

WEEK 1

APATHY

Can you imagine what it must have been like to watch Jesus grow up? The people in Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth had a front-row seat! They might not have realized it at the time, but they were witnesses of some pretty incredible stuff. They saw Jesus lose His first tooth. They watched Him play games with His friends in the street. They had to deal with the one teenager in history who really did know it all!

If the citizens of Nazareth were impressed by Jesus as a child, then they must have lost some of that wonder once He grew up. The first time Jesus preached in His hometown synagogue, the people seemed unmoved by His message. Wasn’t this Joseph and Mary’s son? The carpenter’s boy? What right did He have to speak like this? Their familiarity bred apathy in their hearts. The people of Nazareth missed the miracle standing in front of them because He seemed too familiar. The same danger still exists today. Like those gathered in the synagogue that day, we can become apathetic toward Jesus. We can become so used to Jesus’ daily provision and presence in our lives that we respond more with thoughtlessness than thanksgiving. We can take Jesus for granted instead of responding with the gratitude He deserves.

Our familiarity with who Jesus is and what He’s done for us can numb us to what He wants to do right now. Apathy inhibits movement. It makes us unwilling—or unable—to go where Jesus wants us to go. When we lose the wonder of “God with us,” we lose the desire to move with God. But Jesus is still doing miraculous things. He is still worthy of our praise. He’s still moving in grace and in power. And through MOVE, He is inviting us to worship fully, connect in groups, serve sacrificially, give generously, and go boldly on mission. The only question is: Will we move with Him?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Luke 4:14-30. What happened when Jesus preached to the people in Nazareth? How did their apathy ultimately turn to hostility?

How do I respond to Jesus with apathy? When was the last time I was truly in awe of something He has done for me?

Make a list of the ways Jesus has blessed you today. Do you take any of these things for granted? How can you take time each day to express gratitude?

What are some of the ways our culture makes us focus on what we don’t have? In what ways does gratitude force us to focus on the things we do have? How does generosity show our gratitude for what we’ve been given?

What would it look like for you to move with Jesus today? Is there a step of gratitude you’ve been hesitating to take?

Read This Week’s Text
LUKE 4:14-30

Check Out This
Week’s Video



GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

■ Getting Started

1. When you hear the word “apathy,” what comes to mind?
2. Can you think of a time when you were really excited about something at first, but over time your enthusiasm faded? What happened?
3. Why do you think it’s easy for people to lose their sense of wonder—even about things that once amazed them?
4. What are some everyday examples (outside of church) where familiarity can make us take things for granted?

■ Digging In

1. Look again at Luke 4:16-22. Why do you think the people were amazed at Jesus' words at first but quickly dismissed Him once they remembered who He was?
2. Read Luke 4:28-30. Why do you think the people went from passive apathy to outright anger? What does that progression reveal about the danger of indifference?
3. In what ways can familiarity with Jesus—or with church—cause us to lose our sense of awe?
4. The goal of our MOVE initiative challenges each of us to be *100% engaged*. What does that phrase mean to you personally?
5. Think about the areas of ministry at Southeast (worship, serving, groups, outreach, generosity). Where do you find it easiest to stay engaged? Where is apathy most tempting?
6. What are some warning signs in your own life that you may be slipping into apathy toward your faith or your church involvement?
7. Check out Jesus' warning in Revelation 2:1-5. How does Scripture describe the danger of spiritual apathy or "forgetting your first love?"
8. What helps you personally to move from thoughtlessness to gratitude in your walk with Jesus?

Opening Up

1. Where do you see apathy showing up most in your walk with Jesus right now—and how does it impact your connection to our church?
2. Can you share a time when apathy caused you to step back or “check out” from church or faith, and what helped you to re-engage?
3. How do disappointment, unanswered prayers, or weariness feed apathy in me?
4. If being 100% engaged at Southeast means pushing through apathy, what is one step you sense God might be inviting you to take right now?

NOTES

TRUTH TO MEMORIZE

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”

HEBREWS 10:24

QUOTABLE

“The aim of the gospel is the creation of people who are passionate for doing good rather than settling for the passionless avoidance of evil.”

John Piper, *Bloodlines*



EXPLORE FURTHER