, think more specifically of examples you see in people who follow Jesus).

Read Matthew 7:21-23 and John 14:6: what kind of commitment are we called to make?

1. Thinking back to Matthew 7:13-14, and John 14:6, what is the “way” to eternal life? What’s the ONE thing you need?
2. Think about what you already know about Jesus...how does he say people will know that you are his follower? What’s one example?

Read Matthew 7:24-27: which one will you build your life upon?

1. What is the main difference between how they respond to Jesus’s words?
2. What does it look like to be a “wise” builder?
3. Does following and believing in Jesus mean that we won’t experience storms in our lives? How has Jesus helped you through a “storm” in your life?

EVERY DAY, WE HAVE A CHOICE

In our baptisms, we are made children of God. Each and every day, we are called to live in the freedom that it means to be a child of God and follow Jesus. How do we do that?

JUMP INTO THE CATECHISM

When you read the word "man," you can also say "man or woman."

Read...and then open your Bible to the verse and write the section title or question in the margin of your Bible. For example, section 1 under "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism" is "the nature of baptism." Read Matthew 28:19, highlight, and write "nature of baptism" in the margin.

1. Read "What is Baptism" and "Which is that word of God?"
2. Questions 241 & 242.
3. Section IV, "What Baptism Indicates"
4. Questions 255, 256, 257, 258, 259

THINK ABOUT IT

"With great freedom comes great responsibility."

-Spiderman

APPLY IT

1. Have you ever talked to your friends about Jesus being the only way to God? If so, what reactions have you gotten from them?
2. How can you stand on the truth of John 14:6 without being judgmental of others?
3. How can you talk with people who hold opposing views about Jesus?

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and follow His path!

CLOSING PRAYER