

Brainstorm Session Notes – Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at Vineyard

Recap:

People really jumped in to this journey
Kids and adults got to pick their favorite images of Jesus
How much of what you believe is in the bible
Twice as many sign up for groups than in the past
Folks are willing to sign up to read the Guide even if they won't join a group
90% of one church - people reading the gospel
Good boost for people bringing friends
Vintage 21 videos (Google Video)

Ideas for Week 2

Scripture Ideas:

Ezekiel 45 Cheating yourself for the benefit of another
Matthew 20
Romans 5:20
John 5
Luke 12
Luke 7

Parable of the vineyard workers

Purity Laws – Jesus went around touching those he should never have been associating with. We see God doing something that is out of our frame of reference and we don't understand or think it's unfair.

Injustice seems unfair

Fairness would say that we are all condemned but God gives grace.

The Shack (book) – How does God ask us to respond?

How do we meet with people where they are and what they are thinking.

When people are in the midst of devastation – how do we talk about fairness and grace

Most downloaded 3 songs:

Justin Timberlake Song – What goes around comes around

Carrie Underwood – Before he cheats

Dixie Chicks – Not ready to back down

Time to Kill (movie) – Samuel L. Jackson kills his daughter's rapists and then demands that he deserves to be found innocent.

Entitlement of our family – deifying those relationships vs. intimacy and relationship with God

Ways that we can drive it home – share our own story

How do we deal with "bad things happen to good people"

What are bad things and what are good people

Powerful to share our own story and how/when we have struggled with belief. It's not easy – it's not simple. It's messy.

How does God redeem the bad stuff?

It's important to process the bad stuff when the bad stuff happens

Jesus is not here to “make things better” but he is with us in our pain.

Jesus understands a life of unfairness – it was not “fair” that he died on the cross.

Here’s the story Dave Workman referenced from a previous message:

“Karla Faye Tucker, executed in 1999 in Texas, was a murderer. Hers was a heinous crime--a grisly axe-murder. While in prison, she had an authentic encounter with the Holy Spirit and her life radically changed. Why would *she* be a recipient of God’s generosity rather than someone who struggles day-in-and-day-out to be a good person? Was that fair to the relatives of Karla’s victims? Even though she was perhaps justly dealt with by the judicial system, was it fair that she be a receiver of God’s love?

“Author C. S. Lewis once said that it used to puzzle him how Christian writers seemed to be so strict one moment and then easy at another. He wrote: *‘They talk about mere sins of thought as if they were immensely important: and then they talk about the most frightful murders and treacheries as if you (only had) to repent and all would be forgiven. But I have come to see that they are right.’* (C.S. Lewis; *Mere Christianity*, pg. 87)