Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 8: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL TRUTH – THE PROBLEM OF SIN

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled Introduction to Evangelism. This series of lessons aims to prepare participants to effectively share the Gospel with others. Understanding how God equips us for ministry and how to prepare our Gospel message for various worldviews will help us bring the unchanging message of the hope found in Jesus Christ to a world that does not yet know Him.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians, those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christianity, as well as those preparing to teach these Christian practices and beliefs. Also, those with an interest in Christian thought will find value in these lessons as they pertain to daily living and choices.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help you as a leader in your preparation. These lesson outlines may be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found online at www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 9: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL TRUTH – THE PROBLEM OF SIN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to highlight the reason why God gave us the Gospel. The Gospel is God's solution to the problem of sin in the world.

LEADER'S NOTE

From the time of the original sin, God had a plan to defeat sin and ultimately defeat death. This lesson deals with the problem of sin and its solution which is the Gospel. It is important that we remain hopeful, while understanding the seriousness of the truth that we present. God has entrusted us with the words of life and forgiveness, and we can take these words to people who do not yet believe! The Bible describes how to escape Satan's plan of death and destruction! Even if people do not believe they are sinners, they can see the effects of sin all around them – death, suffering, loneliness, and fear. Who wouldn't want to know how to escape that? Demonstrate a fresh passion for sharing the Gospel with participants! After all, it is the very best news!

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions to ask the group.

- What good news have you received recently? Who shared it with you, and what was your reaction? What made the news good?
- Do you ever read the newspaper or listen to news programs on the television or radio? Is there more bad news or good news in the world? Why does the bad news seem to overpower the good news?
- How aware are your friends and family of their own sin?

STUDY

TEACH

- **What Does the Word Gospel Mean?** The word Gospel means "Good News." This news is good news for EVERYONE! Everyone has the same problem, and the Gospel is the solution.
  - The Gospel was given by God, not invented by man. It is divinely inspired, or breathed by God (2 Timothy 3:16). In the broadest sense, the Gospel is the entire Bible (all Scripture).

- Read the following verses to go deeper into this truth as a group. Discuss the key phrases that tell us that these words came from God and are not of men.
    - 1 Corinthians 2:7-10
    - Romans 1:1
    - Galatians 1:11-12
    - 2 Peter 1:21
    - 1 Thessalonians 2:13

- **Why Was the Gospel Given?**
    - The Gospel was written for the purpose of showing us the way back to God. We were created for the purpose of bringing glory to God. God wishes to be in a relationship with us and to be glorified through our lives. We were created in His image and as part of his family. This is the purpose for which we were made.
        - Isaiah 43:1-7
        - Revelations 4:11

TASK

- Consider the following verses and list God's promises to us when we live according to His purpose (glorifying Him).
    - Matthew 11:28-29
    - Isaiah 10:29-31
    - Jeremiah 29:11
    - Proverbs 1:33
    - John 14:27
    - Romans 10:9

TEACH

- **What is the Problem?** This relationship with God was damaged when sin came into the world. Sin separates us from God and destroys our relationship with Him. This is a problem every human shares. We are born into sin and we cannot escape it. We are incapable of living a perfect life.
    - Ecclesiastes 7:20
    - Romans 3:10

- **How Sin Entered the World:** The next key point that you don't want to miss when sharing the Gospel is how we got into this mess in the first place. A careful explanation of how sin entered the world is important in understanding the complex story of salvation, and is a good starting point in uncovering any misconceptions held by people with other worldviews.
    - When speaking with someone about this you will want to highlight the following truths:
        - The sin of Adam caused both spiritual and physical death (Genesis 3:1-7; Genesis 3:19).

- Through Adam sin entered the human race (Romans 5:12) and humans have become inherently sinful by nature (Ephesians 2:3).
- All human beings continue to sin (Romans 3:23; Psalm 14:3).
- As a result of sin we have become spiritually dead and unable to live in the presence of God (Ephesians 2:1-5).
- Because God is perfectly just and righteous, sin cannot go unpunished (Deuteronomy 32:4; Romans 1:18).
- The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

➢ We cannot escape the condemnation of sin without God's forgiveness. The Devil continually tries to deceive us and keep us from doing God's will. If you are talking with someone about the Gospel and they want to avoid Satan's plan for their life, they will be very excited to hear about God's plan. God has a plan to defeat sin and death once and for all.

Satan's Plan For Us	God's Plan For Us
• Guilt • Worry • Sin • Death • Suffering • Slavery to Sin • Everlasting separation from God	• Peace and Joy • Help in Trials • Holy Living • Abundant Life • Forgiveness of Sins • Freedom in Jesus • Everlasting life with God

DISCUSSION

❖ What are some of the ways in which you can preach the Good News?

❖ How can you make some of your unbelieving friends conscious of their sin problem without condemning them? What questions could you ask them? What would you tell them about your own life?

❖ What do you do when Satan tries to influence you? What are some of the ways we see him work? Should we as Christians fear Satan? Why or why not?

PRAYER

Close the lesson in prayer. Thank God for the gift of His Son and forgiveness of sins. This is good news indeed! We could not solve our problem of sin ourselves. Thank God that He has made available to us a way back into relationship with Him. Pray that participants would know the love of God more fully through their understanding of the Gospel.