

# UNDERSTANDING THE gospel

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An eight-week study to better understand “The Good News,”  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Scan the QR Code below to be taken to the coinciding YouTube  
playlist, containing 8 videos, one for each week/part of this series.

Use these videos as the beginning place for each of the  
8 sections of this study.



*Written and Compiled by:*



**KNOW YOUR BIBLE**



# UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

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# “UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL”

## Introduction

The word “gospel” is familiar to many yet often misunderstood. It’s not just ancient history – it is God’s eternal good news explaining our past, transforming our present, and securing our future. The gospel is not just the starting point of the Christian life; it is the center of it. It is the good news of what God has done, is doing, and will do through Jesus Christ. And once you truly understand the gospel, everything changes!

**This eight-part study is designed to help you understand the gospel with clarity, respond to it personally, and live it out daily.** The message of the gospel is simple enough for a child to grasp, yet deep enough to shape a lifetime of learning, worship, and obedience. It’s also a great place to start learning about Christ, and what He means for us and the world today.

## How to Use This Study

Each section of this devotional study explores key elements of The Gospel to help you understand it more clearly and more fully. There are 8 total parts in this series, each coinciding with a KYB video. Each lesson includes a main devotional, five daily reflections, journal prompts, prayer guides, and optional small group discussion questions. You can complete one part per week or move at your own pace. Take time to read, pray, and reflect deeply. If you’re studying with a group, allow space for discussion and shared insight.

## Suggested Rhythm

- Tune in for the weekly video release each Sunday and read the Main Devotional for the week.
- Read and complete one journal entry each weekday.
- Use reflection questions and journal space to engage with Scripture personally.
- Spend the weekend reviewing your notes and praying, with the help of the weekly prayer prompt, about what God has taught you throughout the week.
- Don’t rush—allow God’s Word to speak to your heart at His pace.

**Our prayer is that this study does more than inform you.** We pray it *transforms* you; shapes you, draws you closer to Jesus, anchors you in truth, and sends you into the world with hope, confidence, and mission. We invite you to not just learn about the Good News, but to engage with it—heart, mind, and life.

Before beginning Part 1, watch the **first** video of the  
“*Understanding the Gospel*” series playlist on the  
KYB – Know Your Bible YouTube Channel.  
[www.youtube.com/@KYB-Know-Your-Bible](http://www.youtube.com/@KYB-Know-Your-Bible)



## PART 1: **GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

### **WHAT DOES THE WORD 'GOSPEL' REALLY MEAN?**

#### **THE GOSPEL – GOD'S GOOD NEWS OF VICTORY**

**εὐαγγέλιον** or **euangelion** (eu- = “good” | -angelion = “message”) = Good News

The word “gospel” is familiar to many people yet often misunderstood. In our culture, it can mean anything from a music style to a way of describing something as “really true.” But in Scripture, the word “gospel” carries a far deeper and more powerful meaning. The Greek word **euangelion** is where we get the phrase often used for the Gospel...“good news.” But to be more specific, it means an announcement of *victory*.

In the ancient world, a messenger would run into a city to proclaim that a battle had been won or a king had secured triumph. This wasn’t casual news, or advice about how people should live. It wasn’t encouragement to do better or try harder. It was an announcement, a proclamation, that something extraordinary had taken place.

The Old Testament sets the foundation for this. Isaiah 52:7 paints a vivid picture of a messenger running across the mountains, proclaiming peace, salvation, and the truth that God reigns. The next chapter, Isaiah 53 reveals how this good news would be accomplished—through the suffering, sacrifice, and victory of God’s Servant.

When Jesus steps onto the scene, He declares that this long-awaited promise has finally arrived. Mark 1:14–15 shows Jesus proclaiming, “The kingdom of God has come near.” He isn’t offering self-help tips or moral instruction - He is announcing that God’s promised salvation and Messiah have come into the world through Him.

The heart of the gospel is this: Jesus lived the perfect life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again to defeat sin, death, and the enemy. The victory has already been won - not by our effort, but by His finished work.

This means the gospel is not a list of actions to perform, but victorious news to believe. Our obedience flows not from trying to earn God’s approval, but from receiving the victory He has already accomplished. The gospel is God’s good news for every person - an invitation to trust, rest, and follow the One who has already won the battle over sin and death.

## **GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

### **JOURNAL ENTRY 1: GOOD NEWS FOR A BAD-NEWS WORLD**

***“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet  
of him who brings good news...”***

*Isaiah 52:7a*

#### **GOOD NEWS IN A BAD-NEWS WORLD**

From the first pages of Scripture, God reveals Himself as a God who speaks hope into darkness. Even when humanity's story takes devastating turns—when sin enters, when suffering spreads, when brokenness becomes the backdrop of life—God continues to interject good news. His message is never mere optimism or wishful thinking; it is a declaration of what He has done, is doing, or will do. In a world filled with conflict, fear, and uncertainty, the gospel stands apart as God's announcement of victory, peace, and restoration. It reminds us that no matter how loud the bad news of the world becomes, God's good news is louder, stronger, and everlasting.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Isaiah 40:9
- Psalm 96:2-3
- Romans 10:15

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Where in your life do you most need good news right now?
- How does knowing God is a messenger of hope strengthen your faith today?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about an area where you need to receive God's good news again.

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#### ***Prayer Prompt:***

Lord, help me see the beauty of Your good news today...

## GOD'S GOOD NEWS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: THE KING HAS COME

***“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (euangelion).”***

Mark 1:14-15

#### **THE KING HAS COME**

When Jesus stepped onto the scene in Galilee, He proclaimed a royal announcement: “The kingdom of God is at hand.” In other words, *the King has arrived*. All of God’s promises, all of Israel’s longings, all the prophecies, all of humanity’s hopes were being fulfilled in Him. Jesus brought God’s rule, God’s presence, and God’s power into the world in a way it had never been before. His arrival wasn’t just a moment in history—it was the beginning of a new era. Where Jesus is, the kingdom comes: healing the broken, forgiving the guilty, restoring the lost, and calling all people to turn toward Him. The gospel begins with this breathtaking truth: God is with us, and the rightful King now reigns.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Matthew 4:23
- Luke 4:16-21
- John 1:14

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What stands out most to you about Jesus’ announcement?
- What does it mean to you, in your life, that Jesus is King?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Reflect on what it means that Jesus’ kingdom is near to you today.

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#### ***Prayer Prompt:***

Jesus, thank You for bringing God’s kingdom near...

## **GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

### **JOURNAL ENTRY 3: VICTORY PROCLAIMED**

***"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."***

*John 16:33*

#### **VICTORY ANNOUNCED, NOT EARNED**

The gospel is a declaration; an announcement that God has acted in history to save, rescue, and restore. Jesus lived perfectly, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously—not to provide an example of what we must accomplish, but as the Savior who accomplished what we *never could*. This is why the gospel is good news: the victory has already been won. We don't work for it, achieve it, or prove ourselves worthy of it. We receive it, by faith. Christianity does not rest on our performance but on Christ's finished work. The gospel calls us to trust in what *He* has done, not what *we* can do—and that is what makes it truly liberating. Victory is not something we earn; it is something God announces over us through Jesus.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Romans 4:13-25
- Colossians 2:13-15

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- How does grounding your faith in historical truth strengthen your confidence?
- Why does the resurrection matter personally to you?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about how Jesus' victory gives you hope today.

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#### ***Prayer Prompt:***

Lord, thank You for the finished work of Christ...

## GOD'S GOOD NEWS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: NOT JUST ADVICE

***“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”***

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

#### **WHY THE GOSPEL ISN'T ADVICE**

We live in a world overflowing with advice—messages urging us to improve, hustle, achieve, try harder, and become better versions of ourselves. Advice puts the weight on us to make life work. But the gospel is different. Praise God! It doesn't tell us how to fix ourselves; it announces that God has already done what we could never do. Christianity doesn't begin with a command. It begins with a proclamation: that Jesus Christ lived the perfect life we could not live, died the death our sins deserved, and rose again to give us new life. The gospel doesn't point us inward or to our own effort; it points us outward to Christ's finished work. And, by connecting with Christ through baptism we are saved. Not of our own work, which we could never attain. *That* is why it is good news. It frees us from striving, lifts the burden of self-salvation, and invites us to trust and accept what has been accomplished on our behalf.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Titus 3:1-8
- Galatians 2:16-20
- Romans 3:21-26

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Have you ever treated the gospel like advice instead of a divine invitation?
- What does God's grace reveal about His heart toward you?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Journal about where you feel pressure to “earn” God's approval.

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#### ***Prayer Prompt:***

Father, free me from performance-based faith...

