

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

November 11, 2018

"SENT" - Week 7

For more information or to join a Growth Group,
please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups
or call the Church Office at 408.288.4115.

Reminder: Don't feel the need to get to every question. Use this resource as a guide but feel free to ask questions that may be related to the topic but have some special applicability to your group.

Quick Review

These are "soft-ball" questions designed to do two things 1. Get people talking. 2. Serve as refresher or review for those who don't recall the message or for those who missed Sunday's service.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

My Story

1. On Sunday we heard that modern people use the word "hope" to describe how we feel about something that has a slim chance of happening. We also learned that "hope" in the Bible is more like an expectant certainty. Can you think of a time when you experienced either hope or hopelessness?

How did your hope or the lack of it ultimately effect the situation?

The goal of this question is to help us recognize how important hope is. Weather or not we have hope will play a huge part in our chances of relative success, our spiritual health and our overall quality of life.

Digging Deeper

1. Over the weekend we were reminded that we know the end of the story, and knowing the ending ought to change our perspective in the midst of tough times. Despite knowing this, we're often consumed with worry to the point of losing hope. What encouragement does Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 give to help us overcome our fears or feeling of hopelessness?

[Ephesians 3:14-21 \(NIV\)](#)

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

vv. 16 Says "...he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being," Modern people are all somewhat accustomed to the idea that the Spirit of God resides inside of us. However, to the people who heard this first it would have been groundbreaking and shocking. The Spirit of God dwelled in temple almost exclusively. To be in the presence of it would have been terrifying. The knowledge that something that powerful lives in the hearts of believers should strengthen and encourage us.

vv. 19 Says "may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" Notice the word "together". There is an aspect of God's power that is realized in community with others. Not only do we get Christ's love (which is immeasurable) we get a community of other people to help us continually reflect on this love.

Can you think of any fears that consistently pop up in your life and cause you to lose hope?

vv. 20 would be helpful to meditate on as we consider this question. It says: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,". Not only can God handle our biggest problems, the text says that He can do more than we can imagine!"

2. Jesus rising from the dead is foundational to the Christian faith because it is the proof that Christ is who he claimed to be – our Savior and God's only son. But it also impacts how we live out our faith. What importance does 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 place on Christ's resurrection for us in our Christian walk?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Paul is making the argument that the entire Christian faith hangs on the resurrection. He writes "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile..." (vv 17) If the tomb is indeed empty then the Bible is true and so are the God's promises to us.

What do Romans 5:6-8 and 6:5-7 add to your understanding of the importance of Christ's death and resurrection for us?

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:5-7 (NIV)

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

3. It is because of Jesus resurrection that we can believe Him and the promises in the Scriptures. Read the following verses that depict what Jesus said about himself. For each one, identify what he says about himself and any ways you can think of for how his description of himself can have an impact on our lives as believers.

John 6:35 (NIV)

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12 (NIV)

Dispute Over Jesus' Testimony

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:7-10 (NIV)

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:14-15 (NIV)

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 11:25 (NIV)

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

John 14:6 (NIV)

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

There could be many possible responses to this question. The key is the help your group wrestle with the implications of the resurrection. These verses show, at a minimum that we are brought from darkness to light, our deepest longings are met in God and that we inherit eternal life.

4. The Apostle Paul emphasized the importance of the resurrection to Christians when he wrote: "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). Suppose a friend or co-worker asked if how you could believe in the resurrection. How could the following verses help you respond to them?

Matthew 27:62-65 (NIV)

62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."

1 Corinthians 15:2-8 (NIV)

2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Matthew 28:11-15 (NIV)

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Matthew 27:62-65 - A fictional reassertion account had been anticipated by the Pharisees and Pilate. Pilate even went through lengths to ensure that such a rouse would be unsuccessful. This would have made perpetuating a false claim very difficult.

1 Corinthians 15:2-8, - Here Paul is relying on an eyewitness account to prove the authenticity of the Christian claims. To do such a thing when there are no witnesses is illogical and would have instantly undermined Paul's argument. This shows that there were indeed people who saw the risen Christ.

Matthew 28:11-15 - The fact that this plot made its way into the Gospel accounts shows that the notion that Christ was not resurrected was a rumor perpetuated immediately after the events. This is important because a plot to suppress the truth would indicate that Jesus really had risen. The fact that the soldiers were to the ones to inform the chief priests also lends credibility to the story.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Remind your group that there is a Membership Class after service on Nov 18. To sign up call the office, use your Communication Card, or email info@cbclife.org

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at the descriptions of Jesus you listed above, is there one that you'd like to keep in mind this semester?
2. Write the verse that most encourages you somewhere you are likely to see it regularly as a reminder of the hope we have in Jesus.