



## JESUS IS A FRIEND OF MINE

### THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS

#### GOAL

The goal of *Jesus Is a Friend of Mine* is to help teens understand the challenging teachings of Jesus in Scripture and cultivate a desire to live them out in their daily lives.

#### KEY CONCEPTS

- If Jesus is God, then we should listen to what He says and do what He asks of us, even when it is difficult.
- Jesus is not a friend who enables bad or subpar behavior, but someone who calls us to be the best versions of ourselves.
- The hard sayings of Jesus are very challenging and easily misunderstood, but they transform our hearts and fight against our desire towards selfishness and sin.

#### KEY TERMS:

Concupiscence  
Faith

#### SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 5:48  
Matthew 19:22  
Matthew 16:24-25  
John 5:24  
John 8:31-32

#### CATECHISM:

1  
151  
545  
561-562

#### ABOUT THIS LIFE NIGHT

This Life Night begins with a small group race that requires teens to find difficult teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. The Proclaim discusses true friendship with Jesus and breaks open some of His most difficult teachings. The break is a small group discussion about the Proclaim followed by a “hard but worth it” testimony from a Core Member. During the Send, the teens have an opportunity to venerate the cross as a sign of commitment to follow Jesus even in the most challenging moments.

#### ENVIRONMENT

In the front of the main meeting space, have a large cross or crucifix, which will be used during the Send. Print out or write the hard sayings of Jesus on poster board, and put them on the wall behind the cross or around the room.

Prior to the Life Night, order various styles of small crucifixes (necklace size). As the teens enter, they are given a crucifix which is used during the Gather to divide them into small groups.

#### MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

Lostepiphany79: “Jesus Is My Friend by Sonseed” (youtube.com)

“Oh, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus,” Audrey Assad (Inheritance, 2016, Fortunate Fall Records)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent,” Marian Grace (Ancient Hymn and Chants, 2010, Mysterium)

“Mercy and Majesty,” Brian and Jenn Johnson (After All These Years, 2017, Bethel Music)