

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
CCCC is Going to Hell - Who Wants to Come?
Sermon 5.12.09
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Small Group Study for Week of December 5-11

The Big Idea

Once we acknowledge who Christ the Messiah truly is and want Him to be Lord of our lives, He gives us a mission. This mission is for each of us as part of the church that is built on the rock of Jesus to charge hell. Charging hell means we are to attack evil, to build the church on the very places that people believe can never be reached by the gospel.

Group Reads: Matthew 16:13-20

Question:

Group Reads: verses 13, 14

1. If you were to ask most Australians who Jesus is, what do you think they would say?
2. Why do many people have a positive view of Jesus but not a positive view of His followers?
3. Is the view people have of Jesus accurate or have they learnt a false view of Christ? Eg, Jesus bids us come and die, He tells us we will be persecuted and that no one can be saved outside of Him (John 14:6). How does the view of Jesus meek and mild compare to this?

Group Reads: verses 15-17

Comment when Peter replies you are the Christ he is using the Greek word $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\varsigma$ (Christos) meaning the anointed one or messiah.

4. Why is it important to move from what do others think of Jesus to what we are going to do with Him? What does it mean to acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah in our lives?
5. Did you discover anything else interesting from verses 13-17?

Group Reads: verse 18

Comment: The statement about building the church on the rock in verse 18 can have different meanings. One definite meaning is that Jesus is the foundation on which the church is built. For those interested in pursuing this further check the SDA Bible Commentary in our library under Matthew.

Comment: The church in this text is described as charging hell (or death) with the gates protecting hell not being able to stop the church. This means that the church through

Christ has the literal victory over death but also that hell, evil, death in society can not stand against the church.

6. Some legitimately see the church as a fortress, as protecting us against evil. How is the view of the church in verse 18 different from that?

Can both views be right – why or why not?

What would it look like to charge hell for our church?

How should people live who are charging hell?

7. Anything else from the above texts?

What have you learned that you can put into practice this week from the Big Idea study?