

Discussion Guide – 107 AD Ignatius’ Brave Journey to the Lions

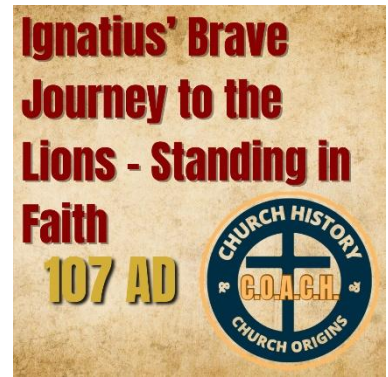
COACH: Church Origins and Church History

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<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-vzyj5-18ec5e8>

 Watch:

<https://youtu.be/x2V9a9zF6mA?si=A6A4Cx2-E-gruZl5>



Discussion Guide Introduction

Ignatius of Antioch’s story is one of courage, conviction, and unity. He wrote letters on his way to martyrdom that still speak with love and truth. This episode invites your group to reflect on what faithfulness looks like when following Christ costs everything. Why did he walk toward death with peace—and what can that teach us about living with purpose today? Listen together, pause where needed, and let these questions lead you deeper into the story.

Conversation Starters

These questions are designed to help you personally or as a group connect with Ignatius’ story before diving into Scripture.

1. What part of Ignatius’ journey or letters stirred something in you most—and why?
 2. Who in your life models faithfulness or courage like Ignatius did?
 3. Ignatius called himself “God’s wheat.” What picture does that create for you about surrender?
 4. When has following Jesus required you to choose faith over comfort?
 5. If you had to write one letter that summed up your faith, what would you want to say?
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Reflect on Scripture and Themes

Read Philippians 1:20–21 (NIV)

“I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Truth 1 – Faithfulness Is Not About Survival

Ignatius didn’t seek death—he sought to honor Christ in whatever came. His courage reminds us that obedience matters more than safety.

- When is faithfulness costly for you?
 - How do comfort and fear compete with obedience in your walk with Christ?
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Truth 2 – Unity Guards the Gospel

Ignatius begged churches to stay united, warning that division weakens witness.

Read John 17:20–21 (NIV)

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me... that all of them may be one.”

- How does unity strengthen believers today?
- What threatens unity in modern churches, and how can we guard against it?

Truth 3 – Christ’s Full Humanity and Divinity Still Matter

Ignatius defended Jesus as both fully God and fully man. Getting Jesus right still defines authentic faith.

Read Colossians 2:9 (NIV)

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”

- Why does it matter that Jesus was both divine and human?
- What happens when the church loses that balance?

Apply It / Respond

- **Remember your calling.** Reflect on one area of life where you can choose faithfulness over comfort this week. *This week I will...*
- **Protect unity.** Ask God to reveal any attitude or relationship where division has taken root. Reach out, reconcile, or pray for healing.
- **Keep Jesus central.** Examine your faith—do you ever drift toward a smaller or more convenient version of Jesus? Return to who He truly is: fully God, fully man, fully enough.
- **Embrace surrender.** Ignatius called himself “God’s wheat.” What would it look like for you to trust God’s process even when it grinds you down?
- **Pass on courage.** Encourage one person this week who’s facing fear, opposition, or discouragement. Remind them that courage is obedience, not bravado.

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

Ask your group (or reflect personally):

What’s one area where you need courage like Ignatius—faithfulness when the cost feels high?

Write those requests down or bring them to God in silent prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are worthy of our lives. Thank You for the example of Ignatius, who followed You with courage and joy even when the path led to sacrifice. Give us strength to stand firm in faith, love, and unity. Where fear whispers, remind us of Your presence. Where division threatens, make us one. And when obedience feels costly, help us see Your glory as greater. In Your name we pray—Amen.

Leader Notes (Optional)

Big Idea:

Faithfulness may cost comfort, but it always reflects Christ.

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to build in your group (or in you personally) a steady, courageous faith that values obedience more than approval or ease.

Leader Tips:

- **Time Estimate:** 35–45 minutes works well for a full discussion; shorter groups can focus on one “Truth” section and prayer.
- **Verses to Have Ready:** *Philippians 1:20–21, John 17:20–21, Colossians 2:9.*
- **Transitions:** “Ignatius didn’t glorify pain—he glorified Christ.” / “Let’s talk about what unity looks like for us right now.”
- **Watch For:** Discussions that drift toward fear or guilt. Redirect to hope, courage, and the sufficiency of Christ.
- **Encouragement:** End with gratitude that the same Spirit who strengthened Ignatius is alive in us today.