

## **SIT TOGETHER:**

Groups are intended to both deepen our love for one another and our love for God's Word. Give your group the time to catch up, chat, and naturally communicate. Organic conversations are best. Ice breakers are discouraged. If you see someone sitting alone, it is the leader's responsibility to sit with them.

## **STUDY TOGETHER:**

Gather everyone together to begin the evening study. Explain the purpose of the four week study on "The Gospel for Everyday Life". As you spend your time together, a few reminders:

- Listen to how people define the gospel. If anything is added or taken away, lead them to define it correctly. Remember Colossians 4:6 and Ephesians 4:15.
- This guide is not intended to be read or necessarily taught. It's to help you facilitate the conversations over the text of Scripture.
- Don't be afraid to sit in the silence while you wait for others to speak. Give them time to think through their answers. Speaking too much will discourage others from speaking.
- Avoid telling personal stories that are off script. Continue to point people to the words of Scripture, not your words.
- Not everyone will speak into the conversation. That's okay. They will speak when they are ready.
- Give yourself plenty of time at the end to confess and pray. Don't rush this section but also be aware of how late it is. It's better to have time for people to have conversations afterward then to end and have to rush out the door.

**PURPOSE:** This study is intended to deepen our love for Christ by seeing our need for Him on a daily basis. The gospel not only saves us from our sins but saves us to a life of holiness. As we look to see our need for Jesus everyday, let's also encourage one another to remember the gospel.

**PRAYER:** Before watching the video, reading the text of Scripture, or asking the questions, take time and pray with one another. If able, have the ladies pray with one another and have the men pray with one another. Have each group ask how they can pray for one another. Leader, after a few minutes, close out the time of prayer.

## Introductory Questions:

**QUESTION:** What is the biggest problem in the world today? Discuss briefly amongst your group.

It seems like everyday we hear of another shooting, another war, another occurrence of racism, another instance of sexual perversion, more homelessness, more poverty, another family broken up, more chaos. All of this on top of disease, disaster, and death. Then after these events, we begin hearing solutions to the problems. More gun control! More gun education! More money for everyone! Tax more people! We could go.

When we look at the chaos of the world, **we see that the biggest problem in our world is sin. The solution to our sin is Jesus.** If the gospel of Jesus is what we need and what the world needs, then we have to get the gospel right.

**VIDEO:** Watch the video. (10:43)

## A Gospel Reminder:

### MAIN SCRIPTURE:

**1 Corinthians 15:1–11** [1] **Now** I would **remind** you, **brothers**, of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2] and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. [3] For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. [8] Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. [9] For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [10] But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. [11] Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (ESV)

**QUESTION:** Who is the Apostle Paul writing too?

**ANSWER:** The Christian brothers and sisters in Corinth.

**QUESTION:** What does the Apostle Paul remind them of?

**ANSWER:** The Gospel. The word Gospel literally means “good news”. If the message of the gospel is good news, then there must be bad news.

**QUESTION:** Why do we need a Savior? What do we need to be saved from?

**ANSWER:** Everything bad and evil and wicked we see around us is a result of the fall of mankind in Genesis 3. The Bible teaches us that each and everyone of us have inherited sin from Adam (Romans 5:12). We are sinners, plain and simple. There is no one righteous; not a single one (Romans 3:9-12). The sin that dwells within us is, as **Theologian R.C. Sproul states, is “Cosmic treason against God”. The sinfulness of man is the single greatest problem in the entire world.** When we look at the chaos of the world, we see that the biggest problem in our world is sin. **The solution to our sin is the gospel.**

**QUESTION:** How would you define sin?

**ANSWER:** Answers may vary; Biblically, the definition of sin is “to miss the mark”. In this case, it is missing the mark of God’s holiness. Sin is in complete contrast to God’s character as defined by His Word.

Two thoughts before we move to the next section of this text:

1. Paul gives us a comprehensive definition of the gospel. But not the entire story of the gospel. He references “according to the Scriptures” multiple times as a reference to the redemptive story found in the Old Testament. We’ll cover more of the entirety of the gospel message in a sermon series beginning in September. (Book vs movie)
2. Paul’s intention of the reminder is to know the gospel deeply within our souls. Be very careful that you don’t just know the gospel intellectually.

## **Getting the Gospel Right:**

**QUESTION:** What is the Gospel according to Scriptures in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8?

**ANSWER:**

Christ died for our sins.

**Isaiah 53:3–6** [3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. [4] Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (ESV)

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Christ was buried.

**Matthew 27:57–60** [57] When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. [58] He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. [59] And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud [60] and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Christ was raised on the third day.

