

September 20
Week 1
Relationship with God
The Gospel

Text: Romans 1, Ephesians 2, 1 Corinthians 15

Main Point: Sin is not just something you do, it is a part of who you are.

This Sunday we are going to begin a two week study on the gospel. This week's focus will be on exactly what the gospel is and is not. The goal for this week is to make it clear to your students that the gospel is not about what they do, but about what Christ has done for them in spite of what they have done. The second week will put that in the framework of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration.

During your small group time make sure the students understand the darkness of their sin and help them identify with the list of "evil things" in the various texts. As they identify with some of these things, try to impress upon them that sin is not just something they do, it is a part of who they are. If they can get to that point, they will better understand their need for the gospel and the beauty of God's plan.

Keep in mind that we want the students to struggle with some of this; play devil's advocate and make them argue for the answer they give you. They are used to giving the correct answer; go a step further and make them defend their answer.

Questions:

1. Finish this sentence: "God loves me because I....."
(The point of this question is to help them realize that the gospel is all about Christ and not about what they do. If they are struggling with this use the above mentioned texts with them.)
2. Read Romans 1:28-32, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. What in those lists can you identify with? Do you see yourself as any of those? What is the difference between you and the people Paul is describing in these lists?
(Make sure the students understand that apart from Christ, God views them just like he does everyone else = idolaters, cheaters, liars, thieves, etc.)
3. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What does it mean to be dead in our sins? Who is Paul talking about? Do you think that God sees you this way?
4. Read v8- What is faith? How do we get our faith? What do you have to do to be saved?