

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Finding YOUR WAY back to God means giving allegiance to Jesus as THE WAY back to God.

SCRIPTURE

John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use these as a chance to ease your group into talking. Hopefully, everyone will share something at least one time in your group – be intentional about making time for every person to answer. Be easy with people in your group – knowing that not everyone will agree about politics. Many important issues could sidetrack your group but emphasize that this time is for discussing the nature of the Gospel and that it might be useful to set up an alternate time for people who want to talk about specific political issues more deeply.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Reading Scripture out loud is an important part of every small group. During this time, give people the chance to take turns reading out loud. Sometimes it's helpful to read in different translations, especially for people who might have a lot of familiarity with either Scripture.

Remember, when sharing thoughts, there isn't one right answer; we're looking for engagement.

LIFE APPLICATION

Gospel is often hard to quantify or state succinctly. Different church traditions emphasize different pieces of the Gospel for many people because it is so multi-faceted and life-changing. For reference, here are some (not exhaustive) scriptural resources to help you talk about Gospel:

"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand...For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve." -1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Jesus preexisted with the Father (John 1:1-2).

Jesus took on human flesh (John 1:14).

Jesus lived a life of service (Matthew 4:23).

Jesus died for our sins and was buried (1 Corinthians 15:3-4a).

Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:4b-5).

Jesus ascended to heaven and has been enthroned as King. (Hebrews 1:3)

Jesus will come again (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

The Greek word for faith is "pistis," – which is "confidence, fidelity, faithfulness, commitment, and pledged loyalty." Is this better captured by the English word allegiance?

It may be helpful to point out that the "self-centered" abbreviated Gospel is not wrong, but it isn't the whole picture of the good news about Jesus. It is true that God rescues us and redeems us precisely because of who he is and the kind of King or ruler he is. It is easy to shrink down the Gospel as a benefits package, but Jesus calls us to much more. Jesus calls us to give him our allegiance and follow him and the way of his Kingdom.

You can check out the Turn the Page Bible Experience by visiting communitychristian.org/daily or on the app.