



the gillespies and the Good News

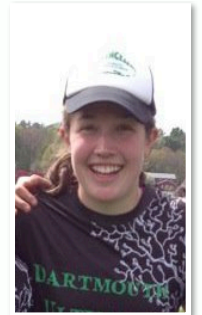
January 31, 2013



Scott, after starting to have spiritual conversations a couple years ago and leading a Bible study last spring, was still looking for ways to engage his ultimate frisbee teammates with the gospel, the gospel that has continued to change his life. So this fall we came up with a new strategy: we would lead an investigative Bible study for his teammates together - Scott would recruit people to come and I, Jason, would lead the discussion. In order to entice these over-committed Dartmouth students I made them dinner each week, and we talked about who Jesus was and what He came to do.

Katie showed up at our Bible study the first week of the term, mostly because she was walking past Scott's house and some guys from her team yelled down for her to join them for Bible study. **Katy** joined us during the sixth week, not exactly sure what was going on, but happy to talk about God and learn more about Christianity. Eager for there to be a vibrant conversation about the gospel, Scott also invited Andrew and Peter, two young Christians on the team, and they had the opportunity to learn how to engage non-Christian friends about Jesus, too.

A number of other students came and went, but by the end of the fall Katie and Katy had both read through the entire Gospel of Mark. They each heard about God being the Creator, sin separating us from him, why that sin is so heinous and required such a sacrifice, Jesus' triumph over death, and this being the story of God reconciling us to Him. One question that particularly caught their attention was this: "If a video of your life were displayed on a wall for all to see, where every action and thought you'd ever had would be made known to all the world, how would you respond? Would you be proud? Would you be ashamed? Why?" Certainly we would all have moments that we would be quite proud of and enthusiastic to show off. However, there would be significant stretches, for all of us, that would illustrate to ourselves and others that we are not the great people we often pass ourselves off to be - and that's only when evaluated by our own standards, not God's infinitely higher ones. The other message that really caught their attention was the last one about grace. Why would God give His Son for them? Could it really be true that, with all of their failings and wrongdoing, God might accept them?



At the end of our seven week study, neither Katie nor Katy was ready to place their faith in Jesus. It was encouraging, though, to hear that after their first encounter with the gospel message, they don't think the gospel writer to be crazy or to be just making up a great story. Over winter break I sent each of them *A Case for Christ* where Lee Strobel, a legal journalist for the Chicago Tribune and atheist at the time, set out to determine for himself whether Christianity was true. The book is series of interviews he pursued with scholars, seminary professors, and even a psychiatrist, looking for any reason to discount Jesus' claims about himself and the accuracy of Bibles we read. After re-reading it before sending it to them I, too, was encouraged in the veracity of the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I commend the book to you.

As Scott's final two terms at Dartmouth are underway, please pray that he'll have more opportunities to share the gospel before he graduates. **Pray specifically that 1) Katie and Katy would have time to finish *A Case for Christ*, 2) that God would give us wisdom in continuing to meet with the girls, and 3) that God would bless our time this winter as we lead a reading group with a few of his Jewish teammates who are excited to explore the book of Isaiah together.**

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