



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: Galatians 1:15–24; 2:6–9

Sermon Summary:

If you were asked, “*What is the essential message of Paul’s gospel?*” what would you say? If you look at all of Paul’s messages in Acts and all of his letters, what does he focus on? It’s not Jesus’ life and ministry recorded in the four Gospels: his teachings, miracles, or parables. Rather, he is intensely focused on **Jesus’ death & resurrection**. Why? It’s because those are the very things that bring about change in our lives! Who did you believe in? Jesus, the one who died and rose for you. Why were you baptised? To be identified with Jesus’ death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–5)! That doesn’t diminish the Gospels in any way. Rather, Paul zeroes in on what really makes the difference for people: Jesus’ death and resurrection!

Discussion:

1. What are some of the criticisms leveled at Paul? (His gospel and his apostleship)
2. How does Paul rebut each criticism?
3. According to Gal. 2:6, and then 7 – 9, is Paul’s gospel deficient? Who actually endorses him and his gospel?
4. What would you know about Jesus’ life and ministry from Paul’s letters?

5. Think about how important Jesus' death and resurrection were to your believing, your baptism, your continuing on in your Christian life. Discuss this with one another.
6. Why is merely mimicking Jesus' life, his morality & compassion, and even trying to follow his teachings **NOT the gospel** ?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for more & more daily & weekly experience of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Pray for one another.