The resurrection of Jesus is not some “add on” to a “more important” work on the cross. If the cross is the *payment* for our sins, the empty tomb is the *receipt*, showing that the perfect Son of God made perfect payment for our sins. The payment itself is of little good without the receipt! This is why the resurrection of Jesus was such a prominent theme in the evangelistic preaching of the early church (Acts 2:24, Acts 3:15, Acts 4:10, Acts 13:30-39).

**Acts 2:24** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (ESV)

The resurrection showed that Jesus did not succumb to the inevitable result of sin. The resurrection is proof of His conquest.

Christ appeared to his disciples. (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

This is not “Paul’s gospel” in the sense that he created it or fashioned it; it is “Paul’s gospel” in the sense that he personally believes it and spreads it. The gospel message begins and ends with Jesus and is passed on through the testimony of those who saw him risen and those who believe he truly did rise again.

**QUOTE:** “Notice that the preacher does not make the gospel. If he makes it, it is not worth your having. Originality in preaching, if it be originality in the statement of

doctrine, is falsehood. We are not makers and inventors; we are repeaters, we tell the message we have received." - Charles Spurgeon

This is the message of the gospel. **The Gospel is the good news that a holy God sent us His sinless Son Jesus Christ who, through His death and resurrection, has graciously saved us from our sin, delivered us from eternal hell, and has called us to live holy.**

**QUESTION:** Why do we need a gospel reminder?

**ANSWER:** We are sinners!

Because we are sinners, we are prone to forget what the gospel is and how the gospel saves us, sustains us, and secures us.

**Galatians 1:6–7** [6] I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—[7] not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (ESV)

We need to be reminded of the Gospel everyday. We need to be reminded of the hope of our salvation that is only found in Jesus. We need to be reminded of His redeeming love. We need the reminder because we are prone to wander, prone to leave the God we love.

The first 2 verses of 1 Corinthians 15 gives us the breadth of the power of the gospel.

**1 Corinthians 15:1–11** [1] Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2] and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

The gospel saves us - a past work; we've been extended grace, and we have received it freely. It saved us and we take it along with us.

The gospel is what we stand on - present reality; our position.

The gospel is what sustains us - present reality and future work; While we tend to think of salvation as a past event ("when were you saved?" we ask), salvation is for Paul also a present reality and a future hope. Our salvation will not be complete until we have passed through the judgment day.

For some reason, (our sin), we have a tendency to think that the cross saves us from past sin, but after we are saved, we have to take over and clean ourselves up.

**QUESTION:** What causes us to forget the gospel?

**ANSWER:** Answers will vary, but encourage them to be personally specific.

**When you forget the gospel, look to the cross.** The gospel is such a transformational message that it leaves no stone unturned, no corner of our lives unreached. Again and again Scripture emphasizes that we need more than anything else in life is the gospel. When you begin to see the gospel in this light, you begin to understand that it's not just the starting point. Growing deeper in Christ isn't moving past the gospel; it's moving further into it. And what we'll find is that no matter how deep we go, there is still more to explore.

## **SHARE TOGETHER:**

As you close out the group for the evening, take the time to have people share what is on their hearts. This is the time to take prayer requests, confess sins, and pray for one another. Encourage other people in the group to pray.

**QUESTION:** What sins do you need to confess?

**James 5:15–16** [15] And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

**ANSWER:** Answers will vary.

**QUESTION:** What areas of your life are you leaving the gospel out of the picture?

**ANSWER:** Answers will vary.

**QUESTION:** What difference would it make if you applied the truth and power of the gospel to these situations, problems, or relationships?

**ANSWER:** Answers will vary.

**GROUP PRAYER** - Pray as a group that God will open your eyes further and further to the greatness and sufficiency of the Gospel.

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This study is intended to deepen our love for Christ by seeing our need for Him on a daily basis. The gospel not only saves us from our sins but saves us to a life of holiness. As we look to see our need for Jesus everyday, let's also encourage one another to remember the gospel.

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**QUESTION:** What does the Apostle Paul remind them of?

**QUESTION:** Why do we need a Savior?

**QUESTION:** How would you define sin?

## Getting the Gospel Right:

**QUESTION:** What is the Gospel according to the Scriptures in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8?

**QUESTION:** How do we add or take away from the message of the gospel? What are the dangers of not being clear in our understanding of the gospel?

**QUESTION:** Why does Paul say the Gospel is of first importance?

**QUESTION:** Why is it important that the gospel is "in accordance to Scriptures"?

**QUESTION:** Why do we need a gospel reminder?

**QUESTION:** What specific reasons cause us to forget the gospel?

## SHARE TOGETHER:

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**QUESTION:** What areas of your life are you leaving the gospel out of the picture?

**QUESTION:** What difference would it make if you applied the truth and power of the gospel to these situations, problems, or relationships?

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