

Week # 7

“Just Give Me Jesus” Series

Cedar Grove Church – Easter, March 27, 2016

Leaders Guide

“Hope for Fallen Followers”

Luke 22; Mark 16; Eph. 2:8-9 (*The Voice*)

Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh



GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. [Ice-breaker Question] – Tell us about one of your favourite Easters of all time. What made this one so special for you?
 - Use this question to help everyone relax, get better acquainted and get into the mindset of the Easter events.
2. When you think of the apostle Peter, what images or thoughts come to your mind? [Help your group in forming a group description of him].
 - Lead the group in forming a picture of Peter, based on what they know of Him.
3. How do you most identify with Peter?
4. What is the Jewish “Passover” meal? What does it represent? Together as a group, describe this meal and its significance to the Christian faith.
 - Tie ideas of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt; slaying of the Passover lamb and putting blood on the lintel of the door so the angel of death would pass over them; the need for the annual Passover lamb to be slain, and this needed to be repeated annually; Jesus became the perfect Passover sacrifice and this never needed to be repeated again, etc.
5. The disciples, on the eve of Christ being crucified, started arguing about who was to be the greatest among them. Have you ever been in a situation where someone was trying to put themselves first above everyone else in the family? In the company? In the group you were in? Tell us about it. How did you feel?
 - Bring out the idea of how easily, in spite of all God has done for us, we start to think about what we want/need and tend to put ourselves first. How does this disrespect God?
6. What do you think was the main reason Peter denied his Lord – not once, but three times?
 - Probably fear was #1. But maybe also, disappointment that Jesus didn’t become the political ruler and deliverer they had thought he was going to be.
7. Have you ever been in a position in which you denied knowing Christ as your Saviour – denied you were a Christian? If you are willing, would you share that with the group?

8. How do you think Peter felt that moment when Christ's eyes met his across the courtyard, after the rooster crowed the third time? Have you ever felt like that?

9. Describe what we know, or can imagine, Peter did after this moment in time.
 - Probably went away and hid. Withdrew from everyone else. Wept! Wallowed in pity, shame and just, "gave up!"

10. On Easter morning the angels said to the women, "*Don't be afraid. You came seeking Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified. He is gone. He has risen. See the place where His body was laid*" (Mark 16:6). How do these words make you feel right now? What has the truth of them meant in your life personally?
 - Bring out the every-day, real-life implications of the resurrection – for us and for anyone/everyone who puts their trust in Christ as their Saviour.

11. Pastor Kevin asked in his message, "Have you ever blown it, really blown it?" Would you be willing to share this?

12. Imagine you are Peter and the women come back to relate what happened and they say, "*He told us to tell the disciples, **and you, Peter**, to go to Galilee and there you will see him.*" How would that make you feel? . . . "*And [your name]!*"
 - Bring out how loving and special it was that Jesus, in the face of all he was doing and had to remember, was caring and sensitive to how he knew Peter must be feeling and had this special message for him alone!
 - Remind all that God cares for each of them individually with this same tender care, no matter how we may have blown it or failed our Lord.

13. Easter, resurrection, forgiveness for betrayal or denial . . . it's all about . . . GRACE! Ephesians 2:⁸⁻⁹ "**For it's by God's grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort. It is God's gift, pure and simple. You didn't earn it, not one of us did, so don't go around bragging that you must have done something amazing.**" (*Voice*) Share any thoughts you may have with the group about these verses before closing.
 - Focus on celebration, thanksgiving, gratitude and testimonies of grace!

PRAYER:

Make time to share needs and close in prayer. Pray about any needs that may have been shared in the course of discussion. As a group give thanks for the grace and forgiveness of God and the results of the resurrection as we celebrate this Good Friday – Easter message!