



THE GATHERING WELL

# SHARING THE GOSPEL

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE





# SHARING THE GOSPEL

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SHARE THE GOSPEL?

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# THE HEART OF *knowing Jesus*

The Gathering Well uses these three focus areas of Spiritual Formation to support our approach to the journey of faith.



## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Communication with God is our starting point. Any resources with this icon are designed to support and equip you to pray, using Scripture as our primary lens and providing questions and prompts to encourage you to talk with God consistently.



## STUDY THE BIBLE

All of our resources are anchored in the truth of God's Word. This icon will indicate spaces where you will engage the Scriptures. We seek to provide educational resources and tools that will help God's Word come alive to you.



## BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe that the life of faith is expressed in community, not isolation. Resources and prompts marked with this icon are geared toward reminding you that we are designed to be in relationship with God *and* with others.



# REMINDER: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

You may remember that the grand narrative of God, the story He's telling over all of time, is often identified in these four simple words: **Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration**. The gospel story is the glorious news of the One God sent to initiate redemption and to reconcile people to Himself. The gospel is the story of Jesus Christ.

If we have confessed Christ Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), we are now on a journey towards restoration and being formed into His image, the image of Jesus Christ.

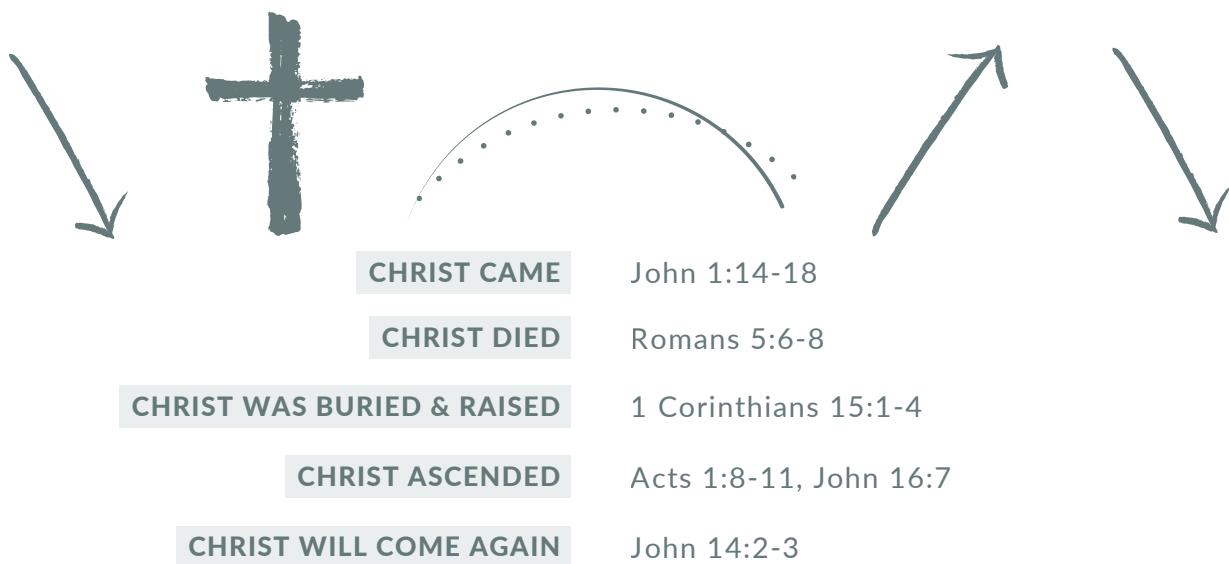
## NOTHING CAN BE ADDED TO THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

**Jesus is the Redeemer who came to set the record straight**, to embody real humanity and to live the life none of us could ever live: a perfectly sinless, wholly obedient, God-pleasing life.

And He also died a death that we all deserved: a substitutionary, in-our-place death.

Now, by grace through faith, **He offers to us His life**, in exchange for our broken, disordered lives.

Not only does Jesus meet us in Spirit to bring hope and to give new life, but He promises to one day return to bring about wholesale restoration: to bring about His kingdom here on earth, where He will finally and forever put death to death, right every wrong, dry every eye, and make every sad thing come untrue (see Revelation 21).



# WHY SHOULD WE SHARE THE GOSPEL?

**The truth of Jesus is simple. But, it is not always easy to understand, accept, or receive.** Even for those who believe it to be true – we struggle with remembering the truth and sometimes, as a result, struggle with sharing it.

So why should we share the gospel? Sharing the Gospel is **inviting** others who might not know Jesus to consider whether or not they want to choose to receive the gift of grace that He offers and begin allowing Jesus to redeem and restore them to Himself.

Once we receive this gift for ourselves, we are given the Holy Spirit who stirs in us a desire to become closer to God. We are compelled to share the good news of Jesus with others because of the **great joy that comes from a relationship with Christ.** More simply, **God's joy (and ours) increases when we share and invite others into this same relationship for themselves!**



**READ** the passages below to see what God says about sharing the love of Christ with others. Not only do we share Christ with others when we explain the gospel to those around us, but we also share the gospel when we love them as God has called us to. Use the space below to summarize what each set of verses reveals.

