



Sermon Discussion Guide – August 18, 2019

SERIES – WHY CHRISTIAN? – *Testing World Religions*

TITLE - “*Testing Scientology*”

2 Peter 2:1-3

SUMMARY – Why do we believe what we believe? Do all religious paths lead to God? What makes Christianity true? Join us for this thought provoking series comparing world religions and why so many choose to be Christian. This week we are exploring the 7th Day Adventist movement and how it differs from Protestant Christianity.

DAILY STUDY & PRAYER

Read / Reflect / Respond

(*READ* the verse, take a moment to *REFLECT* on its meaning, *RESPOND* by writing down some thoughts and praying)

Monday – 2 Peter 2:1-3 “*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you... And in their greed they will exploit you with false words.*”

Tuesday – Isaiah 44:6, “*This is what the Lord says – I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God.*”

Wednesday – Isaiah 43:10 “*Before Me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me.*”

Thursday – John 1:1 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*”

Friday – Romans 3:23 “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*”

Saturday – Ephesians 2:8-9 “*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not works, so that no one can boast.*”

GROUP DISCUSSION

(*This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials*)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. Do you know anyone that is a scientologist? What do you think they would say is the difference between Scientology and Christianity? What would you say is the main difference?
3. Do you believe there is evil and sin in the world? Why or why not?
4. If someone was to ask you why Jesus is the solution to the problem of sin and evil, would you be able to give them an answer? What would you tell them? Are there verses you know that would support your stance?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. **TEMPERATURE GAUGE** – How am I doing when it comes to understanding what I believe and why? How would I rate myself on a scale of 1-10?
2. **RESPOND** – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. **PRACTICE** – What is one idea that you want to be able to defend if you are in conversation with a Scientologist?



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. ***Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!***
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, www.faithunitedepc.org. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.