



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICE BREAKER: It was hot this weekend. What do you like to do to stay cool in hot weather?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1 & 4.

1. The practices of communion and baptism are symbolic reenactments of the truth of the gospel. Read 1 Corinthians 11:26. Why is it important that we observe Christ's death for us? Why did Christ institute the practice of communion? How does communion help us slow down and remember the work of Jesus completed on our behalf?
2. Read Isaiah 45:21. Pastor Tom said, "forgiveness is such a huge issue to navigate because it's the place where divine perfection and human rebellion collide." Do you think we tend to see our sin as smaller and less important or enormous and atrocious before the holiness of God? Do we tend to categorize and rank sins in our minds? How does this limit our understanding of our own sinfulness?
3. Pastor Tom quoted Stott who said, "Sin is not a regrettable lapse from conventional standards; its essence is hostility to God, issuing in active rebellion against Him!" Have you thought about sin in this way? Read Romans 8:7. Why is forgiveness such a monumental act of God for us?
4. Pastor Tom explained that in order for God to be able to forgive our sins, there needed to be Someone who could legitimately represent humanity...and who could pay the penalty for all human sin perfectly and completely. Read Romans 3:23; 6:23; John 1:1, 14. How do these verses explain both the need for a representative and the coming of that representative? How does the reality of Jesus' representation of us strike you? Read Philipians 2:6-8, 1 Peter 2:24 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How do you respond to these verses?

PERSONAL GUIDE FOR WEEK OF JULY 1ST

DAY 1 - Read Romans 1 & 2

DAY 2 - Read Romans 3 & 4

DAY 3 - Read Romans 5

DAY 4 - Read Romans 6

DAY 5 - Read Romans 7 & 8

DON'T FORGET
TO LOOK BACKWARD
JULY 1ST, 2018

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES



“Don’t Forget [To Look Backward]”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

In the Scriptures we see 2 things that Jesus clearly instituted: B _____ and C _____.

“Ordinances” = s _____ reenactments of the truth of the gospel (that Jesus lived, died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is coming back again).

An ordinance is something instituted by Jesus, _____ by the apostles, and practiced by the early Church.

Communion challenges us...to look in the _____ direction.

Note 1 Corinthians 11:26

Even when forgiveness does seem hard to us, we mistakenly think that forgiveness was and is something _____ for God.

Forgiveness is the very opposite of anything that which be taken for granted. Nothing is less obvious than forgiveness! (Brunner)

...forgiveness to man is the plainest of duties; to God it is the profoundest of problems! (Simpson)

Forgiveness is such a huge issue to navigate because it’s the place where divine _____ and human rebellion collide...

Note Isaiah 45:21

1. The _____ of Sin

- Most common = “to _____ the mark/target”
- “unrighteousness/i _____”
- “vicious/degenerate _____”
- “t _____” = “stepping over known boundary”
- “lawlessness” = “disregard or violation of _____ law”

Sin is not a regrettable _____ from conventional standards; its essence is hostility to God, issuing in active rebellion against Him! (Stott)

Note Romans 8:7

Note Genesis 3:5, 11-13

God has both a *personal divine r _____* to evil, as well as a *personal vigorous opposition* to sin. (Morris).

This is why forgiveness for God is the most _____ and perplexing of problems.

2. The S _____ Substitution

Note Romans 3:23; 1 John 4:8; Exodus 34:7b; John 1:1, 14

In order for God to be able to forgive our sins, there needed to be Someone who could l _____ represent humanity...and who could _____ the penalty for all human sin perfectly and completely...

Note Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Peter 2:24

- A. Jesus died for _____ (note John 10:11; Romans 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:10a).
- B. Jesus died for us to _____ us to God (note 1 Peter 3:18).
- C. Jesus died for our _____ (note 1 Corinthians 15:3b; Hebrews 9:26; 10:12; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5-6).
- D. Jesus died our _____ – Death is an _____ intrusion into God’s good world, and not a part of His original intention for humankind.

Don’t Forget:

- Our sin must be extremely _____.
- God’s _____ must be wonderful beyond comprehension.
- Christ’s salvation must be a _____ gift (note Ephesians 2:8-9).
- *It is finished* (John 19:30).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Don’t Forget [to Look Backward]”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

In the Scriptures we see 2 things that Jesus clearly instituted: Baptism and Communion.

“Ordinances” = *symbolic reenactments of the truth of the gospel (that Jesus lived, died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is coming back again).*

An ordinance is something instituted by Jesus, taught by the apostles, and practiced by the early Church.

Communion challenges us...to look in the right direction.

Note 1 Corinthians 11:26

Even when forgiveness does seem hard to us, we mistakenly think that forgiveness was and is something easy for God.

Forgiveness is the very opposite of anything that which be taken for granted. Nothing is less obvious than forgiveness! (Brunner)

...forgiveness to man is the plainest of duties; to God it is the profoundest of problems! (Simpson)

Forgiveness is such a huge issue to navigate because it’s the place where divine perfection and human rebellion collide...

Note Isaiah 45:21

1. The Enormity of Sin

- Most common = “to miss the mark/target”
- “unrighteousness/iniquity”
- “vicious/degenerate evil”
- “trespass” = “stepping over known boundary”
- “lawlessness” = “disregard or violation of known law”

Sin is not a regrettable lapse from conventional standards; its essence is hostility to God, issuing in active rebellion against Him!(Stoff)

Note Romans 8:7

Note Genesis 3:4, 11-13

God has both a *personal divine revulsion to evil*, as well as a *personal vigorous opposition to sin*. (Morris).

This is why forgiveness for God is the most complex and perplexing of problems.

2. The Supreme Substitution

Note Romans 3:23; 1 John 4:8; Exodus 34:7b; John 1:1, 14

In order for God to be able to forgive our sins, there needed to be Someone who could legitimately represent humanity...and who could pay the penalty for all human sin perfectly and completely...

Note Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Peter 2:24

- A. Jesus died for us (note John 10:11; Romans 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:10a).
- B. Jesus died for us to bring us to God (note 1 Peter 3:18).
- C. Jesus died for our sins (note 1 Corinthians 15:3a; Hebrews 9:26; 10:12; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5-6).
- D. Jesus died our death – *Death is an alien intrusion into God’s good world, and not a part of His original intention for humankind.*

Don’t Forget:

- Our sin must be extremely horrific.
- God’s love must be wonderful beyond comprehension.
- Christ’s salvation must be a free gift (note Ephesians 2:8-9).
- *It is finished* (John 19:30).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!