

## Week 4: Is Christianity too Narrow?

### Before the Meeting...

- Remember that our goals are to perhaps launch an Explore God Discussion Group from within each community group (that can happen anytime!); to equip our group members to answer these difficult questions in the daily course of their relationships; and to help solidify our own beliefs by understanding why we believe what we believe.
- Remember to combine resources from [exploreGod.com](http://exploreGod.com) (so much great stuff out there!) and these supplemental resources for your group time together.
- Ideally you should be rotating meeting locations by now in your groups, which helps everyone get to know one another better. (You must communicate locations well for this to be effective.) Also, be certain to include time for prayer and ministry to one another – this is crucial to group life! [Check out Page 4 in these notes for ideas on doing prayer in your groups.](#)

### During the Meeting...

#### Break the Ice (choose one)

1. Briefly tell the group about a time when you got lost? What happened? (*Easy segue into this week's topic since directions for travel either get you to your destination or not.*)
2. You were just given a yacht. What would you name it? And why?

### Watch Video 1: Pulse of the World on Pain and Suffering

#### Discuss from among the following:

1. Discuss the Explore God (EG) provided questions as applicable (see EG material)
2. Discuss within your group the statement made near the end of Video 1: *"Christians want to tell people what to believe rather than helping them find it."*  
Do you find this statement to be generally true amongst people today?  
As Christ followers, how are we to react to others that have this impression?
3. Do you believe that if people really are seeking "truth" that they will ultimately find it?  
Why or why not?

### Watch Video 2: The Curiosity Collective: Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

*I believe that this is the best EG video, yet!*

#### Discuss from among the following:

1. Discuss the Explore God provided questions as applicable (see EG material).
2. In Video 2, Corey suggests, "When people say that all religions are the same, that sounds really humble and tolerant." (This begins at 1:20 in Video 2 – the Story of the Elephant.)  
Why does he go on to say that those claims are actually exclusive?  
What did hip hop artist "Propaganda" mean when he said: "narrow is not necessarily

bad...if it is clear, concise, decisive, attainable – that’s a *good narrow*.” (Time 4:27 in Video 2.)

**On Sunday, Pastor Mitch talked about three windows through which the world views our faith. The following questions connect with those three “C’s”.**

3. In the first window we looked at **Christianity** and how the church is looked upon today. How would you describe what a healthy church should look like to the world today? In your opinion, what are some key ingredients that every Christian church should have in common?
4. The second window was **Christians** and how we reflect our faith to the world. Discuss the pervasive criticism that all Christians are hypocrites. How does that accusation make you feel? What are some ways to break down this barrier with the people with whom you interact on a regular basis?
5. The third window is **Christ** Himself. Jesus said in John 14:6 *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* How does the phrase (from the video) “Truth is narrow but grace is wide” connect to Jesus’ claim? (*Hint: What background, appearance, ethnicity, etc. is required of anyone who wishes to follow Christ?*)  
  
Having heard Sunday’s message and/or watched this week’s videos, how could you respond to someone who feels that this is too narrow?

### Inspire

1. Who in your life (at work, family, neighborhood, etc.) might you be able to help understand that “narrow” is not necessarily a bad thing? Take a moment and invite the group to pray for these people by name.

### Prayer & Ministry

Turn on some worship music (as background) and invite people to respond to the following:

1. How have you responded personally to Jesus’ very clear claim to be the exclusive way to right relationship with God? Do you feel that you are on a bumpy dead-end street, or on a four-lane highway trying to reach God? (*Be prepared to pray with some to receive Christ!*)
2. Take time and invite group members to share any personal needs for which they would like prayer as a group. Go for it!

### After the meeting...

- Email the attached .PDF to your group members as a resource: *The King, the Blind Men, and the Elephant*

### Pastor Dwayne’s Further Recommendations:

- Great article to hand out (or email later) to your group: [What Makes Christianity Different?](#)
- Challenging EG Video: [Are Christians Judgmental?](#)