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Study 1-5 are written by Trinity Church Golden Grove.

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Study 1: Gospelling, Part 1

This term we're thinking about the gospel and how we can each play a part in talking about, praying for and sharing the good news of Jesus.

Starter

Write down 1-2 people you know who don't yet follow Jesus. Spend time praying together for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

1. What's a piece of "good advice" you've heard recently? How does that differ from "good news"?

2. Write your own summary of the gospel in the space below. Try and use as few words as possible. Share with the person next to you and discuss: What did you write? Why those words and in that way?

What Is the Gospel?

The gospel is the announcement of the good news that Jesus is Lord, and that through his life, death, and resurrection we can have peace with God.

Let's unpack how the gospel isn't about what we do, but about what God has graciously done in Jesus Christ. We will start in the Old Testament.

Read together: 1 Samuel 4:17-18, 2 Samuel 18:25-27, Isaiah 52:7

The phrase *brought the news / have good news* is gospel. "gospel" is world-altering news - positive or negative and it's always an announcement of what has taken place.

1. What do you notice about the two reports of gospel in the Samuel verses?

2. What does Isaiah 52:7 this tell you about good news? Who brings this good news? What do they declare?

When Caesar Augustus was born in 63AD a message was written on stone, "*The birthday of the god was for the world the beginning of the gospels on his account.*" To the Romans, gospel was reserved for the birth of a king. Couriers went running throughout the empire, declaring this news (they thought the king was divine). In the literature we have, it's clear that gospel was a word never used in a trivial way. It was only reserved for the most important announcements.

Putting all this together we see that gospel is monumental news about a victorious battle (Like in Samuel) that has taken place and that it's news about the rise and fall of kingdoms (Like in Isaiah).

This is the background of the word when Jesus appears and uses the phrase, Gospel of God and the good news he's bringing.

Read together: Mark 1:14–15, Luke 4:18–19, Luke 4:43

1. What is Jesus proclaiming as gospel?
2. How does his use of “gospel” differ from popular ideas of good news?
3. How does the Bible describe the gospel in both good and bad news terms?

Because gospel is the news of what God has done in Christ Jesus, we are like reporters or ambassadors that relay this to others.

Read together: Romans 10:9–10

1. What are the two parts of the gospel response?
2. Why is it important to emphasise both heart belief and public confession?

3. Do you tend to focus more on one aspect of the gospel when sharing or thinking about it - Jesus as Saviour or Jesus as Lord?

4. How could you speak more clearly about both?

In summary, the gospel can be started in 3 words: Jesus is Lord (Acts 10:26).

Or, it can take up a paragraph. In the words of Don Carson, *"The gospel is the great news of what God has graciously done in Jesus Christ, especially in his atoning death and vindicating resurrection, his ascension, session, and high priestly ministry, to reconcile sinful human beings to himself, justifying them by the penal substitute of his Son, and regenerating and sanctifying them by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, who is given to them as the down payment of their ultimate inheritance. God will save them if they repent and trust in Jesus."*

We will keep exploring how to communicate this gospel in the next 6 sessions.

Prayer

Pray for courage and clarity to speak the gospel.

Thank God for the good news of Jesus.

Study 2: Gospelling, Part 2

The gospel is not just for pastors or preachers to proclaim - it's news we all carry into our everyday relationships.

Starter

Start by praying for the people on your list from last week.

1. When you hear the word "gospel," what comes to mind?
2. Who first told you the gospel of Jesus?
3. What is a memorable gospel presentation you heard?

Read together: Acts 2:14-39

1. What is the main announcement Peter makes in this speech?
2. What's surprising about how he ends (v36)?
3. What do the people say in response (v37)?
4. What does Peter say in reply (v38-39)?

Peter was speaking to a Jewish audience who knew the Scriptures very well and he was able to use them to point to Jesus. In Acts 17, Paul speaks the gospel to Educated Athenians.

Read together Acts 17:16-34

1. What differences and similarities you see to Peter?

2. What does this tell us about how we might share the gospel with others in Australia?

Read together: Acts 10:36

1. What does it mean that Jesus is “Lord of all”?

2. How is this both good news and a confronting message?

The gospel is not advice or a better religion - it's a royal announcement of who Jesus is and what he's done. It invites us to respond with faith and repentance.

