



LEADER PREP

Not a Fan Week Two

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THINGS STARTED

1. See below for a recommended opening activity.
2. What did you learn about each other from this activity?

IN THE WORD

1. Read Matthew 23:13-19 together. What were some of the problems Jesus had with the Pharisees?
2. Before Jesus came along, how good of a job do you think the Pharisees thought they were doing at knowing and following God?
3. What were the Pharisees missing out on?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. In your faith journey, have you ever had a time where you thought you were doing the right thing, but were actually getting it wrong? Share some examples.
2. Jesus doesn't want to be one of many; he wants to be your one and only. What does this mean?
3. Last time we met, you walked away with a challenge to consider whether you fell into the fan or follower category. Are you a fan or a follower? How did you come to that conclusion?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

1. If you had a girlfriend or boyfriend, you might be tempted to do something creative or extravagant to express your feelings for them. Think of a way you can boldly express your love for Jesus. Then, do it.

THE BIG IDEA

To have a real relationship, information just isn't enough. There must be a closeness that only comes through a person really getting to know Jesus.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To further discuss the contrast between fans and followers, focusing on knowing Jesus.

THINK ABOUT THIS

The biggest fans memorize stats, collect team memorabilia, and know the ins and outs of every player, game and coach. As great as fans can be, their statistical genius doesn't mean that they know the athletes. Fans can express a lot of enthusiasm, but there's no relationship between the fan and the team.

ONE MORE THING

There is a difference between knowing about Jesus, and having intimacy with Jesus. Come prepared to explain how you've experienced this truth in your own life.

Opening Activity

Supplies Needed: Paper, Writing Utensils

Everyone take a piece of paper and something to write with. You'll have three minutes to draw a symbol of something that you identify yourself with. Perhaps it's the mascot of a sports team, the logo of the company where you work, the tattoo on your Uncle Herbert's left bicep, or some other icon. Think of a picture that will help us understand something with which you're connected to; something that will let us know you better. Then scribble out a quick sketch. In three minutes, we'll take some time to share them.

After the set time has passed, you can facilitate this by having students guess what the others' symbols mean or just give the opportunity for each student to explain what they drew and why.