

LESSON ESSENTIALS

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 9: What is the Gospel Truth - God's Solution

Since Adam and Eve sinned, God had a plan to save mankind. This plan was predicted by prophecies throughout the Old Testament. Jesus came into the world to solve the problem of sin and its consequences. This lesson will acquaint you with God's amazing plan of salvation and redemption. Read on to examine the details of the Gospel to give you a new appreciation for God's love for us.

This lesson will give you clarity on the various elements that need to be incorporated when you are sharing the Gospel message with someone.

About 700 years before Christ was born on earth, God spoke through his prophet Isaiah in 7:14, 'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.' Just like His name Immanuel (God with us), Jesus demonstrated God's love and goodness to us, and showed us that God is truly with us.

We all love to receive good news! A new job, a marriage or birth in the family, something wonderful happening to us or a friend— it can make us so happy. But have you ever noticed that this happiness is only short lived? With the worries and tasks of our daily lives, the initial happiness seems to fade. What if you could tell someone about Good News that would enhance their life and bring them joy that increases over time? That's the Gospel! It is called the Good News for a reason! Through God's gift of salvation, the Gospel tells us how we can be saved from the worries of life, the guilt of sin and the fear of death.

The Gospel tells us that God "saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began" (2 Timothy 1:9). God's plan to save man was first revealed back when Adam and Eve sinned, when God tells Satan how he would be defeated (Genesis 3:15). This is the first prophecy recorded in the Bible that related to Christ, and was fulfilled many years later by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

Let's look at the life of Jesus to understand how He fulfilled the prophecy of the Good News. When Jesus was born, it was God coming to earth to reach out to us. The Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 3:16 that, 'God was manifest in flesh'. About 700 years before Christ was born on earth, God spoke through his prophet Isaiah in 7:14, 'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.' Just like His name Immanuel (God with us), Jesus demonstrated God's love and goodness to us, and showed us that God is truly with us. Jesus lowered himself to live among us, and even going beyond that, he chose a humble existence. Rather than being born as a prince or living in luxury, Jesus abandoned comforts and was born into a humble family. In this, in facing temptation, and in all other aspects, he lived just as we would. This showed us that God understands our struggles and He is with us.

Jesus touched hearts, showing God's love wherever He went. Recounting his description of Jesus, Peter declared that 'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him' (Acts 10:38). Though Jesus took the form of man, He was entirely without sin. When exposed to any form of temptation He did not give in to it. His holiness upheld Him

amidst unbelievable pressures, so that He 'did no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth' (1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 4:1-15).

God's way of salvation was through the Lord Jesus Christ. God is absolutely holy, righteous and just, and He cannot ignore the penalty for sin, it must be paid. At the same time God is also merciful and loving, He hates sin but loves His fallen creatures and wants to save them (2 Peter 3:9). So, this flawless, infallible God paid the price of man's sin by dying on the cross on his behalf.

Because of Adam's disobedience, death came to all men. However, the Lord Jesus willingly laid down His life for us, so that we would not have to bear the consequences of Adam's sin and our own. But that's not the end of the story. Jesus rose from the grave, thereby defeating death and making a way for us all to be saved. By repenting and believing in God, not only will we be saved from our sin, but we will also have new life in Him (John 10:10), which is both abundant and eternal. He will fill us with His Spirit, who makes us into a new creation. Over time, this Spirit will bring us closer to God as well as teach us, help us and encourage us. He will help us become free from worry and discontent, to turn away from sin and temptation. He will bring love, joy, peace, and many other wonderful characteristics into our life.

We have now learned a lot about how Jesus and how his life, death and resurrection enables us all to be saved. Although we have probably learned more than we can mention to our friends in conversation, there are several important points we need to remember. We are all sinners from birth. Since Adam and Eve first sinned, God had a plan for Jesus to take the punishment for these sins. In His life, Jesus showed us God's love. In His death, He overcame sin and accepted its punishment, and therefore our sins are forgiven. In his resurrection, He offers the gift of new life to anyone who will accept it. Now, those who believe in Jesus, repenting and obeying Him, are saved! Are you ready to share your faith with your unbelieving friends?

Many verses in the Bible explain Jesus' substitutionary death.

Look up the verses below!

1 Peter 2:24 and 3:18

Acts 2:22

1 Timothy 2:6

2 Corinthians 5:21

Isaiah 43:11 and 45:21

1 Peter 3:8

No evangelistic message is complete without the mention of Jesus' victory over death and the forgiveness of our sins. Are you ready to share your faith with your unbelieving friends?

IN REVIEW

- The Gospel message is that Christ took the form of man to reach out to us, just like it was prophesied.
- God is just, so after sin came into the world, it be punished. Jesus, the Son of God, died and paid for our sins. Then, He was raised from the dead, conquering the power of evil forever.
- God offers salvation and eternal life to all who will come to Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Take some time to recall how you received this Good News. How did it change your life? How can you effectively use your testimony to reach out to others?
- How can you effectively structure the Gospel message to include the important elements, while making it relevant to your listener?
- How does Gospel message continue to change your life?

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