Read together: Colossians 4:2-6

1. What's the difference between someone gifted in evangelism and every Christian's role in speaking the gospel? Is there?
2. What does Colossians 4 say our role is?
3. What opportunities do you currently have to "answer everyone" with the gospel?

Prayer

Thank God that Jesus is Lord and Saviour.

Ask for boldness, wisdom, and love in speaking the gospel.

Study 3: Practicing

There are times when we don't always speak the gospel - whether from fear, awkwardness, or we aren't sure what to say. Today, we will be reminded that the power to save is in the God we proclaim and then practice sharing the gospel with each other.

Starter

1. If someone asked, "What is Christianity all about?", what would you say in one sentence?

David Seccombe says that, *"In Thessalonica, Paul's gospeling had a strong focus on the second coming. In Athens, Acts 17, he spoke of creation and judgement. Most of the gospeling in Acts is resurrection-centred, and in Corinth Paul's preoccupation was with the cross."*

1. How can this all be the same gospel, but a different focus on the person and work of Jesus?

2. What might this tell us for how we communicate Jesus to those around us?

Read together: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1. Why do you think Paul was so willing to adapt himself to different groups (Jews, those under the law, the weak, etc.)?

2. What do you think Paul didn't change about his message or lifestyle, even as he adapted the message of Jesus?

3. Paul says he is still "under Christ's law" even while adapting. What does that teach us about staying faithful while being flexible?

Mapping Our Mission Fields

Fill in the table with those you know who aren't Christians. This is what's called your, 'Mission field.'

Neighbours	Leisure/Social Life	Church	Family	Work/Study

1. Where do you spend most time with non-Christians?

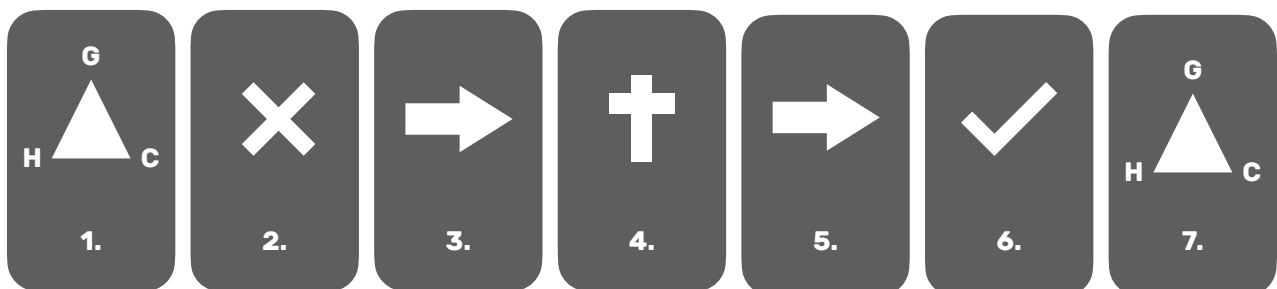
2. Which space feels most natural for gospel conversations?

3. What do you make of the following quote from Timothy Keller: *"If the gospel is primarily about what God has done to save us... it can only be expressed through words."* Do you agree?

It's important to understand each part of the gospel and how it can enter into someone else's view of the world and how to tell which part to use when.

Listening to someone, hearing from them and picking up on what they say, as a way to get to Jesus as Lord is important, and we will talk more about the in the coming session, too.

7 Steps to explain the Gospel



These 7-steps seek to place Jesus as Lord, in the story of God, starting with creation and moving into New Creation and talking a bout judgment, resurrection and the Lordship of Jesus.

1. **Triangle with God, Human and Creation in each corner.** Emphasis that God is creator, earth was made wonderful by him and we are made in God's image. It's helpful to explain to Aussies a, "what if" at this point. Most won't believe in such a story, but, if you say something like, "Let's imagine that there is a God who..." it helps take them on this journey. Emphasise the goodness and wholeness of the world and God's goodness and harmony with all 3.

