



Table coach's discussion guide

Lesson 003 – What's in the Box?

- Part 1: Breaking down the parable with the Head Coach
- Part 2: Tell Your Story
 - Have you ever believed something to be true with all your heart, only to find out later that you were wrong?
 - What did you base your erroneous belief on?
 - As you've studied the scriptures, what were some erroneous or false beliefs you've left behind?
 - We live in an era where it seems like everyone creates their own truth. Or people believe they can alter the world by thinking or saying certain things. Have you heard these phrases uttered:
 - You have your truth. I have mine.
 - I'm sending you positive vibes
 - Manifesting (thinking intently about something to make it happen)
 - Do Christians get caught up in this type of thinking as well?
 - What's the difference between praying in faith and believing a lie? Between asking God and manifesting?

- Part 3: Ancient Wisdom

- Ask the guys: What's the only way to know what's in the box?
 - A: The eyewitnesses who saw what went into it.
- Ask the guys: What's the only way to know the truth about God?
 - A: The eyewitnesses who walked with Jesus.
 - Read the words of Peter (an eyewitness to Jesus) 2 Peter 1:16-18:
 - Read the words of John (an eyewitness to Jesus) 1 John 1:1-3:
 - These men were eyewitnesses to Jesus.
 - In terms of our parable, they saw what's inside the box labeled "God"
- The Bible is reliable, but we have to be humble regarding our interpretation of it:
 - Even the Apostle Paul admitted that his current understanding of God was limited:
 - 1 Corinthians 13:12 (CEV) — Now all we can see of God is like **a cloudy picture in a mirror**. Later we will see him face to face. **We don't know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us.**
 - Paul is saying, "Our understanding of God limited. But one day we will see Jesus and all will be revealed.
 - In terms of the parable: Today we see the box. But one day the box will be opened, and we will see God as he truly is, with perfect understanding.
- Ask the guys: On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very little understanding, and 10 being perfect understanding, how well do you think you understand God?
- What are some ways to improve your understanding of God and his vision for your life?
- Let's read the first 2 commandments from the Old Testament (Exodus 20):
 - You shall have no other Gods before me
 - You shall not make idols or bow down and worship them
- Questions for the table:
 - When we create a false God in our heads, are we violating these two commandments? Are we creating an idol?
 - Did God create us – or do we create God?
- A lot of people believe all religions lead to God. But how can this be true?
 - For example, Muslims do not believe that Jesus died for our sins. Christians do. Both cannot be true.
 - Another example: Christians believe in a creator God. Buddhists do not. Both cannot be true. Either there's a creator or there isn't.

- Part 4: Make it real
 - Ask the guys:
 - Why is it so important to know the truth about God?
 - What happens when we hold false beliefs about God?
 - Have you read the New Testament through? How about the whole Bible? How did it change your view of who God is?
 - How do we avoid believing false teachers whose persuasive words sound like the truth? For example:
 - The Apostle Paul (before his conversion) thought he was serving God by stoning Christians to death.
 - The Nazis believed they were serving God.
 - We're not only called to believe the truth, but to speak it in love, particularly to those who are walking in deception.
 - Read Ephesians 4:14-15: *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.* ¹⁵ *Instead, **speaking the truth in love**, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*
 - Read 1 Peter 3:15: *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. **But do this with gentleness and respect.***

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