

What Is the Gospel?



4G Mentoring: Growing, Guiding, and
Guarding the Global Bride of Christ

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Foreword

This document has been designed for use with small groups using cell-phones, tablets, computers, TV connections, or projectors. This document is not designed as a printed book (though it may be printed) or large group presentation but rather an electronic discussion guide for small or medium sized multi-language groups. The graphics on each page are designed to ease cross-cultural communication issues when using a translator or with group members using a second language. We hope that this document helps facilitate discussions about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both formal and informal discussion groups in homes, churches, and coffee shops around the world. The copyright on this document allows you to freely distribute and even modify the content (except modifying the King's Witness symbols) to meet your needs.

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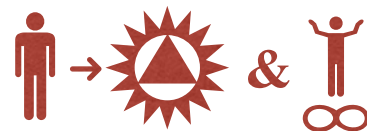
Created by
And for God



Created in God’s
Image With a Task



Glorify God and
Enjoy Him Forever



Our Problem:

Mankind
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We Are
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The Price of
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Good Works
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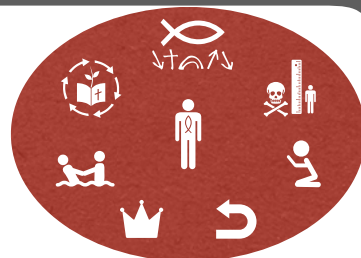
God Promised
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The Gospel: the
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The Appropriate
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God Alone
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God Himself
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Salvation Is
Found Only in Jesus



Salvation = Belief
And Repentance



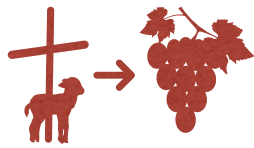
Belief in the Son
Of God Is Essential



Saved by Grace,
Not by Works



Good Works Flow
Out of True Salvation



Hope in the
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A New
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“Sharing Your Faith” Role Play



Break up into pairs. One person play the part of a believer and the other play the part of a non-believer. You have 5 minutes each.

Situation: You are meeting with a non-believing business associate to discuss a business deal. At the end of the meeting you begin to chit-chat about sports, family, and life in general and the non-believer indicates that he/she is open to hearing about your faith. Use this opportunity to share your faith with this friend.

Debrief: How did it go? What method did you use to share the Gospel? Did you mention the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? Did you feel confident or scared? Was the conversation natural or tense? What would you change in future conversations?

Key Idea: Share the Gospel with a partner to help you personally gauge how well you understand and can express your understanding of the Gospel.

Our Purpose

Created by God and for God (By Jesus And For Jesus)



*“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of **God!** How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ **For from him and through him and to him are all things.** To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:33-36)*

*“**He** is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **For by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him and for him.**” (Colossians 1:15-16)*

Key Idea: Everything has been created for and by God (Jesus) and so God has the right to manage creation, to set standards for right and wrong, and to set the conditions for salvation.

Created in God's Image With a Task

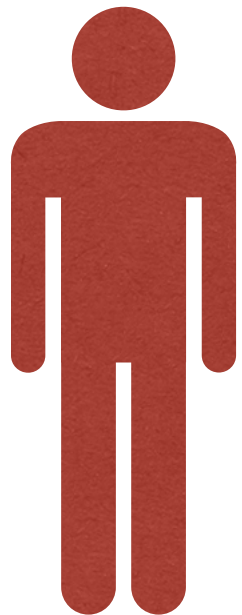


*“Then God said, ‘**Let us make man in our image**, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**’” (Genesis 1:26-28)*

Key Idea: We were all created in God's image and instructed to multiply and fill the earth and subdue it (fill the earth with those who reflect God's character).

Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever

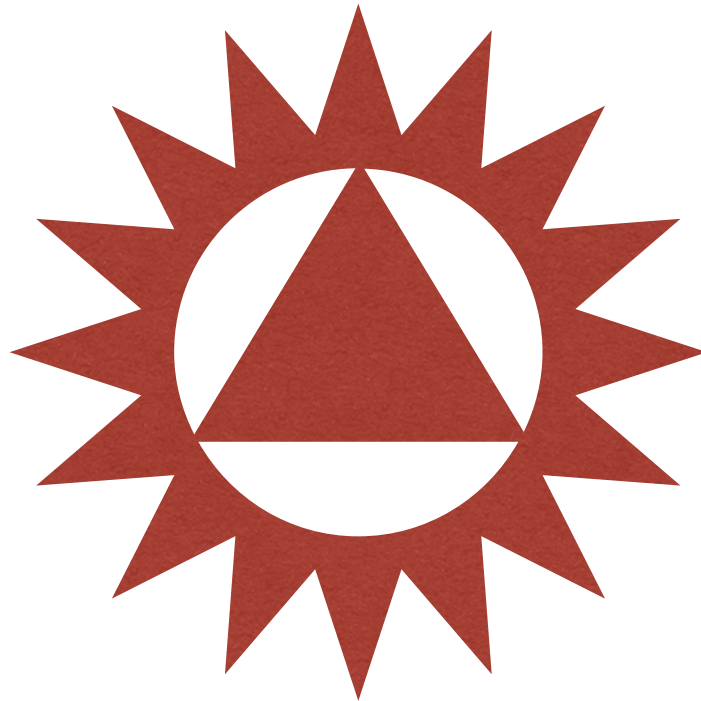
Man's purpose



is to



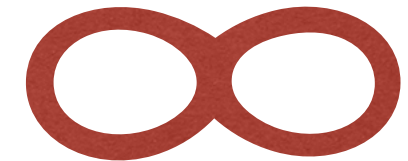
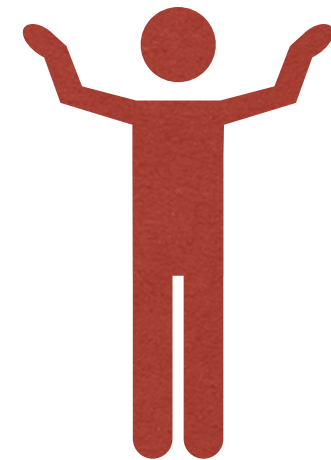
glorify God



and



enjoy him



forever

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

*“For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, **ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;** bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’” (1 Chronicles 16:26-31)*

Key Idea: We were created to glorify God in all we do and to enjoy him forever.

Our Problem

Mankind Chose Death



*“And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**” (Genesis 2:8-9)*

*“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” (Genesis 2:15-17)*

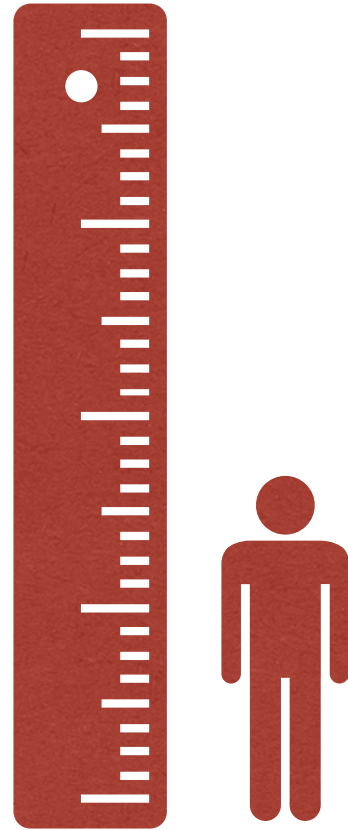
*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of **any** tree in the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of **the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it**, lest you die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘**You will not surely die**. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.’” (Genesis 3:1-5)*

*“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.” (Genesis 3:6-7)*

*“**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,** to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**” (Romans 1:16-20)*

Key Idea: God gave mankind the choice of loving and obeying him and living forever or choosing our own way and experiencing death. Mankind willfully and knowingly chose death rather than life.

All Are All Sinners



“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)

Key Idea: We all fall short of God’s standard of righteousness and fail to glorify God. We need to help people clearly see their sin from God’s perspective (conviction of sin).

The Price of Sin Is Death



“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Key Idea: The Bible says that the price of sin is physical and spiritual death. Only death is an acceptable payment for sin.

Good Works Cannot Save Us



“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Key Idea: We cannot save ourselves through our own good works. We need someone else to save us.

The Solution

God Promised a Savior



“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Key Idea: From the beginning God promised that a savior would come who would crush the power of Satan but that this savior would also die.

The Gospel: the Good News of Jesus



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He came

died

rose again

went away

is coming back

*“And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)*

*“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you —unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he **was buried**, that he **was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)*

*“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, **then at his coming those who belong to Christ.** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)*

