



THREADS
The Gospel &
Personal Evangelism

THE CHURCH AT BROOKHILLS

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Section One

What Is The Gospel?

*“For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—
though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—
but God shows his love for us
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Romans 5:6-8

SMALL GROUPS & THE THREADS OF THE GOSPEL

The term “gospel threads” stems from two sermon series at Brook Hills called “Threads” in which our faith family studied the gospel and how to share it with others. We have identified **five ultimate questions** that shape our view of the world and that people in the world ask:

- **Who is God?**
- **Who am I?**
- **How is Jesus unique?**
- **What does it mean to follow Jesus?**
- **Why is this important?**

The answers to these five questions tie to a different component or thread of the gospel, and for the whole message of the gospel to ultimately be expressed, all five of the threads must be shared. The **five gospel threads** include:

- **The Character of God**
- **The Sinfulness of Man**
- **The Sufficiency of Christ**
- **The Necessity of Faith**
- **The Urgency of Eternity**

As we go through each day, how are we as Christ-followers weaving gospel threads into the fabric of our conversations with others? Do we look for opportunities to speak about who God is, what God is doing in the world, and what God has done for us in Christ? We may not always be able to have full-on, hour-long gospel explanations, but we can saturate our conversations with various strands of the gospel.



WHY WE DO NOT SHARE THE GOSPEL

Evangelism is not a specialized calling for certain Christians who have the gift of evangelism. God calls all believers to be His witnesses and to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

Many believers struggle with personal evangelism. They do not think they know enough. They do not know what to say. They fear rejection or other responses from those they engage. They do not truly grasp the greatness and worthiness of God. If this is an area in which you struggle, identify why *and* what steps you can take to grow in faithfulness in this area. What is God calling you to sacrifice in order to join Him in His mission? What hinders you from participating in His work? What do you need to rearrange in your life to make evangelism a priority?

As you lead the Small Group, challenge those in the group to reflect on their faithfulness in witnessing, on reasons for why they do not share, and what steps they can take to grow in obedience. With regard to fears that people may have, what does Scripture say about those fears, God’s character, and man’s eternity? How can we as Christ-followers join God in His work? How can the Small Group equip each other to verbalize the gospel, pray for each other in sharing the gospel, and keep each other accountable in building relationships and communicating gospel threads to others.

LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM & OUR VERBAL WITNESS

Many Christians have comfortably settled into the mindset that if their lives glorify God, then they will not need to verbally proclaim the gospel. Although a life that reflects the righteousness of God is consistent with God’s command to His people, it cannot be void of lips that proclaim the gospel. Guide small group members to identify why sharing the gospel with our words is essential (Rom. 10:14-17).

Threads Memory Verses

1. Holy

“I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.” -Isaiah 43:15

2. Rebelled

“All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
-Romans 3:12

3. Separated

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

4. Just

“He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.” -Proverbs 17:15

5. Dead

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

6. Gracious

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,” -Titus 2:11

7. Life

“You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.” -1 John 3:5

8. Death

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” -1 Peter 2:24

9. Resurrection

“and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” -Revelation 1:18

10. Turn

“and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” -Mark 1:15

11. Trust

“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

12. Eternity

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” -John 3:16

Tips for Teaching Threads to a Small Group

Depending on the people in the group, they may not be familiar with the concepts discussed in Threads. Avoid assuming that the people in your small group know the gospel, the concepts, or various “church words.” A helpful exercise to do on the first week of Small Group involves asking the group to define the gospel. How would they explain it? This exercise enables you to know where the group is at in their understanding of the gospel and in their ability to verbalize it.

While walking through this material, emphasize the importance of sharing the gospel with others, and challenge group members to pray for opportunities to share and to take initiative in weaving gospel threads in their conversations. Consider taking time in small group each week for the people to relay any opportunities that God provided to talk about the gospel in the previous week and to pray together for the lost in each others’ lives and for boldness in gospel proclamation.

As part of your group’s gathering, provide an opportunity for group members to practice explaining to each other the gospel thread that was discussed that week. Encourage group members to think through how they would explain these threads to an unbeliever, a child, or someone from another country. Brainstorm concrete examples that can be used to explain various concepts related to the gospel.

Invite group members to memorize the Scriptures associated with Threads, and develop accountability within the group regarding Scripture memory.

Ways To Teach Through Threads

- **6 Weeks - Spend one week on each thread of the gospel with the sixth week focusing on writing and sharing personal testimonies.**
- **3 Weeks - Spend week one on the character of God and sinfulness of man, week two on Christ, faith, and eternity, and week three on writing and sharing your story.**
- **2 Weeks - Discuss all of the gospel threads in one Small Group meeting, and devote the second week on sharing your testimony.**

TEACHING ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Begin by asking people to express what words or images come to mind when they picture God. Because of their prior experiences or their family background, some may view God as a harsh Judge while others may see Him as a loving Father. Understanding where the different group members are coming from can help you know if there are any misconceptions that need to be addressed or any questions that individuals may have about God’s character.

