

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Saturated” (pt. 1)” - 03.27.16

Scripture: Acts 15:1-19

Bottom Line: Easter (the Resurrection) Changes Everything!

INTRODUCTION/BREAKING THE ICE:

Here are some fun questions to “break the ice” at the beginning of your discussion time. Use these examples or make up your own! What were some fun Easter activities your family experienced this year? What’s your favorite holiday and why? What’s the worst vacation you’ve been on? If you could eat one item and only one item for the rest of your life, what would it be?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

Easter typically brings about thoughts of eggs, pretty dresses, bunny rabbits and jelly beans. The real reason for the holiday is to remember Jesus’ resurrection. What comes to mind when you think about Jesus’ resurrection? Does the resurrection impact your daily life or was it just an event many years ago? Why or why not? Acts 15 is a picture of how the resurrection affects our lives and current situations on a daily basis.

Read Acts 15:1-5

1) *The Pharisees were arguing that people who placed faith in Jesus must also be circumcised in order to be holy in God’s sight. Do you think that is in line with the gospel? Why or why not?*

Answer: It does not align with the gospel because it is works based. “God did something, given law, now you must do something” or “You have to behave before you can believe or belong”. They are arguing for acceptance based on what you do and not what Jesus did on our behalf.

Read Acts 15:6-19

1) *The Pharisees argue that God gave religious rules that must be followed. Thus, we must add our perfect obedience to be saved. How does Peter combat their argument?*

Answer: Peter says, “God did something: He sent his perfect Son to live, die, and be resurrected for us. What God did in the resurrection is totally perfect & complete for us. So there is nothing we can add, only what we can trust. “Unless Jesus is raised, I can’t be saved”

2) *How does what Jesus accomplish impact your daily life?*

Answer: We no longer have to work to be right with God. Now we can rest in Jesus’ finished work. It also gives hope that God has the power to resurrect “dead things” in our lives!

3) *What does “resting” in Jesus’ finished work look like for you?*

Answer: God’s not disappointed with you. Guilt and shame are no longer a reality.

4) *What does Jesus’ accomplished work mean for our church, The Crossing?*

Answer: Church isn’t a social club for the religious elite, but a hospital for the hurting. Church isn’t an event to attend, but a family to belong to. How can your small group live this out?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE

1) The resurrection of Jesus was not just a historic event for the church to remember or a future eternity for which they would hope, but it affected and saturated everything they did. And it should be for us today, too. Read on page 2 how you can saturate your life with the resurrection.

2) Will you remember Jesus’ resurrection was an actual event in history? Will you trust your future in eternity to Jesus and his resurrection? Will saturate your everyday with Jesus and his resurrection? What “dead” areas of your life need resurrecting? Easter changes EVERYTHING!

Resurrection for the Everyday Life
(take time to share and discuss these with your group)

I. When God seems boring and faith feels stale, remember the resurrection. God miraculously raised Jesus! So trusting God is never dull. There is his glory to fan the flames of faith for you.

II. When you feel like God is mad or disappointed in you, remember the resurrection. God gave his son to die and rise for you. So you're not in trouble. There is his unconditional love for you.

III. When sin, habits, and addictions seem overwhelming, remember the resurrection. God conquered the greatest wages of sin- death. So you're not helpless. There is his sin-defeating power for you.

IV. When life feels chaotic, remember the resurrection. God was in total control at the crossing and in the grave. So don't be anxious about anything. There is his perfect peace for you.

V. When someone hurts you or wrongs you, remember the resurrection. God made a way when you betrayed him. So don't run or seek revenge. There is his reconciliation to offer for you.

VI. When the future looks impossible, dark, and done, remember the resurrection. If God can resurrect a dead man, He can resurrect your _____. So don't give up. There is his power for you.

VII. When you feel mediocre or average, remember the resurrection. When God gives new life it is anything but common. God can work the greatest miracle of new life in you and for you.