

Leading Through The Gospel

In this short document, we hope to provide you with enough information to comfortably share the gospel wherever you live, work and play. We pray it provides group leaders and group members enough material to walk someone through the plan of salvation. We could never explain what the Gospel is in its entirety in three short pages, so we pray you continue the life long journey of better understanding the Gospel and how it is embodied through Jesus in scripture.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

What is Sin?

There is something about being human that makes us feel lonely and amiss, like a foreign exchange student struggling to speak a new language. We are somehow aware that all is not right, that some things and some people are not what they seem. Somehow we have missed the mark of what can and should be. Every day we live with the consequences of our mistakes and failures. Broken relationships, lies, hurt and pain. Nations war with one another over resources, influence, ideals and world-views. And despite all of our science, technology and political prowess, we still seem to fall short. Our generation is not alone in recognizing our blemished humanity. Every person who has ever lived has been plagued with the same disease, a condition of deep selfishness and distorted perspective. We have missed the mark for which we were created. The Bible calls this condition *sin*, and it says that all of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s intentions for our life. (Romans 3:23) Everyone except one person, who was sent from God and who was God. (John 1:1) This person came to show the rest of us the way of true life and to establish the standard for which we should all be measured. This person was Jesus Christ.

Recognition and Response

Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth and the life. He backed up these claims by how he lived his life. His teachings have revealed more about the nature of mankind and God than any other teachings in the history of the world. Historians observe his claims and scholars probe his teachings. Even with much scrutiny, there is no doubt that Jesus Christ has changed the world and is undeniably the most influential person to have ever lived. Yet his fame and teachings are not the primary reason for His being. His main reason for being was to die on your behalf, to return you to your rightful owner - God.

The Gospel is the wonderful message from God to this world in the person, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a message of love and hope, of truth and joy. Our sin, and the sin of the world, will no longer be a deformity that keeps us permanently disfigured in the eyes of God. Now a redeemer, a savior has come to restore what was lost. Our blemishes are covered by His perfection. Our hate is consumed by His love. Our brokenness healed by His holiness. The Gospel tells a story of God's faithfulness in the midst of our faithlessness. It tells a story of God's strength in the presence of our weakness. It defines our spiritual poverty and God's abundant wealth. Most of all it tells a story of wayward people who are pursued and redeemed by a merciful God.

The beauty of the Gospel is evident when viewed through eyes of faith. But the beauty we see doesn't remove the brokenness and pain that was absorbed on our behalf by Jesus Christ. You see, Jesus not only shows us truth and life, he absorbs our sin and death. When you hear the Gospel, you should recognize that God has given you a wonderful gift. He has given you a new example, a fresh start, a new life and more importantly a new relationship with Him. The Gospel is an invitation to embrace and enjoy God forever. This reality will change your life, just as it has and continues to change lives around the world, one person at a time.

To share the Gospel, you can follow these 4 simple steps:

1. Tell them about God's plan—peace and life. God loves you and wants you to experience the peace and life He offers. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). He has a plan for you.

2. Share our problem — separation from God. Being at peace with God is not automatic. By nature, we are all separated from Him. The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God is holy, but we are human and don't measure up to His perfect standard. We are sinful, and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

3. Talk about God's remedy — the cross. God's love bridges the gap of separation between you and Him. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave, He paid the penalty for your sins. The Bible says, “He Himself bore our sins ‘in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by His wounds you have been healed’” (1 Peter 2:24).

4. Our response — receive Christ. You cross the bridge into God's family when you accept Christ's free gift of salvation. The Bible says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

To receive Christ, a person needs to do 4 things before God:

- Admit you're a sinner.
(*Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23*)
- Ask forgiveness and be willing to turn away from your sins.
(*1 John 1:9*)
- Believe that Christ died for you on the cross & rose from the dead.
(*Romans 10:9*)
- Receive Christ into your heart and life.
(*John 3:36*)

Romans 10:13 says, “Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”
Here’s a prayer you can pray to receive Christ:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, amen.”

Our Life in Christ

Life with Christ is a transforming experience. There are times of peace, joy, love, hope, faith, trust, forgiveness, excitement, confusion, insight, persecution, foolishness, mistakes, power, influence, sacrifice, service, belief, doubt, and the list goes on. Christian life is filled with indescribable highs and inescapable lows. But it is the life God intends us to have on this earth and eventually in heaven. It is the journey we were made to make. Pray about this. Ask God to meet you right where you are in life and help you move forward into a new life with him.

As always, feel free to contact us and we will gladly encourage you and connect you with others who can help you grow in your faith.

More Resources on Leading Through the Gospel:

[Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary](#)
Book by J. D. Greear

[The Explicit Gospel](#)

Book by Matt Chandler