

Making Jesus Christ



**KNOWN, TRUSTED,
OBEYED, LOVED**

in a postmodern age
an analysis of the student world



CREDO STUDENT

Introduction

Credo student are happy to present a summary of our analysis, based on 9 interviews with Christian students and with missionaries who regularly meet non-Christian students for existential conversations. In addition to these interviews, three reports (Här för att stanna, Unga troende i samhället samt Kristen tro på glid) are included to give a picture of how we can "make Jesus Christ known, trusted, obeyed and loved" in a postmodern age.



READ THE WHOLE REPORT HERE

This booklet gives students and others who are interested an insight into a postmodern university world. The booklet highlights attitudes to Christian faith among students and gives suggestions of how to respond to them.



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Known in an age of many narratives

BACKGROUND

- Our interviews indicate widespread relativism among student with regard to truth claims.
- Talk of "my truth" comes ultimately from a fear of oppression
- This is connected to a postmodern tradition that links great narratives (Jesus, the British empire, Greater Russia) with claims to power.

OPPORTUNITIES

- To find forms of dialogue for evangelism which value the receiver's voice whilst maintaining criteria for reasonableness. "Every voice is valuable but not every claim is reasonable."

QUESTIONS

- How do I create dialogue about faith rather than monologue?
- How do I let Jesus be central in conversations about faith?
- How do I listen well in conversations about faith?

FROM THE REPORT:

"How can you believe in ONE thing? Not have an open stance? God probably exists, but how can you know that it's your God and that it's boxed in?"

-Student leader within Credo

We recommend



Trusted in an age of doubt

BACKGROUND

- 50–60% of those who grow up in and are active in the free church have left their faith when they become adults.
- Studies show that ability to reflect (de- and reconstruction) are vital for living faith.
- Our interviews also show a great need among non-Christians to process their worldview

OPPORTUNITIES

- Both non-Christian and Christian students need greater abilities for reflecting over faith's and life's questions.
- As a community demonstrate a confidence in Jesus, both through bold testimony and by tackling the difficult questions
- Such a community would be a strong testimony in an age of doubt

QUESTIONS

- What happens in our initiatives when someone shares a testimony that may be seen as naive?
- What happens in our initiatives when someone questions something?

FROM INTERVIEWS:

"many [students]... appreciate getting opportunities to talk about their personal philosophy and worldview, which is noticeable when we have conversations with non-Christians at different events"

- Student leader within Credo



Obe^yed in an age of listening to the heart

BACKGROUND

- Interviews demonstrate students' skepticism towards Christian faith in ethical issues as a potentially oppressive authority
- This can be linked to a shift since the enlightenment from trust in external (revelation, Church, tradition, Scripture) to inner (intuition and intellect) authorities.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Show that Christian faith calls into question a naive faith in ones own intellect or intuition (see Jer 17:9–10; Matt 15:19).
- Show how God as external authority guides rather than erasing our intellect and intuition.

QUESTIONS

- How do I relate to a participant who is critical of the Bible's ethical teaching?
- How do I relate to a participant navigating with an ethical compass which is not the Christian one?

FROM INTERVIEWS:

"Christian faith can seem 'constrained' compared to new age spirituality or the freedom to simply relate to oneself and ones own convictions.."

- Student leader within Credo

Loved in an age without roots

BACKGROUND

- Studies show that about 50% of students suffer with mental health or symptoms of stress, which can to some extent relate to experiencing loneliness.
- Our interviews indicate a great longing for community among students
- Pastor Eleonore Gustafsson shows how community for its own sake dies. The aim of the community must ultimately be, according to her, to learn to love God.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Creating inclusive communities for students which itself counteracts mental health problems.
- Letting communities be centred around loving Jesus and making him loved

QUESTIONS

- How do we make events and environments where new people can feel at home?
- How do we maintain a longing to love Jesus in the day-to-day, the events and the complications of the student group

FROM INTERVIEWS:

"The first thing that came to mind was community... four [students]... picks that they wanted community. But the... four of them were sitting together [unable to see the possibility for community with one another]"

-missionary from Agape Sverige



Get in touch

The purpose of the report is to understand the attitudes which characterise the student world. By investigating these positions through our network, Credo student aims to provide suggestions for how we can make **Jesus Christ known, trusted, obeyed and loved** among students today.

Thanks to our students and partners who have shared their experiences!

Does this provoke questions or longings?
Contact us via: info@credostudent.se
for guidance in interacting with
a postmodern student world.



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**Go
therefore
and make
disciples of
all nations**

Matt. 28:19 ESV



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