

Discussion Guide for Gospel Change

Introduction:

Name one piece of advice you received from a parent or other authority figure when you were growing up that has stuck with you and been a help in daily life.

Do you feel that the gospel applies to the “nitty-gritty” of your life? Why or why not?

Watch Video



Once we've believed the gospel, the natural question to ask next is, "What am I supposed to do with this message?" This week, we'll consider ways the gospel applies to our day-to-day lives.

Read Romans 3:23-24

"Preach the gospel to yourself daily" is a common piece of advice for believers. What do you understand that statement to mean?

How might reminding yourself daily that you are a sinner saved by grace grow your love for the gospel?

Although the Bible contains abundant direction for our lives, that's not the primary reason it exists. The main point of the Bible isn't how to live, but how to know God. We come to know God by the gospel, the central message of the Bible.

What is the danger in reducing the Bible to a guidebook for life instead of a means to know God? Explain.

God is an infinitely unfolding series of good news for us. To know Him is to love Him.

Read Matthew 4:17

Why should people who have trusted in the gospel regularly repent?

Why might continual repentance be an unpopular idea today?

Coming face-to-face with the One who's perfectly holy and good should lead us to repent and receive forgiveness and grace. Realizing how unlike God we are should move us to repent. Repentance is an unpopular notion today because it means something essential to our nature needs to be corrected. A better question to ask than "Who am I?" is, "Who is Jesus?" Then we should ask, "How should we live in light of who He is?" We can't know who we are until we understand who God is.

We cannot love ourselves rightly until we understand who we are in relationship to God.

Read 1 John 4:19

How does knowing that God loved us lead us to love Him and feel accepted by Him?

What has been done for us in the gospel frees us to obey God's commands because we're no longer motivated by obligation, but by the joy of being known, loved, and accepted by God. Gospel change empowers grace-driven effort toward obedience.

What is it that causes us to seek approval through rule following? How is grace-driven effort entirely different from rule following?




We're exercising a joyful obedience
out of gratitude. It's not a grudging obedience
out of fear.

Read Romans 8:14-16

How does the Holy Spirit help us understand that we're loved by God? How does this knowledge help us live the gospel in our daily lives?

How does this change our motivation for obedience before God?



Just as you're asking the Holy Spirit to turn
your eyes toward God,
you're also asking Him to turn your
eyes toward others.

Application:

Why is consistent Bible reading essential for gospel change?

Do you have a plan to spend dedicated time in the Scriptures each week? If not, who might be able to help you read the Bible?

How does gospel change in your own life lead to a greater desire to share the gospel with others?