

Seeking God's Solution for a Spirit-Filled Canada

Leader's Notes

You will find some suggested answers to the questions in the study. These are not all the answers but can give you a guideline if you need it.

Session One - God's Plan for Seasoned Leadership

Thoughts to Consider – page 8

1. Where have you seen this in action in our world, in our country, in our city or village?
 - Look for answers of politicians who have thought out of the box, (for example – Tommy Douglas who introduced car insurance, labour reforms and universal Medicare), those who have started charities that will help others (ie. Terry Fox), missions to our country and other countries (ie. Habitat for Humanity¹, Living Water², World Vision³), community concerns (ie. Food Banks, Youth Unlimited/Youth for Christ⁴)

2. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Can you give examples from your own experiences where you have seen this to be true?
 - Look for ideas trying to get joy from money (fleeting happiness), always needing more money. Suggest famous actors, businessmen, etc. (who have fallen into this trap). Talk about how the love of money becomes power and power breeds selfishness and can lead to temptation and sin

1 <http://www.habitat.ca/>

2 <http://www.water.cc/main.aspx>

3 <http://www.worldvision.ca/Pages/Home.aspx>

4 <http://www.yfccanada.com/>

Session Two - Is God Religious?

Read excerpt from Battle for the Soul of Canada - Is God Religious? – page 13

1. Why do you think Ed says, “Never had I imagined that having a relationship with Jesus could be more fun than going to a party or getting drunk?”
 - Many people just endure the service; go to church out of obligation or to be seen; a social setting or country club
 - Worshipping in church can be much more than that. It can be a personal and congregation experience; celebrating the life, death and resurrection of Jesus

- We need to celebrate and be joyful. Jesus says in Luke 10:21:

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”

And in John 17:13:

I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

Thoughts to Consider – page 14

1. Why are people coming to Christ by the thousands in Africa and other underdeveloped countries?
 - People in Africa and third world countries are hungry for God; they know that only He can save them
2. Why is this not happening in Canada?
 - Many people in Canada live in the “world” and are self-sufficient (or think they are); they rely on education, money, and family in order to live
 - Many in Canada don’t realize that faith comes by hearing the Word of God, and nothing else will work to generate faith. Life in Christ does not consist solely of information. The kingdom consists not in words but in power (1 Corinthians 4:20, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.”)
3. What do you think is the meaning of a “religious” person?
 - You might get answers such as, “a person who goes to church”, “believes in God”, “doesn’t swear”
 - Dictionary: having or showing belief in and reverence for God or a deity; of concerned with or teaching religion; extremely scrupulous or conscientious¹
 - “Religious” is a general word, applying to whatever pertains to faith or worship
 - “Religious” implies adherence to religion in both belief and practice
 - Someone who follows rules and regulations
 - Someone who lives what they believe

Delve Deeper into the Bible – page 15

1. What does this tell you about worldly wisdom and fleshly, human-based solutions?
 - We cannot trust in “the world’s” thought patterns
 - We miss out on the mystery of God
 - We miss the power of God

2. What does it tell you about where to find wisdom and answers to life's questions and struggles?
 - We should ask God for wisdom in all we do

Brainstorming – page 16

1. What has a relationship with Christ given you?
 - Peace, freedom, never feeling alone, etc.
2. In what ways can we interact with people to show our true relationship with Jesus?
 - Patience, asking for fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22)
3. If people are to have “fun” in church and not just “endure” it, what suggestions can you give to make this happen?

Some suggestions:

- Small groups
- Drama, different music
- Knowing Christ – celebration of His life, death and resurrection
- To have His love shown in all we do
- Excitement in living and loving Christ

¹ *Canadian Dictionary*, Nelson, 1997

Session Three - From Sea to Shining Sea

Read excerpt from *Battle for the Soul of Canada - From Sea to Shining Sea* – page 19

1. Tell how we came to be known as the Dominion of Canada. (When? By whom? How?)
 - Date: Sept. 1, 1864
 - While drafting the British North America Act, 33 Fathers made suggestions of what to call this new “United Canada”. Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley became convinced that Canada should be a nation under God. He presented the inspired name of Dominion of Canada. The other Fathers readily agreed.

