

## Today Years Old

### Community Group Discussion Questions

**Opening Question:** When was the last time you said that you were “today-years-old” when discovering something you never knew before?

**Tell them:** Last month we looked at the book of Jonah where we saw:

- Jonah’s Ignorance of God’s power
- Nineveh’s ignorance of God’s judgment
- The sailor’s ignorance of God’s existence
- And Jonah’s ignorance of God’s grace

This week we considered 1 John 1:5 – 2:6 and the idea of Christian ignorance. Let’s read that passage again. *Read 1 John 1:5 – 2:6*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael gave us 2 kinds of ignorance:

1. **Passive ignorance** – This is the kind we were born with. It is what we have before we acquire knowledge, wisdom, education or experience. This is the kind we discover when we are today years old.
2. **Active ignorance** – This kind is chosen. It is when we know, or we should know better but we play dumb. We oftentimes get defensive or lie to ourselves about this kind of ignorance.

**Ask them:** *What did you think about these two categories? (Note: You might want to discuss what kinds of things fit into each category.)*

**Ask them:** *What do you think about the idea that “being a Christian means becoming less ignorant?” (Note: If God is absent of ignorance and we are to become more like Him, that means being a Christian includes becoming less ignorant.)*

**Ask them:** *What do you think we can learn about ignorance from our reading today? (Discuss the idea of light and dark.)*

**Tell them:** There are differing degrees of ignorance.

**Ask them:** *How do you feel about announcing your “Today years old” ignorance about bread tags and logos vs about announcing your ignorance, or your failure to know the truth and to act on it?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, “We naturally look to the darkness to hide our arrogance, privilege, etc.”

**Ask them:** *What do you think about this idea of hiding in the darkness?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael gave us two responses to our own ignorance: We can celebrate the light or attempt to avoid the light. He said that when we try to block the light or keep our ignorance in the dark, that is active ignorance. And when you've been shown the light, but you don't want to examine your heart, talk about it or show it to anyone you are embracing the darkness.

**Ask them:** *Where does our passage talk about this idea?* (vs. 1 John 1:16, 10; 2:4, 9, 11)

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that, "Some people say it's their right to be ignorant. But accepting ignorance broadcasts a message antithetical to the gospel. It is hypocrisy.

**Ask them:** *What do you think about this idea? (ie. How is it hypocritical to accept your own ignorance? And what is the problem with our hypocrisy?)*

**Ask them:** *How does our active ignorance affect others?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said: "When we don't confess our ignorance and try to hide it, we take Jesus name in vain because the light that should be in us is being replaced by our own darkness and self-deceit. We are false witness. We bear false testimony because of our pride and refusal to admit we were ignorant." But, there is good news for hypocrites – if we confess and re-repent we have hope. See 1 john 1:7 -9 and 1 john 2:1-2.

## How are we to live?

1. **Walk in the light** – **Ask them:** *So how can we walk in the light?* **Tell them:** Pastor Michael talked about "rooting out all darkness." **Ask them:** *How would you do that?* (Note: Actively studying and self-examining your life to look for passive ignorance, in areas of faith and in humanity.)  
**Ask them:** *What did you think of Miles Law: where you stand depends on where you sit?*  
**Tell them:** Conservative commentator David French said, "This is how we live in a world where a white person can say, "Racism where is it?" and a black person can say, "How can you not see?" **Discuss.**  
**Ask them:** *What do you think of the idea that "Christians have a duty to walk in the light through the study of the word, sensitivity to the word and an abiding desire to root out ignorance in their lives."*
2. **Confess our sins** – see 1 john 1:9 – **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, "Most ignorance is exposed by our failure, not our confession. He said that a defensive attitude is never a confessional attitude. Confession

brings us into the safety of the light. **Ask them:** *What did you think of that?*

**Tell them:** Denial and active ignorance is the opposite of self-protection.

**Ask them:** *Why do you think that is? (Note: because of our passage)*

3. **Lean on Jesus – Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that you can only lean on Jesus by rooting out your ignorance because you are leaning on His reputation, credibility, and finished work. If you refuse to admit or seek out your ignorance you are leaning on your own understanding.

4. **Tell the world – Ask them:** *What did you think of the Penn and Teller story? (Note if they need to rehear it: When Penn got a Bible from an audience member. Penn said, “I don’t respect people who don’t proselytize. I don’t respect that at all. If you believe there is a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward. How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate someone to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”)*

**Ask them:** *How do these words make you feel about your witness?*

**Ask them:** *Had you ever heard of the great migration? (Note: the moving of African Americans to the west and north after the emancipation proclamation.)* **Tell them:** Pastor Michael encouraged us to read: *The Warmth of other Sons: The epic story of America’s Great Migration*. It would make a good book study if any are interested in it.

**Conclusion:** We all have blind spots in our lives, like the theologian George Whitefield who was a slave owner, but we don’t have to accept those blind spots. We can root them out through the word of God, confession and repentance.

### **Tweetable thoughts and quotes to remember**

1. Confession brings us into the safety of the light.
2. Being a Christian is about experiencing growth.
3. Denial and active ignorance is the opposite of self-protection.
4. If you refuse to admit or seek out your ignorance you are leaning on your own understanding.
5. Have you read *The Warmth of other Sons: The epic story of America’s Great Migration?*