## **GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

### **JOURNAL ENTRY 5: TIME TO RESPOND**

***"How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?"***

*Hebrews 2:3*

#### **RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS**

Good news always calls for a response. The good news of the gospel is certainly no exception. God's proclamation of what He has done through Jesus is also a personal invitation to turn toward Him with open hands and willing hearts. We must first believe; trusting that Jesus is who He says and has done what we could never do. Repentance follows - turning away from our old life and the sin that once defined us - compelling us to obedience through baptism as Christ commanded, in order to accept His salvation. Faith and trust then become the daily posture of our lives, resting in His grace rather than our own effort. The gospel doesn't demand perfection; but it does demand action. It calls us to surrender. It invites us into a relationship. When we respond to the good news, we step into the death of Christ, and thus the life God designed us for—one marked by forgiveness, freedom, and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Mark 16:15-16
- John 3:16-21
- Acts 2:37-39

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does it mean for *you* to believe the gospel today?
- How is God inviting you to respond to His good news?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write a personal response to God's gospel invitation at the current stage of your walk with Him.

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#### ***Prayer Prompt:***

Lord, give me faith to respond to Your good news fully and freely...

## **GOD'S GOOD NEWS**

### **WEEK 1 PRAYER**

Father, thank You for the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank You that the gospel is not a burden placed on my shoulders, but a victory You have already accomplished. Help me to rest in the truth that everything needed for my salvation has been provided by Jesus.

Lord, let this good news reshape my heart, my thoughts, and my identity each day. Teach me to trust more deeply, surrender more fully, and walk more confidently in the victory Jesus won, and let it become the foundation of my daily life and the hope that carries me forward.

Help me live as someone who has received *the* Good News—joyfully, humbly, and boldly. May the gospel be the truth that defines me and the message I share with the world.

Amen.

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## PART 2: **WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS**

### **WHY DO WE NEED GOOD NEWS?**

#### **WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS**

We all love good news. A clean bill of health, a restored relationship, an unexpected blessing—good news brings relief, joy, and hope. But good news only makes sense when we understand the bad news it answers. The gospel is no different. If we don't understand why we need good news, we can't grasp the depth, beauty, and power of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

The Bible begins not with brokenness, but with beauty. Genesis 1:27 tells us that God created humanity in His own image—designed with purpose, dignity, and the capacity to know Him personally. We were made for relationship with our Creator, to reflect His character, walk in His ways, and live under His loving authority. God's original design was good, whole, and filled with His presence.

But something devastating happened. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve traded trust for suspicion, traded God's wisdom for their own impulses, and deliberately defied their Creator. It's the moment when sin entered the world. And their sin was not just rule-breaking; it was relationship-breaking. It was rebellion against the One who made them, loved them, and provided everything they needed. It was the moment when everything changed. Sin separated us from God, introducing anger, guilt, shame, fear, and death into the world.

If that isn't bad enough, the news gets worse. The Bible is clear about the consequences of sin: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23). Sin leaves us spiritually dead, a fate much worse than physical death. Spiritual death cuts us off from the life of God. This is a situation we are powerless to fix ourselves. That's why we *need* good news!

We need rescue. We need reconciliation. And thus, we need the Savior who can restore what sin destroyed. This is the backdrop that makes the gospel shine. God didn't leave us lost. He didn't abandon us to our rebellion. The same God who created us stepped into our story to rescue us. When we see sin for what it truly is—rebellion that breaks relationship with our Creator—we begin to understand the true magnitude of God's love, along with the need for, and the breathtaking beauty of, the gospel.

## WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP

***“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”***

*Genesis 1:27*

#### CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP

Before we talk about sin, we need to understand how our story began. God created humanity in His image; crowned with dignity, designed for purpose, and made for relationship with Him. This means your value does not come from what you do, but from who made you.

God's design for humanity was breathtakingly good. Harmony, closeness with Him, and a life filled with meaning were His intention from the beginning. Understanding this is essential, because the problem of sin is only truly understood against the backdrop of God's original design and what we lost when sin entered the picture.

You were made to know God, reflect Him, and enjoy His presence forever. That is the identity and purpose sin disrupted.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Psalm 8:3-5
- Ephesians 2:10

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does it mean to you that God designed you for a relationship with Him?
- How does understanding God's original design help you see His heart for you?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about what it means that you were created for relationship with God.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for creating me in Your image. Help me see my worth and purpose each day through Your eyes.

## WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: THE TRUTH OF THE GARDEN

***Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’...?”***

*Genesis 3:1*

#### WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN THE GARDEN?

The Fall didn't begin with an action—it began with a question. The serpent whispered doubt into Eve's heart: "Did God really say...?" Sin begins when we question God; what He says, His goodness, His wisdom, and His will for our lives.

Adam and Eve weren't simply questioning God's guidance or breaking a rule or command. They were breaking trust. They reached for independence, wanting to define truth on their own terms. This is the essence of sin: choosing our way over God's, believing we know better, and turning from the One who created us with purpose.

Every sin we commit follows this same pattern. It's deeper than behavior—it's a heart posture that says, "I'm in charge." Seeing this clearly helps us understand the depth of our need for God's mercy and grace.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Genesis 3:1-6
- James 1:13-15
- 1 John 2:16-17

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Where do you see the pattern of Genesis 3 appear in your own life?
- Why is it important to see sin as distrust and rebellion, not just disobedience?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about an area where you've struggled to trust God's wisdom.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, expose the subtle lies I believe and draw my heart back to trust in You.

## WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: SIN'S RIPPLE EFFECTS

***"Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths."***

*Genesis 3:7*

#### THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF SIN

Sin does not stay contained. It spreads like cracks in a foundation, weakening everything around it. The moment Adam and Eve sinned, things were never the same. They felt shame. They hid. They blamed. Every relationship was affected—between them and God, within themselves, and with one another.

We still experience these effects today: insecurity, fear, guilt, conflict, pride, and division. These are not random human struggles—they are symptoms of a deeper spiritual disease called sin, which is rooted in our separation from God.

Recognizing the ripple effects of sin helps us see that the world's brokenness points to a greater need: we need restoration that only God can bring.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Genesis 3:7-13
- Romans 5:12
- Isaiah 59:1-2

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- Which of sin's effects do you recognize most in your own life?
- How do the consequences of sin help you better understand your need for rescue?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Write about a specific area where you long for God to heal the effects of sin.

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#### *Prayer:*

Father, open my eyes to the ways sin affects my heart and life, and lead me toward Your healing.

## WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: ALL HAVE SINNED

***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***

*Romans 3:23*

#### ALL HAVE SINNED

Every one of us falls short of God's glory. Though we often like to compare ourselves to others – “I'm not as bad as....” – the truth is not one of us is “basically a good person” by God's standard of good. Scripture is clear: all have sinned. Every person, no matter how moral, religious, or well-intentioned, has fallen short of God's glory.

Sin is the great equalizer. It humbles the proud and exposes the illusion that we can earn God's acceptance through effort. It reminds us that we ***all*** need His grace; not just a few “really bad” people. Every. Single. One.

When we see ourselves honestly before God, we become ready to receive the life-changing good news of the gospel.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Ecclesiastes 7:20
- Romans 5:18-19
- 1 John 1:8-10

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- Why is it difficult at times to admit our own sinfulness?
- How does this verse shift your perspective about yourself and others?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Reflect on what it means that you fall short and yet are deeply loved by God.

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#### *Prayer:*

Lord, give me a humble heart that recognizes my need for Your grace.

# WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS

## JOURNAL ENTRY 5: WAGES OF SIN

***“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

*Romans 6:23*

### THE WAGES OF SIN

Sin's consequences are not minor. They are deadly. Scripture tells us that sin produces spiritual death, separation from God, and ultimately eternal loss. The world's brokenness is evidence of sin's destructive power.

This reality can feel heavy, but it prepares our hearts for hope. This is the bad news that makes the good news...good. Praise God this verse does not end with death. It continues with a promise: "...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." To truly treasure that gift, we must understand the cost, the wages, of sin.

Seeing sin clearly doesn't need to lead us to despair, because we have the Savior.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Hebrews 9:27-28
- Proverbs 14:12
- Ephesians 2:1-5

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What emotions arise when you reflect on the reality of sin's consequences?
- How does understanding the seriousness of sin make the gospel more precious?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write honestly about how the reality of spiritual death deepens your love for Jesus.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, thank You for rescuing me from the death my sin deserved. Help me grasp the weight of Your grace.

## WHY THE GOOD NEWS MATTERS

### PRAYER PROMPT

Father, I come before You, acknowledging the reality of my sin and the brokenness it has caused—in my heart, in my relationships, and in the world around me. Thank You for showing me the truth: that sin is not just disobedience, but a turning away from the relationship I was created to enjoy with You.

Lord, deepen my understanding of my need for Your rescue. Let the weight of sin drive me not to shame, but to Your mercy. Thank You that You did not leave humanity in darkness or hopelessness. You pursued us with love long before we ever sought You.

Open my eyes to see both the seriousness of sin and the greatness of Your grace. Prepare my heart to receive, rejoice in, and walk in the good news of the gospel.

