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Discussion Guide

The Scoop

My favorite part about Easter is that it doesn't end on the cross, and isn't exclusive to just me. Instead, what Jesus did on the cross invites us into a relationship with God and restoring the way this world looks.

Key Verses

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Discussion

If you think about fingernails for too long, the entire concept starts to sound strange. You can't go too long without cutting them or they'll start to interfere with everyday tasks, like texting or typing. The weirdest thing about them, however, is that they're actually made of dead cells. The reality of our lives and of our bodies is that all of us – even at just a few months old – are in the process of dying. Things as simple as our fingernails and our hair (also made of dead cells) serve as a blatant reminder of this – a sign of our limited human existence.

1. What is the most annoying thing to you about having fingernails?
2. How does it make you feel to wrestle with the truth that all of us are already in the process of dying?

The fact that we have fingernails is a sign that we are decaying – that we aren't going to live forever. Whether we like it or not, we're all born with the same problem. We're all going to die one day. The Bible talks about something inside of us that causes us to die, called sin. Kind of like a cancer, sin is something that decays us over time. Sin makes us selfish, hurt one another, causes us to ignore God, and actually even separates us from God.

3. What do you already know about sin? What questions do you still have about sin and/or what is confusing about it?
4. In what ways do you think sin compares to having cancer?

In John 3:16-17 however, we read good news. After dying on a cross, Jesus rose again so that when our bodies fail, it's not actually the final story. Jesus died to overcome sin and the power of death. The gift of God, because of what Jesus did for us, is eternal life, life beyond our present body. But there is more! When Jesus rose again, it started a process of redemption in the world. And after he left, he entrusted us to start working on our lives and on our world. It's not just about us and our own sin and eternal life. Because Jesus rose again, we are all invited to participate in the restoration of the world.

5. Do you understand why Jesus had to die for us to inherit eternal life? Why or why not?
6. Is the invitation to be part of God's redemptive plan for the world exciting or scary to you? Explain.

What's Next?

There is great hope in the Easter story. God sent his Son for us, not just to save us as individuals, but also to save this world. To put a plan in motion to make all things right again and to eliminate sin and death once and for all. Salvation is an ongoing process, that because of Jesus we are all invited to be part of.

This week as you live out your faith, examine what you are doing personally to be part of redemption in the world. Humbly ask God to reveal how He'd like to use you in his grand plan to save the world.