

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 15, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the eternal, death-defeating God of the universe who saves sinners from slavery to sin and death by his sacrificial death on the cross and his subsequent resurrection from the grave.

This Week's Text: John 8:48-59

"When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

'O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What has transpired in the conversation between Jesus and the Jews to this point? Why did the Jews call Jesus a demon-possessed Samaritan? What was so vitriolic about their name-calling?
- How did Jesus respond to their hate-filled criticism? In this passage, what did Jesus reveal about himself, his power, and his purpose for coming to earth?
- What is glory and honor, and what does it mean to honor and glorify God? Discuss the difference between intrinsic glory and ascribed glory. How does the glory that Jesus possesses (John 8:54, 17:4-5) and the value, dignity, and worth that we possess differ? Is it possible to honor God without honoring Jesus Christ?

- What does Jesus mean in verse 51? When and why did death enter the created order? What is the difference between physical and spiritual life and death? Although physical death is unavoidable, how can we be free from the fear of death? Reference Hebrews 2:9-15. When does eternal life for the Christian begin? Reference John 5:24.
- Wherein can we place our hope in the certainty of eternal life? Read verse 58, and discuss how the truth of Jesus' astounding claim solidifies our hope and joy in him. Does the reality of Jesus' identity as the all-powerful, eternal, death-defeating, and loving God dispel your fears?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?