

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 4, 2010

Passage: Ephesians 2:1-9

Memory Passage: Ephesians 1:22-23

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

This week is Holy Week. Like Samuel's setting up of "Ebenezer," the Church has long marked this week as a reminder of the life and sacrifice of Christ. This week we will reflect upon what Christ has done upon the cross.

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:1-3.** Review Ephesians 1:15-23. Verses 1-3 come right after these verses. How are these two passages connected? How do these verses describe our spiritual position before we were saved?
- (b) How are our actions described before we were saved? Would you describe the actions of most people like this? Why or why not? How would you describe yourself before salvation? Why is this important for us to remember as we relate to other people?
- (c) Paul uses the word "dead" to describe our nature before salvation. How does this compare to the way the world views our spiritual nature? What has to happen before a dead man can do anything? Why is it important for us to understand this both personally and when we relate to others?
- (d) What happens to our value of what Jesus did for us when we think of ourselves differently from this description? How do we treat others when we forget that we were all once dead in our sins?
- (e) *Family:* Read Ephesians 2:1-3. Do question (b).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:4-7.** The first two words of these verses are so important, "But God." What would God have been just in doing with us as we were described in verses 1-3 (Romans 2:1-5)?
- (b) What are the three things that God has done for us in these three verses? How is each of these important for how we live and act daily? What freedom does this give us from our past? What responsibilities does it give us for right now?
- (c) Why is it that God has deferred His anger from us and made us alive with Him in this verse and elsewhere (Isaiah 48:6-11)? How is this supposed to affect how we act toward others?
- (d) What does this mean for us when we encounter conflict, aggravations, and hurt from other people? How do you think we are to respond? How does what Jesus has done enable us to do this (Romans 8:3-11)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Ephesians 2:4-7. What three things does God do for us when we are saved? Why does He do these things? How should we respond or do you want to respond to these verses?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** These two verses are so pivotal for understanding the nature of our salvation. Paul is clarifying in these verses all that he has said so far. Define "grace". Why would having the correct definition be important? According to these verses, in what way does God's grace come to us? Or how does our salvation come to us?
- (b) According to this passage, is faith something that you can muster up on your own? Why/why not? Some people say that they "choose" salvation, how would this passage mesh with that idea? What would be a proper description?
- (c) What does a life of faith look like (Romans 1:8, 17)? When you have faith in something, how does it affect your actions? Is Paul saying here that our actions are unimportant? What is Paul saying specifically about the role our actions play in earning salvation?
- (d) If we are not able to boast in ourselves, who are we to boast in being saved? How important is boasting or praising God in everything we do? Would people say about your life that you are one that boasts in God? What are some things that you do talk about a lot? Practice today praising to someone about the gifts that God has given you.
- (e) *Family:* Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Talk about what it means to be saved by grace. Can you do anything to earn your way to heaven? How do people often try to do this? What do you need to do to be saved? Does anyone here want to be saved?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Matthew 26:20-30.** Tonight is the night of Holy Week that we observe the practice of the last meal of Christ in the upper room. What are the three main events that happen in this passage? The dish that Jesus refers to is a common bowl that all at the table would have dipped from. What does this add to the gravity of the betrayal?
- (b) How do all of the disciples respond? How does Judas respond? How do you see Jesus? Is He just a good teacher or is He your Lord?
- (c) What does the bread and wine represent? What is significant about the fact that Jesus puts a ban on his own drinking of wine until the kingdom has come (Revelation 19:9)? How do you feel when you take the bread and the cup and remember Jesus' words?
- (d) *Family:* Read Matthew 26:26-30. Why do we celebrate the Lord's supper? What does each of the items represent? Why is it important for us to remember these things? Who is it that takes the Lord's supper with Jesus? Are you a follower of Jesus? Why/Why not?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Matthew 27.** There will not be a lot of questions for today. Read through the chapter several times slowly. Meditate on it. Think about what Jesus must have felt, what it would have been like to witness this, what it would have meant to the disciples.
- (b) Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Spend some extended time in prayer this morning. Sometimes old stories lose their edge or their meaning. Ask God to give you a fresh understanding and feeling of what Christ has done for you.
- (c) *Family:* Read Matthew 27. Why did Jesus die on the cross? What would it have been like for Jesus this day? Spend some time praying to God and thanking Him for what Christ has done.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. If you are doing this on Saturday, today marks the time in which Christ is in the grave awaiting the dawn of tomorrow's day. It is a time in which the disciples were unsure of what was next for them. Use today to reflect upon why it is that you need the resurrection. Do you have your hope on that coming day? What are your thoughts and feelings most often directed toward? Pray that God would give you a holy longing for the day of His second advent.

DATE: April 4, 2010

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The Rich Mercy of God
“For by grace you have been saved”