

Message Discussion Guide

LIFEBLOOD, THE GOSPEL: HOW WE LIVE

The Church at Brook Hills . Dr. David Platt . April 27, 2008 Philippians 2:12-13

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect...

Just as David jumped right into the message so will we. But before we dive in...

Lead the group in discussing some ways that they try to "be like Christ". In light of this week's message, ask in what ways they have been trying to produce the character of Christ in themselves (resisting temptations, being motivated by guilt or obligation, involving themselves in "church activities", practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, evangelism, worship, etc...) How have they been leaning on themselves to live like Christ?

Confess these areas to one another. Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to enable you all to live in God's grace, depending on Him more each day.

Review the Message...

Three Foundational Components of Salvation...

- **Salvation involves a change.**
 - Think back to last week when we talked about the change that God produces in our hearts. How does he cleanse our hearts?
 - His Word (1 Peter 1:23)
 - His Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26-27)
 - **A past event (John 3:1-16).**
 - Have you been born again?
 - Can you pinpoint the time in your life when God regenerated your heart and God saved you?
 - If not, what general time period did you first begin to believe in Christ's redeeming work as Savior and trust in Him as Lord?
 - **We have been saved.**
 - Read Ephesians 2:4-5. God saves us by his grace.
 - **Often referred to as justification.**
 - Read Romans 3:24. God justifies us by his grace.

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- **Salvation involves a journey .**
 - **A present process (2 Cor. 3:17-18).**
 - What is our role in the process?
 - **We are being saved (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15).**
 - What does it mean for us to continue to “be saved” even after our justification through initial faith in Christ?
 - **Often referred to as sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3).**
 - How are our lives different today from the day God saved us?
 - How will our lives be different a year from now?
 - What are you doing to grow in Christ and to work out your salvation?
- **Salvation involves a destination .**
 - What is the culmination of our salvation? When will we experience, i.e. “arrive” at this destination?
 - **A future prize (1 Cor. 9:24-27, Philippians 3:14).**
 - What is the image of the Christian life in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and Philippians 3:14?
 - Why do Christians long for heaven?
 - Would heaven be desirable if Christ weren’t there?
 - **We will be saved (Rom. 8:17; 13:11; 1 Cor. 15:51-52).**
 - Read Romans 8:17. What is the conditional clause? Here we see a picture of sufferings and glory going hand in hand. What does it mean to share in the sufferings of Christ?
 - **Often referred to as glorification .**
 - Read Romans 8:30. What is the sequence of God’s salvation?
 - Look back to Romans 8, verse 29. How could human beings possibly be worthy of glorification?

Three Foundational Truths in Salvation...

- **The grace of God undergirds every facet of salvation.**
 - Who reveals our needs? Who changes our hearts? Who enables our faith? Who transforms our lives?
 - What is the significance of the word “for” or “because” in Philippians 3:13?
 - **Grace is our message...**
 - **We need the Gospel to know Christ.**

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- Does this mean after someone believes and is transformed by the Gospel, that he can set it aside to pursue “greater” or “deeper” truths? Why?
- **We need the Gospel to grow in Christ.**
 - The Gospel takes root in our hearts at the point of salvation, and we need to feed on this message more and more and more as it sprouts in our hearts and begins to infuse all of who we are.
 - How does the Gospel affect our families?
 - How does the Gospel affect our evangelism?
 - How does the Gospel affect our suffering?
 - How does the Gospel affect social issues?
 - How does the Gospel affect every facet of our lives?
- **Grace is our master...**
 - **By His grace, we are free from the penalty of sin.**
 - How does that mean God views the church (not the institution, but His people)?
 - Do you really believe that you are free from the penalty of sin or do you still struggle with oppressive feelings of guilt over sin?
 - **By His grace, we are free from the power of sin.**
 - To what does Romans 6:1-11 tell us we are dead?
 - How might this affect the way a Christian reacts to temptation?
- **Grace is our motivation...**
 - **The motivation for our obedience is never gratitude toward God.**
 - How does the following question line up with biblical salvation?
“God has done so much for you; how much are you going to do for him?”
 - **We are not in debt to God.**
 - Why are we not in debt to God?
 - Could we ever give God anything good that didn’t come from him in the first place? (James 1:17)
 - What steps do you need to take in your life to stop trying to pay off what God has done and continues to do for you?
 - **The motivation for our obedience is always the grace of God.**
 - What motivates us to obey God?

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(God does. It is God who works in you. It's the grace of God working in you, which again means that we're not in debt to God.)

- **We are indwelt by God.**
 - How does it make you feel to recognize that everything good in your life comes by the power of the Spirit of the God who lives and works within you?

- **Faith is the God-ordained link between His work and our work in salvation.**
 - Read the following passages that describe the relationship between faith and works.
 - Colossians 3:1-4, 3:5-10
 - 2 Peter 1:3-7
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Romans 6:15-23

 - **Faith involves radical dependence on God's work in our lives.**
 - In Philippians 2, Paul instructed believers to "Work out your salvation."
 - To "work out" literally means, "to produce, create, bring about, or work out until it is completed. It's almost like he's saying, "Show what salvation looks like – work it out in every facet of your life."
 - Then he said, "Do this *because God works in you.*"

 - **We need Him to mold our hearts.**
 - Read Philippians 2:13 again.
 - Who is the only one who has the power to change hearts?
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in your life and produce change in your heart (a new "appetite") for the glory of God. [Note: This cannot be emphasized enough]
 - What are examples of ways God has changed your attitude toward other people, jobs, needs...?

 - **We need Him to empower our lives.**
 - Faith makes us radically dependent on God's power in our lives.
 - Pray for the Spirit to give you the desire to serve and then to enable you for service.

 - **Faith involves radical devotion to God's will for our lives.**
 - How does working out your salvation differ from working out your body in terms of time? (Working out your salvation is not something you can

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simply schedule in your day. It requires daily, complete surrender of your mind, time, and effort.)

- Read Hebrews 12:1-2 together and encourage your group to commit these verses to memory.
- **God purposes to complete our salvation for His glory.**
 - How does it make you feel to know that God has saved you for his glory to be showcased in you (according to Ephesians 2:10 and 3:10)?
 - **Be afraid ...**
 - **Fear living in a way that dishonors God.**
 - Do you fear living in a way that dishonors God?
 - Do you regularly examine yourself and have conversations that don't allow for disobedience to go unchecked?
 - **Be in awe ...**
 - **God is working in you!**
 - Look to the following passages and see how God's work in his people has caused "fear and trembling" throughout the ages.
 - Exodus 15:14-16 – When the Israelites are going into the Promised Land; "The nations will hear and tremble...terror and dread will fall upon them...until your people pass by, O LORD"
 - Isaiah 19:16 – "They will shudder with fear at the uplifted hand that the LORD Almighty raises against them."
 - After the picture of Christ in Psalm 2, the psalmist says to all the earth's kings, "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling."
 - **Be assured ...**
 - **God will finish what He started.**
 - From where does our hope come? Why can we be encouraged? How is this a message of great hope?
 - Romans 13:11 says, "And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."
 - Pray for perseverance to the end.