



[study guide]

RELIGIOUS MYTHS: Week 6

5.5.13

[set up]

Tell about a time when someone had their facts wrong about you. How did it make you feel when others made conclusions about you based on incorrect information?

Tell about a time when you were mistaken about someone else. How did your wrong information make them feel?

What is something that concerns you about how Christians engage with our current culture in America?

As you reflect on last week's message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

[digging deeper]

What might be an appropriate Missional Living response to this statement? "It doesn't really matter what we believe as long as we are sincere."

Read John 8:32, John 14:6, John 17:17, and John 18:37-38 and discuss Jesus' understanding about truth. Is it relative or absolute? Impersonal or personal? Restrictive or liberating? Unknowable or knowable? What are the implications for us in a relativistic, pluralistic culture?

What might be an appropriate Missional Living response to this statement? "We all believe in the same God... just by different names."

In his book, "A Heart for God," Sinclair Ferguson wrote, "The knowledge of God is the heart of salvation and of all true spiritual experience. Knowing Him is what we were created for... [Knowing God] means a personal relationship and personal acquaintance with the Lord." Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. Why is it important for us to be as right as humanly possible about the nature and character of God?

Use your Bibles and develop a list of some biblical attributes of God that distinguish Him from the view of God according to the Jews, the Muslims, the Buddhists, etc.

What might be an appropriate Missional Living response to this statement? "All paths lead to heaven."



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Read John 3:14-17, John 14:6-7, Acts 4:12, and I Timothy 2:5-6. What are some reasons that believers say that Jesus is the only way to God?

Read II Timothy 2:24-26, I Peter 3:15, Colossians 4:5-6, Matthew 5:14-16, I Peter 2:12, and Titus 3:1-2 and make a list of the qualities we are called to exhibit as we connect with those outside the faith. Why are these qualities needed in our lives as we engage the world as missionaries? What can happen in the lives of outsiders if those qualities are not activated in the lives of believers?

Which of the qualities you listed above are most lacking in the church in America and in NE Ohio today? What can we do to change this?

[living it out]

Which response to a pluralistic, tolerant relativist best describes you?

- a) The Coexist-er.
- b) The Shoulder-shrug-er.
- c) The Megaphonist.
- d) The Back-turn-er.
- e) The Conversationist.

What changes can you make to become more effective as a Missionary in our culture?

Make a list of a few people you know who believe one or more of these statements: "It doesn't really matter what we believe as long as we are sincere." "We all believe in the same God just by different names." "All paths lead to heaven." Talk in your LifeGroup how you might turn your list into an ongoing prayer list.

Is anything keeping you from effectively sharing Jesus Christ with others? Are there any adjustments you need to make in your attitudes or actions? If so, what would it take?

Please close your time in your LifeGroup in God-dependent prayer for those on your list who don't know Christ and for yourselves as you seek to grow in being effective Missionaries to them.