

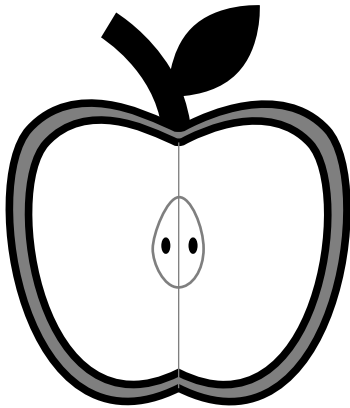
SPOILER ALERT:

IF YOU ARE NOT A GROUP LEADER,
DO NOT READ THESE PAGES!

LET US SURPRISE YOU.

YOU WILL GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS
ACTIVITY IF IT UNFOLDS FOR YOU IN REAL
TIME.

LIVING IN THE YES! LEADER'S GUIDE – CHAPTER 4: CAN I EVER DO ENOUGH GOOD TO BE "GOOD ENOUGH"?



RECAP:

- ✓ WEEK 1- Understanding God's amazing invitation- *to more, better life*
- ✓ WEEK 2 – What is God really like? *He is faithful, loving, and good!*
- ✓ WEEK 3 – Is God still good when life feels bad? *YES! In those moments, GOD is not punishing us. He is walking with us through this fallen world.*

- WEEK 4 – Can I ever do enough good to be good enough? *NO. Our human goodness can never be enough to restore our connection with God. Only Jesus could do that – and that's exactly what he did.*

This latest question is the essence of the Gospel. WHY JESUS? It's because God's kind of goodness, his love, and his life are entirely **other** than ours – more real, far better, and supercharged. We can't ever produce that, no matter how hard we try. Human goodness and love are only pale imitations of the real thing. *We want to help people perceive the otherness of God, so we can begin to imagine the astonishing invitation he is offering to us – that he wants to fill our lives with his kind of LIFE.*

PLAN to break people up into smaller discussion groups of 3-6 each.

How many PEOPLE? _____

How many GROUPS? _____

- PRINT :**
- HANDOUT (2 pages) – 1 set per PERSON
 - Q&A CARDS – 1 set per GROUP

- GET :**
- Markers, crayons, or other drawing tools.
 - Real apples for drawing, and more for snacking on. (Alternative: any other fruit will do.)
 - Optional- vanilla yogurt or caramel sauce for dipping (serve this in small salad-dressing-sized containers)
 - IF POSSIBLE – hot mulled cider (apple juice with cinnamon) - estimate 6-8 ounces per serving

SETUP - DAY OF THE MEETING:

- Arrange 1 or more apples in the middle of each table, as a still life.
- Slice apples for snacking. (Toss them in water with lemon juice so they won't turn brown.)
Set out the apple slices WHERE PEOPLE WILL BE DRAWING.
- Fill a stovetop pot or crock pot with cider, so it's simmering as people come in. (Wonderful aroma.)

LIVING IN THE YES! AGENDA – CHAPTER 4: CAN I EVER DO ENOUGH GOOD TO BE “GOOD ENOUGH”?

Welcome everyone. Offer drinks and snacks. (15 minutes)

Break into groups of 3-6 for discussion. (45 minutes)

Get people settled at tables quickly, and explain that we’re drawing apples today.

Draw a “still life” of apples.

THEN use the Q&A cards. Read and discuss the questions, in order.

Gather together for general discussion & recap. (15 minutes)

Ask for feedback: What was this like for you?

Hold up your drawing and ask: There were paper apples, and real apples, available today.

Did anyone want to eat a paper apple? What about a real apple?

What is Jesus inviting us into? How is that different from what we often think of as “religion?”

How much did it cost Jesus to make that possible?

Dramatic reading or testimony (5 minutes)

Ask someone to read the Connection, *“Watching From The Sidelines”* - or plan for another testimony or reading.

Ministry (10 minutes)

What does it mean to say “YES” to Jesus? Does anyone want to do that right now?

HAVE YOU SAID “YES” TO JESUS?

Jesus, I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I can try hard to be good, but on my own, but I won’t ever be “good enough.”

I can’t undo the wrong things I have done, and I can’t make myself come alive on the inside. I know that you can.

I accept your sacrifice on my behalf. Will you forgive my sins, connect me to God, and make me new?

Thank you, Jesus!

If you already know Jesus, let’s take a moment to pray, and ask him how he wants to invite you deeper into his REAL LIFE right now.