2. Which Scripture does it come from? Copy out the verse.

- Psalm 72: 8

“He will rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

3. How does the Canadian Charter of Rights see the founding of Canada?

- Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law
- In 1999, MP Svend Robinson brought forward a failed proposal before the Canadian House of Commons that would have amended the *Charter* by removing the mention of God, as he felt it did not reflect Canada’s diversity. (Wikipedia¹)

4. What are the words on our Coat of Arms and what do they mean?

- A Mari Usque ad Mare (from sea to sea)

Delve Deeper into the Bible – page 21

1. How are we told to live our lives?

- We are told to live without fear, by praying, and giving thanksgiving

2. What is the promise if we do this?

- We will receive peace that will guard our hearts and minds

3. Can you give an example of how prayer has helped you?

- Finding peace amid difficulties
- Knowing that God is in charge helps dispel fear
- Seeing answered prayers

4. Joining together in prayer is powerful. Why?

- Jesus is our intercessor and will answer our prayers. There have been many examples of miracles through prayer
- Praying gives encouragement to the prayer and prayee
- Jesus said in Matthew 18: 19-20, “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Brainstorming – page 22

1. Are you struggling with something at the moment that needs God’s attention? Have you come to Him with all that is on your heart and mind? If you can, share your concerns with the group and have someone pray for you.
 - Discuss how we can bring everything to God, all problems, worries, struggles, ambitions, insecurities

2. In our country, what problems do you see that need God’s intervention? Make a list together and pray those with your group.
 - Ideas: morality, drugs, alcohol, lack of respect for feelings, life, lack of time, families stressed caring for kids, working
 - Native Canadians, respect, living conditions
 - Technology has sped us up, instead of relating with people we relate to machines

1 <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

Session Four A.B. Simpson – A Canadian Hero

Read excerpt from Battle for the Soul of Canada - A.B. Simpson: A Canadian Hero – page 26

1. How do you know that Simpson was blessed from his birth?
 - He was baptized and in prayer committed to future missionary service

2. What success did Simpson have?
 - Knox Church in Hamilton – 750 people joined over 8 years. He “stood out at that time as one of the most brilliant young ministers of our church in Canada.”
 - Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church, Kentucky – he brought racial reconciliation and forgiveness among the churches
 - Remarkable personal healing, healing of others

3. How did God use failure at 13th Street Presbyterian Church in New York to enhance the Kingdom?
 - He had a vision of a fellowship of Christians where everyone was welcome
 - Healings – his health, his daughter’s cure from diphtheria
 - Encouragement from doctors
 - Largely attended meetings for healing (500-1000)
4. What did Simpson have to let go in order to accomplish this?
 - He had to abandon his security, reputation and prestige
5. What kept Simpson from slipping into discouragement?
 - Inner strength and resilience, from God
 - Personal healing
6. What shows Simpson’s desire for interdenominational unity?
 - An Anglican priest became Simpson’s associate pastor
 - He allowed them to erect an altar table
 - They would preach and conduct communion together
 - He welcomed everyone
 - Love for the whole community

Thoughts to Consider – page 27

Can you answer the following Canadian history questions?

1. Who was Canada’s first Prime Minister?
 - John A. MacDonald
2. Who were the first four members of Confederation?
 - Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec
3. How many territories and provinces does Canada have (2008)?
 - Ten provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, P.E.I.) and three territories (The Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Nunavut)

Delve Deeper into the Bible – page 28

1. With whom did Jesus meet?
 - Tax collectors and sinners
2. Why do you think Jesus took time with these people?
 - He knew that they needed to find God
 - He knew that they were ready to confess and be free
 - The Jewish leaders already thought they knew God so it was harder for Jesus to reach them
3. What can you do, personally, to bring others to know Christ?
 - Start conversations, get to know your neighbours
 - Show your love and concern for others
 - Start a Bible study – invite your neighbours, friends, family
 - Invite them to your church or church functions

