

## A Holiday For Flowers & Fools

### The Four Crowds At Easter:

(1) What's in it **for me?**

Mark 11:1-11, 15:6-15

"I know enough about Jesus to **want Him on my side.**"

RESULT:

(2) I'm **smarter** than God.

Mark 11:31-32, 12:12, 14:1-2, 61-65

"I know enough about God to **make my own Jesus.**"

RESULT:

(3) Great story... **see you next year.**

"I know enough about Jesus to **celebrate the holiday.**"

RESULT:

(4) I'll follow and do **whatever God wants.**

Mark 15:40-41, 16:9-16

"I know enough about Jesus to **give Him my life.**"

RESULT:

### Choosing Between Faith Or Foolishness:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 1, 2018

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## Welcome to the Spring Quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Spring Growth Group Quarter. Your first meeting will most likely include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted with any new members, as well as time to discuss the Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish each of these.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and see God change our lives from the inside out!

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Easter is one of many holidays when a lot of families have special traditions for how they celebrate them. What is the weirdest or most unique tradition (holiday or otherwise) your family had when you were growing up?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. This weekend Chris talked about the "four crowds at Easter." As you look back on your life, are there times you can identify when you were a part of one or more of the first three crowds? If so, explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. God's desire is for all of us to be a part of the fourth crowd that Chris talked about. A big part of being willing to "follow and do whatever God wants" is self-denial, which involves submitting to God's will for us. How do the following verses help us better understand what self-denial and submission are?

**Matthew 26:39-42**     *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

**Luke 9:23-27** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

<sup>27</sup> “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

**Matthew 19:16-22** *New International Version (NIV)*

*The Rich and the Kingdom of God*

<sup>16</sup> Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

<sup>17</sup> “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

<sup>18</sup> “Which ones?” he inquired.

Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, <sup>19</sup> honor your father and mother,’<sup>[a]</sup> and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup>”

<sup>20</sup> “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

We often think of self-denial and submission as hard and difficult but Jesus considers them the key to experiencing abundant life. Can you think of any benefits that come from being willing to deny yourself in order to follow God’s will?

What has been most helpful for you in consistently submitting to God’s will?

2. Jesus rising from the dead is foundational to the Christian faith because it is the proof that Christ is who he claimed to be – our Savior and God’s only son. But it also has impact on how we live out our faith. What importance does 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 place on Christ’s resurrection for us in our Christian walk?

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19** *New International Version (NIV)*

*The Resurrection of the Dead*

<sup>12</sup> But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What do Romans 5:6-8 and 6:5-7 add to your understanding of the importance of Christ’s death and resurrection for us?

**Romans 5:6-8** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 6:5-7** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, <sup>7</sup> that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

**TAKING IT HOME**

1. Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what’s most important for you to remember?

## **LAUNCHING YOUR GROWTH GROUP QUARTER**

Every quarter a group meets, it's interesting to see how God works as you get to know each other better, apply God's Word and encourage each other to grow. What are you looking forward to in your Growth Group this quarter?

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### **THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS**

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

#### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions" but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

#### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

#### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

#### **SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.