

You Asked For It! Week Four – Can a Christian drink alcohol?

This page is the leader guide for this week. Use these conversation starters as a tool to help your group open up. It would be impossible to cover all these questions in your group.

- Have you ever wondered why a fish caught out of the ocean is not salty? That fish lives in the salt water all his life but avoids being infiltrated by it. How does the analogy apply to Christ followers? There are some that say Christians should isolate themselves from the world. Some say Christians should become like the world in order to reach people. What is the biblical perspective? (John 17:15)
- Many times, people ask questions about alcohol not for their benefit but in order to judge someone else's behavior. Do you find yourself judging other's behavior? Is that healthy for a Christ follower?
- In John Chapter 2 Jesus turned approximately 180 gallons of water into wine. What does that do to the argument that it is wrong to drink alcohol? Some have gone so far as to say that Jesus turned water into grape juice, not wine. Why do you think this is such a big issue for some people? Do you think that this kind of thinking helps the kingdom or hurts the kingdom?
- Why do you think this is a particularly hot button issue in the south?
- Is there any substantial difference between drunkenness and gluttony? Why do people think of them as different?
- For those of you who have dealt with the pain associated with alcohol abuse and addiction, how is your opinion on alcohol consumption different than others?
- When you drink socially, what is your motivation? Are you trying to fit in? Is that ok from a biblical perspective?
- If someone makes a decision not drink because they feel it is wrong, is that an immature person? Could their decision be valid? Is it appropriate to try and convince them otherwise?
- John Chapter 2 illustrates that Jesus was the life of the party or at the least, he was in charge of the beverages. Why do many have a problem with a fun Jesus? If Jesus came to your party, what would he bring? The bible says that he was a friend of sinners. He was accused of being demon possessed and a drunkard. How do you suppose he got that reputation?
- Although NewSpring teaches that a believer has freedom to drink alcohol, NewSpring says that drinking is not permitted at HomeGroup meetings. Why would the church make that kind of prohibition?
- Do you think some people hold on to this freedom to drink too tightly? What would you say to a person not willing to give up a liberty in order to see a brother in Christ come to maturity in Christ?

Here are some scriptures related to this subject for your study time.

- Proverbs 31:4-7
- John 2
- John 8:34
- Acts 10:9-15
- Rom. 13:13
- Rom. 14
- 1 Cor. 8
- 1 Cor. 10:23 - 33
- Gal. 5:13-14
- Ephesians 5:18
- Col. 2:16-17
- Col. 3:17
- Jude 4

This page is a quiet time guide for the group for this week. Make enough copies for everyone.

SUNDAY

Galatians 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

Prayer: Pray that God uses NewSpring to clearly communicate the freedom we have in Christ to those in our community.

Question: Is there anything in your life that is barrier holding you back from an incredible walk with God?

MONDAY

Ephesians 5:18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

Prayer: Pray that God will keep the body of believers at NewSpring pure and set apart to do work for Him.

Question: Is there anything in your life sidetracking you from what God has called you to do?

TUESDAY

Proverbs 20:1 *Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler: Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.*

Prayer: Pray for God to break the chains of bondage for those who are struggling with substance abuse addiction at NewSpring.

Question: What are some ways we can protect ourselves from making poor decisions?

WEDNESDAY

1 Corinthians 5:11 *But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.*

Prayer: Pray that God will help us build relationships with people who don't know Him.

Question: Are you consistent in your behavior in every circumstance?

THURSDAY

Proverbs 31:4-5 *It is not for kings, O Lemuel—not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.*

Prayer: Pray for opportunities to lead those around you to Christ.

Question: Proverbs clearly states that abusing alcohol will have an adverse impact on a leader's ability to make decisions. What is impairing your ability to lead?

FRIDAY

John 2:9 *And the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine.*

Prayer: Pray that the people of our community would see who Jesus really is.

Question: Are you becoming more like other Christians or more like Christ?

SATURDAY

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

Prayer: Pray for God to reveal to us how to live in this world but not be of it.

Question: How can we love Jesus with all our heart and still impact the people who don't know Christ?

Here are some scriptures related to this subject for your study time.

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- John 8:34
- Acts 10:9-15
- Rom. 13:13
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