Amen.

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## PART 3: THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### ***WHO IS JESUS AND WHY DID HE COME?***

#### **JESUS – THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL**

Ask a dozen people who Jesus is, and you'll hear a dozen different answers. Some say He was a wise teacher. Others see Him as a miracle worker, a revolutionary, or a moral example. Whatever one may believe about Jesus, you can't deny that he has had a profound effect upon the human race. And it is important that we truly understand who he is and what he came to do. Scripture tells us that Jesus was far more than just a good man or moral teacher. The most important question any person will ever answer is this: Who is Jesus really, and do you believe he is who he says?

John 1:1-14 tells us that Jesus is the eternal Word—fully God, present at creation, and the One through whom all things were made. And yet this same eternal Word “became flesh and dwelt among us.” The God who spoke the universe into existence stepped into His creation as a man who walked beside us. In Jesus, God came near.

Colossians 1:15-20 expands upon this even further. Jesus is “the image of the invisible God,” the One who makes the Father known. Everything in heaven and on earth was created through Him and for Him. He holds all things together. And He came to reconcile all things to God through His blood. Jesus is not merely like God—He is God made visible.

Just as important as who Jesus was is why He came. Luke 19:10 gives us His mission in His own words: “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Jesus didn’t come to motivate us or give us a spiritual tune-up. He came on a rescue mission. He came for sinners, for wanderers, for the broken and the spiritually dead. He came for us.

Jesus lived a sinless life—perfect in obedience, flawless in purity, faithful in every word and action. He lived the life we were created to live but couldn’t attain. His perfection qualifies Him to be our substitute, our Savior, and our source of righteousness. He is not only the One we worship but also the One we follow.

The gospel message reaches its center in Jesus. He calls us to believe that He is the promised Messiah, the Savior who came for us, and the Lord who reigns over all. Understanding who Jesus truly is brings us from curiosity to conviction—and from conviction to life-changing faith.

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: WORD BECAME FLESH

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”***

*John 1:1-3*

### THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Jesus existed long before Bethlehem. In fact, He has always existed. When John speaks about the “Word,” he is talking about Jesus. John opens by revealing Jesus as the eternal Word, fully God, present at creation, and the source of all life. Yet this same eternal God took on human flesh. He walked among us.

The incarnation (taking on flesh) shows us God’s heart: He comes close. He enters our world, our limitations, and our pain. In Jesus, God did not remain far off. He came to us so we could know Him personally.

The God who created galaxies sat at dinner tables, touched the sick, wept with the grieving, and embraced the broken. Jesus is God made accessible, God made visible, God with us.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- John 1:14, 17
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Hebrews 1:1-3

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does it mean to you that God chose to come near in Jesus?
- How does Jesus' humanity help you trust Him more deeply?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about what it means that God stepped into your world through Jesus.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, thank You for coming near. Help me see Your heart through Jesus’ life and presence.

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: IMAGE OF AN INVISIBLE GOD

***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”***

*Colossians 1:15-17*

### THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

Jesus was both God and a human being. He was not 50% God and 50% human. He was fully God and fully human; one person with two distinct natures. Many wonder what God is really like. Jesus removes some of that the mystery. He is the visible image of the invisible God—meaning that Jesus showed us who God is. He shows us God’s compassion, His authority, His mercy, His purity, His power—all perfectly revealed in the person of Christ.

Jesus not only reveals God’s character; He reveals God’s heart. He shows us a God who heals, restores, forgives, and draws near to the broken. If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. In Him, we see the fullness of God’s glory wrapped in human flesh—a Savior who is both infinitely powerful and relentlessly loving.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- John 14:9
- Hebrews 2:14-17

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What characteristics of God do you see most clearly embodied in Jesus?
- How does Jesus help you understand your Father better?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about what Jesus reveals to you about the heart of God.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself through Jesus. Help me see You clearly as I look to Him.

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: A SAVIOR WHO SEEKS...US

***“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”***

*Luke 19:10*

#### THE SAVIOR WHO SEEKS US

Jesus came on a mission. The book of Matthew gives a good synopsis of His work on Earth. He “taught in their synagogues,” “proclaimed the good news of the kingdom,” and “healed every disease and sickness.” He preached, He taught, and He served others. In Luke, Jesus himself tells us He came “to seek and to save the lost.” He pursued the broken, the wandering, the forgotten, and the spiritually lost. He didn’t wait for people to clean themselves up before coming to Him. He met them where they were.

Jesus delights in finding the lost. He came for those who know they cannot save themselves. He came for those who feel far from God, weighed down by guilt, or unsure of where they stand.

Jesus came looking for us long before we ever went looking for Him.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Matthew 9:10-13
- John 10:10-11

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Where in your life do you most feel Jesus pursuing you with His love?
- How does knowing Jesus seeks the lost give you hope?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Reflect on a time when God sought you out in your brokenness.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, thank You for seeking and saving the lost, including me.

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: THE SINLESS ONE

***“He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth.”***

1 Peter 2:22

#### THE SINLESS ONE

Jesus experienced temptation just as we do, yet He never sinned. His purity wasn't distant or effortless; He lived it out in the midst of real temptation, real suffering, and real human weakness.

He accomplished something we never could. He lived a perfect, sinless life. And, because Jesus was sinless, He could stand in our place as the perfect sacrificial lamb. His life wasn't just an example of perfection, it was the righteousness we desperately needed.

The sinless one came and died for the sinful ones. The perfect, spotless lamb of God chose to bear our sin so we could receive His righteousness. This is the heart of redemption.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Hebrews 4:15
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 Peter 1:18-21

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- Why is Jesus' sinlessness essential to the gospel?
- How does knowing Jesus faced temptation encourage you in your own battles?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Reflect on what Jesus' perfect obedience means for your relationship with God.

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#### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You that Jesus lived the life I could not live. Help me trust in His righteousness, not my own.

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 5: OBEDIENT SON

***“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”***

*Philippians 2:8*

#### THE OBEDIENT SON

Jesus' obedience was not partial or conditional. It was complete. From His birth to His final breath, He lived in perfect submission to the Father's will. His obedience led Him all the way to the cross.

Where Adam disobeyed, Jesus obeyed. Where humanity failed, Jesus was faithful. Through His obedience, He opened the way for our salvation and reversed the curse of sin.

His obedience is not only our salvation—it is our example. He shows us what it means to trust the Father fully, even when the path is costly.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- John 6:38-40
- Romans 5:19-21

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- Where do you feel God inviting you to obey Him more fully?
- How does Jesus' obedience encourage you in your walk with Him?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Journal about an area where you need to trust and obey God, following Jesus' example.

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#### *Prayer:*

Father, shape my heart to reflect the obedience of Jesus. Give me courage to follow where You lead.

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL PRAYER PROMPT

Jesus, I worship You as my Savior, my Lord, and my God. Thank You for leaving heaven to come near, for stepping into humanity, and for revealing the heart of the Father so clearly. You are the eternal Word made flesh, the image of the invisible God, and the One who holds all things together.

Thank You for coming to seek and to save the lost. Thank You for Your sinless life, Your perfect obedience, and Your unwavering love. I confess that You are the Messiah, the Savior, and the only One who can rescue me from sin and bring me into life.

Draw me closer to You. Teach me to trust You more deeply, follow You more faithfully, and submit to You obediently.

Amen.

Before beginning Part 4, watch the **fourth** video of the  
“*Understanding the Gospel*” series playlist on the  
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## PART 4: TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS

### **WHAT DID THE CROSS ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISH?**

#### **THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS**

There are those who view the cross as a tragedy—a good man dying at the hands of evil men. But it was far more profound: the cross is a victory! It is the moment where God's justice and God's love meet. It is the centerpiece of redemption, the turning point of history, and the foundation of our salvation.

Isaiah 53:5–6 describes the Servant who would be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. The language is deeply personal; He would suffer for *our* sins. “The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Jesus took our place. He bore the punishment we deserved so that we might receive the peace only He could secure.

This truth is expanded in 2 Corinthians 5:21: “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” This is the great exchange - our sin placed on Christ and His righteousness given to us. Justice is not ignored; it's fully satisfied. Mercy is not withheld but lavishly poured out.

At the moment Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50–51). This was not merely symbolic; it was spiritual reality made visible. The barrier between God and humanity - caused by sin - was removed. Access was restored. We are now invited to draw near to God with confidence, not fear.

The cross reveals both the depth of human sin and the height of divine grace. It reminds us that our rebellion was serious enough to require the death of God's Son, yet God's love for us was strong enough to willingly provide that sacrifice. The cross is not just something Jesus endured—it is something He did for *you*. And through it, God offers forgiveness, freedom, and a restored relationship forever.

## TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: HE TOOK OUR PLACE

***“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”***

*Isaiah 53:5-6*

### HE TOOK OUR PLACE

Isaiah paints a vivid picture of the suffering Servant—wounded, crushed, and punished. But this suffering was not random or meaningless. It was substitution. Jesus stood where we should have stood and bore what we should have borne.

This is the heart of the gospel: Jesus in our place. He didn't deserve suffering; we did. Yet He willingly took our guilt, shame, and punishment so that we could be forgiven and restored. The cross is the ultimate demonstration of sacrificial love.

You are not saved by your effort, goodness, or religious performance. You are saved because Jesus took your place on the cross, carrying your sins so you could walk in freedom.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- 1 Peter 2:23-25
- Romans 5:6-11

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does it mean to you, personally, that Jesus took your place?
- How does Isaiah's description deepen your understanding of God's love?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Reflect on what it means to you personally that Jesus took your place. How has His sacrifice changed the way you see your past, your worth, or your relationship with God?

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, thank You for taking my place. Help me never forget the depth of Your sacrifice.

## TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: THE GREAT EXCHANGE

***“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”***

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

#### THE GREAT EXCHANGE

The cross is the greatest exchange in human history. Jesus, who was perfectly sinless, took on our sin. In return, we, sinful and guilty, receive His righteousness. This is not a symbolic gesture; it is a divine transaction that changes our standing before God forever.

Because of this exchange, for those who are in Christ, who've been covered with His blood, God no longer sees your failures. He sees the righteousness of His Son. You are accepted, forgiven, and declared righteous not because of anything you have done, but because of everything Jesus has done.

This truth sets us free from guilt, striving, and fear. We stand before God clothed in Christ's redeeming blood. Truly, this is good news.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Galatians 3:13
- Romans 4:23-25

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- How does the great exchange give you confidence before God?
- Why is Jesus' perfect righteousness essential to your salvation?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Reflect on what it means that you can be seen by God through the lens of the righteousness of Christ.

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#### *Prayer:*

Father, thank You for exchanging Christ's righteousness for my sin. Help me live in the freedom of this truth.

## TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: JUSTICE MEETS MERCY

***“It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”***

*Romans 3:26*

#### JUSTICE AND MERCY MEET (AT THE CROSS)

Many struggle to understand how God can be both loving and just. The cross provides the answer. His justice demands that sin be punished. God does not overlook sin—He deals with it fully. His love provided the needed sacrifice.

At the cross, justice and mercy meet perfectly. Jesus receives the judgment we deserved, and we receive the mercy He earned. God remains holy and righteous while extending forgiveness to sinners.

The cross shows us that sin is serious, love is costly, and grace is infinitely precious. This is where God's heart toward humanity is displayed most clearly.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Romans 3:21-26
- Exodus 34:6-7
- Psalm 85:10

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- How does knowing God is both just and loving shape your view of the cross?
- Why is it important that God's justice is fully satisfied?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about how the cross has shown you both God's justice and His mercy.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, thank You that Your justice and mercy meet perfectly at the cross. Help me treasure Your grace deeply.

## TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: THE TORN CURTAIN

***“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.”***

*Matthew 27:50-51*

#### THE CURTAIN WAS TORN

The tearing of the temple curtain at Jesus' death is one of the most powerful moments in Scripture. For centuries, the curtain symbolized separation, reminding Israel that sinful people cannot freely enter the presence of a holy God.

But in the moment Christ died, the barrier was removed. The way into God's presence was opened. Not through ritual. Not through priests. Through Jesus Himself.

We now have direct, confident access to God. We are welcomed, wanted, and invited into His presence—not because of our worthiness, but because of Christ's finished work.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Hebrews 10:19-22
- Ephesians 2:13-18

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does it mean to you that the curtain was torn and the way to God is now open to all?
- How does Christ's sacrifice change the way you approach God in prayer and worship?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Journal about the freedom and confidence you have to draw near to God through Jesus.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for tearing the barrier that once separated me from You. Help me draw near with confidence and trust.

## TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 5: IT IS FINISHED!

***“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”***

*John 19:30*

#### Tetelestai | τετέλεσται | It Is Finished

Jesus' final words on the cross were not a cry of defeat but a declaration of victory. "It is finished" means the work of salvation is complete. The debt is paid *in full*. The enemy is defeated. The sacrifice is accepted.

It is through Christ's finished work that we receive salvation. His blood covered our sins. We do not contribute to our salvation; we receive it by obedience through faith. This frees us from the exhausting and impossible burden of trying to earn God's approval.

Because the work is finished, we can live from a place of rest, assurance, and joy, knowing that Christ has done everything necessary to reconcile us to God.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Hebrews 9:11-15
- Colossians 2:13-15

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does "It is finished" mean for your daily walk with God?
- Where do you need to stop striving and fully trust in Christ's finished work?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about an area where you need to rest in the finished work of Jesus.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, thank You that Your work is complete. Help me live in the freedom and confidence of Your salvation.

## TRIUMPH AT THE CROSS PRAYER PROMPT

Jesus, thank You for the cross—the place where Your love and justice met perfectly. Thank You for taking my place, bearing my sin, and offering me Your righteousness in return. Your sacrifice reveals both the seriousness of my sin and the greatness of Your grace.

Thank You for tearing down every barrier that once separated me from God. Through Your blood, I have access, forgiveness, and peace. Help me to live each day in the freedom of Your finished work, resting in Your victory rather than my own efforts.

Draw my heart again to the wonder of the cross. Let its truth shape my identity, strengthen my faith, and deepen my love for You. Jesus, You have paid it all and I worship You with gratitude and awe.

Amen.

Before beginning Part 5, watch the **fifth** video of the  
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## PART 5: **THE EMPTY TOMB**

### ***DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?***

#### **THE EMPTY TOMB THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING**

The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Everything hinges on this one reality. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the whole Christian faith is destroyed. But if He *did* rise, then everything He said is true, everything He promised is secure, and everything He accomplished is complete.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 that the resurrection was not a myth or a symbolic story. It was a public, historical event supported by eyewitness testimony. Jesus appeared to Peter, to the apostles, to groups of believers, and even to more than five hundred people at once, most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote these words. These witnesses were willing to die for the truth that they had seen – that Jesus had risen and conquered death. This was not wishful thinking or an elaborate hoax. It was verifiable truth.

Romans 1:4 tells us that Jesus “was declared to be the Son of God in power... by His resurrection from the dead.” The empty tomb is God’s public declaration that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be. His resurrection proves His divinity, validates His teaching, and confirms His mission. The cross was not the end of Jesus’ story. It was the beginning of His victory, and ours.

The resurrection is also the defeat of our greatest enemy: death. When Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered death forever. He broke its power, robbed it of its sting, and turned the grave into a doorway to eternal life for all who believe. Because He lives, death is no longer something to fear.

This truth transforms everything. Our faith is anchored not in ideas or philosophy, but in historical fact. Our hope is secure because our Savior lives. Our future is guaranteed because the One who holds it has already overcome the grave. The resurrection calls us to live with confidence, courage, and joy—because the empty tomb truly changes everything.

## THE EMPTY TOMB

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

***“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,”***

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

### THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

Paul begins by declaring that the resurrection is of “first importance.” It is not an optional belief but is central to the gospel. If Jesus remained in the grave, there would be no forgiveness, no salvation, and no hope.

But Jesus did rise. His resurrection validates His death on the cross, proving that He truly defeated sin and paid our debt. It also confirms that He is alive today, reigning and interceding for His people.

The resurrection is the heartbeat of Christianity. Without it, faith has no pulse. With it, hope is alive and our future secure.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Acts 2:29-32
- Romans 6:9-10

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Why is the resurrection essential to the gospel?
- How does the resurrection strengthen your confidence in His promises to you?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Reflect on how your life would be different if Jesus had not risen from the dead.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, thank You that You are alive. Help me build my life on the truth of Your resurrection.

## THE EMPTY TOMB

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE

***“...and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”***

*1 Corinthians 15:5-8*

### EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE

The resurrection is supported by a wide range of eyewitnesses: individuals, groups, skeptics, and former enemies. These were men and women who saw Jesus, touched Him, ate with Him, and spoke with Him after His resurrection.

Luke and John describe physical interactions with the risen Christ, proof that His resurrection was bodily, not imaginary. Thomas touched Christ's crucifixion wounds. The disciples watched Him eat. These details show us that Christianity is rooted in real events, not religious imagination or some elaborate hoax as some may claim.

Our faith is built on evidence. The eyewitness testimony invites us to trust with both our hearts and our minds.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Luke 24:36-43
- John 20:24-29

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What stands out to you about the eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection?
- How does historical evidence strengthen your faith?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about why it matters that the resurrection was witnessed by real people.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, thank You for giving us credible, powerful evidence of the risen Christ.

