

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Love Can
Message Title: Love Can Cross Borders
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: April 16, 2017

UP NEXT

- **COMPASSION EXPERIENCE** - Experience another country, without leaving yours. This free event features an interactive journey through the true stories of children living in developing countries like the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda and the Dominican Republic. In over 2,000 square feet of interactive exhibit space, visitors will step inside homes, markets and schools — without getting on a plane. Each child's story starts in poverty but ends in hope. You may also volunteer to help at reality.church/events.
- **OVERFLOW WEEKEND** - Attention all Life Groups! Getting involved with Overflow Weekend is the easiest way for you all to invest into the next generation of students. We need Life Groups to provide food for the different Host Homes and groups of students. For more information email jourdy.persinger@reality.church. Overflow Weekend is April 28-30.
- **LIFE GROUPS GAME NIGHT** - Come as a Life Group or come as a family and enjoy a fun night of games and competition. Popcorn Bar & Childcare is included. So bring your board games, card games, and winning strategy! We will also be giving away (2) free tickets to see Tim Hawkins in concert. See you Friday, May 5th at 7:00pm.

MAIN IDEA

Jesus crossed the border from Life to Death so we can cross from Death to Life!

INTRODUCTION

- Humanity from the time of Adam & Eve, when it comes to spirituality, was dead and powerless in sin and unbelief. There was no hope for us to spend eternity with a holy God. God is perfect and humanity is not. Therefore we could not even come into the presence of God without something major happening.
- However, Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection, bridged the deep chasm and paved the way for God's gracious gift of salvation. This salvation which is received through faith, enables us to have an eternal relationship with God.

DISCUSSION

- What are some of the accomplishments that you are most proud of in your life?
- What are some important things in your life that you received as a gift; (i.e., due to no effort or merit on your part?)
- Have someone read [\(Ephesians 2:1-7\)](#)
 - Paul gives a "before and after" picture of the lives of those that are now believers.
 - Compare and contrast the life described in 1-3 with 4-7.
 - What stands out to you the most?
 - 1-3: dead in transgressions and sins; following the ways of the world; following the ruler of the kingdom of the air; following the spirit of the disobedient. Gratifying the cravings of sinful nature; objects of wrath...
 - 4-7: great love shown to; mercy shown to; made alive in Christ; saved by grace; raised up with Christ; seated with him; expressed kindness...

- Main difference: Dead to sin and now Alive in Christ!
- Have someone read [\(Ephesians 2:8-10\)](#)
 - How do we try to take credit for God saving us?
- Ask this same question repeatedly, however emphasize the following words each time you ask it.
 - Why was it necessary **Jesus** to die for us?
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 - Why was it necessary for Jesus to die for **us**?
 - Does this change the meaning or impact of this statement by changing the emphasis?
- **(vs 10)** The Greek word translated “workmanship” is *poiema*, from which we get our English word “poem”. It means “that which is made, a manufactured product.” In other words our conversion is not the end; it is the beginning. We are part of God’s “new creation” (see 2 Corinthians 5:17) and God continues to work in us to make us what He wants us to be. After all, His purpose is to make us more and more like Christ (see Romans 8:29).
 - Think about the process in which you would craft a beautiful poem. I’m not talking about a (*Roses Are Red Violets are Blue*)... limerick. But an actual hand-crafted poem with beauty and art and imagination and thought and purpose.
 - How does it make you feel to know that God sat down with pen in hand and put that beauty and art and imagination and thought and purpose into you when He asked himself, “What do I want _____ to be like?”
 - That’s what it means when it says that God created us for a purpose. God designed you exactly the way you are. We like to say God created you *On Purpose, With Purpose, and For a Purpose*.
- What is one purpose you think God created you for?

APPLY IT

- Realize that Jesus died for your sins even before you were aware of it. Before you were born. Before you had even sinned. Before you had a need to be died for... Jesus died for you. He knew the sin you would commit and still chose to die for you.
- Think about that.
- Ponder that.
- Mull that over.
- Contemplate that.
- Reflect upon that.
- Meditate over that.
- Dwell in that.
- Brood over that.
- Ruminant in that.
- You get the idea...