

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
The Gospel Changes Everything Part 1
The Gospel Is Good News Not Primarily Good Advice

Sermon 28.8.10
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Small Group Study for Week of Aug 28 -Sept 3

The Big Idea

The Christian Religion is different from every other major religion in that it is based on good news not primarily good advice. News is something that has happened, advice or moral direction is something you have to do to be saved. In all other major religions you have to follow advice or moral teachings to be saved. Although there is advice and moral teaching, the gospel is based on the reality of what Jesus has done for us, the good news.

Group Reads Mark 1:1-15 and Isaiah 40:3

Comment: In Isaiah 40:3 the Hebrew word for Lord is YHWH (Yahweh) while in Mark 1: 3 the writer is talking about Jesus.

Questions

1. Why is it good news that the Yahweh in the Old Testament and Jesus are the same person?
2. There are three sections to Mark 1:1-15 and reflect the three part series "The gospel changes everything." The three sections are good news (the gospel) Identity and the Kingdom of God. While they overlap - can you divide the verses into those three sections?

Group Reads Acts 2:22-39

3. What are the essential elements of the gospel mentioned by Peter in these verses? Why do we make it so complicated?

Comment: These verses demonstrate the importance of history to the Christian faith. If these events didn't happen, then following Jesus is good advice not "good news," Christianity is based on something that has happened.

4. Discuss the idea that all major religions other than Christianity are based on good advice or morals, while Christianity, although having good advice or morals, is primarily a religion based on what has happened, good news?

Comment: Some believe it doesn't matter if Jesus literally died and rose again in bodily form, what matters is that we follow his teachings and that we love as he loved.

5. Discuss the idea that if we just follow Jesus teachings and love as he loved but don't believe he literally lived, died and rose again, what we are doing is actually salvation by works, we are following a good advice, moral religion.

6. Group Reads Romans 5:8, 3:23 and 6:23

Comment: You are more wicked and flawed than you ever dared believe, **but** you are more loved and accepted than you could ever dared hope - at the same time.

7. Why is it important to know both these things at the same time? What can happen when you believe only one of them?

8. Why is the balance the gospel?

9. What are we going to do with what we have learnt about the gospel this week?