2. **X.** It all went wrong, we chose to rebel from God. And the good creation is spoiled by sin. Here, talk about how things are out of joint, there is no peace or rest and a frustration in life. This is because we walked away from God.
3. **Arrow.** God then comes along and chooses a people that he will bring blessing to the world and use to show and restored people back to him. This is the entire OT and God making a promise to rescue his world using a person.
4. **Cross.** Gospel of Jesus. This is where Jesus comes in. It's the way God begins to restore people and creation back to his and his intent - through the Cross of Jesus who deals with the evil, rebellion and sin in the world and us by dying and taking it on him, so we can be forgiven and resorted back God and his future. This is what God does to save us.
5. **Arrow.** But, Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose with a body, overthrown Satan, sin and death, being enthroned in the Resurrection as king and beginning his kingdom in the lives of his people. People began to take the good news of Jesus all over the world. Little communicates of God's goodness and restoration now exist as they proclaim the Lordship of Jesus and invite people to repent and have faith in Jesus. This includes us today.
6. **Tick.** But that wasn't the end either. Jesus will come again to rule as Lord and king and to finally deal with all that is wrong in this world. Final justice and puts things right. Emphasis how even if we don't see justice now, God does and deals with it.
7. **Triangle.** God's goal is a new creation. God now lives with people in a renewed place, with Jesus as Lord, no more sins, tears sickness or death. The world and God now have forever harmony and are restored.

Over to you

Take turns explaining these 7-steps to one another. Share any insights you gained.

Study 4: Threading

This week we will zoom into different ways to connect people to Jesus.

Starter

1. Think of someone who helped you understand the gospel. What did they do well? What especially stood out to you about the person and work of Jesus?

Read together: Romans 10:14–17, Colossians 4:2–6, Luke 19:10

1. According to Romans 10, how does someone come to faith?

2. What role does speaking the gospel play in God's plan?

3. What does Colossians 4 tell us about how we speak to others?

4. What are some fears or barriers we face when speaking about Jesus?

Gospel Threads

There's one gospel, but many ways to highlight Jesus' work on the cross. Think of these different ways as threads that we can pull on to connect Jesus to their life.

When we share the gospel, we want to meet someone with a thread of the gospel - the announcement of Jesus as Lord, but in a way that genuinely makes them think about why Jesus should be their Lord.

Read the list of gospel threads from Sam Chan and then use the discussion questions with the person next to you. As we get to know someone, we can start to see which of these may be relevant to their longings, desires and life.

1. If your friends are burdened by guilt and need forgiveness, tell them the story of Jesus and the tax collector who is justified by God (Luke 18:14).
2. If your friends are burdened by shame and need restoration, tell them the story of Jesus cleansing and restoring a bleeding woman (Luke 8:48).
3. If your friends feel impure and need to be clean, tell them that Jesus will cleanse them and wash away their sins (Hebrews 9:14).
4. If your friends are enslaved by the worship of idols, tell them the story of Jesus inviting himself into Zacchaeus's home and setting him free from the power his wealth had over him (Luke 19:10).
5. If your friends feel far from God, tell them how God the Father welcomes us as his children into his home (Luke 15:21-24).
6. If your friends are wandering and lost, tell them how Jesus is the shepherd who will seek, find, and save them (Luke 15:1-7).
7. If your friends are disconnected from God, tell them how Jesus is the vine, and we are his branches—we dwell in him, and he dwells in us (John 15).
8. If your friends are restless and exhausted, tell them how Jesus will give them rest (Matthew 11:28).
9. If your friends live in fear of evil spirits, tell them the story of Jesus driving out demons, who tremble and flee from him (Luke 4:31-36).
10. If your friends are empty, outcast, broken, and unfulfilled, tell them about how Jesus offers the shamed, outcast, broken Samaritan woman living water that will overflow into eternal life—a full, filled, and fulfilled life (John 4).
11. If your friends are afraid of death and the afterlife, tell them about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11).
12. If your friends feel they have let God down too many times, tell them how Jesus restores Peter, who disowned him three times (John 21).
13. If your friends are burdened by the need to be perfect, tell them about the Pharisee who when he recognises his need to humble himself before God, will be exalted by God (Luke 18:14).
14. If your friends' lives are fractured, dysfunctional, and broken, tell them how Jesus grants peace to a troubled, sinful woman who washes his feet with her tears, hair, and perfume (Luke 7:48-50).
15. If your friends don't have any purpose or direction, tell them they can follow Jesus and be part of his mission (Luke 9:23).
16. If your friends' lives are empty and self-absorbed, tell them they can die to their ambitions and live for the one who dies for us (Luke 9:23-26).
17. If your friends are feeling undervalued and disrespected, tell them how Jesus welcomes and blesses children who had been rebuked for trying to see him (Mark 10:13-16).

