



Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Jesus-The Only Path to God or One of Many?

Introduction: The Bible is diametrically opposed to the opinions of this world. Our culture embraces relativism, naturalism, and universalism. The basic belief is that we are basically good, God is good, so if we live a moral life—it really doesn't matter what you believe or what your faith is . . . you will be fine. Christianity, on the other hand, teaches that we are all sinful and broken and need redemption. This redemption was accomplished by God himself—Jesus the Christ.

Text: John 14:6, 1 Cor. 1:17-25

Discussion:

1. As stated in the message: Depravity does not mean that people can not be “good” moral citizens. It doesn't mean that people are constantly evil. The depravity of man means that we are born with a sin nature and will choose to disobey God, thus separating us from God and left to ourselves we will never be able to get to God. How does the view of the depravity of man conflict with how the world views humanity? What is the final outcome of these two beliefs? Why is it important in understanding that people from all various faith backgrounds, or even no faith at all can still be “good” people, yet are sinners in need of a savior? Write/Discuss
2. What are similarities in various religions? What are these similarities centered around? What is the teaching and belief on who God is in various religions? Why is this distinction important? Are they all the same? Read: John 14:6, John 1:18, Deut. 6:4, Deut. 4:35,39, and 2 Sam. 7:22
3. Read 1 Cor. 2:14: What is the condition of the “natural” man? What does this say to the notion that men can arrive at a true understanding of God through our own reason and intellect?
4. Jesus, through his incarnation, explains God to us. He also made it his ministry aim to proclaim the gospel. What does “gospel” mean?
5. Read 1 Cor. 17-18. The gospel is centered on the cross and resurrection of Jesus. How do churches muddy the gospel and make it more than the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?
6. What is the gospel called in the following verses: Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 1:18,24?
7. Read 1 Cor. 17-25; Write/Discuss the view of the wisdom of God and the wisdom of man. Why did the Romans see the cross as foolishness? Why do people today still view the cross of Christ foolish?
8. Read 2 Cor. 2:15-16. Discuss/Write about the following statement—Never be ashamed of the fragrance of grace.
9. Read Acts 17:30-31 & Romans 10:13-15—Why is it necessary for the gospel to be preached?

Think About it:

The Christian faith is an exclusive claim with a universal call. It's exclusive in the fact that salvation is found in no one else other than Christ. It's universal in the fact that whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. This truth is a sweet smell to many, and a foul stench to others. The Romans regarded Christians as fools for following a God who was crucified like a common criminal. They were mocked, ridiculed, and persecuted. Our culture still mocks and ridicules those who are “Bible” believing Christians. We are called bigots, narrow minded, and all the “phobes” that are out there. Yet, the Bible tells us that the God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. The world, through it's wisdom, did not come to know God, but through the foolishness of the message preached (aka-gospel) to save those who believe. I would rather be considered a fool in this world than stand a fool on the day of judgment before Jesus.

Moving Forward:

Have you responded in faith to the gospel? This week thank God everyday for the gospel. Pray for your co-workers, friends, family, and others who have not called on Jesus this week. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel. Live out your faith in a genuine way. Do not be obnoxious or belligerent, simply live in a love for God and a love for others. Invite someone this week to join you at church!