## THE EMPTY TOMB

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: THE SON OF GOD

***“and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,”***

*Romans 1:4*

#### DECLARED THE SON OF GOD

The resurrection is God's declaration that Jesus is the Son of God. It is the ultimate validation of His identity, confirming that every claim He made was true. His authority, His divinity, His mission are all affirmed by the fact that the tomb was found empty.

If Jesus had stayed dead, He would have been just another religious teacher. But His resurrection proves that He is Lord, Judge, Savior, and King. It confirms His power over life and death and His right to rule over creation.

The empty tomb is God's way of saying, “This is My Son. Listen to Him.”

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Acts 17:29-31
- John 10:17-18

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- How does the resurrection confirm Jesus' identity?
- Which promise of Jesus means the most to you in light of His resurrection?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Reflect on what the empty tomb reveals about who Jesus truly is.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for declaring Jesus as Your Son in power. Help me trust Him fully.

## THE EMPTY TOMB

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: VICTORY OVER DEATH

***“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:***

***“Death is swallowed up in victory.”***

***“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”***

***The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

*1 Corinthians 15:54–57*

### VICTORY OVER DEATH

Death was humanity's greatest enemy - inescapable, universal, and undefeated. But Jesus conquered it. Through His resurrection, death lost its sting, and the grave lost its power.

Believers no longer face death with terror or uncertainty. We face it with confidence, knowing that Jesus has gone before us and opened the way to eternal life. His victory becomes our victory.

The resurrection transforms not just how we live, but how we die. It gives us courage, hope, and joy even in suffering.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Hebrews 2:14-15
- Revelation 1:17-18

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- How does Jesus' victory over death change your perspective on life and eternity?
- Where do you need resurrection hope in your life today?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

What fears about death, loss, or the unknown do you struggle with most? How does Jesus' resurrection speak directly to those fears?

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#### *Prayer:*

Jesus, thank You for conquering death. Help me live in the freedom of Your victory.

## THE EMPTY TOMB

### JOURNAL ENTRY 5: A LIVING HOPE

***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”***

1 Peter 1:3

#### A LIVING HOPE

Peter describes the hope we have in Christ as a “living hope.” Our hope is not fragile or temporary, but alive and active, because it is anchored in a Savior who conquered death.

This living hope carries us through trials, strengthens us in waiting, and points us toward eternity. Because Jesus lives, our future is secure, our present should be purposeful, and our faith unshakable.

The resurrection means we do not hope in vain. We hope with confidence because our Savior lives forever.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- John 11:25-26
- Titus 2:11-14

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What does it mean to you that your hope is “living?”
- How does the resurrection shape the way you face trials or fears?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

What kind of legacy does resurrection hope inspire you to leave behind?

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for giving me a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. Help me cling to it daily.

## THE EMPTY TOMB PRAYER PROMPT

Risen Savior, I worship You as the One who conquered death and rose in victory so that I too may have victory over death. Thank You that my faith is not built on feelings or wishes, but on the unshakable truth of Your resurrection. You are alive, and because You live, I have a hope that cannot be shaken.

Thank You that Your empty tomb provides me the opportunity to receive full forgiveness, secures my future, and transforms my present. When I face fear, uncertainty, or sorrow, remind me that You have already overcome the grave. Let the reality of Your resurrection fill me with confidence, joy, and steadfast faith.

Help me live each day in the power of Your resurrection. Teach me to trust You boldly, follow You faithfully, and proclaim Your victory with courage and love. Jesus, You are alive...and that changes everything.

Amen.

Before beginning Part 6, watch the **sixth** video of the  
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## PART 6: A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### ***HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL?***

#### **THE GOSPEL CALLS FOR A RESPONSE**

The gospel is not just a message to hear and understand, it is an invitation to respond. God sent his son, Jesus Christ, to save sinners, and now He calls every one of us to respond to that good news. The life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus demand a response from every heart. We do not drift into salvation; we respond to the Savior who calls us by name. But how?

Romans 10:9-10 shows us that responding to the gospel begins with faith. Faith is not wishful thinking or vague belief but fully trusting that Christ is who He says and accomplished all the Bible records. It is placing the full weight of your life on what Jesus has done; on the fact that He lived, died, and rose again—and that His death and resurrection are our only hope. Confession flows from that faith as we acknowledge Jesus as Lord—openly, joyfully, and personally.

Acts 3:19 tells us that repentance is also essential. Repentance is not simply feeling remorse about our sin. It is doing an about-face; turning away from it and turning toward God. As the Easy-to-Read Bible version says in Acts 2:38, “Change your hearts and lives...” Repentance is a complete change of direction and realignment of our hearts.

Acts 2:38 goes on to provide the next step in responding to the Good News. “And be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (ERV) Scripture records baptism in every response to the gospel after Jesus’ resurrection. If we are to believe and obey scripture and Jesus’ teaching, baptism is neither optional, nor symbolic. It’s when we are born again of both the water and the Spirit.

Responding to the gospel is not the finish line; it’s the starting line. Obeying the Gospel leads to transformation. God begins shaping us into the image of Christ. Our desires change, our priorities shift, and our lives reflect the grace we have received. The gospel invites us into a lifelong journey of faith, surrender, and growth.

Understanding the gospel is important, but responding to it is essential. Jesus calls each of us to put our faith in Him, confess Him as Lord, turn from our sin, be united with Him in baptism, and walk daily in newness of life.

## A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: MORE THAN BELIEF

***“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”***

*Romans 10:9*

#### FAITH – MORE THAN MERE BELIEF

Faith is the beginning of our response to the gospel. Faith is not just a passive belief; it is an action. True faith is not merely agreeing that Jesus exists, but rather it is trusting Him personally and completely. Faith fully believes and trusts that Jesus lived, died, and rose again—and that His death and resurrection are our only hope. Faith leads us to trust God in our daily life, seek Him in prayer, and live according to His word.

Faith may seem like a simple act, but it is strong enough to save the world. It is the open hand that receives the gift of salvation Jesus freely offers. Confession flows naturally from that faith as we acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Hebrews 11:6
- John 3:16

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- What does trusting Jesus, and not yourself, look like in your daily life?
- Why do faith and confession go hand-in-hand?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Write about where you are placing your trust today: your own effort or Christ's finished work.

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#### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus, strengthen my faith and help me trust fully in what You have done for me.

## A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: TURNING BACK TO GOD

***“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.”***

Acts 3:19

### TURNING BACK TO GOD

Repentance can be a difficult concept to grasp and is likely one of the most misunderstood words in Christianity. It is not harsh, shame-filled, or condemning. Repentance is an invitation; an opportunity to turn from what destroys us and return to the God who loves us.

True repentance involves both sorrow over sin and a desire to walk in a new direction. It is a change of heart and life. A reorientation choosing God's way over our own and stepping into the freedom a life in Christ provides.

When we repent, God does not meet us with condemnation. He meets us with forgiveness and refreshment. Repentance opens the door to healing, hope, and restoration.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Acts 2:38-39
- Acts 26:20
- 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What is one area of your life where God is inviting you to turn back to Him?
- How does seeing repentance as a gift change your perspective?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Reflect on a moment when repentance brought you closer to God.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, continually draw my heart back to You. Help me turn from sin and walk in Your ways.

## A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: BURIED AND RAISED

*“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”*

*Romans 6:3-5*

#### BURIED AND RAISED WITH CHRIST

Baptism is not merely symbolic. It is a beautiful moment of connection with Christ and His saving blood. In baptism, we are united with Him in a death and resurrection like His. Just as profound are the gifts of grace received at baptism. “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**.” (Acts 2:38)

Baptism isn't how, but rather when, we're saved. As scripture says, it is when we are united with Christ, when sins are forgiven, and when you receive the Holy Spirit. Baptism marks the beginning of a new identity as children of God. We are *born again* of both the water and the Spirit. Our response to the gospel is the starting line of a new life in Christ.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- John 3:3
- Colossians 2:12
- Galatians 3:27

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- How does seeing baptism as a moment of *union with Christ* - not just a symbol - change the way you understand your own salvation story?
- What does it mean to you personally that baptism marks the *beginning* of new life, not the end of your response to the gospel?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Reflect on how your identity has changed since coming to Christ.

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#### *Prayer:*

Jesus, thank You for uniting me with Your death and resurrection. Help me walk in newness of life.

## A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: BEGINNING A NEW LIFE

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”***

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

#### THE NEW LIFE BEGINS

Salvation doesn't just change your status before God. It changes your life. When you come to Christ, you become a new creation. The old has gone; the new has come. God begins a lifelong process of reshaping you into the image of Jesus from the inside out.

This transformation is not a perfection that happens overnight. It is an ongoing renewal. God works on your heart, your desires, your choices, and your character. He completes what He begins, and He never stops working in those He saves.

Responding to the gospel means embracing this journey of growth and letting God continue His work in you.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Titus 3:5-8
- Philippians 1:6

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- In what ways have you experienced God changing your heart or desires?
- Where do you sense God still shaping you?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Journal about an area where you can see God making you new.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for making me a new creation. Continue Your good work in my life.