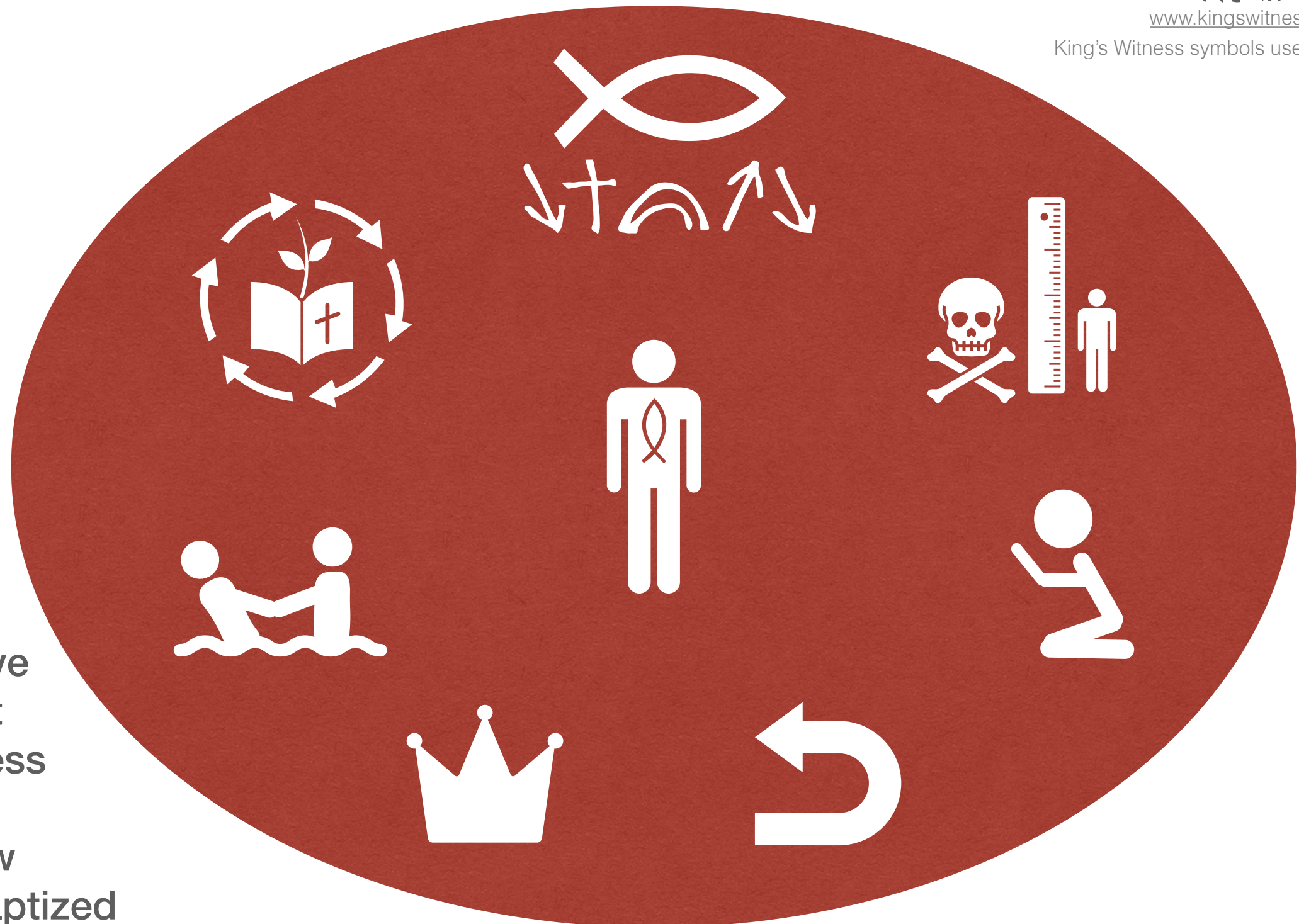
Key Idea: The Gospel is the good news that Jesus came, died for our sins, rose again, went away, and is coming back.

The Appropriate Response (To the Gospel)



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- Believe
- Admit
- Confess
- Turn
- Follow
- Be baptized
- Be discipled



1. **Believe that Jesus, the Son of God, came, died for your sins, rose from the dead, went away and is coming back. (John 20:31, Romans 10:9)**



2. **Admit that you are a sinner and that you deserve death and Hell according to the Law. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)**



3. **Confess your sins in prayer and ask God to forgive you. (1 John 1:9)**



4. **Turn away from your sins. (Acts 3:19, Luke 13:3, Galatians 5:19-24)**



5. **Follow Jesus as your Savior and King wherever he may lead. (Matthew 16:24-26)**



6. **Be baptized as a public step of faith in identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (Acts 2:38)**



7. **Participate in lifelong, transformational discipleship through studying and obeying God's Word. (Matthew 28:18-20)**

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

*“for **all have sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)*

*“**For the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19)

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:19-24)

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?’” (Matthew 16:24-26)

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)

*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Key Idea: The appropriate response to the Gospel is to: believe, admit, confess, turn, follow, be baptized, and participate in discipleship.

God Alone Is our Savior



*“I, I am the LORD, and **besides me there is no savior.**”
(Isaiah 43:11)*

*“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And **there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” (Acts 4:11-12)*

Key Idea: There is no other savior besides God. Jesus is God and he is the only way to salvation for mankind.

God Himself Came To Save Us



*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)*

*“And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*

Key Idea: God did not send someone else to save us but he came and provided our salvation himself.

