

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

May 7th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. Next Sunday is Mother's Day. What is one important lesson that your mom taught you?

Bible Study Questions

1. One of Satan's greatest weapons is to accuse. Why are his accusations such a powerful weapon against God's people?
 - How can guilt impact both our relationship with God and with others?
 - Has there ever been a time in which guilt has prompted you to do something? Tell the story.
2. Pastor Michael talked about guilt of sin being the great equalizer. How would you respond to someone who says that there are a good person who has never had to say that they are sorry to God?
3. Read Romans 12:1-12
 - Imagine the scene of Satan standing before God accusing God's people. What kind of accusations do you picture him making.
 - What do these verses say enabled God's people to be victorious over Satan?
 - How did the blood of the lamb take away his power to accuse?
4. John talks about those who died for faith as being victorious. How was their obedience to God an act of victory over the devil?
5. Jesus didn't just die to save us from sin, but to restore us to God so we could live as his people. How does freeing us from Satan's accusation free us to pursue this purpose?
 - How does continuing in a life of deliberate sin cheapen Jesus' sacrifice?
6. We can respond to Satan's accusations by claiming the blood of the lamb. Have you ever done this and found victory? If so, then tell the story.

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Static: Accused

We were set free from accusation so that we could live holy lives as God's people.

The book of Revelation calls Satan the "accuser". One of his weapons is accusing God's people, telling them that their failures define them. This static haunts us and makes us believe that we are unworthy to commune with God. However, God has acted to give us the resources to break free from the static of accusation.

I. Guilt of sin is the great equalizer: Today, there are many who either don't believe in sin or who think that they are doing good in comparison to others. However, Romans 3:23 says that "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." It doesn't matter what kind of sin has been committed, we all stand before God with the guilt of defying his good and just rule.

II. We can have victory over the great accuser
Revelation 12 gives us an image rich story of the battle between Satan and God's people throughout history. At one point, he stands before God accusing God's people. But then he is thrown from heaven and God's people have victory over him. How?

a. The blood of the lamb clears our debt: It says that they were victorious because of the blood of the lamb. This was using the Old Testament image of a lamb being offered by the Jewish people as a sin offering. Jesus was the sin offering offered once and for all for humanity. Therefore, Satan's accusations had no power because God's response was that the debt had been paid. Satan no longer had a hold over God's people.

b. Freedom from condemnation enables us to finish the race strong: Secondly, it says that they were victorious because they didn't hold their lives too dear, but laid down their life for Jesus. This doesn't mean that their obedience brought about their salvation. It recognizes that Jesus' purpose in saving them was to restore them to God where they could live as his people. Destroying the accusation gave them the freedom to do that. They were victorious because they finished the race, being true to God in the midst of the rebellious world around them.

Conclusion

The blood of the lamb enables us to respond to Satan's accusation by claiming the truth that our debt has been paid. We can proclaim that truth to find freedom. We need to make sure though that our freedom is not in vain.