



God Calling”
DIVINE DICTIONARY
Small Group Plan

JUSTICE – Getting what we deserve.
MERCY – Not getting what we deserve.
GRACE – Getting what we don’t deserve.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Why doesn’t God want to give us what we deserve?
- Why does God go beyond mercy – why does he give us grace?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

THE INCOMPLETE GOSPEL
Human Substitutions

- Read through and discuss each of the following contemporary “gospels”?
 - *A gospel that is more about me than God.*
 - *A gospel teaching the delights of Jesus are for everyone, while the demands of Jesus are for a few.*
 - *A gospel of information over transformation.*
 - *A gospel that doesn’t call me into a broken world.*
- What is missing in each of these human substitutions?

THE COMPLETE GOSPEL
God’s Original message

Romans 1:1-2

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son,

2 Timothy 2:8

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel

- According to these verses, what is the bedrock, core gospel?
- What happens when we leave Christ out of Christian?
- How can we continue to tell the story of Jesus?

THE COMPLETELY COMPLETE GOSPEL **Our Response To God's Message**

Romans 6:1-10

¹ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We 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. ⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶ For 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— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

- As a group, read through vs. 1-10 and locate all of the “with him” phrases.
- Describe all the ways that we are “with him” as we reenact the cross.
- How does our baptism complete the gospel?
- What does God do in our baptism?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Which of the incomplete gospels have you observed to be the most common?
- Which is the most dangerous? Explain.
- Why is it so easy to focus on our response to the gospel rather than on the gospel itself?
- How can we keep baptism vitally connected to Jesus?
- Describe practical ways to keep the story of Jesus central in our families?
- As you close, pray not only in Jesus name, but also for a clearer understanding just how central Jesus is to our theology, our life, and our future.