

Dead Man Walking

John 5:25-29: Community Group Curriculum

5/22/2011

Community Group Leader Instructions:

In preparation for the following group discussions and the use of the provided material, take a few moments to read through the instructions below.

Before the Group Meeting

1. Spend time engaging the "Passages for Study" with prayer.
2. Read through all the material.
 - a. As you look through it, you will find helpful tips in the "Leader Guide" section that will allow you to better facilitate the discussion.
2. Think through ways you can help your group apply what is being taught instead of simply knowing what's been taught.
 - a. Write down two or three ideas.

At the Group Meeting

1. Summarize the "Introduction."
 - a. You may read the "Introduction" aloud if that is helpful.
2. Assign readers for the passages outlined in the "Discussion Questions" section.
3. Walk your group through each question (or the ones that time permits).
Use the "Leader Guide" to help facilitate the discussion.
4. Summarize the "Review & Reflection" section. You may read this section aloud if that is helpful.
5. Share your thoughts on how you and your group can begin to apply what was learned in this lesson. Help them formulate ideas for reading, studying and meditating on the Scriptures.
6. Share with your group the resources from the "Keep Digging Deeper" section.
7. End in a time of prayer. Praying that God would strengthen you to obedience, increasing your depth of life and experience of Him.

The Hope: This passage is the culmination of Christ's proclamation of authority. Jesus instills awe in his listeners as he reveals his power through his ability to save, and how the root of salvation is from God, through God and for God. The final hope is "do not marvel" at the means of salvation, but rather in the salvation itself, God is greater than his theology.

Additionally, as this is the last week of community group questions for spring 2011, we will be asking some big picture review questions to see how far God has brought us this year.

Questions:

1. Have you ever seen yourself as "dead" as explained in the sermon this weekend? If yes then how did it affect you when you heard that truth? If no, what is your view of being dead now? Refer to: Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:13
2. How do you balance your known imperfections with the perfection of Jesus?
Hint; read Colossians 1:27; Philippians 1:6
3. We have repeatedly pointed to Jesus being the treasure (Matt 13:44, Col. 3:11). What are 3 things that are different about you since you've come to know this truth?
4. What would be the biggest thing you learned about Jesus this past Community Group semester?
5. What has been one of the truths that had the greatest impact on you?
6. Is there something you think we could change to help make Community Groups a better experience?

Questions:

1. The Bible refers to our natural state as being "dead in our sin" (Eph 2:1). Not part dead, or some dead, but Dead, Dead. This can be a struggle for us if we are trying to accomplish "life" on our own. Conversely, it can be completely liberating if you can embrace the fact that it is God's job to bring us to life. We don't try hard and he meets us half way; he speaks the words and as the passage says: "the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live." (John 5:25)

2. We are a work in process. God is both making us into the image of Christ (Rom8:29) and bring that work to completion is us (Phil 1:6). We are not perfect, but we are being molded into the image of someone that is [Jesus]. It is God who is at work in us to bring you to completion (Phil 2:12-13). While we may struggle with not being 'perfect,' or repeatedly finding yourself dealing with our own fallen sinful nature, it is very helpful to keep in mind that we are a work in process as we walk, trip, stumble, and run down the paths of life.

3. [Personal Response]

4. [Personal Response]

5. [Personal Response]

6. [Personal Response]

Review and Reflection:

In this passage we looked at how amazing salvation is and what it means that we were dead in our sins and God breathed life into us. Salvation is a miracle, but it is only saving us from sin and its affects, eventually we won't need "Saving" because we will be with God and absent from sin. So in that regard, the best is yet to come." We marvel at God's saving work of salvation, but in this passage we are reminded not to get stuck marveling at salvation when it is a temporary state that will ultimately end in heaven and eternity with God.

Memory Verses:

Proverbs 8:33-34

33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

34 Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors.

Resources to keep Digging Deeper:

☐ Get Help: <http://shec.net/connect/contact>

☐ Get Connected: <http://shec.net/connect/community>

☐ Become a Member: <http://www.shec.net/membership>

☐ Get Serving: <http://shec.net/connect/volunteer.html>