



3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

How would you answer these questions based on the sermon this week?

- Who we were before Christ?
- What Christ did to rescue us?
- How Christ continues His work in us?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Icebreaker:

What is your most memorable and meaningful gift you have ever received?

25-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

DO THIS:

- Ask someone to read Ephesians 2:1-10
- Ask someone to read from the commentary section of a study bible under Ephesians 2:3.

In Ephesians 2:1-3 Paul explains that we were "...dead in our trespasses and sins" and that we lived according to the ways of the world.

ASK THIS:

- Describe in your own words what "dead in our trespasses" means?
- Before Christ came into your life, what physical signs were evident that you lived according to the ways of the world?
- What worldly motivations guided your daily decision making?

SAY THIS:

Ephesians 2:5 says that God "made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses".

ASK THIS:

- What ways have you changed since you were made alive in Christ?

SAY THIS:

In Ephesians 2:8-9 we learn that we were "saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast."

ASK THIS:

- In light of this scripture how should our lives reflect our gratitude toward God's free gift
- How do you still struggle with the concept of grace versus works in your relationship with God?

SAY THIS:

We are told in Ephesians 2:10 that "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works". Good works can come in many forms such as loving our neighbor, Helping the sick and giving to the poor but these works are done in the hopes that we build relationships in such a way that we have the chance to verbally share our salvation story.

ASK THIS:

What keeps you from sharing your salvation story with friends, family and other relationships more often?

SAY THIS:

Many times the reason we fear sharing our story is because we don't feel qualified or we don't know what we should say; to alleviate these fears and to build confidence let's do some practice.

DO THIS:

Pass out one 3x5 card to each member and have them write out the following descriptions.

1. Describe your life before meeting Christ.
2. Describe the time when you surrendered your life to Christ.
3. Describe how your life is different.

Give the group 3-5 minutes to write down their thoughts, and then ask them to break into groups of three or fours where each can share their story.

Leader tip: *It may be helpful for the groups to role play during this exercise. Create a "Real Life" environment by giving the listeners a question to ask the storyteller.*

- What's different about you? Nothing seems to bother you.
- Why do you go to church so often?
- You had a great opportunity to get revenge, why didn't you let her have it?
- Dude, why did you correct the cashier on the bill? You could have gotten away with paying a lot less.

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

SAY THIS:

In Romans 10:1 Paul is sharing his passion and dependence on God's spirit to move his unsaved Jewish brothers to faith in Jesus when he exclaims "*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation!*" We also need to share Paul's urgency and burden for those whom God has placed in our lives and pray for God's spirit to move and give us an opportunity to share our story to them.

DO THIS:

Ask the group to each share the first name of someone in their lives who is not a believer and write the names down on a sheet of paper. Take time to pray for these people and refer to this list during future meetings by asking for updates..

DO THIS:

Ask your group to download "The Story" app from Spread the Truth Ministries on their phone. This is a very helpful tool to assist in sharing and integrating our story with God's story.

3-5
minutes

CLOSING THOUGHT

"Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it's the Great Suggestion."

Charles R. Swindoll