

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

## *Discipleship Guide #3*

### TODAY'S GOAL

- To explore what the student(s) may already know and understand about the Gospel, to expand upon that knowledge using the following passages in the Bible, and to create a usable definition to share with others.

### OPEN IN PRAYER

- Pray together and ask God to prepare your heart to hear from His Word today.

### IDENTIFY THE STUDENT(S) UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL

- Discuss: **If a friend asked you what the Gospel is, how would you explain it?** During the discussion of the following questions, listen to his/her response and take mental notes regarding his/her understanding and knowledge of the gospel. Be prepared to ask follow-up questions to gain clarity.
- Discuss: **What verses from the Bible would you use to explain the gospel in your discussion with your friend?**
- Discuss: **Have you ever had an opportunity to share the Gospel with a non-believer. If so, how did that go?**

### BUILD A GOSPEL DEFINITION WITH THE STUDENT(S)

- Work through each of the Bible verses below in order and work with the student(s) to form a gospel definition that would be easy to share with a friend. Use a white board or something to write on for this time. First, read through each of the following Scriptures and ask the student(s): **what observations about the gospel do you see in this passage?** Bullet point each observation the student(s) makes about the Scriptures. Then, have your student(s) create a general 2-6 sentence gospel definition. Don't rush the process or jump in too quickly if he/she is struggling to put the gospel into words. You may need to help them with phrasing when needed. Ask questions to deepen his/her understanding of the gospel or clarify anything he/she may not understand as you go through this process. Keep referring back to God's Word. Lastly, feel free to add any other Scriptures to the order you think would help with this process.
- Key Scriptures:
  - **Romans 3:23 > Romans 6:23 > Romans 5:8 > John 3:16 > John 14:6 > Romans 10:9-10 > Romans 10:13.**
- The following provides an example definition for more understanding of what to aim towards in this time together. Your student's definition will not look like this, and it doesn't need to. Theirs should be in their own words as if sharing to a friend while still possessing similar gospel elements.
  - "The gospel is the good news of what God has done for us through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of His Son Jesus. On our own, there is nothing we could ever do to bridge the gap that separates us from God because we are lost in our sin (Romans 6:23). Our sin separates us from the ability to have a relationship with God because He is perfect and holy (Romans 3:23). However, God, from the very beginning of time, had a plan to restore our

relationship with Him, and that plan was Jesus (Romans 5:8, John 3:15). Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and He bridges that gap between us and God (John 14:6). Jesus offers this free gift of forgiveness and salvation to anyone who chooses to believe no matter who you are or what you have done in your past (Romans 10:9-10, Romans 10:13)."

## **YOUTUBE "THE BRIDGE GOSPEL ILLUSTRATION" (4:53min by Dave Sterrett)**

- Watch "The Bridge Gospel Illustration" YouTube video.
- After watching the video Discuss: **Is there anything you think could change in your definition after watching the video?** Help them make any changes where needed.

## **ASK FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS TO THE GOSPEL DEFINITION**

- Discuss: **How does the truth of the Gospel impact your daily life?**
- Discuss: **How do you feel about sharing the Gospel with others? Is this something you would feel confident doing at this point in time?**
- Discuss: **Do you ever doubt the truths of the Gospel we just discussed or struggle with understanding what it means?** If it happens in this time that you sense your student(s) does not have a genuine saving faith in Jesus, please have a conversation with your flock leader and/or the student(s) ministry team of steps to move forward in discipleship. This doesn't mean be critical of every theological misunderstanding they have. Simply, ask God to give you eyes to see evidence of their saving faith and or potential lack of.

## **LIFESTYLE BUILDING BLOCK**

Have your student(s) put their gospel definition in a place where they can reference regularly. A good option is having them print it out on a notecard size paper and putting in their Bible. Also, give your student(s) a copy of "A Gospel Primer" by Milton Vincent. Encourage your student(s) to begin reading the short daily devotions during the week. You decide how often would fit your student(s). We recommend starting with about 2 days/week.

## **PRAY IN LIGHT OF WHAT YOU LEARNED**

- Pray together that God would prepare your heart to be equipped and ready to share the Gospel.

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