



CONNECT GROUP **LEADER GUIDE**

Radical #4 – Radically Sorrowful

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Ever the Optimist. This section jumps right in this week with a good, but very thoughtful question about whether or not we naively celebrate some things that should instead move us to

sorrow. If your group knows each other well or you have already had some good informal discussion to get started, feel free to jump right in. If, however, your group is less familiar with each other or has not had much discussion yet this week, feel free to get discussion started using the 80 questions guide. (page 3 and 4 below) Wrap this discussion up reminding people that no matter what we have discussed, we have reason for hope in Jesus this Easter season.

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

What does the Bible say about godly sorrow? Here is another good opportunity to assign readers for each passage before you get started so you can cover each of the passages efficiently. Another option would be to assign a time for this section before you get started and just get as far as you can through the study in the time you have agreed to. Remember to get to John 20 as David suggests!

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Share your tough stuff . . . Many group leaders have shared the benefit of sharing and praying for each other after dividing up their co-ed group into men's and women's groups for this type of activity. Some feel freer to share in those groups. If your group is not co-ed, you might still consider splitting up a larger group into groups of 3-4 to share and pray. This gives each person more time to listen, ask questions, and care for the others in the group.

Christ Community Church Announcements

Thanks to everyone who has donated to our Third Place Housewarming project! If you still have items to donate, you can drop them off at the kiosk in the atrium today or next Sunday [APR 9]. If you have questions, contact Debbie Johnson at tdjohnson@mchsi.com. Thanks for your radical generosity toward those in need!

White Cross | Monday, APR 10, 9:30a - 2:30p in Connect 8/9. Help prepare necessary supplies for Tandala Hospital, Elikya Training Center, and Global Fingerprints Orphans we support in Congo. All are welcome. Come for as long as can. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy fellowship on our lunch break. Questions? Contact Annette Miller [quiltbear@gmail.com or 232-9162]

Fall trip to Bolivia | we will be taking a group to Bolivia this fall [probably SEP] to do a clean water project. If you have ever considered joining a Bolivia team, we would love to answer any questions. You can contact James Carlat [jacarlat@gmail.com].

Did you know Christ Community Ames has a **"Caring Fund"**? Residents of Ames who qualify can receive financial assistance with rent, utilities and related living expenses. This fund allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community. When giving online, simply select "Caring Fund". When writing a check, please include "Caring Fund" in the memo line. Special envelopes can also be found at the Start Here desk.



Vision Planning Process | Mark Your Calendar! On Sunday, APR 30, 4:00-6:00 pm, in G2, your contribution is needed for our Ten Year Vision Plan process. On this day, members, attenders, and newcomers are invited to join in answering the question, "Lord, where are you taking CC Ames over the next 10+ years?" This time will include small group discussion and reporting on questions that directly inform our long-range plan process currently underway. Plan to be present for this important church family conversation. [To be clear, no meal will be served.]

Connect Group Study for RADICAL #4

Radically Sorrowful: The Heart of the Savior

This week's teaching addressed a more difficult reality in life; namely, that when we face the impact and consequences of sin's influence, we feel deeply a godly sorrow. Our sorrow, like the Savior's, is evidence of our longing for joy and wholeness, rather than having to suffer with what sin steals from and eclipses in our lives. Living in a fallen world, we struggle with "tough stuff," and realize that we need to share it and help one another in the midst of it. This Scriptural study helps us understand what we face and how we disciples of Jesus can prevail together even when sorrow invades our lives.

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

When Jesus began his ride into the city of Jerusalem, people were thrilled and celebrative. Yet he was somber, even weeping. Someone heard him utter a statement about the city's *true* condition, and its *difficult future*.

Do you think there are situations like this today? Where people have an overly (or, a mistakenly) optimistic outlook about something (perhaps, even naïve), which is actually a dangerous misread? What might you point to in our day where we are celebrating, when actually we should be sober...if not sorrowful? Take some moments to discuss.

And...do you think Christians should be more pessimistic, or optimistic? Explain.

IN THE WORD

Let's open our Bibles to explore what produces sorrow in our lives, and how God helps us recover through his grace and resources. As you consider each passage, note THE CAUSE of the sorrow, and THE REMEDY for this sorrow [If you find it helpful, take extra time to discuss the implications and applications of what you read – don't rush! And make sure you do John 20!!]

THE CAUSE

THE REMEDY

Proverbs 10:1, 17:21

Psalms 31:10, 32:3-5

Proverbs 23:29-35
(cf. Ephesians 5:18)

Ecclesiastes 2:22-24

Luke 18:22-24

John 11:28-44

John 20:11-18

Interesting, eh? Our best remedy to sorrow in the risen Lord Jesus Christ! So... though we live in a topsy-turvy world that can toss our emotions and lives around, what attitude does the Spirit of God seek to express in us? What do you think **1 Peter 1:13-21** teaches us about ATTITUDE?

MY LIFE, OUR MISSION

Jesus' disciples are best equipped to live in and respond well to a world in which there is much to weep over. James encourages us to "be wretched, mourn, and weep" over sin (cf. 4:8-10) while at the same time to draw near to God in humility, so He can exalt us "at the proper time."

