



EKKLESIA

Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide



SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:10-12

SERIES: Ekklesia

TITLE: The Church Has an Agenda: The Gospel

CIT: The sole agenda of the church is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This Gospel is the life changing, soul satisfying, paradigm shifting heart of God's people.

SUMMARY

The church is not neutral. The church has an agenda. That agenda is the Gospel. If there is anything the church must be defined by, it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel we see the story of redemption being worked out by Christ on behalf of His people. Yet, the Gospel is so much more than a story. It is the essence of the Christian life. It defines who we are, what we are doing, why we are here, how we are empowered to live, and our purpose as God's people. In the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the very essence of true life for every Christian. The Gospel is not something we get over or move on from. It is the deep truth "into which angels long to look."

"The gospel is not merely a body of information. It is a kaleidoscope of endless insights into the multidimensional richness of what God has done and how it applies to you."

Tim Keller

TEXT

1 Peter 1:10-12

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

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1. GRACE DRIVES GOSPEL CURIOSITY

- How does God's grace bring us closer to Him?
- What usually kills your curiosity about God? (busyness, cynicism, pain, etc.?)
- What does true Gospel hunger (spiritual hunger) look like?
- How can we do practically to feed our spiritual hunger?

Application Question: What has your attention?

“The cosmic sweep of God’s redemption is all centered in Christ, whom we know and love. The petty dreams of earth’s little tyrants shrivel before the majesty of the kingdom of God, ministered by prophets and apostles, but now realized for those who know Jesus Christ.”¹

Edmund Clowney

¹ Edmund P. Clowney, [The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 60.

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2. IN THE GOSPEL, SUFFERING IS THE WAY TO GLORY.

- Peter links Christ suffering with subsequent glories. Why are these two things linked?
- How does the suffering then glory dynamic apply to both Jesus and His people?
- How does the Gospel practically bring us comfort in suffering?
- In what ways does suffering refine Christians?

Application Question: Are you living in the truth that suffering is the way to glory?

¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, **in the things that have now been announced to you** through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, **things into which angels long to look.**

3. THE GOSPEL SPEAKS TO ALL OF LIFE

- If the Gospel is the true agenda of the church, what other agendas have tried to sneak into the church throughout church history?

- How does the Gospel speak to these areas?
 - o Identity
 - o Work
 - o Marriage
 - o Money
 - o Conflict
 - o Anxiety

- How does the Gospel free us from needing others to validate our worth?
 - o What does the Gospel show us about our identity and worth in Christ?

Application Question: How is the Gospel speaking into the different areas of your life?

“Though the world may think such Christians insignificant and worthy of pity or scorn, angels—who see ultimate reality from God’s perspective—find them to be objects of intense interest, for they know that these struggling believers are actually the recipients of God’s greatest blessings and honored participants in a great drama at the focal point of universal history.”²

Wayne Grudem

² Wayne A. Grudem, [1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary](#), vol. 17, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 78.

Head / Heart / Hands

- What does this text teach me?

- What does it tell me to feel?

- What does it tell me to do?