1. What stood out to you from the “gospel threads”?
2. Which thread do you most resonate with personally? Why?
3. How does thinking about the gospel as a set of “threads” help you share Jesus more naturally?
4. Go back to your list of people from week one. Can you think of one or two threads that might connect with them?

Prayer

Pray for wisdom to see gospel threads in everyday conversation.

Pray for opportunities to lovingly pull on those threads with friends and family.

Study 5: Speaking

The words we use to share the gospel matter. In a culture that misunderstands or mistrusts religious language, we need to speak with clarity, creativity and without watering down the truth of Jesus' Lordship.

Starter

1. Have you ever heard someone use too many complicated words from a field you knew nothing about (mechanic, engineer, nurse, IT). How did it make you feel? Can you think of an example when someone explained to you a new concept, in simple terms?

2. Why does it matter that we give thoughtful consideration to our words when talking about Jesus?

Sam Chan says this: *"Phrases and words like do my own thing, rebel, submit, and king used to mean one thing. But in a post-Christian culture, they have a different meaning. Our culture praises doing my own thing and rebelling as good, brave, and noble things to do! And we associate words like submit and king with oppression. So when we use these words to describe our Christian experience, we're portraying Christianity as an oppressive institution. ... These words and phrases have completely different meanings."*

1. Does this mean we never use those words? Discuss as a group what you think. Then, read on.

Where do words come from?

Our words have meaning and impact because we are made in the image of the God who speaks. Our speech is patterned after divine speech and in the gospel, Jesus redeems our speech and our words to bring his good news to the world.

Read together: Genesis 1:3, Hebrews 1:3, John 1:14, Isaiah 55:10-13 and 1 Peter 4:11

1. Who spoke the first ever words? What did God's words do?
2. What effect does God's word have on people according to Isaiah (v10-11)?
3. What is the effect God brings about through his word and how is it related to the imagery of plants (v12-13)?
4. What role does Jesus have in the revelation of God's Word to us?
5. What might it look like to stay faithful Peter's words in how we talk about Jesus?

Part of living on mission is being ready to answer questions and objections with **gentleness and respect**, pointing people to Jesus not just through arguments, but through our character and hope.

Read together 1 Peter 3:13–17

1. According to verses 13–14, what kind of situation is Peter preparing Christians for?
2. What are believers told to do in verse 15? What kind of “answer” is Peter talking about?
3. What should mark the way we give our answers, according to the second half of v15?
4. Why do you think Peter connects answering others with keeping a clear conscience and living a good life (v16–17)?

Apply

1. What’s one honest question you’ve heard about Christianity recently?
2. What helps you feel more prepared to answer with gentleness and clarity?

Prayer

Ask for wisdom, clarity, and gentleness as you speak with others.

Pray for questions to come – and grace to answer them well.

Study 6: Praying

Mission isn't something we do alone (See 1 Thessalonians 1:5) and it's not something we begin. God is the one who saves. And one of the most significant ways we join in his mission is by praying. In this study, we'll look at Jesus' and Paul's instructions to pray for workers, open doors, and people to be saved – and we'll be reminded that prayer is one of the most powerful and accessible ways all of us can be on mission.

Starter

1. When you pray for others, what kind of things do you most often find yourself asking God for?

Read together Matthew 9:35–38

1. What moves Jesus in this passage? What does he see when he looks at the crowd?

2. What does Jesus tell his disciples to do in response?

3. What does it mean to pray for workers? Why do you think Jesus starts there?

Read together 1 Timothy 2:1–6

1. Who are we told to pray for in verse 1–2 – and why?

2. According to verses 3–4, what is God’s desire for people?

3. How does this shape the way we pray for others – including those in positions of power?

4. Verses 5–6 remind us of the one mediator, Jesus. How does this ground our confidence as we pray for others to be saved?

