

SCRIPTURES FOR 4/9/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Mark 16:14-18

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and

when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>

THE NEW TESTAMENT PLAN OF SALVATION

The "Roman Road"

(Scriptures all found in the book of Romans)

1. FAITH (10:9-10)
 - A. Righteous (4:13)
 - B. Strong (4:20)
 - C. From the Heart (10:9)
 - D. In Christ (3:22, 26)
 - E. Produced by hearing the Word (10:17)
 - F. Produces obedience (1:5, 6:17, 16:26)
 - G. Results in justification (5:1)
2. REPENTANCE (2:4)
 - A. Produced by the Love of God (2:4)
 - B. Encourages a changed life (6:12)
3. CONFESSION (10:9-10)
 - A. Of Christ (10:9-10)
 - B. With the mouth (10:10)
4. BAPTISM (6:1-11)
 - A. An immersion into Jesus' death, where Jesus' blood was shed (6:3)
 - B. A burial (6:4)
 - C. Symbolic of Christ's death, burial and resurrection (6:1-4)
 - D. The "act" based on faith and repentance in which we commit ourselves to live for God (6:6, 9, 11)
5. FAITHFULNESS (12:1-2)

CONCLUSION: Biblical faith calls for action. What do you need to do?

FAITH

Romans 10:9-10

⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 4:13

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Romans 4:20

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God

Romans 10:9 (see above)

Romans 3:22, 26

²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference

²⁶he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 1:5, 6:17, 16:26

⁵Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

REPENTANCE

Romans 2:4

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Romans 6:12

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

CONFESSION

Romans 10:9-10 (see above)

BAPTISM

Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

FAITHFULNESS

Romans 12:1-2

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

This week, our guest speaker, Bill Crandall, spoke of four essentials in sharing Christ.

Have someone read Mark 16:14-18

ESSENTIAL #1

BELIEVE THE MESSAGE

Bill pointed out the irony in rebuking the apostles for their lack of faith and immediately thereafter charging them to preach the Gospel.

What do you think Jesus is trying to show us here?

What does this do to your favorite excuse?

Have someone read Colossians 2:6-7.

We must believe, and we must have a relationship with Jesus that overflows. Paul speaks very little about preaching but speaks a lot about our relationship with Jesus.

Does your relationship with Jesus overflow? If not, what is something concrete you could do about it?

ESSENTIAL #2

STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Bill shared that the command was not to, "Come," but to "Go." Evangelism is less about bringing someone to church than about going out into the world to share your life with someone.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Before the meeting, be sure to have one empty chair in the room where you meet. Stop the lesson for a moment and give everyone a pen and a 3x5 card. Have everyone in the group spend the next few minutes thinking of at least three people they can pray for who do not know Christ. Encourage them to think about the workplace, their family, their school, their bowling teammates, every area of their "non-church" life. Then have them pick at least one to invite to LIFEGROUP. Take several minutes to pray for them in the meeting -- first, a minute or two for silent prayer for individuals on their list, then you close aloud for the one everyone hopes will fill the empty chair -- not necessarily by name, but in general. Then encourage everyone to pray every day this week for, that God would find some way to use them to reach these people and for the courage to step out.

You have this circle of acquaintances where God has put you and you have a message of victory to share. Ultimately, you are to proclaim and persuade, but for now, you may only be in the business of planting seeds and making yourself available. But, there is some sense of urgency.

ESSENTIAL #3

DESTINY IS EITHER/OR

Bill also reminds us that we all face one of two eternal destinies -- heaven or hell. We are, as Christians, hopefully already aware of this, but others are not, and we may play a part in, as Bill stated, "snatching them from the fire."

What you say and do reveal what you believe. Do your actions (outside of church) indicate that you believe in Christ?

What is one small thing you could do to make it more obvious?

ESSENTIAL #4

BE CONFIDENT THAT GOD IS WITH YOU

There are a bunch of signs listed in this scripture, but we should not be looking for a sign; we should instead BE a sign. Bill stated that the most common command in the Bible is, "Do not fear," and the most common promise is, "I am with you."

So, we can step out with confidence. We must:

- Cultivate a closer relationship with Jesus.
- Look outward, getting our eyes off of ourselves.
- Find a tool to share Jesus and learn to use it.
- Take the first step; leave your comfort zone.

CONCLUSION

There are many tools you can use to broach the subject of someone's eternal destiny -- a common interest, a shared struggle, an offer to pray for someone, but the key is finding one and having the courage to use it. Once you are in the position to share the salvation message with someone, one method for walking them through the necessary scriptures is called the **ROMAN ROAD**. (*I have attached it above, make copies as necessary*).