

Small Group Study Guide

Sets the Captives Free | Luke 4:14-22

From Sunday April 12, 2020

Appetizer:

Question: Has anyone ever had to spend time in jail or prison? You may not want to answer that question! Has anyone visited a jail cell? What did you notice?

A couple questions from the passage:

Luke 4:14-22 **What stands out to you in the passage?** Why was Jesus given an opportunity to read this passage? What was the significance of him saying "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." What would this have meant to his listeners.

Main Course:

On Easter, Jeff talked from a prison, suggesting that the prison that Jesus is freeing us all from is the prison of death. He talked about how death is the result of giving authority to things in our life over and above the authority of God.

Question: How do our desires, our need for control, and our selfish lead to death? Is this physical or spiritual death?

Question: Unmet expectations often lead to disappointment. Have you ever been disappointed with God? Why? What expectations did you place on him that he didn't fulfill?

Throughout the book of Acts, the disciples roam around Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth, proclaiming "Christ's resurrection." When we talk about the Gospel these days, we often talk about Jesus dying for our sins in order for us to have eternal life. The disciples talked a lot about Jesus forgiving our sins, but the crux of their message was on his resurrection and the power of His Spirit now available to us.

Question: Why is resurrection foremost on their mind when they preached? What role does resurrection play in the way we describe the gospel,

or the good news of Jesus to others? In other words, why is resurrection good news?

Dessert:

It was suggested that, although Jesus' death and resurrection opened the doors to our prison, we still have a choice as to whether we walk out the door or stay in our cell.

Question: Why do prisoners remain in their cell?

Reflection: What prison cells to you remain in? What stops you from walking out into freedom? Take some time as a group to reflect on this. Perhaps get people to write some thoughts down on their own.

Pray this prayer out loud with the group:

Take some time to pray a prayer of gratitude for what Jesus did on the cross. Pray also that we would all embrace living, "resurrected lives", living free from the chains that hold us back from a vibrant relationship with God. And pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to infiltrate all of our lives for the glory of God.