



The Norm Series

Part 3 - "Normally Important"

Small Group Material

March 26th, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *Instead of trying to understand Jesus through the lens of your hang ups, process your hang ups through the lens of a relationship with Christ.*

Study Verses: Acts 15:5-19, Luke 10:38-42, 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

Key Points

- *Let everything in your life find meaning and purpose within the context of your relationship Christ.*
- *What is normally important isn't always what is most important.*
- *Sometimes we take the most important issue for granted by getting hung up on all the less essential concerns.*
- *What matters is what keeps everything else afloat.*
- *Come to Him. Learn from Him. Walk with Him.*
- *Our struggles and doubts are a normal part of our faith journey.*
- *Don't make it difficult for people to turn to God and follow Jesus.*
- *The context of the relationship changes how you think about everything else. When you come to Jesus, everything changes.*
- *Your struggle is a critical part of your story.*

ENCOUNTER

- What do you view as the most important parts of the Gospel message that without them its power would be lost?
- How does one know when the issues they are hung up on are merely opinions or preferences and not essentials to the faith?
- What are some misconceptions, opinions and preferences that inhibit people from exploring Jesus and faith further?

FORMATION

- Read Acts 15:5-19. What was being debated in this passage? How were some trying to overcomplicate the Christian faith? How did the apostles and elders respond to this situation?
- Read Luke 10:38-42. In the midst of demands of life, how had Martha lost sight of what was most important? What did Jesus want her to understand?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why does the resurrection of Jesus serve as a fundamental issue of our faith? What happens to our faith if this claim is not true?

EXPRESSION

- Before coming to faith, what were your biggest hang ups and doubts about church, the Bible, Jesus and Christianity? How did you get past and overcome these hang ups? Are there any hang ups you continue to have?
- Over the years how have your struggles played a critical part in your own story? What have your struggles taught you about yourself as well as God?
- In what ways are you guilty of overcomplicating your faith? How can you begin to shed some of the weight that comes with this baggage?