

Session 1 Leader Guide

WATCH

Refer to this viewer guide as you watch video session 1.

The gospel is the good news that God loves us, that Jesus Christ came to earth to suffer the penalty for our sin and die in our place so that we could be restored to God, reconciled to Him, and live with Him forever.

The gospel is not just the way we begin in Christ.

It's also the way we grow in Christ.

For the gospel to be above all, it's got to go deep in us to the point that it transforms us from the inside out and changes all of our affections, mentality, and behavior.

APPLICATION OF THE GOSPEL

1. Preaching, teaching, and study of God's Word
2. Messaging
3. How we think politically
4. Culture
5. Loving our neighbors

It is as you become overwhelmed with the love of God for you that love for God and for others grows in you.

Everything that we do ought to go through the filter of "Is this helping to see the gospel extend to the ends of the earth?"

The gospel ought to produce the most inclusive community on earth.

The future of the church in America hinges on whether God's people return to the gospel as the central, defining element in their lives and the defining focus of their mission.

Journey CHURCH

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DISCUSS

Use the following questions to discuss the video teaching.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:2 together:

I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

Paul believed the gospel was the most important message in the world. Although we might agree with his assertion in principle, we often deny it with our actions and the attention of our hearts. No other concern should supersede our dedication to the gospel message. All we are and all we do as followers of Jesus originates in the gospel.

- 1) **What are some messages or concerns we elevate above the gospel in our churches and in our lives?**
- 2) **J. D. mentioned on the video that nothing gives Jesus as much Joy as seeing people come to know the gospel. Why should our ministry pursuits reflect Jesus' passion?**

According to Jesus, the gospel is the sum of Jesus' ministry. In Greek the word gospel literally means "good news." The origins of this word extend beyond Christianity. When a Roman general won a military victory, the gospel of that general's victory went forth to alert the different parts of the empire about His success. In the same way, the gospel of Jesus Christ signals Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the grave. It's the message that though we're desperately broken by sin, Jesus came to earth, lived the life we couldn't live, died the death we deserved to die, and rose again in victory over sin and death. Because of what Jesus did to provide salvation, we can now be resurrected from the dead and reconciled to God. We were created for this kind of relationship with God.

- 3) **Why do Christians need the gospel just as much as non-Christians?**

In the video teaching J. D. said, "The fire to do in the Christian life comes from being soaked in the fuel of what has been done." Growth in the Christian life comes from being rooted in the gospel. The gospel isn't just an entry into the Christian faith but the entirety of the Christian life.

- 4) **How does the gospel lead us to deeper trust and obedience in God? In what ways have you seen this type of growth in your life?**

The gospel has far-reaching applications for the way we study God's Word, our message as Christian people, how we think politically, the type of culture we create, and the way we love our neighbors. The rest of this study will deal with all of these topics.

- 5) **What would you say Christians are known for in your community? How do we become people characterized by the gospel message?**

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Many of us are probably growing tired of the constant political battles being waged in our culture. The people around us likely are as well. In these tumultuous days the church must allow the gospel to shape our political involvement. The opportunity to create a refuge from the incessant bickering has never been stronger. To do this, we have to make room for differences of opinion on secondary matters, because the gospel is too important to be subverted by partisanship. We must be a people full of grace, just like Jesus.

- 6) On the video J. D. said Jesus "radiated openness" to people who were different from Him. How does the gospel create the most inclusive community on earth?**

As we close our time together today, let's briefly reflect on a few ideas we've introduced in this session and look forward to the group sessions ahead.

- 7) What might it look like when the gospel is above all in our churches? In our small groups? In our lives?**