

WOUNDED

Forgiveness needs more than a



Wounded: Part 4

Small Group Material

Participant Guide

The Touch of Jesus

March 27th, 2016

Bottom Line: *Just because something is hard to believe doesn't make it untrue. It only makes it hard to believe.*

Study Verses: *Isaiah 52:14-15, Colossians 3:11-17, John 21:25, Psalm 19:1-6, 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-19*

Key Points

- Faith is not a cop-out. Faith frames the way we view what is presented.
- The touch of Jesus shaped the value of human beings as being worthy of love.
- The life of Jesus has touched human history more profoundly than any other person or event in the history of the world.
- Everyone has faith. We all possess a frame of belief that influences our worldview.
- His impact is undeniable.
- The wounds of Jesus brought healing to your soul to empower you to bring hope, healing and love to those around you.

ENCOUNTER

"Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is the belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence." **Richard Dawkins**

- Read the quote from Richard Dawkins. Why is faith often viewed as a cop-out that requires no thinking?
- If you were having a conversation with someone like Richard Dawkins, how would you respond to this assertion?

FORMATION

- Read Isaiah 52:14-15 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-19. Why does everything we believe hinge on an empty tomb and Jesus rising from the dead?
- Read Psalm 19:1-6 and John 21:25. Take the issue of whether Jesus conquered death off the table for a moment. Where have you seen the touch of Jesus in this world and throughout history?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. Why is it completely understandable to have doubts about the resurrection of Jesus? What should one do with their doubts?
- Read Colossians 3:11-17. What was the purpose for the life of Christ? Why did He come to heal our wounds? How did His touch bring value to every single person?

EXPRESSION

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not

come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” C.S. Lewis

- Read the quote from C.S. Lewis. How would you describe your faith journey and how you came to believe the claims of Jesus?
- How did you wrestle with the evidence?
- How has the resurrection of Christ changed and impacted you personally?