

HOME GROUP LEADER'S NOTES

Week of April 21, 2019

LEARN

The author (Paul) restates what he calls "the gospel." Write a short summary of "the gospel" (which means "good news").

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a good exercise for us. This is something that you can construct together.

How is this a complete contrast to "religion?"

NOTES TO LEADERS: Three key ideas: earn vs. gift, attempt vs. granted/guaranteed, unknown gain vs. eternal life. Religion is an attempt to earn favor / standing with a deity or position in life. The good news is about what God has done for us. This means that we do not earn salvation, standing with God, or position in life. Rather, it is a gift of God. Also, no religion guarantees life after death. The resurrection of Christ is promised to all who place faith in Jesus Christ and what he accomplished for us.

What evidence for the resurrection does Paul present? How could it be verified?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The life and work of Jesus was filled with miracles and promises of His resurrection including prophecies in the Old Testament. Secondly, Paul refers to eye witnesses to specific people as well as 500+ others. Thirdly, these witnesses can be found in their time because most of them were still alive - they can verify these facts.

Why is the resurrection of Christ central to all that we believe?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The good news includes the promise of life after death. The resurrection confirms that Jesus can deliver what He promised to us.

How is Paul an example of someone saved by the grace of God?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul says that he was persecuting the church. Therefore, he did not earn his status with God. Rather, God offered him grace through faith.

Who goes to heaven according to this chapter?

NOTES TO LEADERS: According to verse two, a person is saved by holding fast to the word preached (the good news). This is a salvation by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus who rose from the dead.

DISCUSS

Why is the resurrection the basis of everything that Jesus' followers believe?

NOTES TO LEADERS: (See questions above)

Your friend who believes in (*blank*) religion wants to know the differences from the gospel. What can you say?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Again, this is a good exercise. (See questions above)

What changes in a person's life who believes that Jesus' resurrection was the prototype of what awaits His people? How might this be evident to the people in their world?

NOTES TO LEADERS: We are people of hope. Therefore, when we understand and let this hope shape our lives, we live out this hope in our worlds. (1 Peter 1:3; 3:15) This hope shapes our lives as follows:

- We don't look for hope in the people or things of this world
- We see life and death from God's point of view (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- We believe God is presently working to bring His kingdom in to this world.
- Our minds can be set on the things above and not this world
- We can live as people who understand that suffering / challenge in this world is bringing us eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- We trust in Jesus who said he has prepared a place for us with him in heaven.

Praying for God's leadership in your life as you shepherd His people.

Steve