



WEEK 1 – OPEN YOUR EYES

ICE BREAKER:

Introduce yourself and share with the group something about yourself. (If you all know each other, share something that the rest of the group may not know about you).

INTRODUCTION:

We are living in desperate times. Much of the formerly “Christian” world is leaving its roots behind and is dominated by secularism (death to religion) and relativism (death to the truth). The Bible is no longer considered the moral compass; rather, everyone is free to decide for themselves what is right and wrong.

Young people see the church as irrelevant to their day-to-day lives: a dead, empty tradition of the past. As a result, a cultural divide exists between secular youth culture and the church.

As followers of Jesus, we need to respond—but how?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Nehemiah 1:3. Are you aware of the needs around you? What are they, and how do they make you feel?
2. Reflect on the following statement: “There has never been a more unified youth culture than there is today.” What impact does this idea have on your approach to reaching young people outside the church with the gospel?
3. Relativism, secularism, and tolerance are dominant thought forms in secular culture. What influence have these mindsets had on your family, workplace, and neighborhood?
4. Do you believe that, if given a chance, secular young people will respond to the gospel? Why or why not?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Look up the lyrics of the top three Billboard Hot 100 songs. What messages are these artists communicating? What do these messages as a whole say about the state of culture today? What unique opportunities do these messages provide for sharing the gospel with secular culture? What disadvantages?
2. Throughout the series, interview three people who, to the best of your knowledge, do not call themselves followers of Jesus. Do their views confirm or reject the premise that secularism and relativism are two dominant thought-forms among non-Christians today?