

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Alive” (pt. 2) – 4/27/2014

Scripture: John 20:19-23

Bottom Line: Just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us.

INTRODUCTION:

Describe a time when someone scared you. How long did the shock last? What about the anger? What about the relief of knowing it was just a joke? Imagine the utter shock when the disciples saw Jesus alive. No one could blame them for freaking out. It was a life changing event. The difference between the disciples and us was that for them it wasn't a joke. Jesus was really there, and their lives would never be the same.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 20:19-20

Why did Jesus say, “Peace be with you” to the disciples when he appeared to them?

This was a common greeting in the Bible whenever someone had peaceful intentions but was capable of much destruction. Multiple times in Scripture when angels appear to people the first thing they tell them is not to be afraid. They assure them that they haven't come to harm them but bring peace.

Read John 20:21-22

What is the connection between John 20:22 and Genesis 2:7 and why is it important?

Just as God breathed life into mankind when he first created them and they became living creatures, so Jesus gives the disciples life and empowerment to do his work among the nations. This also shows the reader that John is comparing Jesus to the Father. Both are divine. In just a few sentences, Thomas will go so far as to call Jesus God. This had massive importance.

Read John 20:23

Was Jesus saying that if we do not forgive others then God will not forgive them?

What this verse means is that you have authority as an ambassador of Christ to speak the words he would normally speak. If a person has repented of their sin, then you can confidently tell them that they are forgiven, not because you have the authority to forgive sins, but because you know through the gospel message that God has indeed forgiven them.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

How does the Gospel change how you define yourself?

When you believe, you go from being under God's wrath to being the object of his love. When you believe, you go from being a rebel to a beloved son or daughter because God has adopted you into his family. This means that Christ is your king and you now live under his rule. Your whole life's purpose has changed. You now live for his glory. You are sent by Jesus into the world to point people to him. We should not let any job or status define us but we should find our importance and self-value in Jesus.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

What are some steps you can take to live the life that Jesus wants you to live?

- 1) Fight to believe that Jesus is more precious than any competing temptation or view of life that contradicts Scripture.
- 2) Spend time praying and talking with him. Ask him. Confess to him. Thank him for his mercy.
- 3) Spend time reading Scripture. Even if you find that it is a confusing book, just keep reading and ask God to help you understand.
- 4) Commit to serving and giving to The Crossing Church. True humility is developed when we lose sight of our desires and place others before us.