

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 16, 2006

Passage: Acts 2:22-39

Memory Passage: Acts 2:38 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 2:22.** How does Peter refer to Jesus when he addresses the people on the day of Pentecost? How did others refer to Jesus (John 1:45; 19:19; Acts 6:14)?

(b) How did Jesus refer to Himself when addressing Paul on the Damascus Road (Acts 22:8)? What is the significance of this name (Matthew 2:23)? What were the early followers of Jesus called (Acts 24:54)?

(c) How did God testify to the salvation brought by Jesus (also Hebrews 2:1-4)?

(d) What conclusion about Jesus did this lead some to make (John 3:2; 6:14; 9:33)? How are the miracles signs that pointed to the Messiah (Matthew 11:2-6)? What did Jesus say regarding these signs (John 14:10-11; 15:24)?

(e) Were these miracles hidden or common knowledge (Acts 10:37; 26:26; Luke 24:18)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:22 and Matthew 11:2-6. Talk about the importance of miracles in the ministry of Jesus. How did they provide evidence that Jesus was the Messiah? How did most people respond? How did some respond? Pray for someone who has not yet been opened to see who Jesus is.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 2:22-24.** Who determined the death of Jesus (Isaiah 53:10; John 19:10-11; 1 Peter 1:18-21)? What does this tell us about the love of God in sending His son (John 3:18; 1 John 4:10-11)?

(b) What responsibility did humans have in the crucifixion (Acts 3:13-15; Matthew 27:20-25)? How does the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man work together (also consider Genesis 50:20)?

(c) What did God declare by the resurrection of Jesus (Romans 1:4)? What does God now declare that the resurrection means for all men (Acts 17:30-31)?

(d) Why did Jesus give his life (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 10:15-18)? Why couldn't death hold Jesus?

(e) Who raised Jesus (John 2:19-21; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Hebrews 13:20)? What does this teach us about the Trinity?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:22-24 and 1 John 4:10-11. Discuss the sovereignty of God in the crucifixion of and resurrection of Jesus. Was the crucifixion an unfortunate event that should have never happened? What does God's predetermination of the death and resurrection of Jesus tell us about God's plan for us? Spend some time thanking God for His control over all things.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 2:25-31.** Why do you think that Peter chose this Psalm to speak about the resurrection of Jesus?

(b) Why does Peter say that this is about Jesus rather than David (Acts 2:29; 13:32-37)? What additional proof does Peter give that this does not refer to David (Acts 2:33-35)?

(c) What does he mean by, "seeing that God had sworn an oath" (2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 110:1-6; Psalm 132:11; Hebrews 6:17-19)?

(d) Is prophetic testimony important? (Acts 3:18; Luke 24:44)? How would the resurrection have been viewed if we did not have these prophecies? How does the prophetic testimony give additional proof for the resurrection?

(e) Did the prophets understand these things? Why were these things revealed through them (1 Peter 1:10-12)? What advantage do we have today?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:25-31 and Luke 24:44. Talk together about how God revealed His plans and purpose through the prophets. Why is prophecy so important to us? How does it provide an additional testimony of the resurrection? Share which prophecy about Jesus amazes you most. Pray together, thanking God for giving us His word of prophecy.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 2:32-35.** What *other witnesses* did he mention that also bear testimony to the resurrection of Jesus?

(b) What did John say about their witness (1 John 1:3)?

(c) How did the resurrection affect their understanding of what they knew in the Scriptures (John 2:22; 16:21; 14:26)?

(d) In Acts 10:39-43, what did Peter say these witnesses were commanded to do? What did he say would happen for everyone who believes in Him (Acts 10:43)?

(e) Read Romans 10:9-13. What must a person do to be saved? Why is the resurrection essential for salvation (1 Corinthians 15:17)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:32-35 and Romans 10:9-13. Talk about how a person becomes a believer. What does it mean to “believe in your heart” and to “confess with your mouth”? Pray that the Lord would give each of you boldness to speak to others about the risen Savior.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 2:36-39.** What does the resurrection tell us about *who* Jesus is (Romans 1:4)? What did Peter call Jesus in Acts 2:36?

(b) What did Peter say about the resurrection in Acts 4:10-12? Why did he make this conclusion (Acts 2:33-35; 3:36)?

(c) How did people respond to Peter’s message? Why was the Word of God so effective in bringing conviction like this (Hebrews 4:12-13; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18)? What does this tell you about the importance of using God’s Word in evangelism?

(d) What did Peter tell them to do? How do repentance and remission of sins go together (also Luke 24:47)? Why is baptism important for believers? Why does it come *after* faith in Christ? How does it testify to the resurrection (Romans 6:4)?

(e) *Who* is this promise for according to Acts 2:39? Who can come to faith in Christ (Acts 11:15-18)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:36-39. Discuss the way God uses His Word to bring people to faith. Why should people be encouraged to be baptized after coming to faith in Christ? Does it save them? How is baptism a testimony of the resurrection? Why is baptism still important today? Pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for publicly declaring their faith in Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 2:22-39. Why is the resurrection foundational to Christianity? Why do you think the resurrection has been attacked so much? What are the implications for us if Jesus had not risen? When we come together as a church, what are we celebrating? Some would say that every Sunday is Easter. Discuss this together. Pray that the purpose of the resurrection might be made clear in churches tomorrow.