

SMALL GROUPS

Growing in Christ

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of November 19, 2017

BIG IDEA:

I can choose Jesus as my Savior.

1

GETTING STARTED

What are your Thanksgiving plans?

2

LOOKING BACK

How have you seen God at work over the last week?

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

(See Big Idea above)

3

MY STORY

What does it mean to choose Jesus as your Savior? Have you done that?

Matt and Nick shared testimonies, eyewitness evidence of God at work. Everyone who chooses Jesus as Savior has a testimony. At the core of a testimony is an account of the difference God made (or is currently making) in your life. For instance, "I once was blind, but now I see." Share a difference that God has made (or is making) in your life:

I once was:

But now I'm:

4

DIGGING DEEPER

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NLT) ¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Based on what you have learned in this series, what are some things that can get in the way of someone living out their new life in Christ?

There are thousands and thousands of self-help options that offer human wisdom. What is at least one important difference between these human points of view and a godly point of view?

4

DIGGING DEEPER (CONTINUED)

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT) ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Sometimes people assume that choosing Jesus as our Savior means that we won't have any more troubles, struggles or suffering. If that was true, people would turn to God only for relief instead of actually loving Him.

What does it look like to love and trust God, even through suffering?

According to the passage above, what is at least one good thing that can come out of suffering?

Romans 8:15-17 (NLT) ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

A number of factors influence our identity: our chemistry, our connections, our circumstances, our consciousness, and our choices. What does the passage above tell you about the identity of someone who chooses Jesus as Savior?

In a way, Paul says, "You're going to suffer like Jesus; don't be afraid." Huh? How can you know that you are going to suffer, and yet not be afraid?

How will your life look different as you learn to experience God's promise and live without fear?

5

BRINGING IT HOME

People who are stuck in unhealthy mindsets or behaviors can't necessarily just "stop it." What we learn in God's Word is that we are all broken. We all fall short of God's glory. We need Him and we need each other to find strength, healing and hope. Pray that God would continue to draw us closer to Him in our thoughts and our actions.

6

PRAYER REQUESTS