Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

# INTRODUCTIONG TO EVANGELISM

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

## INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple Essentials module titled 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.

The Study Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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# INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

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

### WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

In order to effectively communicate the Gospel, we must understand it and know what it is all about! The Gospel is God's solution to the problem of sin in the world.

### JUST SO YOU KNOW…

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? Pray that God will give you fresh enthusiasm for His Gospel as you study this lesson.

## GETTING STARTED

**1.** What good news have you received recently? Who shared it with you, and what was your reaction? What made the news good?

**2.** 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?

# STUDY

- **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).
  - We must believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God in order to trust God's plan for salvation! What do the verses below say about how we received this Gospel in the first place? Why can this message be trusted?

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|---|---|
| Galatians 1:11-12 | |
| 1 Thessalonians 2:13 | |
| 1 Corinthians 2:7-10 | |

- **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.
  - What are God's promises to us when we live according to His purpose – obeying and glorifying Him?

| | |
|---|---|
| Matthew 11:28-29 | |
| Jeremiah 29:11 | |
| John 14:27 | |

- **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.

- Read Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:10. According to these verses, who is sinful?

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- This sin separates us from God, and interrupts His plan for us. We cannot live out God's plan if we are putting ourselves first instead of God.

❖ **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.

- We must be certain of the following points:

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|---|---|
| *The sin of Adam caused both spiritual and physical death for each of his descendants.* | Genesis 3:1-7; Genesis 3:19 |
| *Through Adam sin entered the human race.* | Romans 5:12 |
| *People are 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<br>• Worry<br>• Sin<br>• Death<br>• Suffering<br>• Slavery to Sin<br>• Everlasting separation from God | • Peace and Joy<br>• Help in Trials<br>• Holy Living<br>• Abundant Life<br>• Forgiveness of Sins<br>• Freedom in Jesus<br>• Everlasting life with God |

- Summarize why sin in this world is a problem?

- Why is it Satan's plan that we continue in our sin?

God wants a relationship with us and for us to experience abundant life in Him. However, our sin separates us from Him and we need His forgiveness. Satan will do his utmost to keep us from living the life God intended for us. The price to be paid for our sin is eternal separation from God, but Jesus paid this price for us when He died on our behalf. This is the first part of the Gospel message!

## IN SUMMARY

- The Word 'Gospel' means "Good News". This good news is for everyone, because we all have the same problem.
- Sin is the problem – and Jesus is the solution.
- God has a wonderful plan for us. However, our relationship with Him is broken if we continue in sin.
- Sin entered the world through Adam, and since then we are all born sinful.
- The wages of sin is death – we all deserve separation from God for our sins. However, God provided the only solution through Jesus Christ, His Son.

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**1.** What are some of the ways in which you can preach the Good News?

**2.** 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?