

Get Started

Provide a snack at the beginning of the group time. Put out both disposable and non-disposable plates and cups, so that people can take either one.

Encourage each person to get a snack, and then to find one other person and ask them what their favorite possession is—the one thing they would save in a fire.

After about ten minutes, ask people to take their seats so that you can get started. Ask:

[Q] Did you take a disposable plate or a non-disposable one? Why?

[Q] Name all the disposable things you can see in this room.

[Q] What disposable item do you feel like you can't live without?

[Q] What disposable item do you avoid if at all possible?

[Q] What are disposable besides *things* in our society?

Most of us have grown up in a culture that has moved increasingly in the direction of the disposable. The reason? We are in love with pain-free lives.

A pain-free life has become the new god of our society—a god to be pursued at any cost, a god for whom anything else can be sacrificed. That, by the way, is why so many people have turned away from the God of the Bible—because the God of the Bible obviously allows pain. And many people have decided that a God who allows a great deal of pain in some cases is a God that they have not the slightest interest in knowing.

Indeed, when a pain-free life becomes the ultimate goal—becomes the god of a society—then the strategy to pursue becomes very simple. When anything or anyone comes in the way of pain-free living, or where anyone or anything makes my life uncomfortable, then I must get away from them or get rid of them.

Object Lesson

To demonstrate this, ask for volunteers to role play each of the following situations. Assign each volunteer a specific personality, and ask them to explain to the group why they made the decision to dispose of whatever each situation represents.

