

Message Discussion Guide

RADICAL: WHAT THE GOSPEL DEMANDS (REVIEW)

The Church at Brook Hills, Dr. David Platt November 2, 2008

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Read Isaiah 49:6. Normally this passage is used as a verse for missions, but it has been very relevant for this series.

For Isaiah, as well as the Messianic tie here, it was too light a thing (that is too small a vision) that God would empower him only for the ministry of raising up Israel. God is just too big; this mission is too big to be limited to our family, our community, our city, and country. Has God really given us material blessings only for us to use them among the few people we interact with on a day to day basis? Hardly! Those resources – our time, our education, and our energy – shine the “light for the nations,” that is, God's salvation to the end of the earth. Radically speaking: Has God given us our houses only to be used in such a small way to serve our families? Is my job only to be used to serve my family and friends? Is my education only to further my career and to teach my kids? That is so small a vision.

- How can we use our resources – time, education, energy, possessions, etc. – so that His salvation could reach the end of the earth?
- Is it our responsibility to use these things to reach the ends of the earth? Why or why not?
- Explain your opinion of this statement: The question is not “what should I give up? or “why should I give this or that up” but “how should I use what God has given me to accomplish His purpose?”

Explain to the learners that we will be spending our time discussing ways that we can and are applying the Radical series to our lives. Explain that the reason that it is so important for us to apply and respond to these truths is that it doesn't just affect us – it affects our friends, our family, our neighbors and people all over the world.

Option 2

Enlist 2 volunteers to read James 1:22 and 1 John 5:2-3 and ask the following questions:

- What does James say we must do with the Word of God?
- What does John say about loving God and the commands of God?
- What does John say particularly about the commands of God?
- In what ways do you feel that applying God's Word to your life is more of a burden than a blessing?

Explain to the learners that we will be reviewing the Radical Series and focus on how we are personally applying what we've learned. This will be a great time to challenge each other with what God is teaching us. Lead the learners in discussion that will not only help everyone to see that we must be doers of the Word, but also to see that following the Lord's commands are freeing and not a burden to the believer.

Option 3

Have your group answer the following questions on a 1 to 10 scale, 1 being not at all and 10 totally life changing. Ask them to feel free to elaborate on their answer, but let them know they are not required to do so.

- How has the Radical series affected your view of the Christian life?
- How has the series impacted the way you are currently doing life?
- How has the series affected the way you plan to do life in the future?

Message Discussion Guide

RADICAL: WHAT THE GOSPEL DEMANDS (REVIEW)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 2, 2008

Explain to the learners that we will be reviewing the Radical Series and focus on how we are personally applying what we've learned. This will be a great time to challenge each other with what God is teaching us. Lead the learners in discussion that will not only help everyone to see that we must be doers of the Word, but also to see that following the Lord's commands are freeing and not a burden to the believer.

Before you proceed, explain to the learners that small groups are designed to help you learn to apply God's Word and to encourage each other in your struggles. Encourage the members of your small group to share openly and honestly about both their victories and their struggles. Many people are not used to sharing their own personal struggles or victories, so be prepared for short periods of silence. Do not feel like you have to speak when members are silent.

Review...

Radical: What the Gospel Demands (Luke 9:57-62)

Summary:

Enlist a volunteer to read Luke 9:57-62. Give a short summary of David's first sermon in the Radical series for the group and then ask the personal application questions.

When we approach the difficult statements that Jesus made, we must ask ourselves the all-important question, "Do we believe this Book?" If we truly believe what the Bible teaches us, we must respond in radical obedience. If we do believe the Bible, we must then ask ourselves, "Do we believe what the Bible says about the church, the lost, and the poor?"

Personal Application:

- Has there been anything in your life that God has shown you is an excuse that you made to prevent you from fully following Christ? In other words, what conditions have you put on following Christ in the past?
- During the Radical series, how has God led you to change or modify your life in some way in order to fully follow Christ?

The Gospel Demands Radical Sacrifice (Luke 14:25-35)

Summary:

Enlist a volunteer to read Luke 14:25-35. Give a short summary of David's sermon on Radical Sacrifice and then ask the personal application questions.

The call to follow Christ involves loving Christ above all other things. We must be completely loyal to Him, which changes our priorities. We must give up everything for Him, which changes the way we handle our possessions. Because Christ is supreme, any sacrifice is ultimately our gain.

