

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

## The Gospel

**Date: September 1, 2024**

**Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

This week's weekly challenge (along with continued prayer!)  
is to know the Gospel in four steps:

**Creation-** God made man perfectly to be in relationship with Him

**Fall-** sin entered the world and broke that relationship

**Redemption-** God sent His Son to pay the price of sin for us.

**Restoration-** through Jesus, we can have a restored relationship with God if we accept that gift

### BIG IDEA

The God of the Gospel has deeper love, more brilliance, and goes to greater lengths for you than you could ever imagine. Our journey as individuals, groups, and the church starts with a deep appreciation for the God of the Gospel. What is this Gospel? This Good News? It is that the God of the universe sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for you, to pay for our sins, and to rise again on the third day forever conquering death. All that we are, all that we do, and all that we say is because of this truth. In this gospel we find forgiveness and a new identity, but also so much more. We find purpose, we find a personal relationship with our Creator, we find community, we find wisdom in a new worldview, we find

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

sanctification and growth. God and the Gospel are rich, and knowing this makes us rich too.

---

## ***Conversation Starter***

- How does knowing the truth of the Gospel make us rich?
- 

## **COMMENTARY #1**

**(Verses 1-4)** Paul writes that the Gospel must be received and stood upon or else it is in vain. He then expounds on what the Gospel is; this is not merely an idea someone made up, but historical events that actually occurred. Jesus Christ died for our sins, suffered an excruciating death, and rose again. Christ died for each of us and for all of us. It is only because of His sacrifice that we now have Good News—our debt has been paid and we are free. We must hold fast to that freedom.

---

## ***Discussion Questions***

1. What does it mean to receive the Gospel? To stand on it? To hold fast to it?
2. How does the truth of the Gospel differentiate Christianity from any other religion?

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

3. What does it mean that the Gospel is personally for you and for the world?

---

## COMMENTARY #2

**(Verses 5-11)** Paul then goes on to state those who were witnesses to the risen Lord, calling them boldly by name to proclaim what they had experienced. The Gospel is not merely based on feelings or ideas but on facts and eyewitness accounts. Paul then goes on to state that he is all that he is only because of the grace of God. While Paul trusted in the forgiveness of God, he remembered his sin and remained in humble gratitude and awe of a God Who would choose him. Paul was not focused on being “the best;” rather, he was focused on Jesus and the Good News He brings.

---

## *Discussion Questions*

1. You as a believer are a “witness” to the Gospel; why do you think it is important for you to proclaim what you have experienced?
2. What does it mean to trust in God’s forgiveness but remember our sin? How does this change our heart towards the Gospel?

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

3. Consider current standards of pastors or churches. Do you think they echo Paul's heart of "being the least" or striving to be the best?

---

## GOING DEEPER

1. Paul acknowledges that he is not qualified—but Jesus. What are the things you think disqualify you? What does Jesus say about those things?
  2. What are some ways you have "witnessed" the Gospel in your life? (If you haven't, listen to the stories of your friends and see how the Gospel is still alive and active today).
  3. How do we maintain humility ("I am the least") while still holding to the authority God has given us as His children ("that the grace of God not be in vain")?
- 

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sermon - [Easter Sermon: If a Man Dies, Will He Live Again? - 1 Cor. 15 | Lifeway](#)

Devotion - [The Gospel in Six Truths | Desiring God](#), John Piper

Book - [That's Good News](#), Shane Bishop

---



## GROUP ACTIVITY

As a group, find one verse for each of the four steps of the Gospel. Why did you pick that verse? Why is it important to know the Scripture that supports what we are teaching?

Then, try to say the four steps without looking!

Additional Activity:

As a group, watch [Jesus is the Truth by Living Waters](#) (3 min).

Discuss any thoughts that the video brought up. Do you agree with this? Do you disagree? What are some quotes that stood out? How does this video go along with the four steps?

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

## The Gospel

**Date: September 1, 2024**

**Text: Isaiah 53:4-6, 1 Peter 2:24-25**

This is the additional curriculum for this week! It carries the same heart and message of the primary curriculum but draws from a different passage than what the pastor taught on.

### BIG IDEA

The God of the Gospel has deeper love, more brilliance, and goes to greater lengths for you than you could ever imagine. Our journey as individuals, groups, and the church starts with a deep appreciation for the God of the Gospel. What is this Gospel? This good news? It is that the God of the universe sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for you, to pay for our sins, and to rise again on the third day forever conquering death. All that we are, all that we do, and all that we say is because of this truth. In this Gospel we find forgiveness and a new identity, but also so much more. We find purpose, we find a personal relationship with our Creator, we find community, we find wisdom in a new worldview, we find

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

sanctification and growth. God and the Gospel are rich, and knowing this makes us rich too.