Salvation Is Found Only in Jesus



*“Jesus said to him, ‘**I am** the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one** comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6)*

I am (English) - ***Ego eimi*** (Greek)- ***Yahweh*** (Hebrew)

During the flood of Genesis 6-9 only the people who got on the ark survived the flood. Likewise, Jesus is the only way of salvation for mankind.

Key Idea: There is only one universal path of salvation for all of humanity for all of history - Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Salvation = Belief and Repentance



*“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel.’” (Mark 1:14-15)*

*“There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**’” (Mark 1:14-15)*

Key Idea: Both belief (trust that results in actions) and repentance are necessary for true salvation. Repentance and belief are two sides of the same coin. You cannot have one without the other. Belief does not mean intellectual knowledge but trust that results in action.

Belief in the Son of God Is Essential



He is one of us
(human) but his value
is infinite (divine).

*“For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)***

*“Whoever confesses **that Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:15)*

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

Key Idea: People do not have to understand Trinity to be saved but they do need to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Saved by Grace, Not by Works

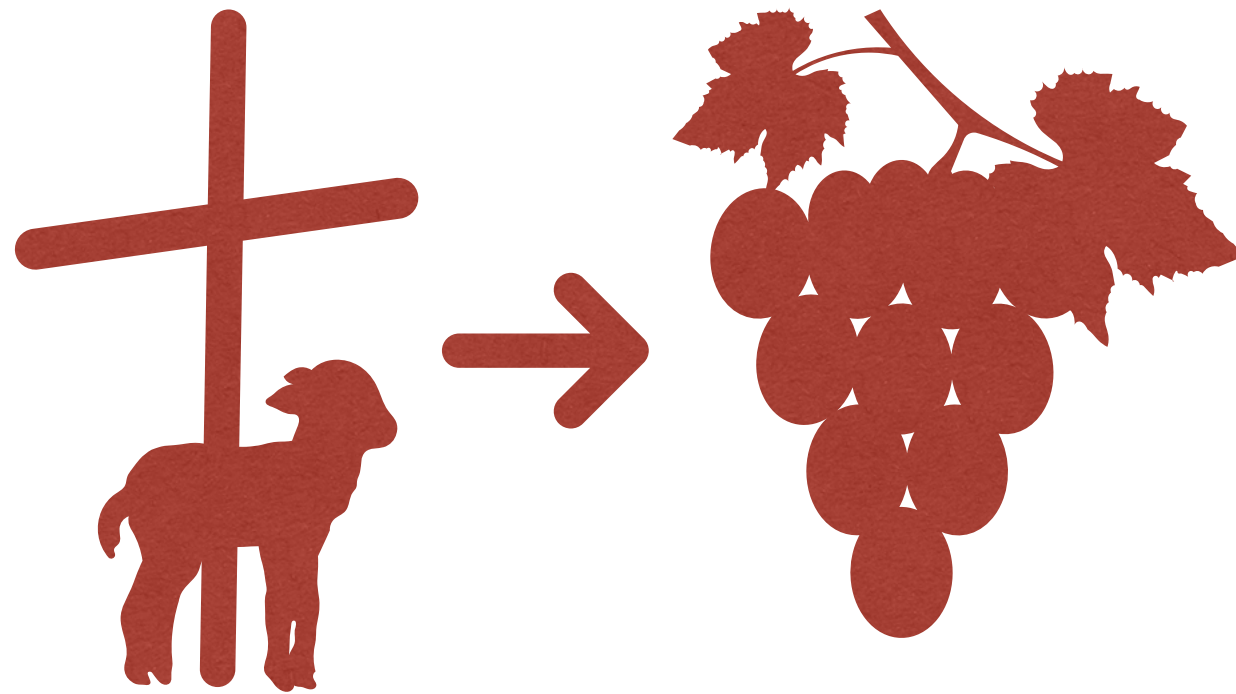


*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘**The righteous shall live by faith.**’” (Romans 1:16-17)*

Key Idea: Salvation is a free gift of undeserved grace from God received through faith and we cannot earn this salvation through good works.

Good Works Flow out of True Salvation



*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them.**” (Ephesians 2:8-10)*

*“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can that faith save him?** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**” (James 2:14-17)*

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, **he it is that bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. **If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.**” (John 15:5-6)*

Key Idea: Although we are not saved by good works, good works will flow out of true salvation.

Hope in the Resurrection



*“Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And **if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.**”*

(1 Corinthians 15:12-14)

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

*“I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: **‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**” (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)*

Key Idea: The Bible promises believers a physical resurrection from the dead and freedom from the curse of sin and death through the power of the resurrection of Jesus.

A New Heaven and Earth



*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’” (Revelations 21:1-4)*

Key Idea: Jesus promises that when he returns he will create a new Heaven and Earth where believers can live with him for eternity without the curse of sin and death.



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Guarding the Global Bride of Christ