



Sermon Discussion Guide – August 11, 2019

SERIES – WHY CHRISTIAN? – *Testing World Religions*

TITLE - “Testing The 7th Day Adventist”

2 Peter 2:1-3

SUMMARY – Why do we believe what we believe? Do all religious paths lead to God? What makes Christianity true? Join us for this thought provoking series comparing world religions and why so many choose to be Christian. This week we are exploring the 7th Day Adventist movement and how it differs from Protestant Christianity.

DAILY STUDY & PRAYER

Read / Reflect / Respond

(*READ* the verse, take a moment to *REFLECT* on its meaning, *RESPOND* by writing down some thoughts and praying)

Monday – 1 Peter 3:15 “*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*”

Tuesday – Galatians 2:16 “*yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ*”

Wednesday – Ephesians 1:7 “*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*”

Thursday – Acts 20:7 “*On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.*”

Friday – John 20:19 “*On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”*”

Saturday – Romans 14:5 “*One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.*”

GROUP DISCUSSION

(*This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials*)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. Do you know anyone that is a part of the 7th Day Adventist Church? What do you think they would say is the difference between 7th Day Adventist mainline Protestant Denominations? What would you say is the main difference?
3. What is your view of the Sabbath? Why did God make it a part of the Ten Commandments?
4. The systematic theology of Ellen White (her interpretation of the Bible) is deeply influenced by her “visions”. We know God works through visions even today. So what makes Ellen white’s visions trustworthy or not?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. TEMPERATURE GAUGE – How am I doing when it comes to understanding what I believe and why? How would I rate myself on a scale of 1-10?
2. RESPOND – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. PRACTICE – What is one idea that you want to be able to defend if you are in conversation with a 7th Day Adventist?



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. ***Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!***
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, www.faithunitedepc.org. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.