

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

How would you explain or define *the gospel*?

Pay attention to the way your LG members answer this question. This may seem like a no-brainer, but you might be surprised at how uncomfortable many Christians are when it comes to articulating their understanding of the gospel.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5. How does this verse deepen your understanding of the gospel?

This passage talks about the gospel in three key ways:

1. The words of the gospel
2. The power of the gospel
3. The process of living the gospel out among others

Reflect back on the messages in this series so far. How is your understanding of the Holy Spirit growing or changing?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-3. Compare this passage to **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5**. What similarities are you noticing?

Notice how both passages emphasize the power associated with the gospel. 1 Corinthians also shows how central speaking of Jesus was to the gospel that Paul proclaimed.

Can you relate to Paul's description of himself when he shared the gospel with the Corinthian church?

Many of us think of Paul and other notable Christians in the New Testament as being more brave, articulate, and influential than we are. Based on Paul's own testimony, he felt just as inadequate as we often do!

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Are you comfortable "speaking of Jesus" with your family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers?

Reflect on the way that you have shared the gospel in the past. Which of the three elements of the gospel (Words, Power, Living) were obviously present? Which element(s) were missing?

Reflect on Carl Medearis's words below. Do you agree or disagree? Support your answer.





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

"When you talk about Jesus there is power, when you talk about Christianity there is none."

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

What is keeping you from sharing the gospel with words, power, and how you live? How do you sense God's challenging or encouraging you in this area?

In what relationships do you need to share more about Jesus than you share about Christianity or religion?

Read Ephesians 1:15-20. What elements of this prayer would you like to borrow for your own personal prayer time?

Paul prayed that the Church in Ephesus might understand the hope of their calling, and that they would receive wisdom and power through the Holy Spirit. Pray that blessing over your Life Group at the end of your discussion, and then challenge them to look for opportunities to speak of Jesus in the coming week.

