

WEIRD—1 WEIRD IN A “GOD” WAY

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13-14

- **IF YOU WANT WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE HAVE, DO WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE DO.**
- **IF YOU WANT WHAT FEW PEOPLE HAVE, DO WHAT FEW PEOPLE DO.** (Get weird)

WEIRD PEOPLE

- **DON'T THINK LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE THINK.**

Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right... Romans 12:2 NIrV

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out... Romans 12:2 MSG

***WEIRD* TEACHES YOU TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT:**

- 1) **TIME**
- 2) **MONEY**
- 3) **RELATIONSHIPS**
- 4) **SEX**
- 5) **VALUES**

- **DON'T LIVE LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE LIVE.**

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:11-12

- **HOW IS GOD LEADING YOU AWAY FROM NORMAL INTO THE GOD-KIND OF WEIRD?**
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TALK IT OVER

- What are some ways you're getting sick of being normal?
- What are some thought patterns and behaviors that would lead you towards a God kind of weird?
- What kind of custom weird do you feel God calling you to? What next step will you take this week?

Get a little weirder this week by talking through these questions with a friend. Download a full study guide for your LifeGroup or watch a short video discussion at www.lifechurch.tv/tio-questions.

WEIRD—2
WEIRD IS BETTER

- **IF YOU WANT WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE HAVE, DO WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE DO.**
- **IF YOU WANT WHAT FEW PEOPLE HAVE, DO WHAT FEW PEOPLE DO.**

“...Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16

hagios (hag'-ee-os); to be pure, to set apart, to be different.

Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.¹⁰When I weep and fast, they scoff at me.¹¹When I dress in burlap to show sorrow, they make fun of me.¹²I am the favorite topic of town gossip, and all the drunks sing about me.
Psalm 69:9-12 NLT

CONSTANT PRESSURE TO CONFORM TO THE NORM

1) THE INWARD PRESSURE: THE NEED TO PLEASE.

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. Proverbs 29:25

2) THE OUTWARD PRESSURE: CRITICISM.

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you...²⁰If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also..." John 15:18-20

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you

because of me.¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven..." Matthew 5:10-12

- **I CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE, BUT I CAN PLEASE GOD.**

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people... 1
Thessalonians 2:4 NLT

WEIRD—3 WEIRD DESIRES

- **IF YOU WANT WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE HAVE, DO WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE DO.**
- **IF YOU WANT WHAT FEW PEOPLE HAVE, DO WHAT FEW PEOPLE DO.**

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 John 2:16-17 NLT

NORMAL PEOPLE

- **WANT WHAT THEY WANT NOW, NOT LATER.**

The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' Luke 15:12 NLT

- **TRADE THE ULTIMATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE.**

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. 30 He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" ... 31 Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." 32 "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" Genesis 25:29-32

- **WHAT'S YOUR BOWL OF STEW? _____**

WEIRD PEOPLE

- **KNOW LATER IS OFTEN BETTER THAN NOW.**

Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city. Proverbs 16:32 NLT

- **SEEK GOD UNTIL HIS DESIRES BECOME THEIR DESIRES.**

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires.

Galatians 5:16-17 NLT

TALK IT OVER

- What desires are holding you back from living as weird as God may be leading you to be?
- What's your bowl of stew—the main desire that you're trading in God's best for?
- How will you get help to overcome the sinful desires that have a hold on you?

To walk toward the weird life few people have, your first step may be talking it over with a friend. Download a study guide for your LifeGroup or watch a short discussion video at www.lifechurch.tv/tio-questions.

WEIRD—4
WEIRD WAY TO SAVE THE WORLD

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matt 7:13-14

TWO VIEWS OF GOD

1) RELIGION: MAN'S NORMAL ATTEMPT TO REACH GOD.

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. Isa 29:13

RELIGION LEADS TO:

- **PRIDE**
- **DESPAIR**

2) CHRIST: GOD'S WEIRD WAY TO REACH MAN.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Phil. 3:4-7

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Phil. 3:8b-9

rubbish: skúbala (scoo'-ba-la) rubbish, garbage, human or animal waste, dung.

Religion

What I do

About me

Do

If I obey God will love me

Christ

What Jesus has done

About Jesus

Done

Because God loves me can obey

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

TALK IT OVER

- How have you seen pride or despair come from pursuing God through your own religious effort?
- What seems the weirdest to you about God reaching out to us through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ?
- As you think about the weird way God chose to save the world, what response does it compel you to make?

Take time to talk it over with a friend to see your life through a weird new perspective.
Download a study guide for your LifeGroup or watch a short discussion video at
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WEIRD – 5
A WEIRD VIEW OF MONEY

1. Written Game Plan
2. Act Your Wage
3. Save Money
4. Get out of Debt
5. Give

TALK IT OVER

- If someone looked at your monthly statements, what would your spending say about your heart?
- What are some things you have learned about money that aren't true?
- What money habits will you modify to become weirder with your finances?

Taking time to talk it over with a friend can help you see your finances in a weird new way. If you're in a LifeGroup, you may want to download an expanded study guide or watch a short discussion video at www.lifechurch.tv/tio-questions.