Not A Fan Study Guide for C-Groups

This is a challenging book, you want to lead this study on the big picture ideas. There will be opportunities to have gospel conversations throughout this study. Some people will read this book and question their salvation, don’t be too quick to tell someone they are saved. Ask the right questions to see if they have ever surrendered life to God, this book could be a catalyst for a salvation decision. However, if someone has clearly accepted the gospel, build them up and do not let the enemy twist the truth of this book into unwarranted doubts. There is a dvd compliment to this study that you can purchase on your own if you choose and use it to accent the study.

Breakdown of the readings

For week 1: Read Prologue and first 4 chapters.

For week 2: Read Chapter 5, 6 and 7

For week 3: Read Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11

For week 4: Read Chapters 12, 13, and 14.
NOT A FAN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1
1. Which question, if any, made you laugh on pg. 20?

2. The definition for a fan is “enthusiastic admirer”, talk about how at some point in your life how you fit into that definition.

3. Author said that we measure often by comparisons or religious rulers, do you think you are able to be objective in assessing if you are a fan or follower?

Chapter 2
1. Do you think author is saying that a fan isn’t really a Christian?

2. Is it possible that this author is making things too black and white?

3. How has the following Jesus interfered with your life?
4. Can you identify with the guy who didn’t like Kyle’s sermons?

CHAPTER 3

1. When you read the phrase “intimacy with Jesus”, is that an uncomfortable concept for you? Where does it take your mind?

2. How can we tell the difference in our own hearts if we merely know about Jesus or if we actually know him?

3. Have somebody retell the story from Luke 7 in their own words.

4. Answer questions from pg. 51:
   - Who am I most like in the story?
   - When is the last time you had a moment with Jesus like this woman in Luke 7 had?

5. After 3 chapters, what are your general impressions of the book and the concept of fan vs. follower?

6. How has this book made you “feel”? Why?
   - challenged
   - guilty
1. Have you ever heard of Luke 14:25-26 before? What was your initial reaction when you read those verses?

2. Anybody find the typo on pg. 58?

3. There were 4 questions given to help you define your relationship with Jesus. Which question of these four did you sense that God was most speaking to you about:

- For what do you sacrifice your money?
- When you’re hurt, where do you go for comfort?
- What disappoints or frustrates you the most?
- What is it that really gets you excited?

Chapter 5
1. On page 71 Kyle describes Sadducees and Pharisees and how they view religion. Would you say that you grew up with more of a
Sadducee viewpoint, Pharisee viewpoint, or neither?

2. Kyle goes on a little rant and gives examples the last half of page 73, somebody read that paragraph and allow the group to react with what those words stir in their hearts.

3. Refresh yourself with the girl on pg. 81 that wanted to stay and take the test. Who can relate to her? After answers are given, ask someone to explain why this mindset is so harmful to the gospel.

4. On pg 83 is this statement, “we raised her in church, but we didn’t raise her in Christ.” What do you think the differences are, paint a verbal picture of both scenarios, a kid raised in church and how that differs from a kid raised in Christ. Apply.

Chapter 6
1. How much did this chapter remind you of Forgotten God?
2. “If you are depending on your own strength to follow Christ you will find yourself drained and defeated” is a statement on pg. 97. Give examples of times in your life when you have found that to be true, how do we fall into that trap? How can it be avoided?

3. Do you have your own sentence to add to the ones in the book on pg. 98? By the power of the Holy Spirit . . .

4. Discuss whatever else the group thought was meaningful, powerful, confusing, or controversial from the last 3 chapters.

Chapter 7

1. Almost the bottom of pg. 103 it says, “Many who assumed they were on the path to heaven will find out that heaven is not their destination.” What do you do with that statement, what emotions and thoughts does it provoke in you? Be honest.

2. The rest of chapter 7 is asking 3 questions, which of these questions spoke most to you? Why?
3. At this point in the book, what would be our honest assessment of your relationship with Jesus?

Chapter 8

1. Author talks about John 3:16 an Luke 9:23, why do you think one verse is so familiar to Christians and even the world, and the other is so unfamiliar?

2. What do you think the people who were following Jesus would have thought when he made the invitation to Matthew the tax collector? How would you verbalize their objection?

(answer: What you want to lead someone to say is “He doesn’t deserve it.” Then that should lead into a great discussion about deserving it, you can kickstart it by asking: Why is it so dangerous and offensive to God for us to think someone else doesn’t deserve it? Answer: It implies that we do deserve it, or deserve it more, which then communicates to God that Jesus death was unnecessary.)
Chapter 9

1. Last sentence on pg. 133 says “Followers will do some crazy things for love, but fans want to play it safe.” In context of love for Jesus, where do you find yourself in that statement?

2. Refer to Vegas story on pg. 136, can we celebrate some things in our group that fit that description, what are some things that we used to love but now we don’t want any part of because of Jesus?

3. Story on 139-140 refers to author’s grandma completing this sentence, “I’m ready to go home and be with . . . Jesus.” Wouldn’t it have been okay if she did finish with it “grandpa”, or not?

Chapter 10

1. At this point of the book we are praying you are starting to sense how God is calling you to specifically respond. Assess what the following quote from chapter 10 means in your life:
2. “you won’t be able to take the path of following Jesus without walking away from a different path.”

3. Revisit statistics on pg. 146, there are no for sure answers, but what is your opinion of how those stats can possibly exist?

4. Story on pg. 147 of couple living together, do you think author was too harsh or was he right on in your opinion?

5. Pg. 151 “you can’t call Jesus Lord without calling yourself a slave.” True or False? Is the idea of being a slave new to you, or different than what you thought when you became a Christian?

Chapter 11

1. If you met someone who had never read the Bible at all, and they asked you what does it mean when a Christian says they need to “die to self daily”, how would you answer?
2. Pg 165 tells story of a crooked pharmacist, reread that paragraph, do you think the American church is guilty of diluting the gospel? Why or why not?

3. Did you write anything in your notes/journal from pg. 169 when it asks you to write down what dying daily might look like in your life? Do share.

Chapter 12
1. Use examples on page 177 to help you answer this question from the book: Where is the one place you find it most difficult to follow Jesus?

2. How about that story of the missionaries Adoniram and Anne Judson? What did you think?

3. Pg. 180 has this quote: “God doesn’t do consulting. Never has. Never will.” Can you identify time in your life when you have treated God as a consultant? Do tell.
4. How would you finish the statement on pg. 182: Saying yes to following Jesus meant saying no to . . .

Chapter 13

1. Why was Jesus so harsh with the excuses he was confronted with in Luke 9?

2. Who can identify with Scott on pg. 192, is that your story? What changed your course?

3. Bottom of pg. 195: “the more you put him off the less likely he is to get your attention. “ You buy that? Have you experienced that?

Chapter 14

1. Revisit pg. 203, author uses examples of Pam, Steve, Stephanie and Doug, re-read those and then ask what do you think Jesus is asking about in your life?

2. How does it strike you that God is possibly jealous of some things in your life?

3. Possibly the question of the book on pg. 209: What would change if you were to go all-in
and be completely committed in following Jesus?

4. Whether you do it this week or next week is up to you, but you want to conclude the study with the “Not a Fan Next Step Form”. The point of this form is to help you as a leader take what God has been saying to group members and mark it in a way that you continue to help, encourage and hold accountable going forward. The form is a PDF file on the Study guide page.