



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part I: Astonished

Icebreaker: Describe the last time you were truly **ASTONISHED** (*overcome with a strong sense of surprise or disbelief*).

1. Compare and contrast the following sentiments which follow opening greetings in some of Paul's letters: 1 Corinthians 1:4-6; Philippians 1:3-6; Colossians 1:3-6; Galatians 1:6-9. What do you observe?



2. Take a few minutes to write down your understanding of the gospel on the back of this paper without the help of others. Feel free to use whatever Bible verses come to your mind. (*no cheating* ;-). Then share your description of the gospel with one another. *What are some of the key elements you notice in everyone's explanation? Any distinctions or points that need clarification?*

3. *"The book of Galatians is a book on the gospel, expounding the gospel, articulating the gospel, pounding the gospel to Christians. [But] maybe you're like I am, and that is, maybe you have also thought, 'There's the gospel which is milk, and then you move on to meat.' You never move on. The gospel is the milk, it is the meat, it is the appetizer, it is the dessert, and it is everything."* – Timothy Keller

Read and discuss the quote above. Why do you suppose there are some who believe the gospel is elementary, especially for those who've been attending church for a while? What is that? How might that mentality be detrimental to one's true spiritual growth and maturity.

4. Discuss the following equations and identify a Bible passage for the 2 missing blanks:

Jesus + Nothing = Everything

[*power of grace*; _____]

Jesus + Anything = Nothing

[*weakness of works*; _____]

Everything – Jesus = Nothing

[*weakness of the world*; Mark 8:36]

5. Identify one person in your life who needs to hear this series focused on the gospel and pray for them as a group.