

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 16-22, 2023

## “ICYMI: SALVATION (PART 1)”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What would you consider a great birthday gift to receive personally? Why?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, what is the role of grace and faith in salvation? Why do you think good works are not mentioned as a requirement for salvation? How does this passage challenge the common belief that individuals can earn their way into heaven?
2. What does Acts 4:12 mean when it says, “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”? Why is it important for Christians to believe in the exclusivity of salvation through Jesus Christ?
3. How would you define “repentance”? Do you think most Christians think much about repentance? How do you know if repentance is real? What results do you expect from genuine repentance?
4. Read Luke 12:8-10. Jesus mentions one form of hypocrisy which the Pharisees were guilty of that can never be forgiven. What is it? Why can't it be forgiven?
5. Christianity claims that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and his sacrifice on the cross is sufficient to redeem man from sin. Why do you think this is so contentious? Why do you think many people believe in “many ways to heaven” and what is the problem with this logic?
6. *Application.* How should our understanding of salvation as grace impact our relationship with God and others? What implications does this passage have on how we treat those who don't know or are even against Jesus?

### 7. NEXT STEPS

*The work of salvation is the work of God.*

- I acknowledge my sinfulness and need of God's redeeming grace.
- I will put my trust in Jesus.
- I believe in the exclusivity of Jesus as the only way to heaven.
- I will do good works not to be saved but because I am saved.

*Don't forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Take a moment to offer a prayer thanksgiving for your salvation.
- Pray that God would continue to work in your heart and transform you into the image of Jesus.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

April 17 Ephesians 2:1-10

April 18 Isaiah 12:1-6

April 19 Mark 1:9-13

April 20 Galatians 2:15-21

April 21 Romans 5:6-15

April 22 Hebrews 12:18-24

April 23 1 Peter 1:3-5