In explaining different attributes of God’s character, the following verses can also be used to supplement discussion about this particular thread of the gospel:

- *Exodus 34:6-7* - God’s mercy, grace, patience, steadfast love, and justice
- *Psalms 103* - God’s compassion, steadfast love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace.
- *Romans 1:18-20* - God’s wrath against sin.
- *Isaiah 43:10-12* - God’s uniqueness. He alone is God and Savior.

Consider incorporating a time of prayer that is solely devoted to praising God for Who He is. An option for doing this includes praying through the various Scriptures that were discussed during Small Group.

TEACHING ABOUT THE SINFULNESS OF MAN

It can be tempting to gloss over this thread when discussing sin with others, but people will not realize how good the Good News is until they see their sinfulness.

When talking about this thread, begin by asking the group what they believe about man’s goodness and man’s value. What beliefs do they have about human nature? Do they think that man is basically good or sinful from birth? Especially if you have new believers in your group, people who converted from a different religion, or someone unfamiliar with Christian beliefs, they may have a faulty understanding about humanity.

Take time to process the various questions listed under the “Common Questions About the Sinfulness

of Man” section on page 14. Use these questions to cultivate discussion and to equip group members to answer such commonly asked questions.

When discussing the sinfulness of man with others, it can be helpful to explain how you recognized *your* need for God. Use part of the group time for group members to practice sharing this part of their story with a partner.

When talking with people about the sinfulness of man, discussion will not always begin with man’s rebellion against God. However, we can transition conversations to man’s need for God by demonstrating that something is wrong in the world and in need of correction or encouragement. Examples of such transition topics include: grief, loss, illness, disasters, emotional wounds, and dangers or paths to be avoided. These problems all exist because of the Fall and are implications of our brokenness and sin’s effect on the world. Spotting these effects of sin necessitates talking about Christ because He brings the solution. Coach small group members to think through how they could transition conversations from these effects of sin to the good news of salvation.

Additional Scriptures that can be used in discussion about this gospel thread include:

- *Genesis 3:1-7* - The explanation of how sin entered the world.
- *Romans 5:12-21* - The description of how Adam’s sin in the Garden infected the entire human race and how Christ’s death and resurrection can spread righteousness to all who trust in Him for salvation.
- *Psalms 51:3-5* - People are born sinful, and their sin is against God.
- *Ephesians 2:1-3* - Humanity is inclined to sin, and as sinners, we are dead in our sin and are children of wrath.
- *Romans 1:28-32* - Describes different types of sin. It can be helpful to challenge group members to think about how many of these sins describe them.

Since discussion about this gospel thread will likely cause group members to reflect on their own sinfulness, consider incorporating a time of confession and prayer into the group time, and remind the group of God’s faithfulness to forgive those who confess their sins to Him (1 Jn. 1:9).

TEACHING ABOUT THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

Many people in our culture today are not bothered by the belief in or the mention of God. However, they are often offended by Jesus, particularly by the belief that He alone is the way to salvation. Discuss with small group members the implications of having multiple options available to salvation. Guide them to understand that if multiple options for salvation were available then:

- We would have no clear picture of what would actually satisfy God’s required penalty for sin and would have no idea of what He wants.
- We would not know which “ways” were acceptable and which were not.
- God would be accepting of people who do not align with His Word.
- If we have no guidelines and are to be “good,” then our salvation is not based on God but on our own efforts.
- God’s character would be compromised.

As members share the gospel with others, they will no doubt encounter persons who believe in the reality of Jesus but simply think He was a good man, teacher, or prophet. Others may believe that He was just a man whose followers embellished stories about Him. Still, others may not care whether or not He actually existed as a man. Talk through these possible encounters with group members. Helpful questions include:

- Jesus lived a life that is often admired by our culture. What qualities did He exemplify that today’s culture wants to uphold? How can we use these qualities and examples to talk about Jesus?
- What claims did Christ make of Himself that should cause concern for His goodness or His mental stability if He were not the Son of God?
- Why would individuals not believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ? How can you respond to these claims?

Be sure to encourage group members that they do not have to have all of the answers to questions as they share with others. Emphasize that a healthy discussion can be opened when they agree to do further research, but they can begin to look for answers to these questions and beliefs as they

prepare to encounter people of other faiths and of no faith.

If there are new believers or unbelievers in the small group, they may not be familiar with the complete story of Christ's death and resurrection. If such individuals are in the group, consider taking time to walk through the story in one of the Gospels (Matt. 26:36-28:20; Mk. 14:32-16:8; Lk. 22:39-24:53; Jn. 18:1-20:29).

