

Week 12: The Gospel is the solution to all our problems.

INTRODUCTION:

Life is filled with all kinds of problems. Every day we wake up, and there seems to be more and more things that can rob of us our joy and distract us from God. If our problems get big enough, we start to wonder if God is even really in control, or if he really loves us at all. In fact, that seems to be how the story has gone since the beginning of time. And as a result of things like unbelief and pride, we tend to look for answers and quick fixes in places other than God. But what if the answer has already been given? What if the story of Jesus is more than just about a cross or an empty tomb? What if the story of Jesus was meant to be the solution to all of our problems?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What problems are you currently facing at home, work, school, etc.?
- 2) How have these problems negatively impacted your relationships and your walk with God?
- 3) In your own words, what is your definition of “the Gospel”?
- 4) Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. In it, Paul gives a summary statement of the Gospel. What are the essential elements of the Gospel? What elements of the Gospel do you think are often overlooked?
- 5) The Gospel comes from the Greek word meaning “good news”. However, the gospel story has plenty of bad news that needs to be understood. In your own words, what is the bad news of the good news, and how does understanding the bad news of the Gospel help us also deal with our problems?
- 6) Read Romans 1:16-18. Why do we need the Gospel? What does the Gospel do for us? How does one receive the Gospel?
- 7) When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone? How did it go, and how did they respond?

- 8) Whether Paul was writing to deal with internal strife, false teaching, or simply to encourage the brethren, he nearly always begins his epistles referring to, expanding on, or reminding his readers of the Gospel. Why write about the Gospel to those who have already received the Gospel? Why would a Christian, who has already received the Gospel, need to be re-told the Gospel?

- 9) Read Hebrews 12:1-3. The author of Hebrews tells us to throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles us. What are the things that are currently hindering you in your walk with God?

- 10) As discussed in the sermon, unbelief and pride are two examples of major issues that Christ-followers wrestle with. How does the Gospel help us in our struggle?

- 11) What does it look like to “fix our eyes on Jesus”? What advice do you have for your group on how you do that? What impact does that have on you?

- 12) Someone once said, “We need to preach the gospel to ourselves every day.” What do you think that looks like? How does one keep the Gospel from becoming stale?

- 13) In his book, *Gospel Fluency*, by Jeff Vanderstelt, he encourages his groups to ask these questions when discussing their problems: (1) How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation? (2) What about the Gospel do we need to hear right now? (3) What about the Gospel have we forgotten or failed to believe? and (4) How is Jesus better than what we have or what we want? How do these questions help you with the problems you listed in question 1?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Each morning, before the day gets going, stop and remind yourself of the Gospel. Ask yourself the question, “How does the Gospel help me in dealing with the problems that I’m facing today?”

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Memorize Romans 1:16. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile..