



# LifeGroup Discussion Questions

## Power of Gospel | May 21, 2023

### Summary

We have been looking at the timeless truth of God's plan to rescue us from sin in The Biggest Story series. In Season One we looked at Beginnings and how, in the very beginning, everything God did and made was only good. Season Two focused on the Crisis that sin created in God's creation. It ruined everything, especially our souls. This sermon begins Season Three where our focus will be on Redemption and how God has made things good again.

### Scripture

And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. -John 3:19-20 (NLT)

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace... For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." -Romans 1:1-7, 14-17

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.... Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. -Romans 5:2, 9-11 (ESV)

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. -1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. -2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

## Let's Start

Pastor Dale began the sermon by talking about how half of the “facts” within most every discipline—except the Bible—are “disconfirmed” after a certain amount of time. Can you think of some “facts” that are no longer true?

## Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were last together?

## Let's Talk

1. Pastor Dale shared this quote from Martin Luther: “Then I grasped that through gift and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through opened doors into paradise. When I saw that law meant one thing and gospel meant another, I BROKE THROUGH!” Have you had a “break-through” with God? Do you know someone who needs a spiritual breakthrough?
2. What is the difference between good news and good advice?
3. What do you think is the essence of Christianity? What does it mean?
4. What are some of the positive and negative misconceptions about the essence of Christianity?
5. Where do people get these wrong perceptions of the faith?
6. What does it mean to be justified by God through Christ's blood?
7. Pastor Dale talked about why the gospel is offensive:
  - It is offensive to human pride that thinks that somehow we can earn our salvation from God by being good enough.
  - It is offensive because it exposes our sinfulness.
  - It is offensive because it calls for repentance.

