

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- The sermon opened with a humorous story about using the word "penultimate" incorrectly. Has there ever been a word or concept you thought you understood but later realized you had wrong? What happened when you discovered the truth?

STUDY

What most struck you about this week's message? How has your understanding of the word "Gospel" changed upon hearing this sermon?

1. **2 Timothy 2:8 Paul says "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel."** **A.** Why do you think Paul felt the need to tell Timothy to remember something so foundational? **B.** What does that suggest about how easily we can drift?
2. **In Paul's culture, a "gospel" was an announcement -- often about a new king or a battle won -- that would change how people lived.** How does thinking of the gospel as an announcement rather than just a doctrine or belief system change how you relate to it?
3. **The sermon pointed out that Jesus being "raised from the dead" is the reason He can be trusted.** **A.** How settled are you personally in your conviction about the resurrection? **B.** Is that something you have genuinely wrestled with, or is it something you have mostly assumed?
4. **In reference to 2 Timothy 1:9-10, the sermon drew a distinction between "life before the grave" and "life beyond the grave."** Which of those two dimensions of the gospel has meant the most to you personally in this season of your life, and why?
5. **Milton Jones's class called "How To Die" (taught to AIDS patients in Kenya) concluded with the statement: "There is no cure for AIDS. There is a cure for death."** How does a clear view of the gospel

change the way a person faces death -- whether their own or someone else's?

6. **The sermon mentioned that Jesus brings life to light in very practical areas -- money, greed, worry, fear, anger, relationships, sex, and generosity.** **A.** Which of these areas do you feel the gospel has most shaped your thinking and behavior? **B.** Which area do you feel it has had the least influence so far?
7. **Chris used the metaphor of drilling for water -- going not to where the people are but to where the water is, and then making the water accessible so that people come.** What does it look like practically for a follower of Jesus to "go to where the water is" in your everyday life so that people will come?

REFLECT

- Do you know someone who is dying of thirst -- consuming from all kinds of sources and yet finding no real satisfaction? What is one step you could take toward pointing them to Jesus?
- How is your own water level right now? Would you describe the gospel as something that is overflowing in you, trickling through you, or something you feel somewhat disconnected from at the moment?

PRAY

- Read 2 Timothy 2:8 aloud together and spend a few minutes in prayer, asking God to re-captivate each person with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray specifically that what fills each member's heart would be what spills out into their conversations, their relationships, and their daily lives.