



The Gospel

Feb 21: Broken (Sin Separates & Breaks)

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: Sin separates us from God and has broken our world.

Schedule

- Small Group w/ video teaching
- Ga Ga Ball Tournament

GET THEM TALKING

What words are tempting to leave out when we share the Gospel with people? To put it another way, which circle is tempting to leave out or skip when we share the Gospel?

Leader Note (answer): Students may have unique answers to this question, but the nearly universal answer will be the topic (circle) of sin and brokenness. Nobody likes to hear that they are a broken, sinful human being and that sin has eternally separated them from God. However, simply because people may not WANT to hear it, it does not mean they do not NEED to hear it.

Why is it so critical that we do not skip over the word/topic of sin when we share the Gospel?

Leader Note (answer): If we skip over the word sin, we have skipped over what creates our great need for a savior. Without sin, we do not see that we are separated from God. Without sin, we do not have an explanation for the brokenness in our world. Without the truth, reality, and doctrine of sin, we have an incomplete and false Gospel.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(sin separates and breaks)

Read Romans 3:21-24 together as a small group.

Vs. 21- What did the law, specifically our lack of an ability to obey it, reveal about us as people?

Leader Note (answer): Our failure to obey God's Laws proves we are sinful. We can not obey God's commands in our own strength because we do not have a righteousness of our own (Phil 3:9). That is why righteousness must be given to us through faith in Jesus when we believe (vs. 22).

How is verse 23 key to understanding verse 24? In other words, how does the fact that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard lead to our need to be justified by God's grace?

Leader Note (worldview): Some students may believe that only some people are sinful. Therefore, there are good people and bad people. In this worldview, sin is relegated to more egregious and blatant sins. Inevitably, this worldview leads to a self-righteous and works-based view of the Gospel, which is really no Gospel at all (Gal 1:7). Also, this false worldview goes against the clear teaching of scripture that all people have chosen to turn away from what God says is best and do what they think is best (1 John 1:8-10).

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Gospel 4 Circles)

Activity: Hand out a couple of sets of the four circles of the Gospel to the group. We use just the cutout circles rather than the entire card, like last week. We are doing this because we want to give fewer and fewer cues each week. Our goal is that, with time, students can share the Gospel with confidence and clarity with no cues.

How would you share the Gospel using the four images in each circle?

Leader Note (high school groups): If you would like, you can give them the scenario of how they would use these four circles to share the Gospel with 5-10-year-olds at Student Life Mission Camp. If they plan on attending student life this year, they will likely do just that.

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

Situation - Imagine you have a friend who approaches you because they feel alone, isolated, and abandoned. While they have you and other friends, they still feel alone in this world. Even more so, they feel like God has abandoned them.

Their Problem: At the heart of their problem is a feeling of being abandoned. They assume that God has abandoned them like so many others have. They feel like an orphan.

Gospel on-ramp: This conversation is an amazing on-ramp for the Gospel because the Gospel is the good news that God has not abandoned us.

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?

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



If you feel isolated and alone there is a good reason why. Your sin has come between you and God. He is righteous, but you and I are not. Therefore, we are separated from God. But we are by no means abandoned.



In fact, Jesus was sent for us because God did not abandon us. Jesus death on the cross is the ultimate proof that we are loved by God. Jesus has invited us into a relationship with Him.