Session Five Open-Minded and Open-Hearted

Read excerpt from Battle for the Soul of Canada - Open-Minded and Open-Hearted – page 32

1. Is God interested in those who are closed-minded? What did God do to show us this interest?
 - God sent Jesus and His Holy Spirit, especially for those who didn't want anything to do with Him (one example, Acts 9:17)
2. What suggestions does Ed give us to guide those who say they are open-minded but haven't really checked out the Bible?
 - By reading the Bible – check out the source documents
 - By reading the Bible – find out who Jesus really was
 - Check out the churches in your area
 - “Have you read it? Give me an example.”

3. What do you think of the quote by Blaise Pascal, who said:

Human knowledge must be understood to be believed, but divine knowledge must be believed to be understood.

Do you agree or not? Why?

- We cannot make people know Christ; He cannot be forced on anyone
- It is in God's timing and planning that people will come to Him

Points to Ponder

1. What does it mean to be closed-minded? Check with a dictionary, as well as giving your own thoughts.

- Fixed in a certain way, unmoveable
- Not wanting change or even being open to listening about change
- Dictionary meaning (close-minded or closed-minded): Intolerant of the beliefs and opinions of others; unreceptive to new ideas¹

2. Besides the Bible, what other books have you read that helped you in your journey with Christ?

- C.S. Lewis, any of his books
- Anglican Book of Common Prayer
- Dr. E. Stanley Jones' devotional books
- Biographies on leaders like the Wesleys
- Bible commentaries
- Anything by John Stott including, *The Cross of Christ*
- *Nine O'Clock in the Morning*, Dennis Bennett
- *Miracle in Darien*, Bob Slosser
- *The Papa Prayer*, Larry Crabb
- *Case for Christ*, Lee Stobel
- *Disappointment in God*, Philip Yancey
- *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers
- *Prayer*, Phillip Yancey
- Alpha program (<http://www.alphacanada.org/>)

3. Do you ever recall being closed-minded? If so, can you remember what was blocking you from understanding Christ?
 - Personally, I didn't understand the historicity of the Bible. I had to understand the historical Jesus before I could come to grips with His reality.
 - Other reasons could be university studies in anthropology and evolution
 - Anger at God because of pain or death
 - A bad church experience that blocked reconnection with God

Thoughts to Consider

1. When you greet someone and ask, "How are you?" are you interested in their well-being? Why or why not? If you are interested how could you extend this question to make sure you are having a deeper conversation?
 - Try using the word "really". How are you really?
 - Add additional questions – How's your family? Work? What have you been doing lately?
2. Have you met anyone with negative fixed views about the Bible and Christianity? Have these people opened or studied the Bible? If they haven't, how could you start to open their minds?
 - By this point they will have read Ed's book and might give you some of Ed's answers. See if you can get any examples from experiences your group members have had.
 - Chatting with them and getting to know them better

Delve Deeper into the Bible – page 34

1. How does this Scripture help you with your desire to tell people about Jesus?
 - Once again, we know that God is in charge; He will open their minds
2. How does David tell Solomon to find the LORD?
 - Seek Him

3. Because we can't make people know Jesus, how can we encourage them?
 - We can encourage people to be open-minded and read the Bible
 - Suggest that they seek to learn more
 - Give our testimonies
 - Invite them to accompany us to church or Bible study
 - Show concern about their lives and the lives of their families
 - Set a good example in how we live

4. We are told not to lose heart. What should we do instead?
 - We preach Jesus as Lord and show ourselves as servants of God
 - God has given us the light of knowing the glory of God and we should show that light to others

5. Who is the god of this age?
 - Satan (ie. money, prestige, possessions)

Brainstorming – page 36

1. “The Bible will always remain a closed book to the closed-minded.” How can we make this book be opened to more people?
 - Give money to Bible societies who share the good news to those who want to know more about Christ (Gideons², Bible Society³, Bible League of Canada⁴)
 - Give a Bible to a family member, friend or neighbour
 - Leave a Bible on the coffee table and be ready to tell how it has changed your life
 - Attend or lead Bible studies
 - Sending cards or emails with Bible verses (ie Dayspring⁵)

