



Group Leader Guide

“Easter Goes Viral (House to House)” – Famous Last Words

April 4-5, 2020

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Jim Burgen wraps up our **Famous Last Words** series this weekend. However, he doesn't teach on a phrase Jesus said from the cross. He uses what we have learned this week to apply it to our lives and how we can spread this good news to the people in our lives we care about who might not know Jesus and His promises yet. Using the example of the early church in **Acts 5:42**, the sermon ends with a big call on everyone listening to invite 3-4 people to tune in during Easter services next week so that the news of Jesus can spread “house to house,” even during times of crisis.

// Biblical Background

Acts 5:42: This verse comes at the end of a story about the apostles being persecuted by the Jewish authorities for their continued boldness in teaching in Jesus' name. They were literally beaten just two verses before this. However, instead of heeding the warnings and threats of the persecutors, they left the place where they were beaten “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for the name” (v. 41). This, then, emboldened them to continue on just as before, if not more, in spreading the news of Jesus. God uses times of suffering, whether its religious persecution or some other type of suffering, as an opportunity to spread the news of Jesus. Any attempt, whether natural or purposely designed, to stifle the gospel

usually ends up in just adding fuel to the fire.

// In Preparation

Jim ends this weekend's message with a call to everyone listening to invite 3-4 people, mirroring the coronavirus' viral chart, to tune into Easter services next weekend. The challenge in the discussion questions this week is to actually do this. There will be obstacles and challenges in completing this. There always is. When the apostles met opposition to their mission in Acts, they prayed for boldness (Acts 4:29). Pray for boldness for yourself and for the people in your group this week as they step out of their comfort zone to invite their friends to listen. For some people, it may be very natural or easy for them. But for others, it may be very scary. Encourage them, especially, and check-in with them throughout the week to see how it is going, offering whatever support you can.



Group Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Romans 8:28; Acts 5:42; Acts 17:6

// Community Questions

1. Who put up their Christmas lights this week? Any good stories?

// Core Questions

1. With most everyone's schedules less busy these days, have you noticed God in a new way? Has He been trying to talk to you? If so, what has He been saying, or what have you been learning?
2. Jim said he was talking to primarily two groups of people during his talk: Group 1 are those that call Flatirons home. Group 2 are those that are testing out this whole faith/church/Jesus thing. Which group would you consider yourself to be in?
3. If you are in Group 1, how did you come to meet Jesus? Was it through a friend or family member's invitation to church? Or during a crisis in your life? Something else?
4. If you are in Group 2, what are you needing to hear from Flatirons or the people in your group to help you in your journey?
5. Why do you think it is that, after or during a crisis, like 9-11 or the current coronavirus crisis, people tend to flock to churches or faith?
6. How might God be leveraging this crisis for the good of humanity?
7. Who in your life who isn't a believer may be open to hearing more about Jesus during this time?
8. Read **James 5:19-20**. How does this verse apply to you? What is at stake in bringing people out of “wandering”?

// Challenge

Think about those people in your life from question 7. As Jim said, there is a window of opportunity during a crisis where people are more open to seeing what this whole faith thing is all about. Next week is Easter, and we want the big-C Church to go viral with the good news that Jesus has to offer! So, flipping the script on the coronavirus viral chart, let's each share with 3-4 people in our sphere of influence a way to engage with Flatirons or another church during online Easter services. It isn't your responsibility for them to say, “yes,” but they won't be able to say yes unless you invite them. Come next week, ready to share about your and their experiences with the service if they took you up on the offer!