

"Marks of the Messenger" (J. Mack Stiles) Lifegroup Discussion Questions

Chapter 1 pg. 15

Who do you want to be?

How does, who you want to be, compare with who Jesus wants you to be?

How can you avoid "pragmatic evangelism"?

Why is the integrity of the gospel message often compromised when we focus too heavily on the results of evangelism?

Have you ever been guilty of peddling the gospel? (2 Corinthians 2:17) Explain.

Chapter 2 pg. 25

What facets of the gospel message can you work to better understand?

How can you sharpen your communication of the gospel?

Why is it so dangerous to add to, or subtract from, the gospel?

Do you shy away from sharing the "bad news" when attempting to share the gospel? Why?

How does a weak view of our own sin lead to a weak view of grace and love?

Chapter 3 pg. 37

How can we work to "guard" the gospel? (2 Timothy 1:14)

Why is "assuming the gospel" so dangerous?

How can you take personal action to guard against the gospel being assumed and then lost?

How can we guard against moralism or culture being confused with the gospel?

Chapter 4 pg. 49

Why is it so important to watch our lives and our doctrine so closely (1 Timothy 4:16)?

Which area is weakest for you.....your "life" or your "doctrine"? How are you going to work to grow stronger in this area?

How can you grow deeper in the gospel and living out its implications for your life?

What gospel truths are you going to focus on this week to grow your conduct and enhance your witness?

Chapter 5 pg. 61

What are the dangers in divorcing social action from the gospel message?

How can we work to keep the gospel message central in our outreach?

How does it change the way we meet the needs of others when we no longer regard them according to the flesh? (2 Corinthians 5:16)?

Why is it so crucial to understand the distinction between "living out the gospel" and "the message of the gospel"?

Chapter 6 pg.71

Why should church membership be taken seriously?

Do you have a clear theological understanding of what took place in your conversion?

How can being a "good person"; in a sense, actually hinder conversion? (Luke 18:18-23)

How can clear teaching of the gospel safeguard against false conversions?

Describe some of the changes that took place in your life following your conversion?

How does it affect the way you approach evangelism when you know that God is the One Who does the converting?

Chapter 7 pg. 81

What are some ways that "fear of man" has crippled your evangelism?

What can you do to grow in boldness in evangelism?

Give an example of a time when your fear of the Lord moved you to share the gospel?

Mindful of the need for boldness in evangelism, who are you going to discuss your faith with this week? (Pray for the salvation of the individuals mentioned, as a group)

Chapter 8 pg.91

What are the dangers of having a definition of love that is more reflective of pop-culture love than biblical love?

Why is it important to be precise in communicating how God's love is both unconditional and conditional?

Where in our culture do you see a "me-centered" display of God's love?

How is a biblical, and sacrificial love so much more rich than the superficial sentimental love of our culture? How will you demonstrate sacrificial love this week?

Chapter 9 pg.101

What does your life communicate about your view of the church?

Can the unbelievers in your life discern that you are a follower of Christ by the way you love His Church? (John 13:34-35)

How can you increase your devotion to the Church in a way that will serve to advance the gospel?

Do you intentionally pursue unity in the Church across racial, economic, political and cultural lines in a way that corroborates the truth that God sent Jesus? (John 17:20-21)

Do the things that you say about the church hurt or help the advance of the gospel? How do you speak about Christ's Bride to others?

Which one of the 16 "ways to demonstrate love.." are you going to start doing this week?

Chapter 10 pg.111

Which "Kingdom Manifesto for Healthy Evangelism" point has impacted you the most? Why?

How does viewing evangelism as a privilege affect how active you are in it?

Share an example of how God has used you to bring the gospel message to someone?

As a group, pray through Psalm 96.