

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ~ March 18, 2012



PHILIPPIANS: To Know Christ and Make Him Known

“What Is the Gospel? (Part 2)” Philippians 1:12-26

We are taking a few weeks to talk about our calling to spread the news about Jesus Christ.

This week’s study reflects on two of the three main parts of the gospel:

1. Human beings are hopelessly lost in sin.
2. Jesus Christ came to our rescue.

As you work through these concepts, remember the purpose of our study is not only to apply them to your own life but to share them with others. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to the people around you, and be ready for spiritual conversations. Remember: your job is just to plant seeds. It’s God who causes things to grow.



KNOWING GOD

Read Philippians 1:12-26. In your opinion, what explains the urgency Paul felt to communicate the gospel to people?

What is the deepest need of the human heart, and what did Christ do to meet that need?

Many people think that if a person's good deeds outweigh his bad deeds, God will welcome him into heaven. How would you respond to someone who believes this?



GROWING TOGETHER

Imagine you are speaking to someone who does not share your religious convictions. She asks you, "Why are you a Christian?" What would you say to her?

Do you think it's important for someone to understand the "bad news" of sin before he or she hears the "good news" of the gospel? Why or why not?



SERVING OTHERS

Did you have any spiritual conversations with people last week? If so, tell what happened.

For you, what most often gets in the way of speaking to people about your faith in Christ? Where or to whom might you turn to get help with that?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

In his sermon, Pastor Mike talked about the importance of understanding the depth of our sin. It's relatively easy to spot those visible, "really bad" sins in ourselves and others. But it's harder to see and admit the deeper, more subtle sins that hide in our hearts. As a family, ask yourselves questions like these (adjusting the words to fit the ages of your children):

- How do you live for yourself?
- What are your "if only's"?
- How have you been spending your time?
- What do you daydream about?
- Where do you find your identity?
- What does success look like for you?
- In what or whom are you trusting?

SERMON NOTES