



Not a Fan- Week 1

HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (15-30 minutes)

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, and/or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting, if your group is continuing from last semester. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

Ice-Breaker suggestion: Name, in your opinion, the world's best fan base. Is it the Buffalo Bills fan base, Backstreet Boys, or someone else? Why are they the best in your opinion?

CHECK-IN TIME (15-30 minutes)

Talk about what you did last week to complete your action step.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

We are all a fan of something. To be a fan is to be an enthusiastic admirer. We are fans of sports teams, bands, restaurants, and even people. Yet when it comes to our faith, we cannot settle on fandom. Jesus doesn't invite us to be his fan, but to be his follower.

1. What is something you are a fan of? What has caused you to be an admirer of that thing or person? For example, The Chicago Cubs, the Marvel Cinematic Universe, or the cast of Wicked on Broadway.

Dallas Willard said, "To believe is to act as if something is true."

What is something where you have stepped past fandom and started to believe?
What helped you take a step from being a fan/admirer to a believer?

2. The story of Nicodemus in John chapter 3 could be seen as a mirror for many believers today. He wanted to have belief in Jesus without any change to his life. Kyle Idleman quotes in his book, *Not a Fan*, "He could talk to Jesus at night and quietly make a decision in his heart to believe in Jesus; that way it wouldn't disrupt his comfortable and established life."

Stepping into belief in Jesus comes with a price to pay from our life before Jesus. Becoming a true follower of Jesus requires us to act and give up behaviors, relationships, or mindsets that do not align with God's will.

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Tell the group about a time you were asked to pay a price in order to follow Jesus. Did you pay that price, or take the easy way out?

3. Pastor Danny mentioned that the life we are invited into by Jesus is not fandom. When we follow Jesus, he intends to flip our life upside down in the best way. In Luke 9:24 Jesus says, "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

It does cost us to believe in Jesus, but it also rewards us to believe in Him. As we lay down our will, we assume God's will, which is fullness in the abundant life. What rewards are waiting for you on the other side of fandom? How might your life improve if you stepped out of fandom to be a follower?

4. Read John 6:66-68. We pay a price to follow Jesus, but what He gives in response is worth the cost because Jesus is the greatest show on earth.

Do you believe that? If so, what has following Jesus cost you? What do you need to give up this week to take a step towards being a follower of Jesus?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Read a book:** Read [Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman](#)
- **Journal:** Spend this week reflecting on your relationships, finances, disciplines, and mindset. Are these areas reflective of a fan or a follower?
- **Seek Counsel:** Ask a trusted believer to help you identify areas of your life you need to give up to God.
- **Study:** Start a bible plan in the Bible app.
- **Serve:** Put your faith to action by joining the Impact Team.
- **Memorize scripture:** Try one of the verses from this weekend's message. [Luke 14:28-30](#), [Matthew 7:21](#), [Luke 9:23-24](#), [John 6:68-69](#)
- **Daily time with God-** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily. You can even decide to do one as a group to encourage one another as you do the daily readings.
 - If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.



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PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

1. To build the relationship
2. To encourage to accomplish their action step
3. To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their nightstand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Associate Outreach Director, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14-15 | High School Retreat

January 27 | 1824

January 29 | Bins to the Brims outreach project begins

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.