

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For November 7, 2021 sermon:  
***"Dead man walking"***

**Warm up:**

1. Here's a fun discussion to start with. The Bible clearly says that every person is born with a sinful nature and with rebellion in their heart toward God. In other words- that people are "basically bad". But many people have the perspective that people are born "basically good", and it is bad parenting, bad neighborhoods and other harsh circumstances that make some people bad. Here's the question: How can (and why should) we have a loving, gracious attitude toward people who are "basically bad"?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. Paul describes a person's life, prior to saving faith in Jesus, as being "dead in sins". There is no spiritual goodness and no life. A dead person does not just need a change of scenery or extra motivation. Their circumstance is much more dire- they are completely helpless. Even the good things they do are seen as "filthy rags" to a completely holy God. A "dead" person doesn't need a makeover, they need a resurrection. Read the following passages and discuss HOW God does this:

The role of the Father: John 6:44 and John 6:65

The role of God's word: Hebrews 4:12 and John 5:39

The ministry of the Holy Spirit: Titus 3:5 and John 16:7-8

Our part/responsibility: Romans 10:9-10

Remember and discuss how Paul came to view his VERY religious life "BC" (before Christ) as dead, empty and a waste of time. Philippians 3:3b-9

2. What does it mean to you to be "created for good works"? The Bible makes it clear that these are not our way to be saved but we do need to understand what God has called us to once He has saved us. Read the following passages and talk about the kinds of things God wants to see us devoting ourselves to.

Romans 12:6-8    1 Peter 4:8-11    James 1:27    1 John 3:14-18

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

The weeks ahead of us give us a unique opportunity to share our relationship with Jesus with other people. How might we use Thanksgiving (sincere gratitude), Christmas (Christ's birth and opportunities to give generously) and the New Year (conversations about what we hope for the year ahead) to show people that we are focused on Jesus and bringing Him glory? If we don't think about this in advance, pray for opportunities, and think about what we might do, say or give, will we be as ready as we could be?