Red Letters | No Middle Ground

Carl Johnston

START TALKING - Find conversations starters for the group or with a friend.

What's the best book you've ever read? Why was it the best? Of all the words Jesus spoke, which words stand out to you the most?

KEEP READING - Read the Scripture and ask a question to get the group thinking.

John 8:48 - 59

Pastor Carl shared that we want to have clarity on what Jesus communicated, to see plainly what Jesus proclaimed. Many of us will have heard some things that Jesus is for and against but if we want to grow in God and know Jesus then we need to know what Jesus said and what did He mean. C.S. Lewis said "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

- What stands out to you from the passage you read?
- How does your life, attitudes and behaviour reflect your view of God?
- If there is no middle ground (moderately important), are there areas of your life where God is only moderately important?

KEEP TALKING - Choose questions to create openness.

In John 8, Jesus makes some big claims about himself to the religious leaders, which are both plain and problematic to them. He claimed eternity (vs. 58), redemption (vs. 51) and authority (vs. 54) belongs to Him. Obedience to Jesus is about us hearing His words, understanding His ways and acting accordingly.

- What do you think about the claims that Jesus plainly made?
- In light of these claims, what do you need to do?
- How do you walk forward in obedience to the words of Jesus?

KEEP MOVING/GOING -Commit to a step and live it out this week.

• Identify ways that you can further understand the words of Jesus as a group. Why not consider taking one of the gospels and reading through the words in red together.

KEEP PRAYING

• Let's pray together that God will give us wisdom to know His words, understand them and the courage to be obedient to them as we live our lives.