

# The Gospel

Question: What are some of the dreams and ambitions that you have for your life?

Question: What do you think God's dream is for you and the world?

To better understand what God's dream is, let's take a look at His plan laid out in the Bible. This can be broken into 5 Parts: Creation, Rebellion, Sacrifice, Commission, and Return

## **Creation (Genesis 1:26-28)**

Summary: God loves us and created us to have relationship with Him, community with each other, and to partner with Him in enjoying and caring for His creation

## **Rebellion (Genesis 3:1-13, Romans 3:23)**

Summary: Even though they were walking in relationship with God, they chose to trade their relationship with Him for personal gain and self willed independence from God (Gen 3:5). The result was separation from God because of His holiness and from one another. We all too have chosen to go our own way and rebel against God through sin, and have been separated from God and others.

Question: How have you seen sin affect the world, your relationships with others, or with God? (examples of sin: lying, stealing, murder, adultery, Sabbath (not choosing to rest), coveting (comparison and jealousy, etc.)

## **Sacrifice (Ephesian 2:8-9, Romans 5:7-8, Romans 6:23, 1 John 4:10, 1 Corinthians 15:3-6)**

Summary: No matter how hard we try, we can never do enough good things to earn our way back to God. Because of this, Jesus, God Himself, loved us so much that He took the punishment of sin on himself and died in our place. By dying and raising from the dead, defeating death, He is able to offer us a close relationship and eternal life with Him to anyone who would choose to accept His gift.

Question: What has been your perception of Jesus up to this point?

Question: How do these verses change the way that you see Him, His love for you, and the price He paid to be close to you?

## **Return (Romans 10:9-13, Luke 9:23-25, 1 Corinthians 5:17)**

Summary: We return to God by asking Him to forgive us for going our own way and doing things that are wrong. We are given a new identity in Christ, no longer living our own way, but choosing to deny our old way of life and accepting new life in following after Him.

Question: What are things that keep people from wanting to leave their current way of life, return to God, and have a relationship with Jesus?

## **Commission (John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 28: , Romans 10:14-17, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)**



Summary: God's love for the world and desire for each person to come to know Him should motivate us to share about what Jesus has done for us and how other people can find hope in Jesus. Jesus has commissioned (or sent out) each person to go out and tell others of the new life of love and forgiveness that we have in Jesus. We have been given the responsibility to help other people return to God as ambassadors for Jesus to the rest of the world.

Question: If you already have a relationship with Jesus, what has kept you from sharing the hope of Jesus with others? What can you do today to start being a better ambassador of God to the world?

Question: If you don't currently have a relationship with Jesus, what has kept you from wanting to have a relationship with Him?

Question: How has seeing God's plan for you and the world changed your perspective of the way God sees you and other people?

Take some time and reflect on how you are going to respond to the Gospel and what God was speaking to you tonight, whether that be to share Jesus or show His love to someone, ask for Jesus to be in your life, or to start thinking more and asking questions about God's plan and its impact on your life.

Note: Listen to the Holy Spirit and what He is doing in the moment. If you feel someone may want to start following Jesus, either ask them about it in the group and see if they would like to pray to accept Christ, or follow up individually and pray with them.

Note: Feel free to add or subtract to this resource and use it however it helps you. Pray over this and ask God what He wants you to speak to your group about and which questions or scriptures will be helpful!

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