



Discussion Questions for the week of April 9th

BIG IDEA: "You Asked For It" is a series birthed by demand. We on the WAKE Staff polled students to see what they'd like to hear us teach. From you, the students, we walked away with several topics relevant to your everyday battles that we needed to take to God's word. This week we are taking on Peer Pressure.

ICE BREAKER:

Does your family have a unique saying about friends that's funny or that's 'over-said' by parents? Example: "You can pick your nose, you can pick your friends, but you can't pick your friend's nose." Or maybe a saying about a cliff?

DISCUSSION:

1. Before we read anything further. Ask and have kids write down privately. What would life be like if you got everything you ever wanted? What in you would be fulfilled? What do you want most out of life? (Pass out post-its or notecards to record answers but don't share, let them stew.)

2. We will come back to that exercise later, but let's turn our attention. We are going to look at 3 biblical examples where Christ followers face peer pressure. Answer these questions about each account: What/who is the opposition in this passage? What's the work/acts that's going on and who is pressuring who and why?

Read: Nehemiah 4:1-15. & Daniel 3:1-18. & Acts 4: 5-16.

3. Do you notice common themes around the 'pressurers' (not a word, but get it)? What is motivation?

4. What are reasons or things today friends or acquaintances or people in your school attempt to pressure you about?

5. Let's jump to John 12:37-43. What do you think of the people denying Jesus?

6. Why are they denying him?

7. What might be ways you too are guilty of denying Jesus?

8. Do you trust your heart? Read Jeremiah 17:9 and Matthew 5:18-19 should we trust our hearts?

9. John Calvin said simply, "the human heart is an idol factory". Tim Keller expounded, "The human heart is an idol factory that takes good things, like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify [make them gods] them as the center of our lives, because, we think, significance and security, safety and fulfillment if we attain them."

10. It's not bad to want shoes. To have shoes feels like a basic need met. To want a specific pair of shoes so that you fit in or get compliments from others or look just like X, that makes shoes- which are otherwise a good thing- ultimate. There's too much riding on the shoe there. You'll be disappointed by the shoe, or if it does fulfill you at first, when will it quit fulfilling you?

(The minute there's a newer model.)

11. One more example on those quotes, God created marriage and family, right? He designed the whole institution, but you may have heard the term idolizing marriage? How do people idolize a spouse or the idea of being married? What problems would that lead to?

12. From this weekend anyone remember how idolatry plays in to peer pressure?

Peer pressure means we have allowed others' approval, opinion, suggestion, or even condemnation to matter more than honoring God. We have quite literally worshipped others in place of worshipping God.

Read: 2 Chronicles 7:14, Romans 8:13, Judges 10:10-16, will God forever punish you for giving in to peer pressure or worshipping the created over the creator?

APPLICATION:

There were 4 "Knows" to beat peer pressure, who can name them? (1. Know who you are, be who you are, like who you are. 2. Know what you believe. 3. Know who you're with. 4. Know your influence.)

What would it look like to live each of those out? How would it save you from the snare of counterfeit gods/peer pressure?

Homework with notecard assignment on next page!

APPLICATION EXTENDED:

The notecard with your answers to question 1 you are going to take home with some homework. Flip the notecard to the other side. Write down Romans 1:19-25, then write down these questions:

Where have you exchanged the truth about God for a lie or counterfeit?

How would it be the most unloving thing for God to give you everything you want?

Is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living?

Is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give?

Answer those questions this week and read that passage. You can also get the scripture from tonight's discussion and these questions on www.morewake.com's curriculum tab.