

Not Ashamed

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Questions:

1. What is something you discovered and immediately started recommending to everyone?
2. What is one thing you were nervous to try but now talk about like an expert?

Read the following passage(s): Romans 1:16; Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 10:11-13

The gospel is easy to treat like advice we should explain, defend, or prove, which can leave us silent whenever we feel unqualified. Pastor Ernie reminded us that the gospel is God's power: the good news of what Jesus has done reaches hearts we cannot change and keeps working long after a conversation ends. That same power brings a complete salvation - justifying us, sanctifying us, and holding out the promise of glorification - and it is offered to everyone who believes. If we have truly been changed by this good news, where has shame kept us quiet, and who needs us to share it?

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

The gospel is not God's advice to you. It is His power for you.

1. Where have you treated the gospel like an argument that requires you to have every answer? What conversation are you avoiding because you feel unqualified, and what would a humble first step look like this week?
2. Read Ezekiel 36:26. Whose heart have you quietly decided is too hard, resistant, or far gone? How would trusting God's power change the way you pray for and speak to that person?
3. Pastor Ernie said we keep thinking about what we do not know and forget who we know. What insecurity makes you most tempted to stay silent, and what truth about God do you need to rehearse before your next opportunity?
4. At Walgreens, an unwanted interruption became the place where Pastor Ernie shared the gospel. What inconvenience are you using as an excuse to remain unavailable? Who is already near you, and what question could you ask them this week?
5. The gospel may work immediately or beneath the surface long after a conversation ends. Where are you measuring faithfulness by someone else's response? Who will you share with or keep praying for without trying to control the outcome, and how can this group follow up with you?

The gospel does not only forgive your past. It brings salvation into your whole life.

6. Read Romans 5:1. What guilt or shame are you still trying to erase, repay, or manage even though Christ justifies by faith? What would living at peace with God change in your choices this week?
7. God does not enter the house to embarrass you; He comes with a solution and begins cleaning. What room in your life are you newly seeing, and what act of cooperation - confession, ending, removing, or reordering - will you take before this group meets again?
8. Where have you excused a pattern as normal because your culture, friends, or past made it feel acceptable? What evidence suggests the Holy Spirit is confronting it, and who will you invite to speak truth instead of helping you rationalize it?

9. Pastor Ernie said the sanctifying work of God unties things that have a real hold on us. What attachment, habit, or relationship are you still protecting? What concrete boundary can you put in place this week, and how can the group support you?
10. How are you different from the person you were twelve months ago, and where have you stalled? Name the next act of obedience instead of settling for a vague desire to change.
11. Glorification means a Christian's last breath on earth becomes a first breath in heaven. What fear, loss, or pressure loses some of its power when that promise becomes real? How should that hope reshape one decision this week?

If we believe the gospel is God's power for all people, we will share it.

12. Read Romans 10:11-13. What would it look like for "everyone who believes" to move from your theology into your relationships?
13. Could you explain the gospel simply without hiding behind church language or replacing it with your testimony? Say the good news in your own words now, then ask the group where it could become clearer or more faithful.
14. Who is one specific person with whom you will take a gospel step this week - asking a question, sharing your story, explaining the gospel, or inviting them to respond? Name the step, set a date, and ask someone here to check in within seven days.

Pray Together.