SHARE YOUR TOUGH STUFF – in your group, give permission to one another to "weep together." Don't hesitate to share your tough stuff and to pray together for God's remedy.

Take the pulse on IS GOD MAKING MY DAY? Share with each other how you are doing in inviting God regularly into each of your days, and how that is making a difference.

Thanks for praying together for the fruitfulness of the upcoming Easter season!



Group Discussion Starters

1. Do you have a hero? Describe him or her.
2. Imagine a "best day ever." What kinds of things would you do?
3. If you could choose a holiday location anywhere in the world, where would it be, and why?
4. What's your favorite TV show? What do you like best about it?
5. What's your favorite movie? What do you like best about it?
6. Who's your favorite music artist or group? What makes you gravitate to him/her/them?
7. What's your favorite time of year—winter, spring, summer, or fall? Why?
8. What's your favorite food? Where's your favorite place to eat it?
9. Do you have a pet? If so, describe one of your most memorable experiences with that pet. If not, what kind of pet would you like to have, and why?
10. Who's your favorite author? Describe the last book you read by that author.
11. What's your dream job? What might be your dream job 10 years from now?
12. What is/was your best subject in school? Why are you so good at it?
13. Have you ever been stung by a bee, wasp, or hornet? Tell me about it.
14. If you had to be allergic to something, what would it be?
15. What's your favorite sport to watch? To play?
16. What's your favorite hobby? How does that hobby reflect your personality and passions?
17. If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?
18. Do you recycle? Why or why not?
19. Tell me about the best teacher you ever had.
20. What's your favorite time of day? Why?
21. What's your favorite dessert? Describe a time when you had that dessert as a child.
22. What makes you happy? Why?
23. What makes you sad? Why?
24. If money and time were no object, what would you be doing right now?
25. What do you like best: rivers, lakes, ponds, or streams? Why?
26. Have you ever been camping? If so, tell us about it. If not, would you like to? Why or why not?
27. Do you like to cook? If so, what do you like to make? If not, what do you wish you could make for yourself?
28. What's the strangest thing you ever ate?
29. What chores or responsibilities do you have at home?
30. Do you get an allowance? If so, how much, and what are you supposed to use it for?
31. When and how have you volunteered to help others? How did it make you feel?
32. What would you do with £1,000? Why? Or ... £1 million? Why?
33. What's something you've seen or done you wish you could get out of your mind?
34. If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick? Why?
35. What adult, other than your parent(s), would you turn to if you needed help? Why?
36. Do you have any musical ability? If so, what do you enjoy about it? If not, what skill would you love to learn?
37. What's your favorite Web site? Why?
38. Have you ever built anything? What was it? How did you feel when you finished?
39. When and what have you collected during your life?
40. If your house was on fire and you could choose only one thing to save (besides family members), what would it be? Why?

41. Have you ever seen a falling star? Did you make a wish? What was it?
42. Have you ever seen a sunrise? What were you doing, and how did it feel?
43. Which do you like better—sunrise or sunset? Why?
44. What's your favorite ride at an amusement park? Why?
45. Have you ever roller-skated? If so, what do you like about it?
46. What's your favorite part of a newspaper? Why?
47. Have you ever received an award for anything? If so, what was it, and how did it feel to get it?
48. Do you belong to any clubs? Why or why not?
49. Are your grandparents still living? If so, what do you like best about them? If not, what's your favorite memory of them?
50. Let's say you were sent to live on a space station for three months and you were allowed to bring only three personal items with you—what would they be?
51. Do you have brothers or sisters? If so, what do you like most and least about them? If not, what do you imagine would be the best thing about having siblings? The worst thing?
52. Do you have extended family? If so, do they live close to you or far away? How often do you see them? What's the best time you ever spent with them?
53. What is/was the best and worst thing about your school?
54. What is/was your school mascot? If you could change your mascot, what would you change it to?
55. What's your favorite thing to wear? Why?
56. Do you have family rules? What are they?
57. When your family eats a meal together, what do you typically talk about?
58. If you could buy a car right now, what would you buy? Why?
59. Do you have a job? If so, what do you like and dislike about it?
60. What's your favorite day of the week? Why?
61. Have you ever grown anything? If so, what?
62. Describe your favorite toy as a child.
63. What's your favorite fast food restaurant? Why? What's the most memorable thing that ever happened to you at that restaurant?
64. What's the best gift you've ever received? Explain.
65. What's the best gift you've ever given? Explain.
66. How does your family celebrate birthdays?
67. What's your favorite holiday? Why?
68. Describe a time you felt honored.
69. What makes you laugh? Why?
70. What's the worst injury you ever sustained?
71. Would you rather go to the dentist or the doctor? Explain.
72. What's your favorite piece of jewelry? Why?
73. Have you ever been in a play? What part did you play?
74. Can you swim? If so, describe what it was like to learn how to swim. If not, have you ever been scared of the water? Why or why not?
75. Have you ever ridden in a boat? What was it like?
76. If you've ever flown in an airplane, describe what it was like the first time you took off and landed.
77. What's the best and worst thing about church?
78. What seems to be the highest priority at most churches you've attended?
79. What's the best and worst thing about your home town?
80. What's the hardest decision you've ever had to make?