2. If you have had any success stories of someone coming to Christ, share it with the group.
 - As a leader it would be good to have some stories available, if not personally, talk about something you have heard or read

1 Canadian Dictionary, Nelson, 1997

2 <http://www.gideons.ca/>

3 <http://www.biblesociety.ca/index.html>

4 <http://www.thebibleleague.ca/>

5 <http://www.dayspring.com/>

Session Six Do this in Remembrance of Me

Read excerpt from *Battle for the Soul of Canada* - *Do this in Remembrance of Me* – page 40

Ed says, “Timothy was Paul’s No.1 troubleshooter for memory recovery.”

1. What is the New Testament Greek word for “memory”? What does it mean?
 - Greek word is *anamnesei*
 - Being reminded, be recalled, returned to one’s mind
2. How does Ed suggest that we help our next generations to remember?
 - Getting our parents, grandparents to write their memoirs
3. “A profound amnesia has come over our nation in such a short period.” Explain what has happened in Canada to our memory of Jesus.
 - Many youth have not seen the Ten Commandments or the Lord’s Prayer
 - Fewer children in Sunday school due to “sport crazed” and “shopaholic” culture
 - People don’t know who the Lord is
4. What is one of the reasons we celebrate the Lord’s Supper/Eucharist as Christians?
 - To recover our Christian memory
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit is to revive our memories

Points to Ponder – page 41

1. What are some of your earliest memories of being loved, cared for or wanted? How did your family show affection? How did or do they remember past times?
 - Discuss birthday parties, anniversaries, times with relatives
 - Bedtime stories, games, walks, hugs
 - Pictures and storytelling
 - Make sure you allow time for those who have not had a good upbringing to discuss how they felt as a child; allow them to discuss who gave them affection

3. How does your church celebrate special events?

- Dinners, picnics, retreats
- Communion, Baptism, Confirmation
- Flowers and decorations
- Recognizing children and their accomplishments
- Joining the church

Thoughts to Consider – page 41

2. Have you told others about these times? Why or why not?

- These recollections are testimonies of God’s work in your life. Consider writing down your three memories so you can share them with your family and friends

Delve Deeper into the Bible – page 42

1. By laying a foundation, Paul became a father of the gospel, through Christ. Timothy reminds his followers of how Paul’s life was one of “being Christ”. Do you have someone that can “reformat your Christian memory banks”? If so, describe that person and give an example of how that can happen.

- Pastors, ministers and priests (sermons, conversations, workshops, studies)
- A mentor that will remind you to look to Christ for answers
- A relative that watches over and prays for you
- Christian books, TV shows and music

2. Ed says, “Communion is the ‘revival of our dormant memories’”. How do you think celebrating communion can reinforce our memories?

- Through the Holy Spirit
- By repetition
- Being with fellow believers while we celebrate
- Confession before we take the elements
- Being able to reflect

Brainstorming – page 43

1. Name some things that can draw us away from Christ's message.
 - False teachers (new age books, self-help books, spirituality where man is the centre)
 - Money
 - Fame
 - Emotions
 - Worldly activities (sports, games, shopping, possessions) if they become the focus of our lives
 - Distractions (stuff)
 - Not really listening or paying attention
 - Not praying

2. What are some ways we can keep our memories alive for Christ?
 - Bible study groups
 - Church services
 - Prayer
 - Christian conferences
 - Christian TV shows or media
 - Good books by Christian authors
 - Celebrating communion
 - Christian music

3. What signs of Christ do you see in our society?
 - Food banks
 - Mission trips (well drilling, building homes, schools and orphanages in third world countries)
 - Children's centres, seniors residences, community centres
 - Pregnancy care centres
 - Pastoral visitation
 - Palliative care, hospitals
 - Volunteers
 - Friends and neighbours