

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

October 16th

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

1. Pumpkin spice or not? Defend your position

Bible Study Questions

1. The Bible teaches that we are hopelessly enslaved to sin and cannot save ourselves. Are you the type of person who naturally sees your need for a savior, or do you often think that you are doing well on your own?
 - How would you respond to someone who doesn't think that they need God because of the good life that they have lived?
2. How would you answer the question, "why did Jesus have to die?"
3. As a group, make a list of the things that are true because Jesus is our Savior.
 - To help, look up these verses: Colossians 1:14, Romans 5:1, Romans 5:19, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 3:16, Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 2:1, Romans 8:35, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, 1 Peter 1:3-5,
 - Of the things on your list, what impacts you the most?
4. How would you respond to someone who says that a loving God would not exclude from heaven someone who is a sincere Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist?
5. Our culture is increasingly hostile to the idea of sending missionaries into unreached cultures. It is seen as a way of exploiting them and suggesting that our culture is better than theirs. In light of this, why should we spend resources on missions?
6. What does it mean to you for Jesus to be your savior?

7. **Further Study:** Read Romans 3:21-26.
 - What do these verses teach about the saving work of Jesus?
 - These verses use a number of theological terms. How would you explain this all to a non believer?

October 16th We Need a Savior

We should regularly pray for our lost neighbors and for mission work around the world.

In November of 2018, there was a news story about a young man named John Chau who had died while trying to share the gospel with an unreached Indian tribe on an isolated island close to India. Many disregarded his sacrifice as an attempt to change a primitive culture that was doing fine on their own. Was his life sacrificed in a glorious mission of saving people, or was it wasteful arrogance of someone believing that their beliefs were better than others? The answer all depends on what you believe/

I. The Bible identifies Jesus as an universal Savior

When the angel first appeared to Joseph, he told Joseph to name the child Jesus (The Lord saves) and then added that “he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). That means that Jesus was called the Savior even before he was born! Later, Peter proclaimed that “salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).”

II. Humans are unable to save themselves

Many people live with the idea that because they haven't made “really bad” choices, then they must be doing well with life. They assume that God just laughs off their “mistakes”. To make that assumption to make an arrogant claim against God that we don't need him. Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We stand before God with a verdict of “guilty” and an enormous debt to pay.

III. God stepped in to save us from judgment

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus paid our debt. 1 Peter 2:24 tells us that the reason that Jesus died on the cross was to pay our debt of sin. As a result, salvation is offered to all who choose to believe in him.

IV. Jesus offers himself as the exclusive option for salvation

There are many today who find the idea of Jesus being the only way for salvation to be offensive. Yet, it doesn't matter if it is offensive or not. Only if it is true. There are many places in life in which there is a narrow definition of truth. If you get an airplane, you want the plane to be designed in a correct way. If you are having open heart surgery, you want a surgeon who is operating in a proper way.

Conclusion

If we believe that Jesus is our savior, then it should prompt a number of actions. The first is a greater love for Jesus. A good exercise is to sit down and make a list of things that are true because Jesus is our savior.

We should also have a growing passion for lost people. We should share in the heart that John Chau had to reach an unreached people group.