

# DANGEROUS FAITH

## Discussion Notes

### DISOBEY!

Philip started by describing two common mistakes people make about faith:

1. Faith is a support for the weak. Lots of non-Christians might say faith is a crutch that people who aren't strong enough to deal with the reality of life need.
  2. Faith is a supplement. Lots of Christians view their faith as an optional extra, an add-on to their normal life. Their life looks a lot like everyone else's but just with 'Jesus icing'.
- Have you made either of these two mistakes yourself? Would your friends describe your faith as either of these two?
  - Philip explained that both of these see faith as 'safe'. Have you ever felt like your faith is a bit too 'safe'?

Paul addresses this in Romans 12. He has spent the first 11 chapters of the letter explaining the fundamentals of faith with the dominant message being that God's love is for all. Then in this passage he turns to challenge them about how they live their faith. Read the first few verses of this passage together.

Paul starts by explaining that the 'proper' worship is to be a living sacrifice. This word 'proper' could also be translated as 'logical' - the logical and rational response to God's love is sacrifice.

- What do you think the phrase 'living sacrifice' means in our lives today?
- Why would a 'living sacrifice' be the rational choice? Is that how our friends look at our faith?

Paul then sets out a choice between two options:

1. Sacrifice to God
2. Conform to the world

Philip explained that Paul was making it clear to us, if we don't make an active choice to resist then we will conform to the patterns of the world.

- Do you agree? If so, where have you seen this to be true? Where in you or your friends' lives do you see conforming to the patterns of the world?
- Have you ever considered the fact that you have a choice between these two options?

Philip then explained how our brains are hardwired to learn patterns without us even realising. They are programmed by outside forces of the world around us. And the more we do something, the easier it becomes to do that thing. So the more we conform to the world around us, the easier it becomes to continue conforming.

- How does this happen? i.e. social media, friendship groups, advertising.
- How can we be aware of this pattern of conforming growing in our lives?
- What can we do to break this cycle of conforming to the world? What habits can we develop i.e. around social media, work etc.?

Finally, Paul calls us to 'be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

- What does this mean?

- What area of live do you need a renewal of your mind? (This one might require some vulnerability)
- Philip said three key actions we can do as Christians to see transformation is to commit to hub life, get a mentor and spend time with the Bible. Which one of these three do you want to commit to?

There are several things you could pray for at the end of this study. You might want to pray for people with specific patterns they want to break in their life. Or, you might want to pray for boldness to invite friends to Alpha and the rest of the Dangerous Faith series. Or both!