## A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### JOURNAL ENTRY 5: FOLLOWING DAILY

***“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”***

*Luke 9:23*

#### FOLLOWING JESUS DAILY

Responding to the gospel is not a one-time decision. It is a daily commitment. Jesus calls us to follow Him daily, laying down our old selves and embracing the life He gives. This is not a burden but a joy, because Christ walks with us every step of the way.

Following Jesus means surrendering our own agenda and trusting His leadership. It means letting His love shape our choices, His truth guide our steps, and His Spirit empower our lives.

Every day is a new opportunity to follow Jesus in faith, obedience, and love.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Romans 12:1-2
- Galatians 2:20

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- What does following Jesus look like for you in your day today?
- Which part of Jesus' call challenges you the most?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

What does it mean for you in your life to take up your cross daily?

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#### *Prayer:*

Lord Jesus, help me follow You wholeheartedly. Shape my life around Your truth and Your love.

## A CALL FOR RESPONSE

### PRAYER PROMPT

Jesus, thank You for calling me to respond to the good news of your salvation. Thank You for inviting me into faith, forgiveness, and new life. Help me trust fully in, confess You boldly as Lord, respond with obedience, and walk each day in the grace You provide.

Lord, lead me in true repentance. Turn my heart away from anything that draws me from You and fill me with a desire to walk in obedience. Thank You for the gift of baptism and the new identity I have in You - dead to sin, alive in Christ, and filled with hope.

Strengthen me to follow You daily. Shape my heart, my thoughts, my desires, and my steps. Let my life be an ongoing response to Your love and a reflection of the salvation you provide.

Amen.

Before beginning Part 7, watch the **seventh** video of the  
“*Understanding the Gospel*” series playlist on the  
KYB – Know Your Bible YouTube Channel.  
[www.youtube.com/@KYB-Know-Your-Bible](http://www.youtube.com/@KYB-Know-Your-Bible)



## PART 7: **FOLLOWING JESUS**

### ***WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS?***

#### **FOLLOWING JESUS - A TRANSFORMED LIFE**

For many people, salvation is viewed as the pinnacle, the finish line. But Scripture is clear that salvation is the starting line, the beginning of a lifelong journey of following Jesus. Responding to the gospel is the beginning of a transformed life. Jesus invites us not just to believe in Him, but to become like Him.

In Luke 9:23, Jesus defines discipleship clearly and simply: “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” Following Jesus means surrendering our will to His, laying down our old patterns, and trusting His leadership. As the scripture notes, this is not a one-time act but a daily choice; a rhythm of surrender and obedience shaped by His love.

We do not work at becoming Christ-like on our own, praise God! For a new Christian, the indwelling (or permanent presence) of the Holy Spirit moves and motivates us from the inside to be obedient to God. Galatians 5:22-25 reminds us that the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of a Christlike spirit in us - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We walk by the Spirit, not by the flesh. Discipleship is not self-improvement; it is Spirit-empowered transformation. It is intentionally putting to death the old ways and putting on the new ways of Christ.

Following Jesus is also deeply connected to His church. Acts 2:42-47 details the early believers devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, prayer, and shared life. Romans 12 tells us that each believer has gifts meant to strengthen the body. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges us not to neglect meeting together, because we need community, encouragement, and accountability. Discipleship, while personal, is not meant to be private.

To follow Jesus means to learn to be like him—to make him Lord in every area of life. It means becoming more like Him as the Spirit works in us day by day. It means walking with others in the church, serving with joy, and growing in grace.

The journey of following Jesus is costly, but it is also beautiful and joy-filled. It is the path of transformation, the way of abundant life, and the call He extends to every believer: “Follow Me.”

## FOLLOWING JESUS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: SURRENDERING DAILY

***“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”***

*Matthew 16:24-25*

#### THE CALL TO DAILY SURRENDER

Jesus' call to follow Him is simple, but not easy. It begins with denying ourselves—laying down our desire to control our own lives. It continues with taking up our cross daily—choosing obedience even when it costs us. And it leads us into a life of following Him step by step.

Daily surrender is not about losing yourself; it is about finding true life in Christ. It is saying “yes” to Jesus again and again, trusting that His ways are best, His leadership is wise, and His love is steady.

Discipleship is a daily choice to put to death the old ways, walk with Jesus, listen to Him, and obey Him. Every day is a fresh opportunity to surrender and follow.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- John 12:26
- Galatians 2:20

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- What part of daily surrender is hardest for you?
- How does surrendering to Jesus lead to greater freedom?

#### *Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Write about an area where Jesus is inviting you to surrender your life more fully.

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#### *Prayer:*

Lord, help me deny myself, take up my cross, and follow You with a willing heart each day.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”***

*Galatians 5:22-25*

#### WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

Becoming like Jesus is not something we achieve through willpower. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within us, producing love, joy, peace, and all the qualities that reflect Jesus' heart. To take up our cross daily means that we are to be constantly crucifying (putting to death) our old, disobedient ways and putting on the new practices with the Spirit's help.

Walking by the Spirit means choosing His voice over the pull of the flesh. It means allowing God to shape our attitudes, reactions, desires, and decisions. Transformation is not behavior modification, but rather heart renovation.

As we stay in step with the Spirit, He forms Christ in us and empowers us to live the life Jesus calls us to live.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Romans 8:5-11
- John 14:26

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Where do you see the Holy Spirit producing fruit in your life?
- What would it look like to walk more closely with the Spirit this week?

***Journal Prompt:*** (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*  
Reflect on a moment when you sensed the Spirit guiding or convicting you.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Holy Spirit, produce Your fruit in me. Help me walk in step with You every day.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY

***“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”***

*Acts 2:42*

#### THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY

Following Jesus was never meant to be a solo journey. The early church shows us a picture of community centered on teaching, fellowship, communion, prayer, and genuine care for one another. They shared meals, resources, lives, and grew in faith together.

Community strengthens us, encourages us, and keeps us anchored in truth. We need other believers to support us, challenge us, and remind us of God's promises. And others need the same from us as well.

We need each other in this life and the strength we derive from one another. The church is not an event or a place. It is a family. It is where discipleship grows and Christ's love is lived out in real relationships.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Acts 2:42-47
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- John 13:34-35

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- How has Christian community strengthened your faith?
- Where might God be inviting you to engage more deeply with His church?

#### ***Journal Prompt: (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)***

Write about someone in the church who has helped you grow spiritually.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, thank You for the gift of your church and the community it provides. Help me love, serve, and grow with others in the body of Christ.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: SERVING THE BODY

***“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”***

*Romans 12:4-5*

### USING YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE THE BODY

Every believer has been given gifts, abilities meant to strengthen the church and honor Christ. No one is “gift less.” No one is unnecessary. Together, we form one body, each with an important function and essential to the whole.

Serving with our gifts is not about recognition; it is about contribution. God designed you with purpose. Your gifts - whether teaching, serving, encouraging, giving, or leading - are meant to build others up.

Following Jesus means participating in His mission and using what He has given you to bless His people.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-31
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What gifts has God given you to serve in His church?
- How are you currently using (or not using) those gifts?

#### ***Journal Prompt:*** (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...*)

In what ways can you serve the body of Christ more intentionally?

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#### ***Prayer:***

Father, thank You for the gifts You have given me. Show me where and how to use them for Your glory.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

### JOURNAL ENTRY 5: BECOMING LIKE JESUS

***“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”***

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

### BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS

Transformation into Christ's likeness is a process. Day by day, the Holy Spirit shapes us, renews us, and matures us. We grow "from one degree of glory to another," slowly but surely becoming more like Jesus.

God initiates by working good things into us through his Spirit, but we must work in cooperation with the Spirit to implement those things in our life...He works in us, and we respond with obedience, humility, and trust. Over time, our thoughts, desires, habits, and actions begin to reflect the heart of Christ. Following Jesus means embracing this journey and allowing Him to continue His transforming work in every part of our lives.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Philippians 2:12-13
- Colossians 3:9-10, 12-15

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- In what areas do you desire to become more like Jesus?
- How have you seen God transform you over time?

#### ***Journal Prompt:*** (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)*

Write about a part of your life where you want to reflect Jesus more clearly.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, transform me into Your image. Keep shaping my heart to look more like Yours.

## FOLLOWING JESUS PRAYER PROMPT

Jesus, thank You for calling me to follow You. Help me surrender myself to Your will and Your leadership each day, trusting You and walking in obedience to Your Word. Teach me to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow You with joy and faithfulness.

Holy Spirit, work in me and produce Your fruit in my life. Empower me to walk in step with You—choosing love, peace, patience, and all the qualities that reflect Christ. Shape my character and guide my steps as I grow in grace.

