QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

One of the participants on the video said,

"I think the objectionable Christians that I've seen … I see them being judgmental, I see them being extremely self-righteous, and I see them holding people that they deem to be sinners to a different standard than they would themselves, and I find that to be extremely problematic."

What do you think about this statement?

How would you answer the charge that the church is judgmental and full of hypocrites?

Dr. Keller said on the video,

"Why wouldn't a church be a place where you would find inconsistent, broken people, who don't always get it right?"

Can you give examples of people from the Bible who are thought of as great or important figures, but who were also broken or flawed in some way? Divide into pairs to do this and then share your answers with the group.

In his book *God Is Not Great,* Christopher Hitchens addresses a hypothetical question he was asked on a panel with radio host Dennis Prager: If he were alone in an unfamiliar city at night, and a group of strangers began to approach him, would he feel safer, or less safe, knowing that these men had just come from a prayer meeting? Hitchens answers,

"Just to stay within the letter 'B', I have actually had that experience in Belfast, Beirut, Bombay, Belgrade, Bethlehem, and Baghdad. In each case … I would feel immediately threatened if I thought that the group of men approaching me in the dusk were coming from a religious observance."[18]

Hitchens then gives detailed descriptions of the tense social and political situations within these cities, which he attributes to religion. Many people believe that religions like Christianity inevitably lead to violence and oppression. How do you respond?

What do you tend to do when you read text in the Bible that you do not immediatel understand and whose meaning offends and or upsets you?

What advice would you give persons who read a text in the Bible that they do not immediately understand and whose meaning offends and/or upsets them?