

TIMES OF REFRESHING STUDY #3

Note: In churches there are 4 kinds of people. Use this study to deal with them. The 4 kinds are:

- IN or OUT - if there is no immediate change they are out of the church.
- DANGER ZONE - if they don't change they'll walk away, so get them back on the right road.
- NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - doing fine, but needs to do awesome!
- DOING GREAT - encourage them to keep doing great.

Make sure when you teach them that you make them feel you are on their side. You are simply telling them what Jesus thinks. These are not your own opinions. }

C: Today's study is not just a regular discipling study. Today you need to make decisions that will change your Christian life forever. Some of the things we talk about will be challenging. But I'm doing this because I really care about you. And I want you to do great spiritually and go to heaven. I know you can change and I can change too.

Q: How do you feel about that? Are you ready to be challenged by God's word?

Acts 3:19-20

Q: If we truly repent, how will we feel? [Refreshed . Full of Jesus.].

Do you want to be refreshed?

C: Let today's study refresh your Christian life with a real change.

Q: Are you ready?

C: Ok, let's go. We'll consider 5 areas where we need to excel as Christians.

1. Giving

Acts 4:32-35

Q: What were the early Christians like in their giving? [None of them claimed their possessions were their own(v32), but they shared]

Did they give for contribution? [Yes]

Did they help the needy? [Yes]

Did they speak with power (v33)? [Yes]

C: As Christians, we need to be giving, it isn't just money.

For example at Bible discussion we need to participate and make comments.

Q: How have you been doing on that?

At church, we need to learn the songs and sing out loud. We need to encourage the speaker.

Q: How have you been doing?

Every month, we need to give at least 10% of our income as contribution.

Q: How have you been doing in this area? What did you give in last month? What about this month?

C: Let's decide on a figure for you to give regularly every month. [Get them to write it down]

For special contribution, we need to sacrifice. How did it go this year? [If they are giving zero and they've been around for more than 6 months, challenge them very hard. Everyone can give something].

We need to be generous with each other. Have you had people over to your house very often?

C: It is great to feed others.

2. Relationship with God

Joel 2:12-13

C: Joel talks here about returning to God with all our hearts, with weeping and fasting.

Q: Have you ever fasted? How often do you fast?

Q: How much do you pray every day? For how many minutes? What are your prayers like – do you feel close to God?

C: The great news is that if we return to God, he is gracious and compassionate and will accept us. You need to pray for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. {Give them a structure to help them}.

Q: How has your Bible study been going? How much do you read a day? You need to read at least 20 minutes per day (if you can read – otherwise, arrange for a Christian to read to you).

C: If you want you can use quiet time booklets.

3. Avoid sin

Titus 2:11-14

Q: What does God's grace teach us to do? [To say "NO" to sin]

Have you been saying “no” or have you been using the church and God’s grace as an excuse to sin? What about your old sins – have you fallen back into them? How is it really going?

- Sexual purity
- Smoking / drinking / tobacco / PAN
- Telling lies at work
- Anger
- Masturbation / lust
- Laziness – not helping at home.

{Take this opportunity to warn them sternly if they’ve been repeatedly falling into a particular sin}

4. Commitment

Hebrews 10:24-29

C: This is a passage you looked at when you did the church study before becoming a Christian. In v24, it reminds us that we should be thinking about how to help others in the church grow. That is why we come to church. V25 has a warning that some are in the habit of missing meetings.

Q: What about you – how do you feel about your attendance? Have you been getting into the habit of missing meetings? Some common excuses :

- Urgent office work
- Family fights and persecution
- Relative from out of town
- Small sickness
- Urgent house work
- Wedding / other functions
- Cricket

C: According to this passage, it is unholy and disrespectful to God to not be serious about our commitment.

C: If you are not regular in the meetings, you can’t be considered a true Christian. {If they regularly miss, hit this point very hard}

Optional Questions :

Q: According to v26-29, if we keep sinning intentionally, what will happen to us? [We will be judged and burnt by raging fire (v27)]

When we miss meetings and sin, what are we doing (v29)? [Trampling the blood of Jesus, insulting God]

C: Let me give you a few areas to focus on in your commitment :

Having great friendships in the church

Q: Who are your best friends in the church? Who are you really close to? [If it is less than three they need immediate radical change. If it is less than six they still need to improve].

Come on time to all the meetings.

Come to fun times / sports / picnics / optional times as much as you can. Don't just come 3 times per week.

Come for organized evangelism during the week. {If they have a tough schedule, they don't have to come daily. But everyone should come sometime to meet the disciple outside of the meetings}.

Make sure you have weekly time with your disciple.

Don't go out of town for long periods (more than 15 days) or without taking advice. Everyone who goes away for more than 15 days struggle spiritually.

5. Evangelism

Acts 20:24

C: How did Paul feel about his life? [He considered it worthless].

What was Paul's mission in life? [To preach to the Gentiles about God's grace]

C: The Christian life is happiest when we ourselves are faithful.

Q: What is the purpose of a Christian? [To make disciples]

Has that been your purpose?

Q: How has your evangelism been going? Do you share your faith as you go, on your own? Who have you invited who has become a Christian this year? What would be a good goal for the number of personal fruits you will bring? {If they do not want to share their faith at all, they should leave the church}

Let me give you a few important keys to evangelism. These will help you bring visitors.

- Do "lifestyle" evangelism – as you go along, always invite people. Be sure to carry invitations everywhere.
- Take part in "group" evangelism with other disciples during the week.
- Do follow-ups, by phone as well as visiting. Do them especially on Saturday and before Bible Talk.
- Have visitors over for tea, games, dinner
- Give yourself goals for daily or weekly conversations with non-Christians.

Conclusion

Revelation 3:14-20

C: We have seen what we should be doing as a Christian. In this passage, Jesus talks about being hot, cold or lukewarm.

Q: What is a cold person like? [Rejects the gospel]

Q: What is hot person like? [He does all the things we talked about]

What are you – hot, cold or lukewarm? {Let them answer – don't tell them unless they're quiet for a long time}

Q: According to v15, what does Jesus want from you? [To be either hot or cold]

According to v16, if we are lukewarm, what will he do to us? [spit us out]

Do you want to change?

C: The great news is that Jesus is standing outside the door of your heart according to v20. Just open the door and He will come in.

The five things we talked about, Giving, Relationship with God, Avoiding sin, Commitment and Evangelism spell GRACE.

That is what Jesus is full of. I really love you. I want you to be happy Christian and go to heaven. That is why I've shared these things with you.

Q: How do you feel about all this?