

# Small Group Study Guide

Remembering How to Have Conviction Again  
From Sunday October 17, 2021

**Start your time together just with a moment of silence, to collect your thoughts and to prayer personally that God would direct your thoughts, conversation and response to the study.**

## Appetizer:

**Question:** What is an axiom or a saying, outside of the Scriptures, that is important to you (Example: It Takes Team Work to Make a Dream Work, Many Hands Make Light Work, etc). Have people share. Why is this axiom important to you?

## Main Course:

**Opening Conversation:** Ron Sider wrote a book a few years ago titled, "The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience." In the book he asked the question: Why are Christians Living Just like the rest of the world?

**What do you think the answer is to this question?** Why is this question a "loaded question"? What does "Christian living" mean to you?

In His sermon, Jeff mentioned that any conversation about Christians and convictions is problematic because of two things:

1. Christians are self-aware and insecure about the strangeness of Christian living in a pluralistic world.
2. There are so many different voices using the same Christian language but meaning different things in our world.

**Question:** Have you experienced any of these challenges when it comes to what you believe?

**Read: Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.**

**Discussion:** Convictions are firmly held beliefs. Romans 1:16 is written with conviction. Paul is saying that there is power in the gospel to everyone who believes. **What is the gospel?**

**Discussion:** We have been promised life-transformation through our convictions/beliefs (See John 15:6; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 6:18). However, we have experienced a loss of conviction in our society and in our churches, where we don't see life-transformation because don't see engagement.

**Question:** In what areas of society have we seen a lack of conviction?

In the Christian community, we have struggled with a loss of conviction when it comes to two things: (1) breaking away from the values of the world around us and (2) Living in an outstanding/excellent way.

**Question:** What are some of the values of the world that Christians have clung to that get in the way of Christian conviction?

**Question:** What are some examples of Christians living in an outstanding/excellent way according to their Christian convictions?

## Dessert:

In order to re-embrace our Christian convictions there are a couple things we can do:

### 1. We can ask ourselves what makes the gospel appealing in our lives.

-take some time as a group to make a chart of Christian convictions that we see Jesus mention, teach, or model. Write those convictions down in one column. After that, write how this value/conviction contrasts with the world's values.

### 2. We can determine to take our Christian convictions seriously again. When we take the gospel seriously, it frees us from taking ourselves seriously. Two suggestions on how to take our Christian convictions seriously:

**a. Remember that our convictions are empowered by the Holy Spirit.** The most regularly urged missionary activity in the New Testament is prayer. As a group take time to pray for the things that we have listed as Christian convictions, that God would empower us to represent those convictions well.

**b. Remember that our convictions are for the sake of others.** 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 says, “For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. Commit to living out one of the Christian values listed in your list of Christian convictions to practice this week for the sake of others. If you feel comfortable, go around the room and ask people what they will be committed to do as representatives of Christ this week for the sake of others.