



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT THE VILLAGES

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First Baptist Church At The Villages

The gospel/Who's your one?

The Grace of the Gospel-Centered Life

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Use for small groups from January 5, 2020 – January 11, 2020

MAIN POINT

We are saved by God's grace, and His glorious love prompts us to live out our faith in boldness.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What is one important thing someone has had to remind you of?

What practices do you employ to remind yourself of important things (appointments, dates, birthdays, etc.)?

The apostle Paul began chapter 15 with a goal: to remind his readers of the gospel message. In this passage, Paul presented the basics of the gospel and the importance of the resurrection. However, Paul's teaching was anything but academic. He included a personal testimony—God's grace had changed the direction of his life. As a result of God's undeserved and magnificent love, Paul's life was focused on one thing: to tell others of that love.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2.

Who was instrumental in teaching you about Jesus?

When did you first begin to understand the importance of Jesus' death on the cross?

Who is someone you are burdened to see put their faith in Christ and His work on the cross?

A chief purpose of 1 Corinthians was to answer questions and challenges from the Corinthian church. None were more pivotal than their questions about resurrection. Paul's presentation of the resurrection rested on the gospel he first presented to the Corinthians. The word gospel means "good news." This good news extends to every area of believers' lives and into eternity.

What steps can we take to hold firmly to the gospel message?

Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

Why do you think the Corinthians needed to be reminded of the gospel message?

Do you ever need to be reminded of the gospel message?

What emotions come to the surface when you read verses 3-5?

The essence of the gospel is that Jesus became a man, died for our sins, and was raised according to the promises of Scripture. Christ's death is part of the gospel because it is the good news that He took on our sins and our death on the cross. The Scriptures pointed to Christ's coming and dying a substitutionary death.

Why is it important to include Jesus' resurrection when we discuss the gospel?

The resurrection is part of the gospel because it shows that Christ is God, meaning He can cover all our sins. If Jesus had stayed in the tomb, then He was just a man. Any man can die—in fact, all do. Only the God-Man, Jesus Christ, could have died the death that took on the sins of man and dealt with them eternally. The resurrection is the power of salvation, and the cross is the place of salvation. In verses 5-8, Paul mentioned several of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances, which validated that He had risen from the dead and Scripture had been fulfilled.

Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:9-11.

What can we learn about God's grace from verses 9-11?

In these verses, Paul gives a first-hand account of God's grace by describing his own life before He knew Jesus and after. Because of God's grace, Paul went from persecuting Christians to becoming one. But he didn't stop there—Paul spent his life preaching and telling others of God's grace, His undeserved love and forgiveness. God's work in Paul's life went beyond his salvation experience and forgiveness of sin; God's grace led Paul to a life focused on sharing that grace with others.

Does your understanding of the gospel lead you to worship, pray, or tell others about Jesus? Explain.

How does the gospel impact your life on a daily basis?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

For which aspect of the gospel are you most thankful?

How would you explain God's grace to someone who isn't familiar with God's Word?

Who do you know who needs to hear about God's grace today?

What needs to change so that your daily choices, speech, and conduct demonstrate the message of the gospel?

PRAYER

Thank God for those who have helped you gain a deeper understanding of the gospel and the depth of God's grace. Pray for a daily awareness of God's work in your life and the courage to live out your faith each day. Pray specifically that Christ would reveal one individual for you to begin sharing Him with.

COMMENTARY

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

15:1-58 This chapter represents the most comprehensive discussion of resurrection in the entire Bible.

15:3-4 These verses recount the basic gospel message as Paul delivered it in town after town.

15:5-11 Early Christian evangelists validated the certainty of Jesus' resurrection by recounting His post-tomb appearances to authoritative eyewitnesses (e.g., Ac 2:32). Paul refers to himself as one abnormally born due to his late arrival in the chain of eyewitnesses to Christ's resurrection (Ac 9:1-6).