Lord, help me stay rooted in Your church, serving with the gifts You have given me and loving others deeply. Continue transforming me into Your image, day by day. Make me more like You in every area of my life.

Amen.

Before beginning Part 8, watch the **eighth** video of the  
“*Understanding the Gospel*” series playlist on the  
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## PART 8: A GOSPEL FOR ALL

### ***WHY DOES THE GOSPEL STILL MATTER TODAY?***

#### **THE GOSPEL FOR EVERY GENERATION**

In every generation, there have been those who question the authenticity and relevance of the gospel. Our world changes quickly—technology advances, cultures shift, and values evolve. But beneath all the change, the human heart and condition remain the same. We still long for meaning, forgiveness, hope, and rescue. The gospel speaks to the deepest needs of every person, in every age.

The gospel gives meaning to suffering. In a world filled with pain, confusion, and brokenness, the good news of Jesus reminds us that God is not distant. He entered our suffering, endured our pain, and overcame our worst enemy. Because Jesus rose from the dead, our suffering is never the end of the story. God is working redemption in every hardship, and His promises anchor us with hope, now and forever.

The gospel also gives purpose to life. Jesus, in what we often refer to as the Great Commission, told His followers in Matthew 28:18-20 to, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This mission is not reserved for ministers and missionaries. It belongs to every believer. Our lives matter because they are part of God’s eternal story. We exist to know Christ, to grow in Him, and to share Him with a lost and broken world.

Finally, the gospel gives hope beyond death. Revelation 21:1-5 paints a picture of the future God is preparing – of a new creation, restored life, and a world without pain, tears, or death. The gospel is not just about avoiding judgment; it is about entering a future filled with glory and joy, forever in God’s presence.

The gospel matters today because it is the only message powerful enough to save, heal, restore, and renew. It is not ancient news. It is eternal truth! In a world starving for hope, the gospel remains the one sure foundation. It is still the power of God for salvation, and it will continue to matter for every generation to come.

## A GOSPEL FOR ALL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 1: HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD

***“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,”***

*2 Corinthians 4:16-17*

#### HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD

Life is filled with hardship, broken relationships, suffering, loss, and pressures that weigh on our hearts. But the gospel reminds us that our trials are temporary compared to the eternal glory God is preparing for us. He is close to the brokenhearted and present in every moment of pain.

This perspective doesn't minimize our suffering but rather gives it meaning. In Christ, nothing is wasted. Everything is being woven into God's redemptive plan, drawing us closer to Him and shaping us into His image.

The gospel sustains us because it promises what suffering cannot steal: eternal hope.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Romans 8:18-25
- Psalm 34:18

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- What trial or hardship are you facing right now?
- How does the promise of eternal glory reshape the way you see your suffering?

#### ***Journal Prompt:*** (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...*)

Write about a difficult moment and how God met you in and saw you through it.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, help me fix my eyes on what is unseen and eternal. Strengthen my heart with Your hope.

## A GOSPEL FOR ALL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 2: A MISSION THAT MATTERS

***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

*Matthew 28:19-20*

### A MISSION THAT REALLY MATTERS

Jesus' final words to His disciples – the Great Commission - provided them with their mission. Just like He did for them, He sends us into the world with purpose: to make disciples, to share the good news, and to teach others to follow Him. This mission gives our lives eternal significance.

The gospel is too good to keep to ourselves. Every believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ's love through words, actions, compassion, and truth. Our everyday interactions become opportunities to point people to Jesus.

You are part of God's mission—and He equips you to carry out that mission.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Acts 1:8
- Romans 10:14-17

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Who in your life needs to hear or see the gospel through you?
- What step can you take this week to live out the Great Commission?

#### ***Journal Prompt:*** (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...*)

Journal about how God might be leading you to share the gospel, or who He is nudging you to share it with.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, give me courage and compassion to share Your Good News with others.

## A GOSPEL FOR ALL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 3: A NEW CREATION COMING

***“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.”***

*Revelation 21:1 (read vs 1-5)*

#### A NEW CREATION IS COMING

The gospel message is not just about saving souls. It is also about renewing all creation. God promises a future where every trace of brokenness will be removed. A new heaven and new earth will replace the old, and God Himself will once again dwell with His people.

This vision gives us hope when the world feels dark. It reminds us that evil will not have the last word - God will. Every tear will be wiped away, and all things will be restored under Christ's reign.

Our eternal hope is anchored in God's promise to make all things new.

#### *Additional Study Scriptures:*

- Isaiah 65:17
- 2 Peter 3:13

#### *Reflection Questions:*

- What part of God's promise in Revelation 21 encourages you most?
- How does the hope of new creation impact the way you live today?

#### *Journal Prompt:* (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...*)

What are you most excited about when you think about eternity with Christ?

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#### *Prayer:*

Father, thank You for the promise of a new creation. Help me live with hope and expectation.

## A GOSPEL FOR ALL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 4: LIVING WITH ETERNAL HOPE

***“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”***

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*

#### LIVING WITH ETERNAL HOPE

The return of Jesus is not merely a distant idea. It is the blessed hope of every believer. One day, the Lord will return, the dead in Christ will rise, and we will be with Him forever. This hope anchors our souls and gives strength to endure whatever we face.

Knowing that Jesus is coming again helps us live with purpose, purity, and courage. We are citizens of heaven, waiting for our Savior who will transform everything, including our own bodies.

Eternal hope does not remove present struggles, but it does remove fear of the future and provides the strength to persevere.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- John 14:1-4
- Philippians 3:20-21

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- How does the promise of Jesus' return encourage you today?
- What would it look like to live with a more eternal perspective?

***Journal Prompt:*** (Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...)  
Reflect on how the return of Christ brings hope into your daily life.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Jesus, help me live with anticipation of Your return. Strengthen me with eternal hope.

## A GOSPEL FOR ALL

### JOURNAL ENTRY 5: THE GOSPEL FOR EVERY GENERATION

***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”***

*Romans 1:16*

### THE GOSPEL FOR EVERY GENERATION

The gospel does not expire. It does not lose its power. It is not shaped by culture shifts or limited by time. It remains the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes and obeys - young and old, past and present, near and far.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His truth endures throughout all generations. The world may change, but the gospel never will. And through every generation, God calls His people to proclaim it boldly and live it faithfully.

You are part of the ongoing story of the gospel—a message that will outlast every age.

#### ***Additional Study Scriptures:***

- Hebrews 13:8
- Psalm 145:4

#### ***Reflection Questions:***

- Where do you see the gospel meeting the deepest needs of our current generation?
- How has the gospel continued to speak to you through different seasons of your life?

#### ***Journal Prompt:*** (*Journal about a reflection question or the following idea...*)

Write about how you want to carry the gospel forward in your generation.

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#### ***Prayer:***

Lord, give me boldness and confidence in the power of Your gospel for all people.

## A GOSPEL FOR ALL PRAYER PROMPT

Father, thank You for the eternal truth of the gospel. In a world filled with uncertainty and noise, Your good news remains my unshakable foundation. Help me anchor my hope, identity, and purpose in all that You have done through Jesus.

Lord, give me courage to live out the mission You've given to your people...to share the gospel with my words, my actions, and my life. Fill me with love for people, passion for Your kingdom, and boldness to proclaim Your truth in my generation.

Renew my heart with the promise of the new creation. Help me live with eternity in mind, longing for the day when You make all things new. Until that day comes, keep me faithful, joyful, and confident in Your unchanging promises.

Amen.

## Closing Reflection

As you come to the end of this study, it's important to remember that the gospel is not something we simply *finish learning about*—it is something we spend our whole lives growing deeper into. Over these eight sessions, you've walked through the story of the good news from its meaning and necessity to its fulfillment in Jesus, its victory at the cross and resurrection, and its continuing power to transform lives today.

This study was designed not just to inform you—but to invite you into a deeper relationship with Jesus and a more gospel-shaped life. The journey doesn't end here. In many ways, it is only beginning.

## Key Takeaways

- **The Gospel Is Good News, Not Good Advice**

It is the announcement of what God has done, not a list of things we must do to earn His favor.

- **Sin Is the Problem the Gospel Solves**

Our brokenness is relational, and only Jesus can restore what sin has shattered.

- **Jesus Is the Center of the Gospel**

Fully God and fully man, He came to seek and save the lost.

- **The Cross Was a Triumph, Not a Tragedy**

At the cross, God's justice was satisfied and His mercy was poured out.

- **The Resurrection Changes Everything**

Jesus truly rose from the dead, defeating sin and death and securing our hope forever.

- **The Gospel Demands a Response**

Faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and transformation are the natural response to the good news.

- **Following Jesus Is a Daily Journey**

Discipleship is not an event but a lifelong process of becoming like Christ.

- **The Gospel Still Matters Today**

It gives meaning to suffering, purpose to life, and hope beyond death. It is God's power to save in every generation.

