

WEEK 3

GROW

UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WATCH THE SMALL GROUP VIDEO

1. In your own words, what is the Gospel?
2. Nic talked about how our culture is given over to a “psychological minimization of our sinfulness.” How does this affect the way human depravity is understood? How the Gospel is understood?
3. Nic talked about consequences of misunderstanding the Gospel. One extreme is behavior modification, or following a list of dos and don’ts (see Luke 11:46; Romans 3:10-11, 22-24). What are your thoughts on this?
4. The other extreme is having no sense of personal depravity, believing that being good enough can get you favor with God and therefore eternal life. What are your thoughts on this?
5. How can understanding the Gospel and human depravity help to address these (and other) consequences?

SMALL GROUP SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Romans 3:10-24

Ephesians 2:8

Paul spends the first nine verses in Romans 3 explaining that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty before God. It has nothing to do with how well they follow (or do not follow) directions. Everyone is guilty of something. He then spends the next nine verses proving his claim with three different examples of how people sin, showing that no one can say, "I am not guilty!"

1. In verses 10-12, Paul begins with the sweeping general statement of everyone's guilt. What is he commenting on in terms of one's ability to do good apart from God?
2. In verses 13-14, Paul carries his argument on with specifics to make sure no one is left out. What sin does Paul illustrate of which no one can truthfully say, "I'm not guilty?" Why do you think he chose this? (See Proverbs 10:19; Titus 2:3; James 1:19, 26; and 1 Peter 3:10)
3. The final argument Paul makes for all having some kind of moral guilt before God is in verses 15-18. What is it and what kind of attitude brings this out in people?
4. How would you put each day's reading in your own words?
5. What conclusions can you draw from the readings, and how does it personally resonate with your relationship with God and with the Gospel?