Additional Scriptures that can be used in discussion about this gospel thread include:

- *John 1:12-14* - Christ came to earth and all who trust in Him can become part of God's family.
- *2 Corinthians 5:17-21* - Through Christ, God offers reconciliation to sinners. It is because of us that Christ took on sin so we could become righteous.
- *Romans 5:6-10, 18* - God shows His love for us by sending Christ to die for sinners.
- *1 Timothy 2:5-6* - Christ alone is the mediator between God and mankind.
- *John 14:6* - Christ is the only way to salvation.

TEACHING ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

With this thread, take time to explain the difference between knowing about God and knowing Him as Lord and Savior. In explaining faith, highlight that there are three aspects to belief:

- **Knowledge** - In order to trust in someone, I have to know about them. However, just because I know about God or know what Scripture says does not mean that I am a Christ-follower. Knowledge alone does not save people from their sins.
- **Assent** - James 2:19 teaches that even the demons believe in God, yet they are obviously not saved, which demonstrates that intellectual assent or believing in the reality of God is not enough for salvation. In Acts 26, King Agrippa had knowledge of Christ and believed that what Paul said about Him was true, yet King Agrippa even realized that he was not a Christ-follower (Acts 26:26-28).
- **Trust** - This form of faith involves a *relationship*, knowing God *personally* as Savior and Lord. For example, we can know about a famous individual such as the President, yet knowledge about the

President does not mean that we are friends with him. Trusting in Christ for salvation involves trusting in Him to save us from the punishment of our sin but also trusting Him enough to submit our lives to Him.

Faith for salvation involves all three of these aspects. It is necessary to have some knowledge of Christ and what He has done in order to begin a relationship with Him. It is also essential that an individual agree that God is real and Christ's death and resurrection is true. However, knowledge and assent are not enough to save. They must be combined with trust, depending on Jesus to save you. *This* is trusting in Christ as a living Person to save you from your sins.

Do not assume that just because the people in your group attend church, come to small group, read the Bible, and know the answers to your questions that they are saved. Direct their attention to Matthew 7:21-23. Challenge small group members to consider if they simply have knowledge about Christ and agree with what the Bible says or if they have actually trusted in Christ for salvation. Take time to get to know group members outside of small group and to ask them about their testimony.

When conversing about faith, the relationship between faith and works often arises. Discuss with your small group how to navigate such conversations. Ephesians 2:8-9; James 2:14-26; and Philippians 2:12 are helpful in thinking through this connection. Challenge them to think through how they would explain the connection between faith and works to a Muslim or to a Catholic.

A point of tension that may arise when discussing faith and repentance with believers is whether conversion occurs at one point in time or is a process. In short, a person may spend a considerable amount of time growing in knowledge and understanding of Scripture, Christ, and salvation. But **regeneration occurs in a particular moment of time**. Now, there may or may not be any dramatic feelings associated with this moment, and although our emotions will be involved, our conversion is not based on emotion. A believer may not necessarily remember the precise day and time of their spiritual birthday. However, we do not decrease in our lostness over time until, one day, we are saved, and no one is born saved. While the Holy Spirit does work

in the lost by giving them understanding of the Word, by convicting them of their sinfulness, by showing them their for Christ, and by drawing them to Himself, there is a definite moment of response where someone becomes a Christ-follower and goes from being an enemy of God to being a member of His family. Find out what your small group members believe about this topic and gently address any misconceptions that are expressed.

Trust in Christ and repentance act as two sides of the same coin. Ask your small group how they would explain repentance. Is it merely recognizing your sinfulness and feeling guilty for sinning? Is it simply asking God to forgive you for sin? Repentance involves forsaking our sin, and in doing so, we turn away from our sin to trust in Christ. It is a 180-degree change. Turning to Christ for salvation necessitates that we *recognize* our sinfulness and the judgment we deserve, that we *feel* contrition or sorrow over our sinfulness, that we *admit* our sin to God and seek His forgiveness, and that we *forsake* our sin to walk in obedience to Christ. Also, discuss the difference between repentance that occurs when trusting in Christ for salvation and the repentance that should occur throughout our lives as God continues to sanctify us.

TEACHING ABOUT THE URGENCY OF ETERNITY

Ask the small group members what they believe about Heaven and Hell. Members of your small group, as well as the people they share with, may have ideas about eternity that are more closely related to the representation in movies and popular culture than Scripture's descriptions. Additionally, there are several popular books published in recent years by people who claim to have had glimpses of Heaven or Hell. Discuss with your small group why we should examine Scripture for all matters related to eternity over and above extra-biblical resources. If they are sharing the gospel and people do ask questions about such post-death experiences, direct attention to what Scripture *does* tell us instead of focusing on the unknown. Together, identify verses in Scripture that describe Heaven, Hell, and eternity. Discuss them as a small group and direct the group to study these passages for themselves.

