

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For April 18, 2021 sermon:

1 Corinthians: "Only a moron will get this"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

Did you have siblings (brothers? sisters?) growing up? How did you fight?
What are some of the reasons people wear crosses or even get a tattoo of it?
What else do we call "sin" so we don't have to call it sin?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Church has been "popular" in the United States for a long time and we've not experienced any significant persecution, so when we read that our message will be unpopular and we should not be surprised at rejection, we're not sure what to think about that. Read these passages and talk about the truth or warning they contain.

John 15:18-25 Psalm 34:15-20 2 Timothy 3:10-14 Matthew 5:10-12

2. Have you ever been tempted to make the Gospel "easier" or more "palatable" when sharing it with someone? When we talk about the uncomfortable elements of the Gospel (our sinfulness, our inability to pay our sin debt ourselves, the necessity of Jesus' sacrifice), these are difficult for people to accept, but it has always been that way. Read the following "Romans Road" scriptures and talk about what the essentials of the Gospel are:

Romans 3:10 Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23 Romans 5:8 Romans 3:22 Romans 10:9-11

3. Just so there is NO confusion. On Easter we talked about the power of our testimony. That people can argue the fine points of doctrine and dismiss creationism as "science", but they can't tell you that your story is not your story. However, our testimony is not an adequate substitute for the central truth of the cross. Our testimony should include how the power of the cross changed US. Read and discuss how Paul uses his testimony and the truth about Jesus in his testimony:

Philippians 3:1-22

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Buckle up friends! This is not meant to be negative or a "downer" but we need to expect that it is going to be more difficult to follow Christ and that our message is going to become even less popular. But in ALL of this, to commit to not become negative, angry or bitter at people who reject us and the Good News about Jesus. Spend a few minutes encouraging each other and even brainstorming ways to be a bold and positive witness for Jesus in the week ahead.