

STUDY GUIDE: “WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

“Practicing Jesus”

Discussion Starters

1. What can you do now that you couldn’t do when you first tried?
2. What have you tried to do that you have given up on because you weren’t good enough?

Study

3. To begin this study, read each passage below and note what it tells us about “practicing Jesus” (the Christian life).

1 John 1:5-10

Matthew 7:21

Matthew 26:39

To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NAS—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

4. Define the following words or terms. Note for each of them how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage. Note why you believe this word is on this list.

--“fellowship” (1 John 1:6)—

--“practice” (1 John 1:6)—

--“cleanses” (1 John 1:7)—

--“confess” (1 John 1:9)—

--“does” (Matthew 7:21)—

--“will” (Matthew 26:39)—

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5. From these passages, what does it mean to “practice” God’s will?

6. How would you respond to someone who says they are Christian but does not practice God’s will?

7. Can someone who struggles with sin and repeatedly sins still be Christian? Please explain from this study.

8. How does someone know God’s will in order to practice it?

Taking It Home

9. In what areas of your life are you confident of God’s will?

10. In what areas of your life are you not sure of God’s will? How can you know this?

11. What sin do you wrestle with most often? What can you do to be able to wrestle with that sin less, and to win those “wrestling matches”?