

## Small Group Discussion Guide — October 11, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
  - Sermon: You Have Moral Dignity
  - Scripture: Psalm 8: 4-5, Romans 6: 11-14
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:**

Was there a time in the past week when the knowledge of your value to God was especially apparent? Explain.

### **CONNECT:**

1. What one thing stood out for you from this weekend's services?
2. Share your first memory of recognizing the difference between right and wrong.

### **ENGAGE:**

1. Read Psalm 8:4-5.
  - How are humans "just a little lower than the angels"? Why do you think we were given this honor? How do these verses relate to morality?
2. Read Romans 6:11-14.
  - How are believers dead to sin but alive in Christ? If we are dead to sin, why do we still struggle against our sin nature?
  - What does it mean to be "under the law" verses "under grace"?
  - What does it mean to "offer the parts of your body to sinfulness"? Can we do this and still be in relationship with Jesus? Why or why not?
  - What's an example of being an "instrument of righteousness"?

### **APPLY:**

1. Discuss the idea that *morality* is motivated by God's love for us, that it is in His character to protect what is most precious and valuable to Him. How is this different from the idea of morality being a list of "do's and don'ts"? How does God's morality differ from the morality of the culture we live in?
2. Are there areas in your life where you feel God's morality conflicting with the cultural norms? How do you experience that conflict, and how do you respond?
3. Is there an aspect of social morality that you feel pretty confident about? Is there something you feel inadequate about? Which of the Lord's requirements of acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8) is the most difficult for you? Why?

### **PRAY:**

Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of moral dignity, and the grace to be in relationship with you. Help us to see the value You place on each person we interact with in the course of our day. Help us to live each day acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you. Bless our feeble attempts to live lives of purpose for you. Amen

### **GOING DEEPER:**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What part of yourself have you not yet relinquished to God? How can you give yourself more completely to Him?
2. In America, we often use the word “saved” to describe our coming into faith in Christ. In the Russian Orthodox tradition, they use the word “repented.” Discuss the difference between these two ways of describing salvation. Which one resonates more with you, and why? How can these two ideas work together in our understanding of salvation?
3. Watch and discuss the [Gary Haugen Ted talk](#) together. How will you respond?

### **SUPPORTING VERSES:**

Romans 1:1-4

1 Cor 4:3-5

### **QUOTES**

“Does a permanent moral standard preclude progress? On the contrary, except on the supposition of a changeless standard, progress is impossible. If good is a fixed point, it is at least possible that we could get nearer and nearer to it, but if the terminus is as mobile as the train, how can the train progress towards it?”

C.S. Lewis

#### 7 Core Aspects of the Gospel:

1. Jesus Christ came - He didn't have to come.
2. Born of a virgin - fully God and fully man
3. He taught *and* demonstrated the Kingdom of God.
4. He suffered - as we do.
5. He was crucified - the full and final sacrifice for our sin.
6. He was resurrected - the victorious Son of God.
7. He will return to renew all things - where there will be no more sin, death, pain, or suffering.