



# **EQUIP**

**study guide**





# What Is the Gos•pel? (gōs'pəl)

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## **Main Objective:**

**For people to have a clear understanding of the gospel and to be able to clearly explain what the gospel is (and is not)**

## **Areas of Growth:**

**Conviction:** developing deeper convictions about the character of God, the sinfulness of people, and the supremacy of the person and work of Jesus for salvation

**Competence:** growing in the ability to express what the gospel is (along with defining sin, faith, and repentance)

**Character:** committing to group meetings, sharing with others, openness to teaching and being taught with humility, and completing weekly readings and questions



## WEEK ONE

### *Introduction*

- 1.** When you hear the word “gospel,” what thoughts or associations come to your mind? Where do you think these thoughts/associations come from?
- 2.** Why do you suppose there are so many different answers given to the question, “What is the gospel?” Which description(s) of the gospel on pp. 18-20 did you like or not like – and why?
- 3.** Do you think Christians and the church need to be ready with a clear explanation of the gospel? Why or why not?



## WEEK TWO

### ***Chapter 1: Finding the Gospel in the Bible***

- 1.** Is there a verse (or story) in the Bible that you think clearly encapsulates the gospel message?
- 2.** Look at the “Four Crucial Questions” on p. 31. Do you have questions or struggles as you try to answer any of these questions?
- 3.** Which of the four main points of the gospel listed by the author do you think is most denied by the non-Christians you know and talk with? Why do you think they deny it?
- 4.** Which of the four main points of the gospel listed by the author do you most deny practically in your daily life: God’s authority and your accountability to him, the depths of your sinfulness, faith in Jesus as the only way to be right with God, or responding to the good news in faith and repentance? What do you suppose lies at the heart of your struggle in this area?

## WEEK THREE

### ***Chapter 2: God the Righteous Creator***

- 1.** What words come to your mind when you think about God? Do you ever find yourself thinking of God in the ways Gilbert describes on pp. 37-39?
- 2.** Rate your current knowledge of the Bible on a scale of 1-10, with ten being very knowledgeable and one being not knowledgeable at all. Discuss what made you choose this number in your self-analysis.
- 3.** Do you agree that God owns us because he created us (42)? How should this impact the way we think about ourselves and live, especially in ways that run counter to our present culture?
- 4.** How does a closer look at God's holiness and righteousness change your view of him?

#### **Memory Work: Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)**

*The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty.*

## WEEK FOUR

### *Chapter 3: Man the Sinner*

1. How would you say the idea of sin is viewed in our current culture? Do you think most people believe that “human beings are fundamentally sinful and rebellious” (51)?
2. What words or phrases come to mind when you think about what sin means? How would you describe what sin is?
3. How would you summarize each of the misunderstandings of sin that the author mentions on pp. 51-55? Share how you have encountered these misunderstandings or even been guilty of adopting some yourself.
4. Is it crucial to understand the bad news of our sin and God’s judgment upon it in order to truly grasp the good news of the gospel? Why or why not?

#### **Memory Work: Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 14**

**Q.** *What is sin?*

**A.** *Sin is any lack of conformity unto, or transgression against, the law of God.*

## WEEK FIVE

### ***Chapter 4: Jesus Christ the Savior***

- 1.** If someone asked you, “Who is Jesus?” how would you answer?
- 2.** If someone asked you, “What did Jesus accomplish by coming to earth?” how would you answer?
- 3.** Share something new that you learned about Jesus in this chapter.
- 4.** If someone asked you tomorrow, “What is the gospel?” how would you answer (and what has been helpful to you in answering that question so far in the first four chapters of this book)? Try to come up with a brief summary based upon your reading and discussions that you can be ready to use in conversations with others.

#### **Memory Work: 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)**

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.*

#### **Memory Work: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*



## WEEK SIX

### ***Chapter 5: Response – Faith and Repentance***

- 1.** How would you describe what faith is? Is there a passage in Scripture you would turn to in order to illustrate it?
- 2.** How does the definition of faith as “reliance” (p. 74) shape your understanding of the faith as a concept, and how might it make you live your life differently?
- 3.** Why might many Christians struggle with both the idea and practice of repentance? Is there a passage in Scripture you would turn to in order to illustrate repentance?
- 4.** If you died tonight and stood before the Lord and he asked, “Why should you be granted entrance into heaven and my presence and receive eternal life?” how would you answer?

#### **Memory Work: Shorter Catechism Q. 86 and 87**

**Q.** *What is faith in Jesus Christ?* **A.** Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

**Q.** *What is repentance unto life?* **A.** Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.



