

## Message Discussion Guide

# GOSPEL THREADS: THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST AND THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*July 20, 2008*

*Romans 3:24*

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

## Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

### Option 1

Ask learners to discuss the following questions:

- What other religions do you encounter at work, in your neighborhood, or in your community?
- What has your experience in talking with people of other religions been like?
- Do you find it difficult to speak with them about the threads of the gospel?
- Why do you think people reject the truth that there is one way to God and that Jesus is the only way to God?

Lead the learners to see that other religions do not see the necessity of Jesus to get to God because they do not understand the first two threads (the character of God and the sinfulness of man). The more that we grasp who God is and who we are, the more we see that who Christ is and what Christ has done is exactly what we need.

### Option 2

Invite learners to discuss the following questions:

- In what way has the tendency of some to "hammer" others with the gospel affected how you feel about sharing the gospel with others?
- Has anyone ever "hammered" you with the gospel? How did it make you feel?
- How do you feel this approach has affected the way non-believers feel about evangelical Christianity?
- In what ways does sharing the threads of the gospel encourage you to share your faith more openly?
- Can anyone quote the first two threads of the gospel that we learned last week?
- Has anyone had a chance to share a thread this past week that you would share with the rest of the group?

## Review the Message . . .

### THREAD #3: THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and reconcile us to God.

- Jesus' life displayed the           righteousness           of God.
  - He is fully           man          .
  - He is fully           God          .

Discussion Questions-

- Enlist 2 volunteers to read Romans 3:21-26 and 8:1-4. How is Jesus able to give us a right standing before God? (Remind the learners that we are all lawbreakers and we needed someone to be a law-keeper for us because we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.)

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- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 1:3-4. What is the implication of Jesus being a descendant of David? What is the implication of Jesus being declared the “Son of God” and “Lord?” (Lead the learners to understand that Jesus was not partly man and partly God, but was fully human AND fully divine at the same time.)
- Why is it important that Jesus was fully human? Fully God? (If Jesus was not fully man, he cannot identify fully with you and me. If He was not fully God, He could not bear the divine weight of sin.)

#### Application . . .

- Romans 8:3 tells us that the Law could not make us righteous because it was weak or powerless. Does this mean that the Law is completely invalid for us today? How do we as Christians now relate to the law? (It gives us a standard of God’s holiness and shows us that we are sinful. Romans 3:20; 7:7-13).
- How does Jesus’ humanity and divinity affect the way that we relate to Him?

- **Jesus’ death satisfied the \_\_\_\_\_ wrath \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

#### Discussion Questions

- Read Romans 3:25. What was required for us to have a right standing with God? (We needed a substitute who would turn aside His wrath and take away our sin. Explain that this is what is meant by a propitiation or atonement for our sin.)
- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 5:6-10. What 4 words are used to describe us before Christ? [helpless (v. 6), ungodly (v. 6), sinners (v. 8), enemies (v. 10)]
- What does v. 9 say that we have been saved from? (i.e. wrath) How was Jesus able to take away God’s wrath meant for us?
- Read Luke 22:44. What was so awful about Jesus’ death that would cause Him such great agony in the garden? What does this show us about the character of God?

#### Application . . .

- Why do you think many people do not talk about God’s wrath?
- How does talking about God’s wrath make you feel? How does it make you feel to think about sharing this part of God’s character with a lost friend?

- **Jesus’ resurrection demonstrated the \_\_\_\_\_ power \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

#### Discussion Questions

- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 6:4-10. How does Jesus’ resurrection affect the sin that indwells us?
- Read Romans 7:4. What does this verse say is the ultimate result of being joined with and raised with Christ?

#### Application . . .

- How does this truth affect the way that you see your ability to deal with sin? Victory is not only possible, but it has been made certain.
- What are some sins in your life that you need victory over?

### THREAD #4: THE NECESSITY OF FAITH We are reconciled to God only through faith in Jesus.

- Faith involves \_\_\_\_\_ turning \_\_\_\_\_...
  - From our \_\_\_\_\_ sin \_\_\_\_\_.
  - From our \_\_\_\_\_ selves \_\_\_\_\_.

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#### Discussion Questions

- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 3:21-31. How many times is the word “faith” or “believe” used? What are the results of faith? [We get the righteousness that comes from God (v. 22, also cf. Phil. 3:9), Jesus as our propitiation (v. 25), we are justified (v. 26, 28, 30), and we establish/uphold the law (v. 31)]
- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 6:11-14. What does it mean to “turn from sin?”
- In view of Paul’s discussion of the law, what does it mean to “turn from ourselves?”

