

# Small Group Discussion

## **PART VII Salvation of Family & Friends December 17-18, 2011**

### **Getting Started**

#### **READ:**

**2 Peter 3:9** *God does “not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

**Romans 10:14** *And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone telling them? How will they know if we don't tell?*

**If God wants everyone to be saved, and Christ followers are telling people about the Gospel, why aren't more people following Christ?**

While these are both powerful verses about God working in tandem with believers living the life with people, God still respects us with an ability to choose. God put the Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden so people could choose to walk away. Love demands a choice.

### **The Cloud Caused By Unbelief:**

#### **READ: 2 Corinthians 3:13-18**

**According to 3:14, while the Jews knew the Law, they didn't see the impossibility of keeping that Law and that it pointed to Christ. When a Jew hears the Law, what do they think is its message?** That we must keep the Law, rather than that one was coming who would fulfill the Law.

**Galatians 3:19** *Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people.*

**Galatians 3:24–25** *Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.*

# Small Group Discussion

## **Why do you think the Jews as a whole reject Jesus?**

Ultimately, because they were asked to accept Christ as their Messiah, who was divine (the Jew didn't expect Messiah would also be God) and that only He could fulfill the demands of the Law. They could not accept that they could not fulfill the Law.

The heart of unbelief is not an unbelief in God, but the attempt to fulfill God's Law on our own. Paul says the call of Christ is to accept that He fulfilled the demand of the Law (Matt. 5:18). That is the veil that still covers the "religious unbeliever."

## **Do you struggle with a cloud of shame or guilt that you have or could do something that disqualifies you from God's forgiveness?**

### **How would you define this cloud or veil of unbelief?**

The cloud of unbelief is the belief that I can do something to earn God's favor, or that God is not worthy of trusting.

## **Our Role In Removing the Cloud**

Vern said that means that Christ used to influence the world was to come as a servant. Thus that is the call to us as well. "With family and friends, don't become an expert in apologetics or theology or clever arguments, become an expert in serving, for Jesus' sake."

### **READ: Mark 10:41-45**

When James & John asked for the best positions in the Kingdom, it created a competition among them.

### **What did Jesus say leadership would look like in the Church in contrast to outside?**

### **Give some specific examples of how this contrast could translate into your home, business, church, or politics?**

### **READ: Acts 4:34-5:4**

How did the attitude of servanthood display itself in Barnabas and what was the motive of Ananias and Sapphira?

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**Have each person read one of these verses and answer: How can we serve others to influence them?**

Examples of servanthood in various areas –

Romans 13:6 Politics

1 Peter 2:14; Col. 3:22-25 Employees

2 Timothy 2:24 Pastors

Romans 12:9-13; Galatians 5:13-14

Philippians 2:3-11 Christ and all who follow Him

Friendships

Harvest Church has as a controlling value that “Harvest will serve its community to such an extent that even the most ardent critic would be bummed if we ceased to exist.”

**How can you serve an unbeliever this week before you share the Gospel with an unbeliever?**

Christmas Eve services are one of the two times throughout the year that people are thinking about attending Church. Who can you pray and invite to a service this coming week?

One way we can serve unbelievers is to volunteer to serve during one of the Christmas Eve services. Call the Church or e-mail [George@harvestweb.net](mailto:George@harvestweb.net) to find out how you can help this coming Friday and Saturday.

**Recommendation:** The key verse for Salvation of Family & Friends is **Mark 10:44–45** *Whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many. (NLT)*

Ask the group to memorize this verse and to practice it in their pursuit of a life that fulfill God’s plan for their lives.

**Check out the Unburdened website that will help you through this series at [www.unburdened.me](http://www.unburdened.me)** The Resources page has some extra help in the category of an Salvation of Family & Friends.

