

Asking for a Friend

Part 2

Key Scriptures: Romans 9:30-33; Romans 10:1-2; Romans 10:9-10; John 14:6

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Tell a story of a time when you were really, really lost and didn't know how to find your way home or even out of the situation. How did you handle it?
- What would your initial response be if someone asked you how to get to heaven?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 9:30-33. Why does Paul say that the Gentiles obtained righteousness while the Jews did not?
- What does it mean to pursue righteousness by faith rather than by works (Romans 9:32)?
- Reflect on John 14:6. What does Jesus mean when He says He is "*the way, the truth, and the life*"?
- In Romans 10:9-10, Paul gives two conditions for salvation: declaring with your mouth and believing in your heart. Why do you think both are necessary?
- How does zeal for God differ from having a genuine relationship with Him (Romans 10:1-2)?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share a time when you questioned your relationship with God. What made you feel unsure of your salvation or eternal destination? How did you find clarity or peace?
- Have you ever relied more on "good works" than faith to feel right with God? Why or why not? Has your perspective changed? How?
- What does faith in Jesus look like for you in everyday life? How do you express it to your family? Friends? Teachers/bosses/students/employees? Strangers you meet throughout your day? Do others see your faith in God clearly when you are happy? Angry? Bored? Frustrated? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the difference between *saying* you believe in Jesus and *truly believing* in Him? Why?
- When did you first declare Jesus as Lord in your life? How has your life changed since then?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray for a deeper faith that is rooted in Jesus (and what He has done) and not in works or your own efforts.
- Pray for clarity and confidence in your salvation, that fear and doubt will be replaced with peace.
- Pray for those who are still searching for the truth, that they would come to know Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Reach out to someone in your life who may have questions about faith and offer to explore the answers together.
- Challenge yourself to engage in a spiritual conversation this week, whether it's asking a question you've been holding back or helping someone else wrestle with their own.