

Lifegroup #1: Who do people say that I am? Matthew 16:13-16

Purpose:

It is the FIRST Lifegroup, lets have fun! The goal of this Lifegroup is for people to get to know one another, hear more about Cru, and have a good discussion (not lecture!). It is VITAL to have a good ice breaker for an interactive evening.

Text

Mark Matthew
16:13-16

Challenge

Who do you believe Jesus to be?

Critical Event

Icebreaker

Time:

30 Minutes getting to know one another
20 Minutes discussion

Getting to Know You (30 minutes...including just loose hanging out before you get started)

This is the key event for today. Come up with a fun, interactive ice breaker that helps people get to know one another. Here are a few ideas (feel free to do your own thing):

1. "Never have I ever..." with different rounds like (food, family, media, travel)
2. Bring a pile of random things (tools, light bulbs, silverware, string, etc.) and have each person take one item. Then have them introduce themselves and explain why they selected that item.

Vision for Lifegroup (3 minutes)- Feel free to use your own words...

This is your chance to communicate the vision of Lifegroup.

Here is an Idea: Welcome to Cru's Lifegroup! We are glad you're here. We're not sure where you are when it comes to your beliefs on God, life, or faith, but one thing we do know for sure is we are excited you are with us tonight, and we believe it's by no mistake you're sitting here. We believe there might be something uniquely in store for you here every week. We like to say Lifegroups are like the weekly "living room" of Cru. This is where life happens, deep conversations happen, laughter and where we can safely settle in to the coziest room of the house. If you choose to journey with our Lifegroup this year, we'll talk lots about who God is, who He is not, and what we can find out about Him through the Bible and through friends. We eat, pray, party and grow together, and we hope you meet some of your very best friends in this room

The Hook

*You don't need to ask each of these questions. As well feel free to come up with your own.

College is a pivotal time of your lives and your personal growth. One of the biggest things we are trying to figure out is "who are we?" So, in a short sentence if someone asked you "Who are you?" What would you say? (Have just a few people share... maybe have a leader go 1st).

Probably how you answer that question about yourself, or even how others answer that question about you might determine a lot on how deep of a friendship someone wants to develop with you. **Tonight we wanted to start by asking, who do people at BGSU say that Jesus is? (Not an actual question). Because how we answer that question determines the kind and depth of relationship we want to have with Him.**

"Tonight we are going to look at a passage in the book of Matthew where Jesus asked that same question. Matthew was a follower of Jesus who also recorded his teachings."

The Book

Read Matthew 16:13-14

- >Who did people back then say Jesus was? (*religious leader of some sort*)
- >What are some of the answers that people give today? (Feel free to even use perspective Cards to show some different views).
- >In the next verse Jesus makes it personal.

Read Matthew 16:15

- >We want this to be a place where we can have honest interaction with one

Don't Forget

1. Pass around a clipboard and pen for names, room numbers, phone numbers and email
2. Arrange a place and time to meet in order to go together to the weekly meeting.
3. Bring extra Bibles.
4. Pick up Chick-Fil-A between 8:15-8:30pm in Centennial

Helpful Hints

1. Ask open-ended questions and allow time for people to answer. Don't answer your own question. Instead, rephrase it. Feel free to ask as many or as few of the questions provided as you want as long as they understand the passage.
2. Watch the clock. Try not to rush.
3. Stay on track.
4. Trust God and don't forget to breathe.

another. As we ask personal questions about faith where there is no right or wrong. It is a chance to see what different people think and believe. And feel free to say "I don't know." I would love to hear your thoughts on who you say Jesus is? (*try to have everyone share, and what they mean. Make sure that this does not turn into a debate*)

➤ In verse 16 we see how Peter, one of the followers of Jesus, answers...

Read Matthew 16:16

➤ What does "the Christ, Son of the living God" mean? (*You will want to describe that it means that He is God in the flesh, and that He is the promised messiah (or Christ) that has come to rescue or save people*).

➤ Why do you think people felt like they needed to be saved?? In other words, why would Jesus need to come to earth to save people?

➤ Is there a difference between believing Jesus a good man, or a prophet, or God in the flesh?

Took (Don't skip application)

➤ What are you hoping to learn about Jesus during the next year of college?

What resources might be at your disposal to help you learn?

➤ What could help you develop your relationship with Jesus?

➤ If you came to embrace that Jesus is God how might that change the way you live today? What becomes more/less important to you if Jesus is truly God?

➤ Write down 1 person that would benefit hearing about what you learned tonight.

Take time to Pray briefly together. It is the first Lifegroup so be aware that there might not be enough trust built for students to be completely honest. So be patient.

➤ *Our goal in Cru is to help all students know and experience Jesus as He is presented in the Bible. We believe that every person was created to have a vibrant and active relationship with Him. For the next four weeks we are going to look at the parables of Jesus.*

Announcements (5 minutes)

➤ Set up meeting time/place to go to Cru. (Note Cru is the very NEXT day).

➤ Invite to the house party Friday Night (131 Baldwin)

➤ Cru is hosting a Freshmen event called (First Year's Party at the Lake). We will meet at the WOLF Center at 6pm sharp to drive together. There will be food, swimming, water slide, games and a chance to connect with other First Year Students.

➤ Don't forget to set up a time to meet next week!