

big CHURCH

BIG CHURCH #4 :: Big Audience {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

The message of Christianity comes in all shapes and sizes. Some people emphasize our brokenness. Others emphasize God's goodness... the need for repentance or forgiveness... having faith... walking in obedience. While all of these aspects are part of the Christian gospel, what was the essential message that ignited a movement that continues today?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. With which character from the Bible do you most identify yourself?
2. If you had fifteen seconds to explain the Christian message, what would you say? One minute? Five minutes?
3. Read Acts 9:1-19. Saul (Paul) experiences a dramatic conversion. Did your relationship with God spark in one climactic moment or was it a more gradual process?
4. Much of the Book of Acts chronicles Paul's missionary travels in an attempt to spread the message of Jesus Christ to unreached regions. Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone who had never heard the message of Christianity before? Describe that experience.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-10. Paul clarifies the gospel message very succinctly. Why do Christians often add additional "requirements" to that gospel message?

MOVING FORWARD

The gospel of Jesus Christ is clear: *Christ died for our sins; he was buried; he was raised; he appeared.* This is the foundational message behind the movement that continues today.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5