



What is a Christian?

Part 5

Opening Game/Thought

Psychiatrist - have one person leave the room. The remaining people will decide one person in their group that everyone will act, speak, and behave like. Once you've decided who in your group you're all going to act like, and once you feel prepared enough, call the other person back in. That person, who is the Psychiatrist, will then ask questions and try to get behavioral responses from the group, trying to guess who everyone is acting like.

Tip: if you don't know how to respond to the Psychiatrist, fall asleep for 5 seconds then wake back up!

Play a few rounds, switching up who the Psychiatrist is!

Usually when someone is behaving differently than who they are, it's a red flag that something is wrong. Throughout the gospels, we encounter Jesus in places and people that He shouldn't be: in gatherings of people, the waters of baptism, bread and wine, and today we see Jesus in people who seemed to be rejected by society. With normal people behaving like others, it's wrong, but this truth of Jesus' presence is something we celebrate!

Check it! (Scan this QR code)



Scripture:

Take a deep breath in and breathe out. Bring your mind and body to an open space as you read the scripture

Matthew 25:34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the just will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them,

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Psalm 84:1-4

**How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!**

**My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

**Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

**Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

Group Questions

- Who is a friend or family member that you get so excited about the possibility of seeing?
Why do you get so excited to see that person?
- What is a time that you've felt a similar excitement with God or the church?
- In which of these places do you have a memory of encountering God the most and why?
Prayer, communion, baptism, serving others, or community

Prayer

God, I long to approach you and be close to you. But you live with those I have a hard time being with. Help me work for the good of those who need your good, so I can be with you God. Amen

Thought

When was the last time you fed the hungry? Gave a drink of water to someone thirsty? Welcomed a stranger? Gave clothes to the naked? Visited someone in prison? Some of these seem so far off to accomplish some times, but how about the last time you defended someone getting picked on at school? The last time you helped someone with his or her homework? Invited someone to sit next to you at lunch? Do works of love for those not being treated like the sons and daughters of God that they are, and you will encounter Jesus, you'll encounter God.

Closing Prayer (write yourself)
