

Good News

Spreading The Good News

2023-05-07

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 4 is “Spreading Good News”. We share the good news by testifying in word and deed that Jesus is the victorious, rescuing king. We encourage others to become loyal followers of the king through a faith response of trusting allegiance, repentance from sins, and baptism. Think about how you’d frame your story. What are the different versions of it you could share? What’s the 30second elevator pitch version? What’s the longer version? The goal of today’s study is that we would grow our confidence and conviction to spread the good news.

ICEBREAKER: That Was Good News!

Last weekend we received word that my niece has given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Good news like this can light up our day and bring joy to our hearts! What good news have you received in the past months? How has the news impacted you? Share your story with the group!

STUDY:

How did the first followers of Jesus spread the good news about their king? What does it look like for us to spread the good news today? 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&prefix=the+gospel+precisely%2Cdigital-text%2C147&sr=1-1

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 NIV

1. **READ** the following quote:

For God’s plan of salvation to reach the world, there is only one option: disciples must function as image-bearers, testifying in word and deed that Jesus is the victorious king.”

- What do you think of this idea that we are the only option for God’s salvation plan to reach the world? Do you agree or disagree?
- Why is testifying by both word and deed important?

2. **READ** Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” NIV

- In Jesus’ words to his followers, we see his heart that we would be his witnesses. Why is the Holy Spirit a crucial part of our witnessing efforts?
- To be effective witnesses for Jesus today we must spread the good news by both word and deed. Some may feel the “word” part is too pushy or offensive. What is your response to this objection?

3. THE OBJECTIVE SIDE OF PROCLAMATION - Sharing His Story

The claims of the gospel are not a matter of personal opinion. Key gospel events are historical, publicly recorded and subject to scrutiny.

READ the following gospel events out loud as a group.

The gospel is that Jesus the king:

- a. Pre-existed as God the Son.
- b. Was sent by the Father.
- c. Took on human flesh in fulfillment of God's promises to David.
- d. Died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.
- e. Was buried.
- f. Was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
- g. Appeared to many witnesses.
- h. Is enthroned at the right hand of God as the ruling Christ.
- i. Has sent the Holy Spirit to his people to effect his rule, and
- j. Will come again as final judge to rule.

- Meet with one other person in your group. Read back through the 10 gospel points, then practice sharing them with your partner. How many can you remember?

- How confident would you be to share this gospel outline with someone who is not a follower of Jesus? What might help you to internalize these steps so you could share them from memory?

- When and with whom might you have an opportunity to share this gospel outline? What might help you prepare for that opportunity?

4. THE SUBJECTIVE SIDE OF PROCLAMATION - Sharing My Story

The primary way a non-Christian sees God is to see Jesus in you. Your testimony (what you say and how you live) should point to your allegiance to king Jesus. We are not perfect image-bearers, but our life should show evidence of God's life-transforming work in us.

You have a powerful life story to share - your testimony about Jesus!

EXERCISE - Practice Sharing Your Testimony

For this exercise, connect with 1 person in your LifeGroup. When you are together, read the following instructions for practicing sharing your testimony.

Think about your testimony in 3 parts.

Part 1 - My Life Before Jesus

What was your life like before Jesus? What struggles did you have? What questions did you have about faith?

Part 2 - My Decision to Follow Jesus

What life events led to your decision to follow Jesus? Is there a key event or Scripture that influenced your decision to follow king Jesus?

Part 3 - My Life of Following Jesus

How has your life changed since your decision to follow Jesus? How has God transformed the way you think and live?

Share a 2-minute version of your testimony with your partner.

After you share, ask your partner to give you feedback.

- Was it clear? Was it compelling? Does it point to Jesus?
- How might you improve what you shared?

Come back together as a group.

5. What has been a key takeaway or challenge for you from this week's lesson?

THE BIG SERVE

One of the exciting ways your LifeGroup can be part of spreading the good news is The Big Serve! <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/> Check out details about how your LifeGroup can be involved!

PRAY:

Who in your life is a non-Christian? Have each person in group share names of two or three people they know who are not followers of Jesus.

Spend some time praying for these friends. Ask God to draw them to himself. Ask him to help you be aware of opportunities to point them to king Jesus.