


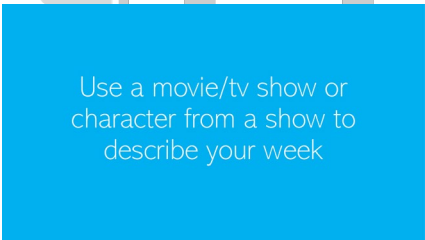

Nothing, if not real

Searching for an authentic Christianity – Variety of Readings

Themes: Real faith, authenticity, connectedness

Summary: A very basic study/discussion into what it might mean to have a real, authentic faith that is nothing, if not real. In an increasingly superficial world that offers up a lot of short term, surface level pleasures, faith in Christ offers something more long-lasting and authentic.

How to use: This resource is merely a guide. If you wish to use in its delivered form entirely, feel free to do so. If you wish to add, omit or edit anything, feel free to do so. It is intended to be a guide and provide some assistance in prep time for busy youth ministry leaders.

SLIDE	Notes
	1. Blank Slide Take time for introductions, welcome, prayers etc.
	2. Ice breaker slide. As a way to check in and get people to share how their week has been, get each person to find movie/tv show or character to describe your week. E.g. <i>My week has felt like Homer Simpson – Clumsy, lazy and uninspired!</i>
	3. Title Slide Introduce the theme of the study, and the reading that you will be focusing on for today. If you want, you can ask if anyone has an idea of what the title might mean.

About this resource: This resource is developed from TCYF Ministries under Mission Resourcing, Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. It is available for use in any church, and may be freely edited and contextualized to any church setting, however please credit *Mission Resourcing, MCNZ* when doing so. Please note also that this resource does not necessarily reflect the views of the Methodist Church of New Zealand as an institution.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Question</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">When do you feel most <i>connected</i> to God?</p>	<p>4. Discussion Question</p> <p>This weeks lesson is centralised around a robust discussion around this question – when do you feel most connected to God? There is possibility for a wide range of feedback and perspectives for this, so allow a decent amount of time for group to reflect and then share.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nothing, if not real</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jn 9.1-12 Lk 13.10-13 Lk 7.1-10 Mk 5.24-34 Mk 8 22-26</p>	<p>5. Various Readings</p> <p>Allocate the listed readings to pairs or groups (depending on numbers) and ask them to read the passage and answer the question – What kind of experience is taking place between Jesus and the main character of this story. Allow time for each group to discuss and then feedback.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nothing, if not real</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">How, in times such as these, can we strive toward a connection with God that is <i>real</i> ?</p>	<p>6. Closing Discussion Question</p> <p>Once all groups have fed back, take the time prayerfully reflect over this question. You can invite responses, but depending on how much feedback you’ve heard already, you may also just play/listen to a song and invite group to silently pray and reflect before drawing session to an end with prayer.</p>

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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