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Students Hungering for the Gospel.

In a city where 95% of the people are not involved in a church, and 85% of the students who grew up in a church walk away from God when they get to college, it's encouraging that the most common answers we get to the question, "How would you describe where your at spiritually?" is "Seeking."

Austin pitched an idea to all the resident assistants of the dorm on campus to host something called a Focus Group where students discuss life, relationships and God. Two RA's (*one non-Christian and one who returned to Christ after this*) jumped on the idea. The outreach had about 30 students show up intermittently. Here are some of the comments made during the discussion to give you an idea of how big the need is for students to hear truth from God's word.

What is the basic message of Christianity?

- Tolerance, betterment of the world, prayer and connecting to a deity.
- To emulate a Christ-like ideal, to strive to be like Jesus Christ.
- To be saved. *When asked to define saved she said: If you are struggling with something God will save you.*
- To get through hard times.
- Not feeling guilty.

Do you believe there is a heaven?

- I don't know, but it's not my place to wonder. This life is all we have until we find out about the next one. I'll worry once the next one comes.
- "The idea is nice but I'm not sure if I want to be there if all the people I love are in hell. I hope not."
- If you help one another get to heaven you won't have to worry about who goes there.

How does someone get to heaven?

- "I was raised as a Christian, if God really is loving He won't send people to hell."
- "Do I have to be religious? It's confusing to determine what gets you there"
- There are so many different sects of Christianity, is it faith in God or the acts warranted?
- What about people who haven't heard about Christianity?
- "A truly compassionate God would forgive if they lived a good life" *When asked what's a good life he said, "I don't know"*.
- People get in regardless of their beliefs as long as you don't harm someone.

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Students are very confused, yet want to know God. It's been exciting to see God give our students a growing desire to be the ones available to share the gospel with them. Here are just a few stories of how students, on their own initiative, are letting God use them to reach others for Christ.



Nick's class got cancelled so he spent his afternoon at an outreach table we had set up. *(We use pictures to get into spiritual conversations with students-see the top header picture.)* The night before Nick had gone through our evangelism training. At the table Nick got into a great conversation with Jesse who considered himself seeking. After a long conversation, Nick had the privilege of leading Jesse to Christ and is now getting to learn how to disciple him. Nick was so excited saying, "Wow, I never did that before."



Kensey was also at an evangelistic table when she met Shelby who is also seeking. Kensey has gotten together with her and has another appointment with her to walk through what it means to have a relationship with God. Like Nick, Kensey is so excited seeing God use her for eternal purposes in another student's life. Pray Kensey gets the opportunity to lead Shelby to Christ and gets to disciple her.



Anthony came up to our outreach table asking what we believed. Angi shared the gospel with him. Relieved he said, he just wanted to share the gospel and was looking for a group he could do that with. On our campus of 40,000 students there are ALOT of cults luring many students into deception. So it's exciting when the Lord brings students to us passionate about making Jesus known.



Luwam is in a religious studies class taught by a professor who is vehemently anti-Jesus. **Tina**, another one of our student leaders, in the class with Luwam, said in front of the class that "Jesus was God". The professor raised her voice at Tina, started harshly pointing and shaking her finger at her saying Jesus never said He was God and went on and on about how the Bible is inaccurate. Luwam and Tina have started a prayer time for the class and are initiating talking to students after class in hopes to share the gospel with them. Last week Luwam had the opportunity to lead the class in a discussion. The discussion was about scapegoats. A student started talking about homosexuals being scapegoats and Luwam got to share with her entire class that homosexuality is a sin just like a lot of other things are sin and that is why we need Jesus as our scapegoat because we stand guilty before God.



Kristen has been discipling Katrin, a new believer from Germany. This week Kristen took Katrin to get into spiritual conversations with the hopes of sharing the gospel with other students using a picture survey tool. They talked to a girl who said she was searching for truth and was so happy that they talked to her and wants to get involved. Kristen said, "The best part though is that it was Katrin's first time sharing and she was able to see that there are people out there who want to hear it, which crushed her thought that everyone would reject us."



These are only half of the incredible stories of what God is doing on campus. Amazing huh!? **God is working mightily in students lives and we are so grateful to partner with you in being a part of it!**