---

## **Conversation Starter**

- Give a definition for the word *redeem*. What kinds of things do you redeem?
- 

## **COMMENTARY #1**

**(Isaiah 53: 4-6)** In the first 39 chapters of Isaiah, we hear the prophet's message of judgment and hope for the people of Israel. Starting in chapter 40, many think that this book is written through Isaiah along with help from his prophetic disciples. In chapters 40 - 55, we hear a message of hope and also of how this hope will come to fruition through the servant (called Israel). This is a prophetic message of how God will redeem his people. His servant will bear our sins on a cross and be pierced for our transgressions. This punishment brings us peace. It is not a punishment for the perfect servant; rather, he took the punishment for us. We are healed by his wounds. Verse six states, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

---

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

## ***Discussion Questions***

1. Isaiah and/or his disciples prophesied about the way in which God redeems His people. Why do you think this is important?
  2. Why do you think it was necessary for God to provide a sacrifice for our sins?
  3. How does this punishment bring us peace?
- 

## **COMMENTARY #2**

**(I Peter 2:22-25)** The letter of I Peter conveys what Jesus, our suffering servant, accomplished with His death. Jesus endured insults, wounds, and death. He did not retaliate with words or deeds. By His wounds we have been healed. These verses include quotes from the prophecy of Isaiah 53 that we read above. Verse 25 says, “For ‘you like sheep have gone astray,’ but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” It is remarkable how common themes are highlighted over and over again in Scripture. The Word of the Lord provides us with parables, analogies, and word pictures that help us understand. We can put ourselves in the shoes of the characters described and can more easily feel how they were feeling.

---



# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

## ***Discussion Questions***

1. Imagine how Jesus felt having to listen to the insults and feel the beatings with no response. Why is it important for us to remember Jesus' suffering?
2. Think about a familiar parable - how does it help you understand or make sense of its teaching? (Some to get you started: the prodigal son, the good Samaritan, the unforgiving servant)
3. How does it make you feel to know that we have an "Overseer of our souls"? What does that mean to you?

---

## **GOING DEEPER**

1. The Scripture is a redemption story of God to his people. Have you seen a Christ's Story bracelet? Each bead represents a part of the story. From his birth to death to resurrection, how would you tell the story of Christ?
  2. Knowing the story of Christ and His ultimate love for us is the crux of the Bible. Is there anything, like a bracelet, that could serve as a daily reminder for you of His love?
  3. What are some ways you could share the story of redemption to others?
-

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Right Now Media – [How to Read Isaiah Part 2](#)

---

## FAITH SHARING STORIES

### Garrett Howell

Sharing our faith can be really scary! We often believe that we're not qualified, we're going to mess it up, or that we don't speak well enough to be a witness. But God has called each of us, even in our imperfection, to tell the world about Him. He delights in using imperfect, broken people for His glory—even in our failures and missteps, He can be honored by our simple “yes.” His strength is made perfect in weakness! These are some stories of what seems to be “faith sharing flops” but, as you'll see when you read them, maybe they are exactly what God could turn around and use for good.

**That's Good News!**

I still remember the excitement in my chest as we boarded the plane; the chaos of the terminal and busyness of everyone trying to find their seats only added to my energy. As I sat down, I found myself sandwiched between my sister and an older gentleman. The excitement I felt mitigated

# THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

any shyness I held, and soon I found myself embedded in conversation with this stranger.

We talked a lot over the next hour or so covering everything from small talk to philosophy (well, as much philosophy as a teenage boy could discuss) and soon, I felt the Lord prompting me to pray. The conversation had been amicable, and I had told him earlier that I was a Christian, so I expected him to readily agree. I figured I might feel a bit awkward, pray, and enjoy the rest of my plane ride dreaming about the coming vacation with my family. I wasn't expecting a miracle—but I wasn't expecting his response either.

I asked to pray for him and immediately, he became angry and began saying how he had a problem with “people like me” who tried to push or force their faith. I tried to apologize, but the remainder of the ride was tense. On one shoulder, my sister was crying from the man's harsh words and her heartbreak that someone would reject faith so blatantly, and on the other, this man sat, arms folded, seething contempt while I sat in the middle utterly mortified. I know God prompted me to pray, so how could this go so badly?

Sometimes we fall into the thinking that if we obey God, then everything should go perfectly, but that's not what Jesus told us. In fact, He said we will be blessed when we are treated poorly because of our faith; that those who are persecuted, rejected, lied about, and hurt because of their love for Jesus will *inherit heaven* and a *great reward*.

I don't know how this man's story ends. I like to think that he still thinks about the kid on the plane and how that was the moment he began to find Jesus; that the painful memory I hold was somehow his turning point. But it is also likely that he's still a grumpy guy who hates prayer. Regardless, I am not called to change people's hearts—I am called to follow God's. My reward isn't in how people respond to me but it is only



found in my response to God. So I will say yes again and again “for great is my reward in heaven.”

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:10-12