



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 20

GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Today we have a lot to study in the Bible (hooray!) - so let's kick off small group by going around the circle and sharing one quick thing you like about Easter. (could be candy, a meal with family, the church service, etc.)

Leaders - if your group is particularly talkative - skip this part tonight. We REALLY want to get to the study. (it's SO cool!)

BIBLE VERSES

Hebrews 9 and 10 (preferred version, NLT)

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

We are just a few weeks away from Easter, so we want to dive in and discover some things about Easter that we may not have known or understood before. (Leaders - if your group isn't familiar with Jesus' death and resurrection, now would be a good time to review that).

Questions to kick things off:

1. If you commit a crime and get caught for it (like stealing or speeding on the highway or destroying someone's property) what happens to you?
2. If you end up in court and apologize very sincerely to the judge - do you get away without penalty? Why or why not?
- 3 That same sort of idea has always applied to God's relationship with people. Before Jesus was around, people paid the penalty for their sin (stuff they did that was wrong or bad) by sacrificing animals. The death of the animal PAID for their sin, so they didn't have to pay for it themselves. Does that make sense? (allow them to ask questions here)

Now read Hebrews 9:22

Ask: According to this verse, what did the blood of the animals that were sacrificed DO for people before Jesus was on earth? (hint: purification and forgiveness)

Now read Hebrews 10:12-14

1. When Jesus died on the cross - how many sins was that sacrifice good for? (see vs. 10, all sins for all of time)
2. What makes Jesus' sacrifice so much more powerful than the sacrifice of animals? (hint: he was human, God's son, and sinless)
3. What does vs. 14 say is true about those who believe in Jesus and have received the forgiveness he offers through his sacrifice?

Now read Hebrews 10:18

1. What more do we need to do now (after Jesus' death and resurrection) in order to be forgiven of our sins?
2. Next week, we are going to do something really cool together - take Communion. Communion is the time when we eat crackers and juice to remind us of the body and blood of Jesus that was sacrificed for us. What do you think we should think about as we take Communion together next week?

LEADER INSIGHT

You guys - this is a DEEP DIVE into some important truths about Jesus tonight. The goal is to help students see how Jesus' sacrifice pays for all of sins for all of time. It's a difficult concept to grasp, even as adults, so please spend time in prayer and preparation for this study. We are praying with you that students will understand more fully how incredible Jesus' sacrifice is.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Have students make a list of sacrifices others have made for them (like parents or friends). Discuss how those made them feel and how Jesus' sacrifice makes them feel. Encourage them to spend time each night this week thanking God for Jesus' sacrifice.