

REASON: Small Group Questions

1. Bible: God's Word or Gross Nonsense

- What are the doubts/questions you have had to confront in relation to the Bible, and why?
- What issues do you hear from people most often in regard to their doubts about the Bible?
- If you were faced with evidence that caused the Bible to be reliable, would you be willing to retire your skepticism, and exercise faith in Jesus? Why or why not?
- What points from tonight's message made most sense to you?
- Have you found contradictions in the Bible? If so have you sought out the answers to them?
- What value does the Bible have in your own life?
- How are you currently interacting with the Bible?
- What steps will you take today to walk daily in the Word of God?

2. Evil and Suffering: Good God in Bad World

- What explanations have you heard from why people suffer? What are some of the least satisfying?
- How has the problem of evil and suffering impacted your life and the lives of the people you love?
- Read through Isaiah 53: 4-9 and Romans 3: 5-11. What do these passages show us about Jesus answering suffering by embracing it?
- While most of us will do whatever it takes to avoid suffering, answer this question: When have you grown the most? When life has been easy, or when there has been suffering? Why is that?
- Suffering never leaves us spiritually neutral. Do you think it's possible for suffering to drive you deeper into your relationship with Christ? How?
- From the message, which point resonated the most with you on why there is evil in the world?
- What hope do we have as Christ followers when it comes to evil and suffering in this world?
- What is the promise of Romans 8:28 that we can hang on to in these times?

3. Jesus: Is there really only one way? (With all the world religions, why only Jesus)

- What has been the biggest insight for you so far in this series? Why?
- Why do you think so many people, from Oprah to Mahatma Ghandi to Ricky Bobby, want to believe that all paths lead to the same place?
- Read John 14:1-6 and Galatians 3:26-29 Remember that Paul in Galatians was writing to people who were very different from him. Paul was a Jew. They weren't. How does Paul's writing in Galatians help us see that Jesus' invitation is all-inclusive?

- What verse from the Bible helps you see more clearly the position of Jesus being the only way back to God?
- In what way is holding an exclusive faith position different than denying others the right to believe, and practice what they believe?
- If you haven't accepted Christ's invitation of forgiveness and grace, what's holding you back?

4. Testimony: The Power of Your Story

- Get a few students to summarize the teachings from this message.
- Why is it that your story has so much power in it? Help students see the power and impact of a good story.
- Ask students to identify if they have ever heard someone else's testimony and share a little about it.
- The first step in learning to share your testimony is to actually have and know your story. Using the outline below, have students take time to actually share their story with the group.
 - Your life before Christ
 - When you met Jesus
 - What did Jesus change
 - What have you seen Jesus do
 - What is God doing lately
- Help students by directing them to clean up their stories using these steps.
- What made the biggest impact in your story
- What needs to be expanded on or made more clear
- What can be eliminated
- Is there any way to make it shorter
- After everyone has had time to share their story, ask the group to comment on what stood out to them about some of the testimonies. What was it and why did it stand out to you?
- Having heard each persons testimony, take some time to help them think of who in their life needs to hear their story. Make a list and spend some praying for boldness to share.