**TELLING:**  
**COLOSSIANS**  
**1:15-28**

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**SHOWING:**  
**COLOSSIANS**  
**3:12-17**

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## GOSPEL FLUENCY

Use the questions below to help you evaluate your willingness to share the gospel.

What comes to mind when you think about sharing the gospel, the truth of Jesus Christ?

What encourages you and motivates you to share?

What challenges you and keeps you from sharing?

# WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL DO FOR OTHERS?

**The gift of the gospel is not just eternal life after we die, but abundant life while we live.** The good news of Jesus Christ tells others:

*you belong.*

*you have value.*

*you are created with a purpose.*

*you are loved.*

**The outpouring of grace we receive from Jesus gives us permission to freely give grace to others.** Through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit who produces in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities not only impact our personal well-being, but have a huge impact on the world around us.

The good news of Jesus is not just for Heaven, it is for now.



**PRAY** and ask God to help you recognize and move past any fears you have about sharing the gospel. Ask yourself: What would change in our world if I was willing and ready to share the gospel with others?

## DIG DEEPER

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Use the study steps below to look at what Paul says about the good news of Jesus Christ.

Observe the text by circling, highlighting, and/or underlining what you see in the passage. You might identify such things as: instructions, repeated words or phrases, references to time, people, or places, connections ("therefore", "and", "thus", etc.). Write down your key observations below.

What do these observations help you see or understand about what God is saying in His Word?

What does this reveal about God and the life that He desires for me, particularly as it relates to the gospel?

# HOW SHOULD WE SHARE THE GOSPEL?

There is not one specific way that we should share the gospel, but rather several ways we can share how the gospel is on display in our lives. The story of how God has changed our lives has the capacity to display a larger and grander story: **the Story of who God is**. Through our story, we partner with God to share His story. The Bible, God's Word, was compiled so that we might come to know His story and help make greater sense of our own stories.

We all have an origin story, where we got our start on planet earth. Each of our stories, somewhere along the way, experienced the entrance of brokenness and disorder -- whether by our own sin or someone else's. **We all need a Redeemer**, someone to step in to make right that which has gone horribly wrong. Apart from Christ, we are otherwise on a journey of self-salvation. Our story is an opportunity to partner with the **Story of God**.

**The Holy Spirit** helps us see how our stories intersect with God's story and why the Redeemer and coming restoration are such good news.

Telling God's story -- and ours -- can be anchored in four questions:

**WHO IS GOD?**    **WHAT HAS HE DONE?**    **WHO AM I?**    **HOW SHOULD I NOW LIVE?**

As you grow in your awareness of God, you may see how He uses people, places, or circumstances to reveal your need for Him, His presence or purpose, or to show His provision. Ultimately, it is answering the first two questions that help **anchor us in the Story of God** and **remind us that God is pleased to tell His story in and through us** as we increasingly **submit every area of life to Him**.

With the **Story of God as our anchor**, the last two questions help us consider how we might put into practice the life that God wants for us and allow us to see where our story will take us.

## REFLECT

Where do you see God's story intersecting with your story?

## DIG DEEPER

Think about the four story questions on the previous page. Use the prompts below to consider them and how they influence our life.



**PRAY** and rejoice in the goodness of God revealed in the world and through His Word. Consider reading Psalm 86:8-13 and Colossians 1:15-20, using those passages to honor and adore God as Maker, Redeemer, and Friend. Use the space below to jot down words and phrases that stand out to you about God's character or to write the verses as a prayer of adoration.

**Consider your own "origin story" and make note of the way(s) that God first began revealing Himself and what He has done for you. [Romans 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:8]**

what passage(s) of scripture has God used?	
what people has God used?	
what circumstances or experiences has God used?	



**PRAY** and thank God for revealing Himself to you! Thank God that He has "rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom [you] have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14).

**Father, thank you for the gift of grace in your Son, Jesus. Thank you that it is for freedom that Christ has set me free. Father, let this truth allow me to stand firm, and not let me be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Help me to put down \_\_\_\_\_ and remember who I am in Christ. [Galatians 5:1]**



**PRAY** and thank God that He equips us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17) and that He invites us to partner with Him in restoration (1 Corinthians 3:9). Be still before the Father: set a timer for three minutes, find a space you can be alone, and make time for quiet. You might practice this prayer.

*breathe in:* **Holy Spirit, you are present.**

*breathe out:* **Help me walk with You.**

If you were to choose a few words or phrases from scripture or your own "holy imagination", how might you compose another breath prayer you could use throughout the day?

*breathe in:* .....

*breathe out:* .....



## HE SEES ME HERE

Still thinking? Still reflecting? Have questions? Here you go: use this page as you wish for your own prayers and musings.





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## THE GATHERING WELL

Helping Everyday People Become Everyday  
Leaders Who Know, Follow and Grow with Jesus.

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