

Discussion Guide for the Week of May 1, 2022

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. It is a loss if all your group does is read and answer these questions. They are conversation starters not the final goal. The final goal is discussion and discipleship. Remember, we want God's answers, not man's so land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace & time for growth. It takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Asking for a friend... 

A Series For Your Questions

Connect

- Share a time when you were given something (a gift, opportunity, or experience) you absolutely did not deserve. How did that make you feel toward the person who gave it to you?

Context

We are in the second week of a series entitled "Asking for a Friend." We want to avoid simplistic definitive answers to the questions. We will leave room for a varying opinion, doubts, struggles, and more because we often learn more and take ownership more deeply when we deeply process and struggle through our questions. One of the biggest mistakes we can make is not listening to the hearts and thoughts of others. We often spend more time trying to prove a point instead of understanding someone. Stay flexible, patient, respectful, gentle, and open-minded. We want to have honest conversations around some really big questions you've asked, or others have asked you. We are seeking to equip people that help develop faith and/or help others on the outside looking into faith. "Don't just give people the right answer, give them a Christ centered relationship." - Dave Rizer

This week's question is: Can you ever lose your salvation?

Theologically this is one of the most debated questions in all of Christendom for more than 500 years. Mark Moore has said "Let's commit to wrestling with the text, not with one another." Why? There is an equal if not more important aspect to this question: people and a deep personal need to find assurance in salvation. When we operate under the wrong narrative about salvation, we can get to the point where we feel like our sins, mistakes, doubts, and choices may leave us in a dangerous place with decreasing hope and assurance. This is not what the Lord desires for us.

It is true that you and I have been infected with something that is killing us. Something that you can't just wish away or get away from on your own. It not only plagues you but sin indicts you in criminal behavior against God that is deserving of punishment. That's why sin and Jesus's death go together. Not that He sinned but that He paid the price for your crimes, my crimes, all our sins.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." - Acts 4:12

This is the key when we talk about this topic. The Greek word for salvation is “soteria” and it means “the savior saves.” The act of salvation is not something you do but something Jesus did for you. It’s a gift of grace for you and for me to be set free from sin and death. That’s great news - The Gospel. You cannot do this on your own, no self help book is going to get you there, no perfect attendance at church, no cleaning up your act, it’s believing in Jesus. We are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. Jesus went to the cross, died, and rose again, because you and I and everyone of us are sinners in need of a savior. Your salvation depends on Jesus and His grace, love and forgiveness. Since it depends on Jesus, it cannot depend on our behaviors. You cannot just mess up one day after you place your faith in Jesus and it’s gone, you lost it, it’s over. It cannot disappear like your keys, remote, or wallet disappear. Faith, belief, trust is what saves you.

Not being saved is a matter of rejecting Jesus. Refusing to believe in and trust Jesus. [Matthew 12:31](#) says, blaspheming against the Spirit of God is the unforgivable sin. It takes a personal, intentional choice, to forfeit the gift of grace and salvation and turn away from Jesus - never wanting to turn back to Him. It’s a decision to permanently reject Jesus and His-provided salvation. (see also [Hebrews 6:4-6](#))

Here’s more great news though: Jesus gives us everything we need to live a life in Him. He will hold us, help us, and work in, through, and around us for our good. He will keep us if we choose to be, as the Apostle Paul wrote often, “in Christ”. See the focus is on abiding in and pursuing Jesus.

1 Peter 1:2-4 NIV

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

Discuss

1. What do you think of when you hear the word gospel?
2. Do you feel as though your salvation relies more on you or on Jesus?
3. Were you taught “once saved always saved” (unconditional eternal security) or “that you can walk away from your faith” or neither? How does this impact your relationship with Jesus? How does it impact how you help others? How does this affect how we should view sin? (Read and discuss: [Romans 6:1-2](#), [1 John 1:9](#), [Hebrews 10:26-29](#), [James 2:14-17](#), [James 5:16](#), [Ephesians 2:8-10](#), [Philippians 2:12-13](#))
4. Do you feel as though the level of your faith relies more on you or on Jesus? Explain.
5. When has suffering in your life tempted you to let go of Jesus?
6. When has success in your life seduced you to ignore your loyalty to Jesus? Busyness?
7. How can we best approach subjects (such as can I lose my salvation) where people who love Jesus can differ in opinion so greatly? How can we most effectively reflect Jesus, hope, and love?

End Your Group Time in Prayer

Want to Dive Deeper? Have more questions? Check Out

[The book: Core 52 by Mark E. Moore](#)

[Renew.org](#)

[RoomforDoubt.com](#)

