

What Matters?

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

WHAT MATTERS IN LIFE?

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD?

In addressing the question *What matters?* Jesus Christ shared eight rather provocative and radical concepts concerning the nature of justice, power, mercy, and love: concepts that challenged the structure of society and opinions of the political and religious elite.

Here are eight photo cards representing each idea. Do any of these overlap with your values, desires, or your idea of spirituality? We'd love to hear your thoughts and experiences.

Pick 2 cards that matter to you or that interest you, and we'll discuss them.



What Matters?

Increasingly, people feel and fear that God is distant or irrelevant. Even if they believe He exists, God is often seen as a generic Being who is disconnected from their lives and the issues of the world. But Jesus Christ gave us a different picture—of a God who intimately engaged with people, and actively addressed the biggest issues of his day. He is a God who cares about the things we care about.

What Matters? is a set of cards designed to start personal and meaningful conversations about the topics that matter to people, and that matter to God—whether it's fighting for justice and peace in the world, or growing through times of suffering in our lives.

The purpose of the cards is to make it easy and enjoyable for you to “go deeper” with another person, and to form a heart con-

nection as you share your experiences with one another. Imagine someone tearing up as they talk about the death of their family member, or their struggle facing prejudice or poverty in their childhood. Imagine someone sharing their painful experiences about the church where they never could fit in...and then discovering that Jesus advocated for the weak and marginalized of his society.



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Imagine people coming to see that what matters to them, matters to other people...and matters to God!

All you have to do is choose a card and start a conversation!

CONTENTS:

- 2 Training cards
- 1 Introduction card
- 8 Conversation cards
- 1 More Resources card

USE THESE CARDS:

- To go deeper in sharing with your friends
- In your small group at church
- To start conversations on college campuses
- To display on your coffee table for the curious

Start now by reading through the cards, and then practice using them with a friend!



WEAK OVER STRONG

In this world we hear “*survival of the fittest*” and “*might makes right.*” But Jesus embraced the marginalized, and empowered those who seemed “*least*” in society.

WHAT MATTERS IN LIFE?

In today's society, who is generally considered strong?

In your opinion or experience, what makes someone strong or weak?



WEAK OVER STRONG

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Why does this topic matter to you, and how do you hope to live it out in your own way?

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD?

Jesus said, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* What matters to God is not that we put on a show of strength or perfection, but that we can admit our needs and accept help.

Is this idea similar or different to what you’ve heard or experienced from Christianity?



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abuse
handicapped
quiet
Frodo
minorities
David and Goliath
outcast
socially awkward
Gandhi

STRENGTH IN SUFFERING

Many people seek to eliminate or insulate themselves from pain and discomfort. But Jesus embraced suffering, and how God uses it to change us and grow our capacity for love and compassion.

WHAT MATTERS IN LIFE?

When you think of suffering, what experiences in life come to mind?

To what extent have these made you a stronger person? Why?





STRENGTH *IN* SUFFERING

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Why does this topic matter to you, and how do you hope to live it out in your own way?

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD?

Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”* What matters to God is not that we suffer needlessly, but that we find strength and comfort in God in the midst of our pain.

Is this idea similar or different to what you’ve heard or experienced from Christianity?



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loneliness
Nelson Mandela
poverty
Book of Job
crucifixion
concentration camps
compassion
weeping

HUMILITY OVER PROMOTION

The world is full of those seeking fame and celebrity—those who put their own interests and agendas first. But Jesus valued things done quietly, when nobody is watching.

WHAT MATTERS IN LIFE?

Who in your life (or in the news) is a good example of humility, and why?

What do you think it means to have humility?





HUMILITY OVER PROMOTION

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Why does this topic matter to you, and how do you hope to live it out in your own way?

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD?

Jesus said, *“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”* What matters to God is to honor those who are humble and quiet, not just those who promote themselves and are most popular.

Is this idea similar or different to what you’ve heard or experienced from Christianity?



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YouTube
celebrities
quiet
Facebook
Twitter
Mother Teresa
loud
bragging