



Not a Fan- Week 3

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: Get to know group members better by playing a couple rounds of two truths and a lie.

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. Without recognition, we end up treating our faith like we do all the other things in our life; we are interested until it is not convenient, fun, or easy. Jesus doesn't invite us to be his fan, but to be his follower.

1. In general, are you a rule-follower or a rule-breaker?

When you consider your relationship with Jesus, what rules do you believe are most important?

2. If we focus on the rules, it can steal the joy and abundance we were meant to experience through faith.

When you look at your own faith, do you regularly feel guilt or shame for not doing what you "should"? Or are you experiencing faith that renews you and fills you with joy and peace? Why do you think you lean one way or the other?

3. The Pharisees in the Bible can be described as professional pretenders and like them we can be tempted to focus more on what our life looks like from the outside than what it is on the inside.

How are you tempted to be a professional pretender in your life?

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Read [Mark 7:20-23](#). As we follow Jesus, we have to shed our hypocritical ways. What do you need to let go of in your life in order to be a follower of Jesus, not a fan?

4. Read [Psalms 139:23-24](#). When we stay connected to God and ask him to help change us, our lives begin to transform. With Him, we can replace deception with truth, lust with purity, hate with love, fear with courage, anger with patience and so much more. What changes would you see in your friendships, your finances, your health, your marriage, or your mental health if you lived this out?

When we become a follower and experience genuine internal transformation through Jesus Christ, the rules and expectations begin to take care of themselves. What do you need to do this week to focus on the inside and follow Jesus?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Prayer:** Spend time daily praying [Psalms 139:23-24](#) asking God to make clear all that needs to be removed.
- **Journal:** Reflect on your day to identify any areas you might have acted hypocritically.
- **Connect:** Take time to connect with someone who knows you well and ask for their feedback on areas of your life you may be pretending.
- **Memorize scripture:** Try one of the verses from this weekend's message [Psalms 139:23-24](#), [Mark 7:20-23](#), or [Isaiah 16:7](#)
- **Seek Counsel:** Connect with one of [Emmanuel's biblical counselors](#)
- **Daily time with God** - Determine the type of routine you'd like to have that allows you 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)

Ask your group to share two things

1. Prayer requests for themselves and the people in their lives.
2. Ask also for any reason to praise, it is great to come to God in thanksgiving for all He has done.

Keep note of the burdens in people's life and notice when God moves in those areas specifically. We believe God will see prayers become praise and it is an opportunity to increase our faith when we are in the position to bring that to light.

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 27 | 1824

January 29 | Bins to the Brims outreach project begins

February 8 | Seymour Campus open house

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