



THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE IS A "YES" GENEROUS LIFE

October 7, 2018

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ALG LEADER'S GUIDE

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

WEEK ONE: THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE IS A “YES” GENEROUS LIFE

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BEGIN YOUR TIME TOGETHER BY ASKING YOUR LIFE GROUP TO OPEN THEIR BIBLES TO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE (1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11). READ THE PASSAGE.

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

INTRODUCE THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

What piece of advice has always stuck with you? What reminders do you often need? What practices do you employ to remind yourself of important things (appointments, dates, birthdays, etc.)?

The apostle Paul began chapter 15 with a goal: to remind his readers of the gospel message. In this passage, Paul presented the basics of the gospel and the importance of the resurrection. However, Paul’s teaching was anything but academic. He included a personal testimony — God’s grace had changed the direction of his life. And, as the result of God’s undeserved and magnificent love, Paul’s life was focused on one thing: to tell others of that amazing love and grace.

SHARE A BRIEF PERSONAL TESTIMONY WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP

The fundamental idea of the Gospel-Centered Life is understanding that the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is of utmost importance in the life of the believer. In other words, everything about being a disciple of Christ finds its purpose in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON THROUGH GROUP INTERACTION

Lead your Life Group in a biblical discussion by working through the following questions.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2.

- 1. As you ponder verses 1-2, who was instrumental in teaching you about the gospel? When did you first begin to understand the importance of Jesus' death on the cross?**
- 2. What steps can you take to hold firmly to the gospel message?**

A chief purpose of 1 Corinthians was to answer questions and challenges from the Corinthian church. None were more pivotal than their questions about resurrection. Paul's presentation of the resurrection rested on the gospel he first presented to the Corinthians. The word gospel means "good news." This good news extends to every area of believers' lives and into eternity.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

- 3. In verses 3-8, how would you summarize the main points of the gospel in your own words?**
- 4. What emotions come to the surface as you read verses 3-5? Why is it important to include Jesus' resurrection when we discuss the gospel?**

The essence of the gospel is that Jesus became a man, died for our sins and was raised according to the promises of Scripture. Christ's death is part of the gospel because it is the good news that He took on our sins and our death on the cross. The Scriptures pointed to Christ's coming and dying a substitutionary death.

The resurrection is part of the gospel because it shows that Christ is God, meaning He can cover all our sins. If Jesus had stayed in the tomb, then He was just a man. Any man can die—in fact, all do. Only the God-Man, Jesus Christ, could have died the death that took on the sins of man and dealt with them eternally. The resurrection is the power of salvation, and the cross is the place of salvation. In verses 5-8, Paul mentioned several of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances, which validated that He had risen from the dead and Scripture had been fulfilled.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-11.

- 5. What can we learn about God's grace from verses 9-11? Does your understanding of the gospel lead you to worship? Explain. How does the gospel impact your life daily?**

In these verses, Paul gives a first-hand account of God's grace by describing his own life before He knew Jesus and after. Because of God's grace, Paul went from persecuting Christians to becoming one. But he didn't stop there—Paul spent his life preaching and telling others of God's grace, His undeserved love and forgiveness. God's work in Paul's life went beyond his salvation experience and forgiveness of sin; God's grace led Paul to a life focused on sharing that grace with others.

APPLICATION

Help your Life Group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- 6. For which aspect of the gospel are you most thankful? How would you explain God's grace to someone who isn't familiar with God's Word? What needs to change so that your daily choices, speech and conduct demonstrate the message of the gospel?**
- 7. The Gospel... the good news is God saying "YES" to us! How can you say "YES" to Him this week? Is there an area of life where you are holding on to a "no" or a "maybe"?**

CLOSE YOUR LIFE GROUP IN A TIME OF PRAYER

Thank God for those who have helped you gain a deeper understanding of the gospel and the depth of God's grace. Pray for a daily awareness of God's work in your life and the courage to live out the Gospel-Centered Life each day.

REMINDER TO YOUR LIFE GROUP

Encourage your group to participate in the 21-day Spiritual Journey by using the booklet that has been provided for them.