

## Will God Ultimately Save Everyone? | Acts 4:12 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To understand the necessity of belief in the gospel.

**Sermon Reminder:** Dave started out our new sermon series “Bad Ideas that Good Christians Believe.” His topic this week was “Will God Ultimately Save Everyone?”

**Icebreaker:** What do you like about spring in Missouri?

### **Discussion:**

1. What makes universalism, the idea that God saves all people, appealing?

**Transition:** We might find certain ideas appealing, but what ultimately matters is whether they are true or now. How does the Bible communicate about how someone is saved?

### **Read:**

#### [Acts 4:12](#)

<sup>12</sup> “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

#### [John 14:6](#)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. How do these verses challenge universalism?

**Transition:** But, what about the form of universalism where Jesus is the savior, but saves everyone whether they believe in and follow him or not? How does the Bible describe who is saved by Jesus?

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

**Read:**

[John 3:16](#)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[Romans 10:12-14](#)

<sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

3. Who is the one whom Jesus saves according to these verses?

**Digging Deeper (Optional):** What about babies or children who die before being able to understand the gospel? While the Bible expresses very clearly the necessity of hearing and having faith in order to be saved, it doesn't speak as directly about children. The a few passages that give grounds for hope.

While David's baby was sick, he was fasting and praying. When the baby died, he washed his face and ate food. This was the opposite of the custom of the day. David's response as to why when asked, said...

[2 Samuel 2:22-23](#)

<sup>22</sup> He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ <sup>23</sup> But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

David talks about going to him...the hope he might see him again. Also, while John the Baptist was born in need of salvation just like every other human being, he is also described as being filled with joy with the presence of Jesus even while still in the womb (Luke 1:44). While we should emphasize the urgency for children to have their own faith, there are reasons to trust God's graciousness with our children.

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

4. There are myriads of different ways that people come to believe in Jesus. Some believe through a process. Some have a dramatic event. What has your experience been like? Or, where are you at in that process?
5. Who is someone that God might have put you around in order to be a part of their process of being drawn to faith? What's a step you can help them take?
6. Dave talked about the call to believe in Jesus is driven by an invitation to worship God, to be in relationship with him, and to share in His eternal joy. How does that change our perspective about what we are being saved to?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

- Ask if everyone has any needs for prayer.
- Have everyone pray silently for the person they mentioned who doesn't yet believe.
- Then pray for any prayer requests mentioned.