

Good News

One Good King

2023-04-30

Participant Notes

OVERVIEW: Welcome back to our series, “The Good News!” Over the course of four weeks, we are exploring the transformative power of the gospel and how it radically changes us when we embrace it. Our topic for week 3 is “One Good King”. Jesus frees us from our misguided self-rule. Christians have the benefits of forgiveness of sins and everlasting life with God that begins now. But as the king’s glory radiates outward, non-Christians and the rest of creation profit as well. As we allow king Jesus to rule in our life, our thinking and living will be transformed. Today let’s celebrate the wonderful gifts (benefits) given us by our good king!

ICEBREAKER: That Was a Great Gift!

Think back to the gifts you have received from people in your life. You may recall a physical gift someone gave for your birthday or for Christmas. Or maybe you think right away of the gift someone gave you of their time or presence. What gift have you received about which you would say - “that was a great gift!”? Share your story with the group!

STUDY:

How is Jesus’ kingship beneficial to us as his followers? How does his kingship benefit our world? Let’s explore these questions as we dive into today’s study!

Note: Throughout this study we will reference Matthew W. Bates' book, *The Gospel Precisely*. It's a short, readable book that gives many insights into the topics we're looking at in this series. You can order a copy of it here https://www.amazon.ca/Gospel-Precisely-Surprisingly-Christ-Theology-ebook/dp/B09C2TD9QF/ref=sr_1_1?crid=34XB2KS5ZXDGI&keywords=The+Gospel+Precisely&qid=1680806934&s=digital-text&sprefix=the+gospel+precisely%2Cdigital-text%2C147&sr=1-1

“Salvation is found in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven
given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
Acts 4:12 NIV

1. **READ** the following quote:

“The gospel is Jesus is the Christ, the universal king, because salvation is never about rescuing humans simply for their own sakes. Salvation is for humanity's sake, and for God's own sake – that he might receive the honour he deserves.” p. 58

- What do you think about the idea that the gospel is about more than just for our benefit (saving you and me from our sin)? Is this a new idea for you?

2. **READ** the following quote:

“Under Jesus' kingship, we are finally free to cast off our misguided self-rule – our pathetic attempt at life apart from God. Jesus' servant kingship results in full human flourishing.” p. 58

- “Jesus' servant kingship results in full human flourishing.” What do you think Matthew Bates means by this?

3. **EXCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN BENEFITS OF THE GOSPEL**

The gospel has some amazing benefits to us and our world at large. Let's begin by looking at some of the exclusive benefits to those who commit to follow king Jesus.

i. **ADOPTION:** we (the church) have been adopted to be God's family.

READ: Ephesians 1:4-5

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with

his pleasure and will ...". NIV

- What do you notice here about our adoption?

READ: Galatians 4:4-7

“But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.[a] 6 And because we[b] are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”[c] 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child.[d] And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.” NLT

- What do you see here about the benefits (results) of our adoption?

- ii. RIGHT-STANDING BEFORE GOD: We are declared “not guilty” by God our Judge

READ: Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.[a] 17 This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” NLT

READ: Romans 5:1

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ...” NIV

- How does seeing God as our judge help you appreciate your right-standing before him?

- iii. HOLY SPIRIT FRUIT: God has given us his spirit to make us like Jesus.

READ: John 15:1-5

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” NIV

READ: Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” NIV

- The gospel transforms us from being fruitless to fruitful. In what way have you recently experienced the spirit’s work in your life?

iv. ETERNAL LIFE: Resurrection life with Jesus.

READ: John 17:3

3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” NIV

READ: Revelation 22:1-5

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.” NIV

- When we think of eternal life we should understand it not only as a quantity of life but quality of life. Why is remembering the quality of eternal life so important to appreciating this as a benefit?

4. GENERAL HUMAN BENEFITS OF THE GOSPEL

READ the following quote:

“Non-Christians are better off due to Jesus’ kingship because they experience social and political good when they encounter authentic disciples. The hungry get fed. The poor are aided. The cold receive a blanket. When the church acknowledges Jesus’ kingship – and it always does when the real church gathers – they create an alternative social and political order that benefits the marginalized.” p. 65

- What have you noticed about the general human benefits of the gospel in the world?

5. COSMIC BENEFITS OF THE GOSPEL: God's new creation we are longing for.

READ the following quote:

"Installing Jesus as KING, a human who perfectly images God, is key to God's rescue operation that benefits the whole universe. It jumpstarts a slow, lengthy salvation process for humanity and creation. God's new-creation king initializes a restorative spiral upward of glory."
p. 66

READ: Galatians 6:15

"Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation."
NIV

- As his followers, God invites us to participate in restoring and refurbishing his creation. How can you participate in that?

6. Of all the benefits we've looked at in today's study, which one stands out to you the most? What might you do to appreciate this benefit even more?

THE BIG SERVE

One of the exciting ways your LifeGroup can be part of what God is doing in our world is The Big Serve! <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/> Stay tuned for details coming soon about how your LifeGroup can be involved!

PRAY:

King Jesus, thank you for the incredible benefits you've given us! Today's study has reminded us of how blessed we are to be your people, and how you are blessing the world and all of creation as our good king. Please help us to bear your image well as we live our everyday lives here on earth. Thank you for giving us your spirit to empower us to live for you. All of this is for your glory and honour because you alone are worthy! AMEN.