

Small Group Guide

Is Christianity Too Narrow?

Important Questions of Faith (Part 3)

October 4, 2026

Overview

This guide is designed to help your group reflect on the sermon's central message: that God's grace -- unearned, unmerited, and unconditional -- is available for every stage and season of life. Use the questions and applications below to move from hearing the message to living it out together.

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Is Christianity Too Narrow?

Overview

This session explores one of the most pressing questions people raise about the Christian faith: is Christianity too exclusive in its claims? Drawing from Acts 17 and the example of Paul's address at the Areopagus, this guide will help your group engage honestly with the tension between Christianity's narrow truth claims and the wide grace those claims make available.

Before You Begin

Open your time together with this question to get the conversation started:

- When you were growing up, how did the people around you talk about other religions? Was Christianity presented as one option among many, or as something distinct?
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Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. Every worldview, including the belief that all religions are the same, makes an exclusive truth claim. No one is truly neutral on questions of ultimate reality.

2. The hypocrisy of individual Christians does not undermine the truth of Christian teaching. If anything, it underscores the need for it.
 3. Paul's approach at the Areopagus models how to engage people of different beliefs with respect, starting where they are before sharing what is true.
 4. Truth is narrow. Grace is wide. Christianity's exclusive claims are the very doorway to its most expansive gift: life, hope, and forgiveness through Christ.
 5. If we genuinely believe the Christian message is true, silence is not kindness. It is the opposite.
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Scripture Focus

Read Acts 17:22-31 together as a group. As you read, notice how Paul:

- Acknowledges what his audience already believes
 - Establishes who God is as Creator and Sustainer
 - Distinguishes the God of Scripture from the gods his audience worships
 - Moves toward the exclusive claim of resurrection and judgment
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Discussion Questions

On Exclusivity and Truth

1. The sermon opened with voices expressing the view that no religion has a monopoly on truth. Have you heard similar things from people in your life? How did you respond, or how do you wish you had responded?
2. The speaker referenced writer Leslie Newbigin's observation about the blind men and the elephant: only the king standing above them all could know whether they were all touching the same thing. What does that insight do to the argument that all religions are essentially the same?
3. One of the speakers in the video clip compared musical notes to religious truth claims, saying that a G note is either right or wrong and that is not intolerance, it is beauty. Does that analogy resonate with you? Where does it help, and where might it fall short?

On Paul's Example

4. Paul began his address at the Areopagus by acknowledging the religious sincerity of the Athenians and even quoting their own poets. What does that approach teach us about how to have conversations with people who hold different beliefs?
5. Paul drew a clear distinction between the gods of Athens, who were embedded in the universe and had to be appeased, and the God of Scripture, who created everything and searches for humanity. How does that distinction matter in everyday conversations about faith?

On Sharing the Faith

6. The sermon quoted atheist Penn Jillette, who said that if you believe everlasting life is possible and you do not tell someone about it, you must hate that person. How does that challenge you personally?
7. The sermon suggests that meaningful conversations begin by genuinely seeking to understand what the other person believes before sharing your own convictions. Is that your natural approach? What makes it difficult?

On Doubt and Personal Faith

8. The sermon acknowledged that some people in the room might be in a season of doubt. What questions about the exclusivity of Christianity have been hardest for you to sit with? What has helped?
9. The sermon states that Christianity can seem restrictive until you experience the hope that a relationship with Jesus brings. Has there been a moment in your own life when the narrow truth of the gospel opened into something much larger? What did that look like?

Practical Applications

For Personal Reflection This Week

- Identify one person in your life who holds a different worldview or faith. Commit to praying for them daily this week and asking God for an opportunity to have an honest, respectful conversation.
- Spend time in John 14:6 and John 10:10. Sit with the tension between the narrowness of the claim and the fullness of what is being offered. Journal what comes up for you.
- Ask yourself honestly: do I live as though the Christian message is true? Where does my daily life reflect that conviction, and where does it not?

For Group Action

- Practice together. Have each person take two or three minutes to share, in plain language, what they believe about one of these questions: What happens after we die? How is a person made right with God? What is the purpose of human life? Then discuss how you might invite someone outside the faith into that same conversation.
 - If your group includes people who are still working through questions about faith, make space for that. Commit as a group to being a place where honest doubt is welcomed and where the truth is spoken with both clarity and gentleness.
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Closing Prayer

Close your time by praying specifically for the people in your lives who do not yet know Jesus. Ask God for the courage to speak truth, the wisdom to speak it well, and the grace to reflect the wide hope that the narrow way of Christ makes possible.