



DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Real Fan

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Main Idea – We should be so enthusiastic about our faith that it shows in our actions and words. We should be “fans” of our faith.

Lead with love

- Our faith should reveal itself through the love we show others.
- **John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**
- “People won’t care about what you know until they know that you care.” This is a well-known truism attributed to many people, from Teddy Roosevelt to John C. Maxwell.

Being a fan

- The word “fan” is a shorthand label for “fanatic.”
- The Greek word “Theos” is a word that means God. The English word “enthusiasm” relates to the word “theos” because enthusiasm is defined as “to breathe life into something.”
- “Your spirit needs to hear your flesh respond to the Word of God.”
- Enthusiasm should be a visible response to what we know from our faith.

Characteristics of being a fan

1. Real fans show up early. Real fans look forward to church and worship. **Psalm 122: 1 – I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”**
2. Real fans want the best seat in the house. Real fans do what needs to be done to get as close to the action as possible. **Mark 2:4 – And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.**
3. Real fans never miss a game. Everything that happens at church is an opportunity to do – and experience – something significant.
4. Real fans endure the elements. Just as sports and entertainment fans often withstand extreme weather conditions, Christians persist against things that come against their involvement in the faith. There are no “fair weather” Christians.

5. Real fans know the statistics. Real Christians keep up to date with the events in their churches. They know the history and back-stories of their congregation. Real Christians study and meditate on God's Word.

Psalm 119:11 – Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Joshua 1:8 – This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.

6. Real fans don't care what others think. Real fans are not swayed by the opinions of others. Real fans know the truth, and are persistent in believing it.
John 9: 24-27 – So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"
7. Real fans are vocal. Real fans cheer loudly at important moments. God will add His miraculous power to believers' vocalness. **Joshua 6: 16, 20 – And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!" . . . So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.**
8. Real fans are invested. Real fans pay the necessary price to be part of what is happening; they are totally committed. "He wants to be Lord of all, or He does not want to be Lord at all." That statement is originally attributed to Hudson Taylor, a Christian missionary to China in the 1800s.

Fans in God's Kingdom

- Christians are fanatical about being part of God's family.
- Fans in the Body of Christ are not diverted by life's events from their participation in the faith.
- When we are fans, God will work through each of us to show others the way to happiness and satisfaction.
- God has given each of us unique gifts through which He works when we use those gifts with enthusiasm.
- **Romans 12: 4-8 – For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts**

differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 gives a similar list.)

- The *gift of giving* is sometimes overlooked by churches. Covenant Church wants individuals with the gift of giving to know their contributions are meaningful, because giving represents time and talent.

Reflective Questions for A Real Fan

1. Have you ever thought about how the Greek word “Theos” is related to the English word “enthusiasm”? How does that information help you understand how you should be acting as a Christian? Considering your own, unique personality, what are the ways you demonstrate your enthusiasm through your actions and words?
2. Take a few moments to look over Pastor Stephen’s Eight Characteristics of a Fan. Which ones particularly have meaning for you? Give an example of how you can apply them to your life as a Christian.

CHURCH