

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Sermon: Good, Better, Best

Sermon 11.04.09

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Small Group Study for Week of April 11- 17

The Big Idea: The Gospel is that God Himself has come to rescue and renew creation through the work and in the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. As a result of His death and resurrection we can have a deep, real and meaningful life.

Group Reads: John 10:7-10

Questions:

1. What does it mean that all who have come before Jesus are thieves and robbers? What are some of the ways you have heard people say you can be saved, go to heaven or have a relationship with God?

Comment: The word that is translated life, in verse 10, is the Greek word 'zoe'. It means abundant, fulfilling life as God lives it.

2. When Jesus says He came to give us a full life – does that mean Christians have fewer problems, pain etc others have? What does it mean?

Group Reads: List and compare the things that these passages of the Bible say happened to Jesus. Isaiah 50:6, 53:1-9 with Matthew 26:57-67, 27:19-55.
Any further comments?

Comment: The Bible says we can have eternal life in the future and life that is becoming more and more like Christ, here and now. The first gospel presentation after the resurrection was on the day of Pentecost. After listening to what Jesus had done for them, the people responded - Group Reads Acts 2:37-41. Discuss

Comment – “If I can do even a little bit to earn part of my salvation then I have rights, dues owed me. There is a limit to what Christ can ask of me, because like a tax payer I have paid for certain benefits. BUT if I had nothing to do with earning my salvation – it was all Jesus, then He can ask me to do anything!” Discuss.

4. How can I keep focussed on what Jesus has done and is doing for me? How can I keep focussed as an individual, within this group and with those who hold me accountable?

Conclusion to The Big Idea: Being saved is more than life insurance. It is realising, accepting and then living with the crucified and risen Christ as the centre of my life. This is more than just saying the words “I want Christ in my life.” It is an invitation to live the abundant life, with its highs and lows.

Question: What does God want me to do as a result of this study?