

HOW CAN I BE SURE WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHAPTER 1

- ▼ Look at the basic moral rules listed on page 9 (starting with “Be kind rather than cruel”). Would most people you know agree with them? What different ones might they add?
- ▼ If you had a friend in the situation described on page 10, what would be the kindest thing to do for them, do you think? Might others disagree with you?
- ▼ Why might some people say that the Bible is not relevant, or even harmful, when it comes to deciding what’s right and wrong?

CHAPTER 2

- ▼ Why is it impossible to surround yourself with people who agree with you on what’s right and wrong?
- ▼ How do you feel about pineapple on a pizza?! Is that a question of right and wrong, or just an opinion? What’s the difference?
- ▼ How does the example of “exposure” from Ancient Rome illustrate the problem with everyone deciding what’s right and wrong for themselves?

CHAPTER 3

- ▼ Can you think of other ideas from the past which seemed to be “common sense” at the time but now seem wrong to us?
- ▼ Are there things in our society today that future generations might look at and describe as wrong?
- ▼ How would you answer Chris’ question on page 28: “If the whole world voted to declare slavery good, would that actually make it good?” What are some of the implications of your answer?

CHAPTER 4

- ▼ If you were someone who didn't believe in God, and thought that humans got here by accident, how might you explain how we know what's right and wrong?
- ▼ Do you think those explanations stack up? What problems might there be with them?
- ▼ How does discovering our true purpose (what we were created for) help us to work out what's truly right and wrong?

CHAPTER 5

- ▼ How does Jesus sum up what our purpose in life is in Matthew 22:36-40 (p 40)?
- ▼ Chris describes in detail his love of burgers! Do you have something that you really love like that? How is that different from what Jesus meant by "love"?
- ▼ What did Jesus show us about what love really looks like, by his actions at his last dinner with his friends?
- ▼ How do equal human rights and universal kindness follow naturally from what Jesus taught?

CHAPTER 6

- ▼ How would you respond to this question on page 51: "Even when the right thing to do seems completely clear to us, why do we still have so much trouble actually doing it?" Can you think of a situation where you've experienced that to be the case?
- ▼ How did God's first people attempt to reinvent good and evil for themselves (p 52-53)?
- ▼ If Jesus came merely to show us how to live a good life, why would that actually be quite depressing?
- ▼ What's the good news about Jesus that we discover in the Bible instead?

CHAPTER 7

- ▼ How often do you find yourself in a situation in which right and wrong is not black and white? Can you share about a time when it wasn't clear what you should do?
- ▼ How is wisdom described on pages 60-61?
- ▼ What does the phrase "Wisdom is a pathway, not a door" mean?
- ▼ What's the grid on page 65 that helps us make decisions? What would it have looked like to apply those questions to the situation you described in question 1?

CHAPTER 8

- ▼ If you follow Jesus, have you ever been tempted to judge your friends who don't and to criticise their behaviour? What ought we do instead, according to page 71?
- ▼ How does the cross show us that evil will never win in the end?
- ▼ Do you agree with this statement on page 74: "As a follower of Jesus, my main job isn't to show the world how right I am. It's to love the person in front of me." What might that look like specifically for you this week?

CHAPTER 9

- ▼ Have you witnessed disagreements between Christians, whether in your own family, church or even on the internet? Why does this happen?
- ▼ Why is the Bible the best place to help us find out what God has to say to us? But why is that challenging sometimes?
- ▼ What does it look like to show love to other Christians when we disagree with them?

CHAPTER 10

- ▼ When does Jesus start to change our hearts and when will that transformation be complete?
- ▼ What role do we play in that transformation (p 86)?
- ▼ Which idea from the whole book has been most helpful to you as you think about what's right and wrong?