

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Week 1 - Day 5: Share the Gospel

This week, one of the key components that we are reminded of is that by its very definition, the gospel is **GOOD NEWS!** Jesus has given us a message that provides hope for a broken world. When sharing the gospel, this week might help you to remember two powerful realizations. First, one might be persuaded by the need for repair in this world (whether personally or globally). In order to understand the repair, we first must understand the problem. Second, the Christian worldview offers a vision of a world that is fully repaired! The journey towards the *reconciliation* of all things back to God's kingdom is a great starting point for the good news!

These two things are what Genesis 1-3 have to offer!

Share the Gospel Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YgnLThBwa4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W8ynRMr59k>

Community Group Discussion Questions:

At the end of every week, we will be collecting the 2-3 sentences about each entry so that you can be equipped with brief summaries that explain how each text moves the gospel message of God's kingdom forward! As always, feel free to come up with questions of your own based on your observations and conversations.

Question: What observations / reflections / prayers stood out to you about this week?

Kingdom Definition: God's kingdom can be defined as God's rule in God's space over God's family of people! As part of God's kingdom, we are his priestly ambassadors called to make God's place every place and God's people all people by sharing the Good news that Jesus is Lord!

Question: Off the top of your head, what would you say is the gospel message of God's kingdom? When is the first time that you truly grasped the gospel? When you think about people sharing the gospel message with others, what comes to your mind? What part of the message emphasized the most? The least?

Humans and Creation: Genesis 1 and 2 show us that God's image bearers (humanity or God's people) were designed to thrive in God's place (heaven and earth, but more specifically the Garden of Eden) under the loving rule of God. This rule included an eternal and divine relationship with Him as well as a unique purpose for us; to live in intimate relationship with Him and to spread His glory throughout all of creation!

Question: What are some of the topics that come up when you discuss Genesis 1 and 2 with people outside of the Christian faith that make you hesitant? What stands out to you now about Genesis 1 and 2 when you put on this kingdom lens? Would you say the answer to these two questions relate or contradict in any way?

The Garden of Eden: The Garden of Eden represents God's kingdom space. The story of the Bible is not that we somehow escape this broken world, but one where God is reconciling all things back to Himself in His kingdom space so that His family might experience His loving rule through a loving relationship with Him and a true sense of purpose!

Question: What is the significance that God calls the world that He created good? What would you say is the significance that the Bible starts with paradise in Genesis 1 and 2 rather than the fall of man in Genesis 3?

The Kingdom of Satan: Consider starting with a simple conversation about temptation. We have all fallen into temptation; from the time we were young, the very things we are told not to do seem to be the things we just can't help ourselves but to do them! Some things are minor and we forget them in a moment, but we can all probably think of moments where we have been guilt-ridden over our decisions. Consider opening up about some of your guilt and shame which can open the door to the amazing truth of God's grace which covers it all! Remember, our story didn't end with the kingdom of sin in the garden, it has only just begun.

Question: What would you say Genesis 1-3 is trying to say to us as readers? How important is empathy when sharing the Gospel message? How would you respond to someone with questions about the origins of the serpent?