



Messy Middle | Part One

05.07.23

START TALKING | (Find a conversation starter for your group)

How were you introduced to Christianity? Did it seem simple or complicated at the time?

START EXPLORING | (Read the Bible)

Read Acts 15:1-2.

The Jewish Christians were adding circumcision to the list of things you needed to do in order to become a Christian.

- Over the years, and especially today, how have Christians complicated the message of Christianity?

Read Acts 15:3-11.

- Why do you think people have a tendency to make things complicated?

START SHARING | (Choose a question to create openness)

- What do you think is the simple message of Christianity?
- What is the danger of becoming “insider-focused”?
- What happens when we make church difficult and confusing?

Too many churches have been building walls instead of bridges. Too many churches have exchanged their searchlights for security lights.

- How can we keep the focus on those outside the faith?

Start Praying. (Be bold and pray with power)

“Father, thank you for the power of the Gospel. The Gospel is for all people! Help me to turn on my ‘searchlight’ and be on the lookout for those who need your love and grace. Forgive me if I have made faith too complicated for others to follow You. I love you Jesus. This is my prayer, in Your name, amen.”

Start Doing. (Commit to a step, and live it out this week)

How can you partner with Pathways (Your church!) to keep the message of Christianity easy and accessible to those who have not heard it?