Apply

1. What holds you back from praying regularly for people who don’t yet know Jesus?

2. How could your group encourage one another to keep praying – and keep noticing opportunities?

Prayer

Praise God for his saving heart and for sending Jesus.

Ask for more workers and boldness in mission.

Pray by name for those you're hoping will come to know him.

Study 7: Helping

When it comes to mission, we often think of words. And yes, people need to hear the gospel to be saved. But our good works can support the gospel: by making it more attractive, or by removing obstacles that would cause people to dismiss it. This week, we're thinking about how living distinctively and doing good can promote the gospel and show its power in action.

Opener

1. Have you ever seen someone's actions speak so clearly that it made you stop and take notice?

Read Titus 2:1-10

1. What kinds of behaviours is Paul calling for among believers in this passage?
2. In verses 5, 8, and 10, what are the reasons Paul gives for living this
3. What do you think it means to "make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive" (v10)?
4. Why do our actions matter for the credibility of the gospel?

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. What does Jesus mean when he calls his followers salt and light?
2. According to verse 16, how should others respond to our good deeds?
3. How do good works point beyond us – to God?

Apply

1. What are some ways Christians can fail to live in a way that supports their gospel witness?
2. What's one way you personally can be more intentional this week in doing good – especially in a way that might promote the gospel?
3. How might your Growth Group or church show the beauty of the gospel through acts of service and compassion?

Prayer

Thank God that his grace changes both our hearts and our lives.

Ask that our good works would shine a light on the gospel, not distract from it.

Study 8: Gathering

When we think about mission, we often think about going out. But mission also happens when we bring people in – especially into Christian community.

The Bible expects that church gatherings won't only include believers. In fact, God may use the gathering itself – the clarity of the word, the way we pray, speak, and sing – to convict and save someone who's searching.

Starter

1. If a non-Christian friend came to your church this Sunday, what do you think they'd find most surprising – or most compelling?

Read together: 1 Corinthians 14:20–26

1. What problem is Paul addressing in this section? Why is he concerned about outsiders?

2. What does Paul say might happen when an unbeliever enters a clear and ordered gathering? (vv.24–25)

3. Paul cares deeply about understanding and clarity in the church. Why does this matter for mission?

4. Do you think our church gatherings are intelligible and welcoming for unbelievers? Why or why not?

5. What would you want a non-Christian to “overhear” in our gatherings – through our words, prayers, and songs?

Apply

1. How could we make our gatherings more clear and helpful for those who don't yet know Jesus?
2. What's one small step you could take – personally or as a group – to help someone feel included and engaged when they gather with us?
3. Think about the three people you're praying for this year. Would gathering with God's people be a natural next step for one of them?

Pray

Thank God for the gift of gathering and the power of his Word.

Ask that our church would be clear, welcoming, and centred on Jesus.

Pray for boldness to invite and for hearts ready to respond.

Study 9: Giving

Mission isn't just something we do personally – it's something we resource together. In the Bible, financial generosity is often directed toward gospel work: supporting missionaries, sustaining leaders, and sending the message further.

In this final study, we'll see that giving is a tangible way to partner in God's mission – and a reflection of our trust in him.

Starter

1. What's one cause or project you've been glad to support – and why?

Read Philippians 4:10–20

1. What is Paul thanking the Philippians for in this passage?
2. What stands out to you about Paul's attitude toward their financial gift?
3. In verse 17, Paul says he's not looking for the gift, but for what? What does that tell us about the purpose of giving?
4. According to verses 18–20, how does Paul describe their gift – and how does he describe God?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

1. What do you notice about the generosity of the Macedonian churches?
2. According to verse 9, what is the ultimate motivation for giving?
3. How does this passage encourage you or challenge you in how you think about giving?

Apply

1. What has shaped your approach to giving toward gospel work?
2. How can generosity become part of your regular mission mindset – not just something reactive?
3. How could your group or church grow in generous partnership with others in ministry?

Pray

Thank God for his generous provision in Christ.

Ask him to make us open-handed, joyful givers.

Pray for gospel workers who rely on support – and for wisdom in how to partner well.

Trinity Church Golden Grove

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