## Final Encouragement

Wherever you are in your walk with God—just beginning, returning after a season away, or pressing forward in maturity—never move on from the gospel. Let it continue to shape how you think, how you love, how you forgive, how you endure,

and how you hope. The gospel is not only the doorway into the Christian life; it is the foundation and fuel for every step that follows.

### **KYB Invitation**

Keep your momentum in God's word going! We'd love to continue studying with you. You can request an in-depth Bible study, supported by a KYB Study Helper, by completing the form at [www.knowyourbible.com/biblestudyrequest](http://www.knowyourbible.com/biblestudyrequest). We look forward to continuing to meet you in the pages of God's word.

### **About KYB – Know Your Bible**

Know Your Bible exists to teach God's word to truth-seekers worldwide, empowering them to understand scripture and live confidently for Christ.

KYB – Know Your Bible is an online ministry of the churches of Christ. While supported by many congregations of the Lord's body, the primary host congregation for KYB is:

Northside Church of Christ | 4545 N Meridian Ave | Wichita, KS 67204

***To find and follow KYB – Know Your Bible online, check out the following:***

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## ***Understanding the Gospel – Small Group Discussion Guide***

### **How to Use This Discussion Guide**

This study was designed to be flexible and accessible for a wide range of group settings, including Bible studies, home groups, student ministries, and discipleship groups. Whether your group is made up of brand-new believers, long-time followers of Jesus, or a mix of both, these sessions are meant to foster meaningful conversation, spiritual growth, and deeper engagement with the gospel.

Each week corresponds with one video or main teaching session and is supported by devotional readings, discussion questions, and Dig Deeper Scriptures. Together, these tools help groups move beyond information into transformation.

### **Recommended 45–50 Minute Session Flow**

#### **1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 minutes)**

- Greet one another and allow for brief connection.
- Open with prayer, asking God to guide the conversation and open hearts.

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#### **2. Teaching Content (Watch or Review) (10–15 minutes)**

- Watch the video together *or* provide a short summary of the main teaching.
- Encourage the group to listen for:
  - What does this passage reveal about God?
  - What does it reveal about us?
  - What response is God inviting?

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#### **3. Small Group Discussion (20 minutes)**

- Select **3–4 discussion questions** (not all of them).
- Choose a mix of:
  - One **heart-level question**
  - One **Scripture-based question**
  - One **application question**

#### **Leader Tips:**

- Encourage everyone to participate, but never force responses.
- Allow silence - reflection often precedes good discussion.
- Gently guide conversations back to the gospel if they drift.
- Keep answers God-centered rather than performance-centered.

#### 4. Dig Deeper Scripture (5–7 minutes)

Choose **one** Dig Deeper Scripture using one of these options:

##### **Option 1: Read Together**

- Have someone read it aloud.
- Ask:
  - What stands out?
  - What does this teach us about the gospel?

##### **Option 2: One-Minute Reflection**

- Give the group one quiet minute to scan the verse.
- Invite 1-2 brief responses.

This keeps Scripture central without overwhelming your time.

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#### 5. Prayer & Weekly Application (5–8 minutes)

- Ask:
  - What is one truth you are taking with you this week?
  - What is one area where you sense God calling you to respond?
- Close in prayer:
  - Pray over shared needs
  - Pray for obedience, courage, and trust
  - Pray for people to encounter Christ through the week

### How to Use the Discussion Questions Effectively

The discussion questions are intentionally designed to:

- Draw participants into **personal reflection**
- Encourage **biblical engagement**
- Foster **honest conversation**
- Lead toward **life application**

### Helpful Tips for Leaders

- You don't need to answer every question. Choose the ones that best fit your group.
- Allow silence - it often means people are thinking deeply.
- Affirm all honest contributions, even when they are still forming.
- Gently redirect if conversations drift away from the gospel.
- Keep the focus on **what God is doing**, not on debating secondary issues.

## How to Use the Dig Deeper Scriptures

The Dig Deeper Scriptures are included for those who want to go further into God's Word. They can be used in several ways:

### Option 1: Group Reading

- Read one passage aloud together.
- Ask simple questions:
  - What does this tell us about God?
  - What does this tell us about us?
  - How does this help us understand the gospel more clearly?

### Option 2: Homework Preparation

- Encourage each person to read one Dig Deeper passage before the group meets.
- Ask the group to share what stood out to them.

### Option 3: Advanced Group Study

- For more mature groups, use Dig Deeper as your primary text for discussion.
- Let the Scripture guide the full conversation rather than the provided questions.

## Creating a Healthy Discussion Environment

For the best experience, leaders should aim to create a space that is:

- **Grace-filled** - no one is judged for where they are in their faith
- **Scripture-centered** - God's Word is the final authority
- **Safe and welcoming** - honesty is encouraged
- **Gospel-focused** - every conversation returns to Jesus and His work

Growth happens best where people feel safe enough to be honest and supported enough to take steps of faith.

## Final Encouragement

You do not need to be an expert. The Holy Spirit is the true teacher. Your role is simply to:

- Open God's Word
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Encourage participation
- Pray faithfully
- Point people to Jesus

If you do that, God will do the rest.

## **WEEK 1: WHAT DOES THE WORD “GOSPEL” REALLY MEAN?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- When you hear the word “gospel,” what comes to mind? How has your understanding of this word changed over time?
- What does Isaiah 52:7 reveal about the nature of good news?
- What differences do you see between good news and good advice?
- How does viewing the gospel as an announcement instead of a lifestyle change the way we share it?
- What part of Jesus’ proclamation in Mark 1:14-15 stands out to you?
- How does defining the gospel as “news to believe” affect your daily faith?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- Isaiah 40:9-11
- Romans 1:1-6
- Mark 8:34-38

## **WEEK 2: WHY DO WE NEED GOOD NEWS?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why is a right understanding of sin necessary for understanding salvation?
- What does Genesis 1:27 teach us about God’s design for humanity?
- How would you explain sin as “relationship-breaking” rather than “rule-breaking”?
- Where do you see the brokenness of sin most clearly in our world today?
- How does acknowledging our need prepare our hearts for God’s grace?
- What challenged you most from this week’s teaching?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- Genesis 3:1-13
- Romans 5:12-19
- Psalm 51:1-12

## **WEEK 3: WHO IS JESUS AND WHY DID HE COME?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why do some admire Jesus but hesitate to submit to Him as Lord?
- What does John 1:1-14 reveal about Jesus’ divine identity?
- Which part of Jesus’ earthly mission is most meaningful to you?
- How does Jesus’ sinless life strengthen your confidence in His sacrifice?
- What convinces you that Jesus truly is the promised Messiah?
- How would you explain Jesus’ identity to someone curious about Him?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- Colossians 1:15-23
- Hebrews 1:1-4
- Luke 19:1-10

## **WEEK 4: WHAT DID THE CROSS ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISH?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- What emotions or thoughts come to mind when reflecting on the cross?
- How do Isaiah 53:5–6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21 deepen your understanding of substitution?
- Why does substitutionary atonement matter for the Christian faith?
- What does the torn temple curtain symbolize for our access to God?
- Where do you need to more deeply trust Jesus' words - "It is finished"?
- How can we speak about the cross in a way that highlights both justice and love?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- Romans 3:21-26
- Hebrews 10:11-22
- John 19:28-30

## **WEEK 5: DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why is the resurrection central to Christian faith?
- What eyewitness account in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 stands out most to you?
- How does the resurrection validate Jesus' identity?
- In what areas of life does Jesus' victory over death give you courage?
- What evidence helps strengthen your belief in the resurrection?
- How does knowing Jesus is alive impact your life today?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- Luke 24:1-12
- John 20:19-31
- Acts 2:22-36

## **WEEK 6: HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- How would you explain salvation to someone new to Christianity?
- Why is repentance essential and not just optional?
- What new insights do you have about baptism after this study?
- In what ways has God begun transforming you into a new creation?
- What does daily surrender look like for you?
- What next step is God prompting you to take in response to the gospel?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- James 2:14-26
- Acts 8:26-39
- Romans 12:1-2

## **WEEK 7: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- When Jesus calls us to “take up our cross daily,” what does He mean?
- What fruit of the Spirit is most evident in your life right now?
- How has Christian community strengthened your walk with God?
- What spiritual gifts has God given you to serve the church?
- In what ways are you becoming more like Jesus?
- What part of this week’s teaching challenged or encouraged you most?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- Galatians 6:1-10
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Philippians 2:1-11

## **WEEK 8: WHY DOES THE GOSPEL STILL MATTER TODAY?**

### **Discussion Questions**

- Where do you see the world’s brokenness most clearly today?
- How does the gospel give meaning to suffering?
- Which part of the Great Commission challenges you the most?
- What promise from Revelation 21 gives you hope?
- Why does the gospel remain relevant across cultures and generations?
- How can your group carry the gospel forward in your community?

### **Dig Deeper Scriptures**

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Revelation 22:1-5

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