#### Application . . .

- Are there areas in your life that demonstrate that you have not turned from sin?
- Are there areas in your life that show that you are still trusting in yourself?

- **Faith involves trusting . . .**
  - **In Jesus as Lord .**
  - **In Jesus as Savior .**

#### Discussion Questions

- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 10:9-13. What does it mean to confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord?” Remind the learners that at the time Paul was writing this, Caesar was viewed as Lord, supreme ruler, and to confess another “lord” was treason. To publicly identify with Christ was a life commitment and not an idle confession.
- Is there a difference in “making Jesus Lord” versus “confessing Jesus as Lord?” (Yes. He is Lord whether we confess Him as our Lord or not. We do not make Him Lord, but yield to His Lordship.)
- How does Jesus being Lord affect the way that we trust Him?
- Why do we also need to trust Jesus to be our Savior as well as our Lord?

#### Application . . .

- Are there any areas in your life that you have not submitted to the lordship of Christ? OR In what areas are you still trying to be the lord of your life?
- Do you think that a person can have Jesus as their Savior and not their Lord? Why or why not?

## SEWING GOSPEL THREADS...

**Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and reconcile us to God.**

- **Take advantage of every opportunity you have to tell His story.**
- **Talking about Jesus’ life...**
  - **Look for opportunities to highlight Jesus’ example for us.**
  - **Look for opportunities to acknowledge Jesus’ work in us.**
  - **Look for opportunities to point out Jesus’ identification with us.**
- **Talking about Jesus’ death...**
  - **Never stop emphasizing the gravity of sin.**
  - **Never stop talking about your gratitude for Christ.**
- **Talking about Jesus’ resurrection...**
  - **Speak about difficulties with hope.**

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- **Speak about \_\_\_\_\_ death \_\_\_\_\_ with joy.**

#### Application . . .

- When was the last time that you told someone about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ? Has anyone taken that opportunity this past week?
- What opportunities might you have each week to highlight Jesus' example? What story could you share with a person that tells of Jesus' example?
- What are ways we could give credit to Jesus' work in us this week?
- Read Hebrews 4:15-16. In what situations this week have you needed a high priest who can identify with your weaknesses? How can you share this experience with someone else in a way that you could talk about Christ?
- Are there times that we minimize the gravity of the sin that is in our lives? How?
- David said that when minimize the gravity of sin, we minimize the cross. What does that mean?
- What are ways that you could show thankfulness to Christ in conversations with family, friends, co-workers, etc.?
- How can we speak of hope in a difficult situation? Give some specific examples.
- Read Phil. 1:20-21. Do you fear death? How can we live as if "dying is gain?"

#### **We are reconciled to God only through faith in Jesus.**

- **Take advantage of every opportunity you have to tell \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ story.**
- **Talking about turning...**
  - **Point to the \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ when people around you see their sin.**
  - **Point to the \_\_\_\_\_ presence \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ when people around you come to the end of themselves.**
- **Talking about trusting...**
  - **Encourage people around you to see the \_\_\_\_\_ lordship \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.**
  - **Urge people around you to receive the \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.**

#### Application . . .

- Is there a situation this week where you know that you could probably share your story?
- What biblical story could you share with someone to help them see the forgiveness of Christ when they have seen their sin?
- How could you demonstrate to your friend, family, co-worker, etc. that Jesus is near when they come to the end of themselves? What verses could you use to demonstrate this?
- What bad/difficult circumstances could you use to talk about Jesus being in control as Lord over His creation? How can you say this in such a way to point them to Christ and be an encouragement to that person?
- What might keep you from urging someone to receive the love of Christ? Is that worth another person living under God's Wrath for all eternity?

#### **THE CHALLENGE . . .**

- **Review the first 2 threads of the gospel and the verses from Romans that support each thread.**

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- **Memorize threads 3 and 4 of the gospel. Find a verse from Romans that supports each thread, and also memorize those two verses.**
- **Pray and look intentionally for opportunities to share these threads with someone each day this week.**

Before you dismiss, pray for one another that you'll be sensitive to see the opportunities that God will give you to sew gospel truths this week and that the Holy Spirit will enable each of you with wisdom and love as you sew those truths.