

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Make Room (pt. 6)” - 03.20.16

Scripture: Acts 14:19-22

Bottom Line: It is Finished!

INTRODUCTION/BREAKING THE ICE:

Here are some fun questions to “break the ice” at the beginning of your discussion time. Use these or make up your own! What was the best thing you ever received in an easter egg when you were a child? If you could pick any career what would it be and why? What’s one of your biggest irrational fears?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

This week we are looking at both Paul and Jesus as they endured certain tribulations. Paul both accepts and uses his hardship to further the gospel as well as responds to them in a manner that may be different than our typical response.

Read Acts 14:19-22

- 1) What were some of the tribulations Paul experienced in the verses we just read? How would you respond if you were in Paul’s place?**
- 2) Paul returned to encourage the new believers and ensure them that they would face hardship in their walk with God. Why do you believe God gave this advice and how was he able to respond in such a way?**

Answer: Paul was focused on God’s will and not his own. He understood the one he worshipped and followed and endured the worst tribulation in all of history, the cross.

- 3) This week we are remembering Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. This always raises a few questions. First, how did Jesus end up on the cross?**

Answer: God the Father wasn’t surprised by people turning on Jesus and crucifying Him. In fact, this was always the plan! (Isaiah 53:5; Psalm 22; Revelation 13:8).

- 4) Couldn’t God just have forgiven us without Jesus going to the cross?**

Answer: God cannot change who he is. This is really good news because he is really GOOD! God is many things as we find in Scripture. Holy, perfect, righteous, etc. God is also just. Because we sinned or, “broke the law,” a penalty must be paid. If God were to simply overlook who we are that would change who He is because He would no longer be just. So on the cross God is both just (Jesus paid the penalty) and merciful (God didn’t make you pay what you owe).

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

- 1) When you begin to feel the tug of guilt or shame in the midst of failure this week say, “IT IS FINISHED”. Know that you don’t have to add to Jesus’ finished work. Because of the cross you are fully forgiven, fully loved and completely delighted in by God. Celebrate this freedom!**