

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



WARM UP

1. What was the last thing you were so stoked about that you had to share it with others?
2. What is the best news you've ever gotten?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Reflecting back on the things we heard from Ken Freeman:

- a) What is the most impactful thing you heard Ken say?
- b) What was the most convicting thing you heard Ken say?
- c) Did Ken's message raise any questions for you?

4. If you had to describe the Gospel to someone in two minutes, what would you say?

(This question is designed to get people to think about what the gospel, the core of Christianity, actually is, and think about how they can express those idea's to others.)

God created man with a purpose to know and enjoy God. Man rebelled against that purpose and separated themselves from God. Every human being is part of that rebellion, and since God is just, cannot simply forgive that evil. But since God is loving and merciful, He made a way to reunite us with Him by paying for the punishment of our rebellion himself. God came to earth in the form of man and paid our debt on the cross. All we have to do to accept that pardon is to admit we were rebels and turn to God as our only means of being restored to friendship with the King. Once we have the pardon of God, we can enjoy and know Him forever.

Can you start tell someone about the gospel without creation and the Old Testament?

How would you tell someone about the gospel with Bible verses? or without Bible verses?



- GOD LOVES YOU. JEREMIAH 31:1
- GOD HATES SIN. PSALM 11:5 \ 1 JOHN 3:4
- EVEN IF YOU ARE A "GOOD" PERSON PROVERBS 21:1
- YOU HAVE NOT LIVED A PERFECT LIFE. 1 JOHN 1:8
- NOR HAS ANYONE ELSE. ROMANS 3:23
- YOUR SIN HAS SEPARATED YOU FROM GOD ISAIAH 59:2
- AND YOUR PAYMENT FOR SIN IS DEATH. ROMANS 6:23
- BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS. LUKE 2:10
- A PERFECT LIFE CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR YOURS. HEB 4:15
- AND GOD LOVED YOU SO MUCH JOHN 3:16
- THAT HE GAVE JESUS AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE. 2 COR5:21
- AND THROUGH HIS DEATH HEBREWS 9:12
- YOU CAN HAVE LIFE ETERNAL. JOHN 17:3
- AND BY HIS RESURRECTION DEATH IS DEFEATED. JOHN 11:25
- THIS GIFT IS FREE. EPHESIANS 2:8
- YOU COULD NEVER DESERVE IT. GALATIANS 2:16
- AND JUST BY ACCEPTING THIS GIFT ROMANS 10:13
- YOUR SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN AND FORGOTTEN. ACTS 2:38
- YOU WILL BE RECONCILED TO GOD 2 COR 5:18
- AND LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER IN HEAVEN. PHILIPPIANS 3:20

a) In one sentence, why is the gospel such good news?

The gospel is good news because we get to enjoy, worship, and engage with the greatest being in existence, namely God, for the rest of eternity which is what we were created for. (Rom 6:23, Acts 3:19, John 3:16)

Is heaven the good news of the gospel? or forgiveness?

- God is the ultimate good news of the gospel. Heaven is nothing without God and forgiveness is simply a means to get to God. God is the good news.

b) The gospel is good news without the bad news first. What is the bad news that makes the gospel so great?

The bad news is that God is absolutely good and just, and we are not good but in willing rebellion (sin) against that perfectly good God. (John 3:36, Rom 3:23, Ez 18:20, Rev 21:8)

Can someone understand the gospel as good news without recognizing the bad news first?

- You must first realize that you need a savior and that there is something to be saved from before a Savior is good news.

5. Paul quotes an early Christian creed that describes the gospel in 1 Cor 15:1-5. What are the key parts of the gospel in this creed?

- The gospel is how we are saved through belief and it says:
 1. Christ died for our sin
 2. He was physically buried
 3. He rose from the dead on the third day
 4. Christ alive after His death

6. Understanding the key components of the gospel is very important to be able to explain it to others. Think about how you would answer someone who asked you the following questions and what Scripture you would use:

a) Why is sin a big deal? In the grand scheme of things, who cares if I have a lustful thought or lie on my taxes?

Sin is a big deal because it is rebellion against the King of the Universe and is punishable by death (Rom 6:23/Gen 2:17/Ez 18:20). It is serious because of the greatness of the One rebelled against! God created the universe to act in a way that makes Him look glorious (Isa 43:7/1 Cor 10:31) and when we fail to do that by treasuring anything above God, or preferring anything else to Him (Rom 1:23), we are literally violating the purpose of our existence and the whole universe (Rom 1:20/Psalm 19:1). God is the ultimate good (Psalm 86:5/Mark 10:18) and sin is anything that is "anti-God."

b) Why did Jesus have to die? If God is all-powerful, why couldn't He just forgive sin without killing His son?

There is no such thing as "simple forgiveness." (Heb 9:22) Someone always bears the consequence of actions either the wrong doer or the one who was wronged. Either we would bear the penalty of sin or God would bear it. There is no other alternative. God chose to bear it (1 Pet 3:18), allowing Him to remain just and merciful in forgiving us (Rom 3:24-26). Sin had an account that had to be paid, and Jesus did that on the cross (Rom 8:3-4).

c) What did Jesus save us from?

Jesus saved us from God, namely the wrath of God. (John 3:36/Rom 1:18) Ultimately, that wrath would be exercised through eternal separation from God - death. (Rom 6:23>Psalm 16:11/Psalm 73:27)

d) Why is it important that Jesus was both God and man? Couldn't He have done the same things as just God or just a righteous man?

If Jesus had not been God, He could not have paid the infinite debt of sin. He also would have had no right to reconcile us to God or appease the wrath of God (Rom 3:24-26/John 1:12-13), if He was not God. Jesus could make a way for us to get to God because He is God (1 Peter 3:18/John 1:1). If Jesus had not been man, He couldn't have died after living a perfect, sinless life even though He was tempted like us (Heb 4:15). Man must pay for the the rebellion he committed, and so Jesus had to be man (Rom 5:12-19).

e) If it was Jesus' death that saved us, why is it important that He rose again?

The Resurrection was the proof that everything He said and did was true (Rom 1:4). It was an apologetic for His life and ministry and the assurance of our hope (Rom 5:9-10/8:11). Believing that Jesus has power over death is critical to salvation (Rom 10:9/1 Cor 15:13-17).

7. Why should we share the gospel with other people?

We are commanded to (Matt 28:16-20). We should want to share the greatest news! People cannot believe who have not heard the gospel (Rom 10:14-17).

* Briefly share with your group how you came to know and believe in the Gospel.

(Use this question to allow some people to share their testimonies if they have not already done that. Feel free to start with this question before going to the rest.)

8. If you tell other people about things that excite you (remember your answer to question 1) and the Gospel is great and exciting news, what prevents you from sharing the gospel at times? or why don't you share the gospel more often?

(These are application questions and should be used with caution in your group.)

* How can you actively proclaim the gospel this week?