

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 2 WEEK 2

18 May 2017

INVITED TO LIFE

...Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29 (NIV)

Icebreaker

What was your greatest or most memorable holiday ever?

Introduction

The world in which we live is frequently filled with brokenness, trouble and downright evil. So often we look to politics, the economy, earthly institutions and leadership to get us out of these problems and to give us hope again. Though these are important, the Bible makes it clear that the deep root of all this trouble is sin. Our rebellion against God, and our desire to do only that which is right in our own eyes, disfigures all of life. Sin affects us all and it even warps our best-intended efforts of doing something about it. If we do not deal with sin trouble will persist, for the natural outworking of sin is death and total separation from God. Thankfully God did not leave us in this predicament, but through the sacrifice of His Son, cleared the way for us. Jesus took all the punishment for sin, including death onto Himself so that we could stand fully justified (made right) before the Father. Jesus is the only solution to the sin problem, and thus Jesus is the only real hope for the world.

Discussion

- How do you understand sin? Share with one another. Why do we say that it is at the root of all the trouble and evil in the world?
- What changes in the way you look at the world and the people around you when you realise that sin infects and warps all? How does it change the way you look at yourself?
- Why can our own efforts never truly release us from the grip of sin? Why do we keep on trying to?
- Discuss this statement. Do you agree or disagree with it?
'In Christ I am simultaneously sinful and lost, yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad that He had to die for me, and I am so loved that He was glad to die for me.' – Timothy Keller
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 & Romans 8:14 together. Discuss how the Holy Spirit can help us to live victoriously over sin once we have surrendered our lives to the Lord?

- How should we respond to the trouble and evil we see around us (in our homes, our workplaces, schools, etc.) in light of this realisation that sin stands at the bottom of it all?
- Share some of your stories of victory over sin in your life to encourage others.
- Watch the following video clip together which briefly explains the way Christ's sacrifice atones for our sin:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_OIRWGLdnw

Prayer

- Spend time in prayer to thank God for His marvellous saving grace towards us; that he broke the power of sin in our individual lives.
- Ask the Spirit to bring to mind specific people in your workplace and pray that the Spirit will draw '...them with cords of kindness, [and] with the bands of love...' Hosea 11:4(ESV) so as to bring them to a place of repentance.
- Pray for one another that we will all be true salt and light in our city.