



The Gospel

Feb 14: Beginning (God Creates & Loves)

Series Summary: The commandment to share the Gospel with a world that is far from God is the most essential calling in our lives. Because this calling is of first importance, we should strive to be focused so that the lost understand what God has done for them. Relatable so that those who don't believe will realize their need for Him. Clear so that those who are far from God will put their faith in Jesus.

Big Idea: In the beginning, God created us and the world perfectly.

Schedule

- Worship
- Small Group w/ video teaching

GET THEM TALKING

If someone walked up to you and asked what is the Gospel, what would you say?

What words must be used if we are going to share the Gospel with clarity? In other words, while you are sharing the Gospel, you should definitely use these words.

Leader Note: I recommend that you write down some of the students' answers, as you will be able to use them in the next section.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(the four circles)

Handout the 4 circles diagram of the Gospel to everyone in the group.

Activity: Have the students look over the four circles diagram for a minute or two. Then, give them another shot at explaining the Gospel. Feel free to let them look at the diagram while they do it.

Leader Note: Each week, we will have an opportunity for students to explain the Gospel using the four circles diagram. Each week, we will use fewer and fewer cues so that the students learn how to share the Gospel from memory in a way that feels natural and not robotic.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(the foundation of the Gospel)

Where do we have to begin when we share the Gospel? What is the starting point for the Gospel?

Leader Note (answer): Many people would begin explaining the Gospel with the sinfulness of man. While it seems like an appropriate starting point, we need to back up a little to get to the actual starting point of the Gospel. We must start back at the beginning.

Read Genesis 1:26-31 together as a small group.

Vs 26-27. What does it mean when it says that God created mankind in his image?

Leader Note (answer/commentary): In what ways are we made in God's image? God obviously did not create us exactly like himself because God has no physical body. Instead, we are reflections of God's glory. Some feel that our reason, creativity, speech, or self-determination is the image of God. More likely, it is our entire self that reflects the image of God. We will never be totally like God because he is our supreme Creator. But we do have the ability to reflect his character in our love, patience, forgiveness, kindness, and faithfulness.¹

Vs. 31. Why does it matter that God created everything very good (perfect)?

¹ Life Application Bible Notes (Tyndale, 2007), 6.

Leader Note (answer): In the beginning, God created us and the world perfectly. There was no pain. There was no sin. Nothing separated us and the rest of God's creation from being in relationship (communion) with God. This matters because the good news of the Gospel is that this has not been lost forever. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we can once again have a world with no more pain, sin, suffering, or separation from God (our creator).

Next week, we will discuss how sin separates and breaks God's perfect creation. When sin entered the world, what specifically did it break?

What about Heaven will be similar (the same) to how God created the world in the very beginning?

Leader Note: First and foremost, our relationship with God is restored. Sin no longer separates us from our Savior. The world will no longer be broken. Because of this, there will be no more sorrow or pain (Rev 21:4).

Transition to video: One of our goals in this series is to give you the tools to share the Gospel in everyday conversations. To put it another way, we want you to be able to identify on-ramps (opportunities) in conversations for sharing the Gospel. This is vastly easier than you may think because the Gospel is the answer to so many of our deeply felt needs.

VIDEO

I believe that you, like many Christians, want to share the Gospel with others. However, you probably also feel anxious about the mere idea of sharing the Gospel. I believe that a big part of that anxiety comes from the fear that the only way to share the Gospel is by bringing it up out of nowhere. I firmly believe that this is not the case. The Gospel should come up in many of our conversations naturally because it is the answer to our fundamental problems in life. Let me give you an example....

Situation - Imagine you have a friend that approaches you with a lot on their mind. They are going through an extremely difficult season of life. Everything seems like it has gone wrong.

Their Problem: They feel overwhelmed and helpless. They may be grieving loss in their own life, or it is just a difficult season.

Gospel on-ramp: This conversation is an amazing on-ramp for the Gospel because the Gospel is the ultimate answer for our suffering.

Push pause and talk about how you could respond to this friend in need with more than just an I am sorry. Instead, how could you respond to their problem with the good news of the Gospel? To be specific, what circle would you start with on the diagram?

Here is how I would answer them and use their real need as an opportunity to share the Gospel. **I would start with the beginning circle.**

"If you feel overwhelmed by all that is going wrong in your life, it is for a reason. God created the world perfectly without suffering, problems, sin, or separation from God. We were never intended to carry the burden of sin and brokenness in this world. But because of sin, including our sin, that is exactly where we find ourselves. The Good News is that you can seek out a savior, Jesus, who knows exactly what you are going through."

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

But even more so, we have a savior that has done something about our suffering and troubles. He has made a way for us to be with Him where there is no more suffering.

Rev 21:4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."