

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- **Chris opened with a humorous story about a father telling his son he ought to be ashamed of himself. Think of a time someone told you that you should be ashamed of something -- or a time you felt ashamed without being told. How did that experience shape how you responded or behaved? You do not have to share details; just reflect on the feeling itself.**

STUDY

Tempted to Be Ashamed

1. **Paul's statement "I am not ashamed" implies there were real forces tempting him toward shame.** What are some of the forces in our culture today that make people (or you) hesitant to identify openly with Jesus and the gospel?
2. **Chris referenced several New Testament passages where writers addressed the temptation to be ashamed of Jesus.** Why do you think this was such a recurring theme in the early church? Do you think it is any less of a temptation today?

The Gospel as the Power of God

3. **Chris emphasized that salvation is not just about eternity -- it is also about this life.** How have you experienced the saving power of the gospel in your day-to-day life, not just in terms of forgiveness, but in terms of how you actually live?
4. **The Jewish Bible translation of Romans 1:16 uses the phrase "everyone who keeps on trusting" rather than a one-time belief.** What is the difference between those two ideas in practical terms? What does it look like to keep on trusting the gospel in your daily life?

The Righteousness of God Revealed

5. **Chris described two dimensions of the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel -- Jesus shows us what is right and wrong, and Jesus makes us right when we are in the wrong.** Which of

those two dimensions do you find yourself leaning on more? Which do you tend to overlook?

6. **Chris listed several ways people try to establish a sense of righteousness apart from Christ -- focusing on other people's failures, lowering the standard, or punishing themselves.** Which of these patterns do you recognize most in yourself or in the people around you? How does the gospel speak to that pattern?
7. **Romans 10:3-4 describes people who sought to establish their own righteousness rather than submitting to God's righteousness through Christ.** What does it look like practically to "submit" to God's righteousness? What does that submission require of us?

Our Obligation to Share

8. **Chris used the financial language Paul used -- being "obligated" to others with the gospel -- and illustrated it with the image of someone handing you a card with \$500 cash to deliver to their child.** Does thinking about the gospel as something you are entrusted with to deliver to others change how you feel about sharing it? Why or why not?
9. **The story of Lt. Hiroo Onoda -- a soldier who kept fighting a war that had been over for thirty years because no one successfully reached him with the news -- was used as a picture of people who do not yet know or believe the gospel.** Who in your life comes to mind when you hear that illustration? What is one step you could take this week to bring them the news?
10. **Chris said, "We have to be more concerned with what they have to gain than what we have to lose."** What do you personally feel you have to lose when you share the gospel with someone? Is that risk worth what the other person has to gain?

Week of August 30, 2026

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REFLECT

- Is the gospel currently functioning as the foundation of your daily life, or have you allowed something else to become your primary source of security, identity, or righteousness?
- Is there someone in your life who is still "in the jungle" -- fighting a battle they do not have to fight -- who needs to hear the gospel from you?

PRAY

- Close your time together by praying specifically for the people each group member identified who need the gospel. Ask God to give each person in the group the courage not to be ashamed, the faith to keep trusting, and the generosity to share what they have been entrusted with.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." -- Romans 1:16