**Leader Copy | Now What?| March 14, 2016**

**Creational Text – Large Group**

 **Review**

This is our last lesson of the year. We covered a lot of different aspects of the Gospel. We learned:

* God loves us so deeply
* We have have all messed up, and nothing we can do will be good enough to make us right with God
* We have a restored relationship with God through the life and death of Jesus
* We learned that we are forgiven in Jesus only by grace not works

But now what?

 **Awkward moments**

When someone says "Hello!" and you say "Good thanks!"

 Saying goodbye to someone and then walking in the same direction

 Calling out to someone you recognize and then finding out it isn't them.

 You make a joke and laugh at it and no one else laughs

 When you don't know whether you should hug someone or not.

 Waving back to someone waving "at you" but then figuring out they weren't waving at you.

 Some of these are silly, but some can be painful. That's why we are all cautious to talk to some people, especially about something that could be kind of sensitive. **But maybe a few awkward moments are worth it to talk to people about something that is really important.** You'll talk about that more in your small group time.

**Creational Text – Small Group**

Have you ever had any awkward moments? How did you feel?

Rank each of the things below from 1 to 10. 1 being the **easiest** to talk about, 10 being the **most difficult.** Why did you rank each where you did?

\_\_\_ Favorite sports team

\_\_\_ The relationship you have with your parents

\_\_\_ The music you like

\_\_\_ What you like or don't like about church

\_\_\_ The weather

\_\_\_ How much money you have

\_\_\_ The good news of Jesus

\_\_\_ Your biggest fears

\_\_\_ Conflict with your friends

\_\_\_ How you are doing in school

Now rank them again. 1 being the **most important thing** to talk about 10 being the l**east important thing.**

\_\_\_ Favorite sports team

\_\_\_ The relationship you have with your parents

\_\_\_ The music you like

\_\_\_ What you like or don't like about church

\_\_\_ The weather

\_\_\_ How much money you have

\_\_\_ The good news of Jesus

\_\_\_ Your biggest fears

\_\_\_ Conflict with your friends

\_\_\_ How you are doing in school

**Scriptural Text – Small Group**

**Romans 1: 16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

 What is "the gospel" according to Paul? *"The power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" That power is expressed through the life and death of Jesus.*

 Paul says he is "not ashamed of the gospel", why do you think he mentions this? *Perhaps because it is hard. Paul needs to remind his readers of WHY they shouldn't be ashamed: the gospel is powerful. Also maybe because the gospel is FAITH based not WORKS based. This is something completely new.*

 Do you think it easy or hard to talk about the gospel? What things could distract us? *I think it is difficult because it is intangble. Things we can see and measure are easier to talk about. It is really easy to talk about the weather, or food, or music. It is harder to talk about faith. We often confuse the gospel with things that are easier to see and talk about like personal apperance, church attendence, or service work.*

**Acts 10: 26-39**

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,

 and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,

 so he did not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

 Who can speak of his descendants?

 For his life was taken from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Do you think the eunich and Philip had a lot in common? *I don't think so. They came from different geographic locations, they are different races, they had a different social positions...*

 How do you think Philip felt when he started to go up to the eunich's chariot? *I imagine his heart was racing and he was nervous.* Who helped and directed Philip to do this? *First, an angel of the Lord directed him to the spot. Second, the Spirit told him to go to the chariot*

 It is amazing how well things went with Philip and the eunich. Why do you think things worked out so well? *God was working to affect the life of the eunic with the power of the Gospel. Philip was God's agent for this process. God made things work out so well.*

**Connections – Small Group**

* Do you find it easy or hard to talk to new people?
* Have you ever shared your faith story with someone? Do you think you could?
* How do you feel about having friends who are not Christians? *Maybe you can guide the conversation in two directions: one, yes it is important to have good friends who are Christians and live in community with the body of believers. Two, it is important NOT to isoloate ourselves from people who are not Christians and we should not be afraid of non-believers. God wants to use us as his agents of love, change, and witness in this world and that means engaging and befreinding all kinds of people.*