Personal Application:

Message Discussion Guide

RADICAL: WHAT THE GOSPEL DEMANDS (REVIEW)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 2, 2008

- What are some sacrifices that you and your family have made or have decided to make as a part of applying God's Word?
- In what ways has God led you to change your priorities over the past few weeks?
- How have you experienced Christ as your supreme joy? How was this linked to some sacrifice that you made?
- Then, ask the following questions: Has there been anything that you feel that the Lord is asking you to sacrifice but you are having a hard time obeying? Is there anything with which you feel the Lord may be asking you to make a change, but you are not exactly sure that you would like for your group to pray for you about?

The Gospel Demands Radical Compassion (Matthew 9:35-10:42)

Summary:

Enlist a volunteer to read Matthew 9:35-10:42. Give a short summary of David's sermon on Radical Compassion and then ask the personal application questions.

The gospel calls us to have radical compassion for the world. It demands sacrificing our lives for those who do not know Christ. Christ instructed His followers to respond to the world by praying for them and going to them.

Personal Application:

- In light of this passage, have you and your family increased your prayer for the lost? How has this changed the way that you view lost people?
- What practical steps have you taken to go to the lost?
- Invite the learners to share any opportunities that they have had to share the gospel with a lost person. What was his/her response?
- In what ways are you still struggling with sharing the gospel with lost people? Discuss things that you feel are barriers to you sharing the gospel.

The Gospel Demands Radical Urgency (John 4:27-42)

Summary:

Enlist a volunteer to read John 4:27-42. Give a short summary of Chris Nichols' sermon on Radical Urgency and then ask the personal application questions.

Jesus was not interested in gaining more converts than John the Baptist or with spreading a political agenda, but He had a radical urgency for lost people. His urgency for lost people trumps all of our cultural and religious traditions.

Personal Application:

- What cultural, racial, religious or socio-economic prejudices have you been faced with as a result of applying this passage to your life?

Message Discussion Guide

RADICAL: WHAT THE GOSPEL DEMANDS (REVIEW)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 2, 2008

- What “Samaria” has the Lord led or is the Lord leading you to go through in order to spread the gospel of Christ?
- In light of this passage, what have you seen are the urgent things in your life?
- How has the urgency for spreading the gospel improved in your life?

The Gospel Demands Radical Giving (Luke 16:19-31)

Summary:

Enlist a volunteer to read Luke 16:19-31. Summarize David’s sermon on Radical Giving and then ask the personal application questions.

The gospel calls us to care for the poor and needy in a radical way. God responds to the poor with compassion, but responds to those who neglect the poor with condemnation. We cannot participate in hollow religion that neglects the poor, but must turn in honest repentance and care for the poor. We do not care for the poor out of guilt, but we are motivated to care for the poor by the gospel.

Personal Application:

- What are some things that you and your family have decided to do in order to care for the poor and needy? What adjustments have you had to make in order to do this?
- Have you identified who the people are who are “at your gate?” How has the Lord led you to respond to them?
- What do you think that we as a church can do to better care for the poor and needy? What about our small group?

The Gospel Demands Radical Abandonment (Mark 10:17-31)

Summary:

Enlist a volunteer to read Mark 10:17-31. Give a short summary of David’s 3 sermons on Radical Abandonment and then ask the personal application questions.

Jesus’ call to salvation demands total surrender. We do not consider what options we have, we obey what He says. The beauty of this call is that it does not strip us of pleasure, but leads us to a place where we can find true satisfaction.

We often think that God’s blessing on our lives comes in the form of material possessions. But, the truth is that money and wealth can be a barrier to knowing Christ. Riches can cause us to become self-confident, self-sufficient, and self-centered. Riches must be us for a life of selfless love for the sake of the poor.

Personal Application:

Message Discussion Guide

RADICAL: WHAT THE GOSPEL DEMANDS (REVIEW)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 2, 2008

- Imagine that it was you standing before Jesus asking Him how to obtain eternal life. In light of what Jesus told the rich young ruler, what is the one thing that Jesus would tell you to do? Is He telling you to abandon that now?
- Possessions are not bad in and of themselves. They must be soon as a tool to care for the needs of others. How are you using your possessions as a means to care for others?
- What luxuries have you identified in your life? What has the Lord led or is the Lord leading you to do with those luxuries?
- What is the most radical thing that you feel God has led you to do in light of this passage?

End your time together with prayer for each other. Pray that the Lord would give grace to the members of your small group to make every adjustment that He is calling them to make. Pray that the Lord will help them to see that every sacrifice made is worth it in light of the supremacy of Christ. Pray that the small group would continue to grow in honesty and transparency so that you can continue to spur one another on toward love and good deeds.