

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- Think of a piece of news you received that genuinely changed the way you thought about something or caused you to rearrange your life in some way. It does not have to be dramatic. Share it briefly with the group.

STUDY

1. **Jesus used the word "gospel" or "good news" in connection with His kingdom, not just His death and resurrection.** Had you previously thought of the gospel as being that broad? What, if anything, surprised you about that?
2. **In the ancient world, "Caesar is Lord" was considered good news for the whole Roman Empire. When the angels announced the birth of Jesus and called it good news, they were making a counter-claim.** Why does it matter who we believe is actually Lord?
3. **Romans 10:9-15 connects declaring "Jesus is Lord" with believing in the resurrection and calling on His name for salvation.** In your own words, what does it mean to genuinely declare "Jesus is Lord" -- not just as words but as a confession you are arranging your life around?
4. **Dallas Willard describes relating to Jesus almost entirely in terms of His death for the forgiveness of sins while changing very little about how you actually live as "vampire Christianity."** Be honest with yourself: are there areas of your life where you have accepted the forgiveness of Jesus but have not yet submitted to the lordship of Jesus? What would it look like to change that?
5. **Wenduel Stanley illustrated how the gospel transforms not just a person's standing before God but their relationships, their habits, and their reputation with the people closest to them. His life became good news to his adult children over time.**

Where in your life do you sense God calling you to let the gospel show up in a visible, practical way for people around you?
6. **"You may not be in a position to share everything, but you can share something."** What is one thing about Jesus -- something He said or did -- that has genuinely meant something to you, that you could share with someone this week?
7. **Chris closed with this question: "If you were in this picture in the place of Wenduel -- who would be a couple of people standing with you?"** Who are the people in your life you most want to experience the good news of Jesus? What, if anything, is holding you back from pursuing those relationships more intentionally?

REFLECT

For Your Daily Life Pick one specific teaching of Jesus that you know you have not yet fully arranged your life around. It could be something from the Sermon on the Mount, something about forgiveness, generosity, or how you treat a difficult person in your life. Take one concrete step this week toward living under the lordship of Jesus in that area.

PRAY

Invite group members to pray the three-word confession aloud together -- "Jesus is Lord" -- and then spend a few minutes praying for the specific people each person named during the discussion. Ask God to make your lives good news to the people around you this week.