

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read **Philippians 3:4b-14**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In today's text, Paul helps us understand that being a fanatical-kind-of-Christian may cause more harm than good. When fanatical devotion to belief causes us to lose perspective, we can find ourselves in a place that justifies exclusivity, hate, and violence all on the name of Christ. Is it possible that we are working against God's hope for us when we require certain behaviors or credentials from other Christians?

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create — Writing

Have you ever lost perspective and justified violence, hate, or exclusivity in the name of Jesus? Describe an experience in your life where you wished you would have responded differently. How would you change your actions to better reflect the life and actions of Christ?

Make two lists. In the first list, include names of people or incidents in your school where "Christians" have been hateful, mean, intolerant, or violent toward others. On the next list, include names of people or groups or events that have happened on a national or global level where "Christians" have been hateful, violent, intolerant, etc. Compare your lists with a partner and discuss reasons why "Christians" may have acted this way.

✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Create a visual of a "Super Christian." Using any art supplies you desire, create a portrait of a "Super Christian" and think of this as a caricature. It should be over-the-top and a dramatic interpretation.

✔ Create — Outside the Box

Sometimes it would be beneficial for Christian to go back and really look at the life of Christ. If we are serious about following the teachings and life of Christ, we will quickly realize it is a difficult one to emulate. He was a servant in the purest form. The world didn't know what to think of him or how to take him. He was counter-cultural. He was not popular. Write a piece of poetry about Christ- who he was and what it really means to follow him.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer asking God to help you stay focused on the things that matter and to always be an example of Jesus' love, peace, justice, and compassion.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

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