**Note to Leaders:** Every LINK is different, please choose/modify the questions that best relate to your particular group.

**INTRODUCTION**

“Messy spirituality is a description of the Christianity most of us live and that few of us admit. It is an attempt to break through the religious wall of secrecy and legitimize a faith with is unfinished, incomplete, and inexperienced.” Mike Yaconelli

Messy spirituality is a celebration of a discipleship which is under construction. None of us here are complete, none of us have it altogether in our faith journey, we are all under construction and for most of us it isn’t pretty. Messy Spirituality as described by Mike Yaconelli is the scandalous assertion that following Christ is anything but tidy and neat, balanced and orderly. Far from it. Spirituality is complex, complicated, and perplexing the disorderly, sloppy, chaotic look of authentic faith in the real world.

Spirituality is anything but a straight line; it is a mixed-up, topsy-turvey, helter skelter godliness that turns our lives into an upside down ride full of unexpected turns, surprise bumps, and bone-shattering crashes. In other words, messy spirituality is the delirious consequence of a life ruined by a Jesus who will love us right into his arms.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **ICE-BREAKER:** What is the worst mess you have ever had to clean up after? How did you do?

2. So what is spirituality? What do you think of when you hear the word spirituality?

3. Our author, Mike Yaconelli had been trying to follow Jesus for over 45 years, but kept losing Him in the crowded busyness of his life. Here’s a quote: ‘I know Jesus is there, somewhere, but it’s difficult to make Him out in the haze of everyday life. Yet when I look at the yesterdays of my life, what I see, mostly, is a broken, irregular path littered with mistakes and failures.’ (pg. 10)

   3.1 Does that sound like you? What has been your spiritual journey experience?

   3.2 Is there a spirituality for the rest of us who don’t have it all together and probably never will?

4. Read the story of Jesus’ criticisms of the ‘perfect religious’ people and His acceptance of the imperfect non-religious people. ([Luke 11:37-54](#)) and share with the group your discovery.

5. Read Romans 5:9-10 and share what you think Paul is trying to say in this verse? 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

6. Application: If you’re comfortable with your link, share one messiness in your life that you wish to get rid off and pray for each other.

**MOVING FORWARD**

“spirituality is not a formula; it is not a test. It is a relationship. Spirituality is not about competency; it is about intimacy” (22). Jesus calls us into relationship. Calls us to be disciples. No matter where we’ve been in years past, or last night. He just wants us to follow. And so that’s what we do. As real as we can.

**CHANGING YOUR MIND**

MESSY SPIRITUALITY IS THE DELIRIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF A LIFE RUINED BY A JESUS WHO WILL LOVE US RIGHT INTO HIS ARMS.