



THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYONE!

April 9, 2023

The Big Idea

Best Practice

Surrender to Jesus your whole life.

Passages:

Acts 2:22-37

Group Goal:

We can sometimes get the main idea lost in a crowd of noise. When we are unclear or fuzzy about it, we can drift off-course.

This subject reminds us that the main mission of Jesus was to save us. His mission was to be a sacrifice for all of our mistakes, sins, and wounds we have incurred or passed onto others.

The Gospel is the great and wonderful news that we are not stuck our sins and misery. We are not lost forever, doomed to stay the same or despairing of any deliverance. God has come through for us. Jesus is that cosmic rescue operation for our souls.

“What should we do?” is always the best response to when we read and hear the Good News of Jesus.

Group Talk

For Starters

How would you feel if you had to get up to speak to a large group of people? Would you prefer to rehearse it or give it impromptu? Why?

To Discuss

Jesus in summary (Read Acts 2:22-24)

(22-24) This is a brief summary of the life and ministry of Jesus and God’s plan of salvation. See if you can elaborate as a group on some of those quick references he makes. What miracles come to mind? What wonders? What signs can you recall reading or hearing?

Do you recall the perception of someone coming from a place like Nazareth (John 1:46)? What town or locale today might have that same notoriety? How would that affect your receiving of their ideas or message?

How does it feel to be validated by someone powerful or authoritative around you?

Note the reference “as you well know.” What might that communicate to that crowd hearing this message?

Referencing King David (Read Acts 2:25-28)

David & Moses were the ultimate authority figures for the Jew. Why might Peter be referencing him in this message?

Note the impact the LORD's presence has on David in the psalm (16:8-11). Which of those would you say you've experienced yourself? Which one right now do you enjoy the most – and which might you need the most?

Explaining David to the crowd (Acts 2:29-33)

How much does this section sync up with verses 22-24? Note any similarities or patterns.

(33) Did you catch the whole Trinity being involved in the plan? How does that encourage you to see how God is fully engaged in this operation?

Observe the reference "*we are all witnesses.*" See any connections elsewhere? How personal is this becoming to them?

Bring it home (Read Acts 2:34-37)

How does being both Lord (*the Master*) and Messiah (*the Savior or deliverer*) anchor Jesus' role in your salvation? What do those titles say about where we can go or what we need to lean on?

(37) Can you recall a moment or situation where you felt the Holy Spirit piercing your own heart? What was that like? How did it affect you? How did you respond to Him?

The best question always when reading scripture – '*What should we do?*' How do you want to respond to Him today?

Prayer Focus

Share your answer to the question, "*what should I do?*" This can be specific to a particular area where you need Jesus to guide and lead. Maybe it's a more global question about how you are living right now. Use it as a moment to evaluate and surrender anything to Him you need to.

Leadership Tip

Silence: It's Ok to have silence in your group when you're having a discussion and ask a question. Many people are uncomfortable with it, but God often works in it. When your group has a silent moment, don't feel the rush to jump in with a comment or a joke. Smile, and allow the silent moment to linger. Let God work in it.

What is it you want to surrender to Him?

In what area do you need him to lead you forward?

See the plan and purposes of God for Jesus unfolding throughout the whole passage. Can you see an arc like that in your own life story? Not that you'd do anything like Jesus, but that you can identify and recognize the fingerprints of God orchestrating events or responses to them that drew you closer to Him?

Are there "watershed" moments where He moved in you?

Do you see "linchpin" moments where you pivoted towards God?

Next Steps

Respond to God with love, joy, and humility to follow Him as He redeems and restores you.