



Leader Discussion Guide

This guide will help facilitate a small group discussion following the Virtual Petrus event. As always, these questions are simply to aid conversation. If your group is inclined to stick with a certain question/theme, feel free to stay in that discussion. You do not have to go through all the questions; simply use this to get the youth talking.

1. Can you share with the group a post, pin, video, etc., from your favorite influencer or YouTuber?

Each sharing will tell us something about what that teenager values. Be ready to help them see: Why do you follow them? What do you learn from them? How does that influence you in daily life, if at all? This will be valuable info as you continue the conversation.

2. What makes you want to follow someone? (The way they look, how many followers they have, what they do, what they know, who they are?)

This is an opportunity for the youth to feel comfortable sharing these reasons for following without fear of criticism or rejection. This is not a moment to teach about good or bad things to follow; it could shut down the conversation.

3. What would others learn about you if they looked at the individuals you follow? Are there people you follow who do not reflect who you see yourself as?

Small group leaders first model two examples of how who we follow can both positively and negatively contribute to how we see ourselves and our relationships. Highlight how who we follow always affects how we live and our relationships.

4. What happens when we use trends and social media as a mirror to define who we are? What happens when we look at Christ to define who we are?

Suggest the question, "What truths do we miss about ourselves when we look to things besides Jesus and the cross to define who we are?"

Guide conversation to the reflection of "How many areas of our lives do we define by God vs. trends/social media?"

5. Choose one of the quotes below and discuss.

"Courage! We are not in the world to follow our own will and pleasure but to imitate the Lord" - St. John Baptist de Rossi

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" - Matthew 16:24

"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire" - St. Catherine of Siena

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted." - St. John Paul II

6. Portia shared how when she could no longer play volleyball, she started looking for fulfillment in other things but was left empty. Only when she placed her identity in God did she find fulfillment, joy, and peace.

When you meet someone you've never met before, what are the first five things you would tell them about yourself? (starting with the most important thing to you)

Ex. I play soccer. I'm a senior. My boyfriend & I are going to UCLA next year (That's two facts), and I work at In-N-Out. (You can share your own five things to model for them)

If something in that list were to change, would it make you question your identity? (If they want to share, have them share which one.)