



The Gospel

Feb 28: Believe (Jesus Gave & Invites)

Series Summary: The commandment to share the Gospel with a world that is far from God is the most essential calling in our lives. Because this calling is of first importance, we should strive to be focused so that the lost understand what God has done for them. Relatable so that those who don't believe will realize their need for Him. Clear so that those who are far from God will put their faith in Jesus.

Big Idea: Jesus gave His life on the cross and invites us to believe in Him.

Schedule

- Hot Dogs in Cafe
- Small Groups W/ Video

GET THEM TALKING

The good news of the Gospel is only good news because of Jesus. For it to be good news for us, we must believe in Jesus. But what exactly must we believe is true about Jesus?

Leader Note: God invites us to believe that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life three days later, conquering sin and death. Jesus did all of this so that we can have a relationship with Him when we believe in Him for eternal life. If we do not believe these things to be true about Jesus, we have rejected what Jesus claimed to be true of Himself and, therefore, rejected Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Jesus Gave & Invites)

Background of the passage: A high-ranking Pharisee named Nicodemus was intrigued by Jesus' teachings and miraculous signs. He asked Jesus the honest question of how someone could be born again as Jesus taught. Unfortunately, Nicodemus did not understand that Jesus was speaking of our spiritual rebirth that only Jesus can provide through His sacrifice. In the passage we are about to read, Jesus brings so much clarity to the Gospel message that Nicodemus desperately needed.

Read John 3:13-18 together as a group.

In verse 13, Jesus referenced the Son of Man as the only one who has seen God. This title (Son of Man) refers to the prophecy of the coming Messiah in Daniel 7. Jesus was referred to as the Son of Man 82 times in the New Testament. This means that Jesus clearly claimed to be God's only Son and, therefore, God himself. Why does it matter so much that Jesus was God in the flesh, not just a nice guy who did miracles?

Again and again, the word believe is used in this passage. Based on this passage, what happens when we believe in Jesus?

Leader Note: When we believe in Jesus, as our Savior, our sins are forgiven, heaven becomes our forever home, and we have a relationship with God.

Vs 18. What happens when someone does not believe in Jesus?

Leader Note (answer): Jesus clearly taught that anyone who rejects Jesus is condemned to Hell in verse 18. Oftentimes, people hear this and feel as if Jesus (God) is harsh in doing this. However, we have to remember that if we reject Jesus, we have ultimately condemned ourselves.

VIDEO

Situation - Imagine you have a friend who starts to talk to you about how guilty they feel about what they have done. They feel like their actions have left them condemned.

Their Problem: At the heart of their problem is a feeling that they could never be forgiven for what they did.

Gospel on-ramp: This conversation is an amazing on-ramp for the Gospel because

Push pause and talk about how you could respond to this friend in need with more than just an I am sorry. Instead, how could you respond to their problem with the good news of the Gospel?

Here is how I would answer them and use their real need as an opportunity to share the Gospel.



Our sin does condemn us because sin is us rejecting God. Sinner can not have a relationship with a sinless (righteous) God. But When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, our sins are forgiven, heaven becomes our forever home, and we have a relationship with God.



As believers, we are a new creation. Our sin no longer condemns us. Our identity is no longer found in our sin and mistakes. Our identity is now found in Christ's mercy.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Gospel 4 Circles)

Hand out the 4 circles of the Gospel to everyone in the group.

How would you share the Gospel using the four words beginning, broken, believe, and become?

Leader Note: Next week, we will be challenging students to think about who in their lives they have an opportunity and, therefore, a calling to share the Gospel with.