



Getting Started

What is the favorite title you've had during the course of your life?

What is your favorite current title: Mom, Dad, Coach, Job/business Title?

Is there a dream title that you wish you had or that you could one day achieve?

Going Deeper

Near the end of Jesus' ministry he asked the same pointed question to the disciples that the crowds were asking each other. Who do you say I am? Jesus ultimate desire was for his people to recognize Him, and also be able to know Him. Yet even after spending three years performing miracles, teaching, and bearing witness to these people, some still were not certain.

READ [Matthew 16:13-15](#)

Why do you think that the crowds and even some of his disciples did not want to say who he was? Do you think they knew yet? Do you think you would have known who he was?

On Sunday Paul said that Jesus doesn't just want a confession, but more importantly a commitment. What do you think he meant by that?

Why is it so difficult in our culture to commit to following God? What do you think the barriers most people face to committing to God in all areas of their life? What are the areas that are most difficult to give over (kids, work, marriage, money, etc.)

What are some of the things that contribute to us being distracted or that cause us to fall away from following him?

One of the phrases Paul used on Sunday was:

"If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence among your family and friends to convict you of being a follower of Jesus Christ?"

What are some of the differences between finding evidence to determine if you're a Christian, and doing things because you think you have to in order to be a Christian?

Do you think people struggle with earning their way to heaven vs doing things simply because you love God? How can you make sure that your motivation is love and not performance based?

READ [John 14:15](#) For years I read that verse this way: "If you love me, you will obey me and prove how much you love me."

But what He's really saying is that when we love Him, our obedience to Him will flow out of that relationship, not obligation.

I'm afraid that most of us don't grasp the enormous extravagance of our Father's love and the lengths to which He's willing to go to show His love.

That's why the Apostle Paul prayed that we might know and understand it more and more [Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

As we move into the passion week take some time now to read over the Easter Story.

[Luke 23](#), [Luke 24](#)

Is there anything that jumps out at you that you haven't considered before? How does this story give you hope?

ACTION STEP

Take some time to pray as a group, and thank God for the price His son Jesus paid for our sin. Maybe consider a time of communion together.