Also, many people debate whether the images and descriptions of Hell in Scripture should be taken

literally or figuratively. Either way, what do they reveal about Hell?

Consider discussing the following questions regarding the urgency of eternity:

- What types of thoughts and activities keep us from focusing on eternity? What can you do this week to turn your thoughts from the temporary to the eternal? Think about conversations you have had over the last week. Do the things you talk about reflect your belief in eternity?
- Why should we talk about Hell with humble confidence? How do we minimize God's holiness and justice by not speaking about Hell?
- What do your conversations over the past week reveal about your hope? How can we express confidence in Jesus and in the hope of Heaven in our daily lives?
- We are called to make disciples not to manufacture decisions. How can we order our lives to shepherd new believers as they grow in knowledge and understanding of the gospel? How can we practically change in order to live in recognition of people's condition?

When discussing this thread, questions may arise regarding Satan, demons, the return of Christ, and the timeline for the final judgment. Additional Scriptures that can be used in discussion about these topics and about the urgency of eternity include:

- *Matt. 25:41-46; Mk. 9:43-48; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Rev. 14:11* - Descriptions of Hell as a place of fire and torment.
- *Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:40-44; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 7:15; 19:1-9; 21:1-4, 10-11, 27; 22:4* - Descriptions of Heaven and what life in Heaven will be like.
- *Jn. 3:36* - Whoever trusts Christ has eternal life, but those who refuse will experience God's wrath.
- *Jn. 10:27-30* - Eternal security
- *Jn. 17:1-5* - Definition of eternal life
- *Isa. 66:15-24; Matt. 25:31-33; Acts 17:30-31; 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 8; 2 Pet. 2:4-10; Rev. 20:11-15* - The final judgment
- *Matt. 24:30-44; Mk. 13:9-10, 32-33; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 3:11-13; 4:16-17; 5:2; Rev. 1:7; 22:7, 12* - Return of Christ
- *Matt. 25:41; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6* - Demons
- *Job 1:6-7, 12; Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:14-16; Jn. 12:31; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:7-10* - Satan

The Character of God

WHO IS GOD?

God is the starting point of the gospel, for if we do not understand who He is, we will never understand why we need His salvation and why Christ died on a cross. As we tell others about who He is, there are four primary characteristics that need to be highlighted, for these truths about God create a tension that only Christ can solve.

GOD IS CREATOR Genesis 1

Why is it important to believe that *God* is the Creator of the universe?

GOD IS HOLY Isaiah 43:15

What does “holy” mean? How would you explain God’s holiness? How is He different from man and from the gods of other religions?

GOD IS JUST Proverbs 17:15

Explain God’s justice. How can a holy God forgive sinful people?

GOD IS GRACIOUS Titus 2:11

Define “grace.” How is God gracious? His graciousness reveals His desire to show favor to those who are undeserving. How does this characteristic proclaim His heart for redemption? How have you experienced His grace in your life?

**God is the holy, just, and gracious
Creator of all things**

- **God is holy (Isa. 43:15). He is perfectly unique, completely separate, and absolutely pure.**
- **God is just (Prov. 17:15). He justifies the innocent and condemns the guilty.**
- **God is gracious (Tit. 2:11). He shows the guilty free and unmerited favor.**

HOW DO I SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF GOD?

Talking about God as Creator

- Acknowledge the glory of God in creation every chance you have.
- Acknowledge the presence of God in specific facets of your life.
 - God is working in my life (in this way)...
 - God is blessing me (in this way)...
 - God is leading me (in this direction)...
 - God is guiding me (to make this decision)...
 - God is teaching me (this truth)...
 - God is showing me (this realization)...

Talking about the Holiness of God

- Speak about God with reverential awe.
- Speak about yourself with genuine humility.
- Draw attention to the attributes that distinguish God from people in this world.
- Draw attention to ways in which God reigns above the gods in this world.

Talking about the Justice of God

- Express confidence in God before others even when things go wrong.
- Express remorse before God and others when you do something wrong.
- As you work for justice in the world, speak about the Judge of the world.
- As you observe evil and suffering in the world, speak with hope about the world to come.

Talking about the Grace of God

- Constantly point out evidences of God's grace in and around you.
- Constantly credit God as the source of everything good in and around you.
- Continually acknowledge your need for God's grace.
- Unceasingly express your gratitude for God's grace.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF GOD

While we most likely will not have a ready response to every question people will ask, we can consider common questions that people have regarding God's character. How can you respond to the following questions? What Scripture could you share as part of your response?

- How can a good God allow evil in the world?
- Does a loving God send people to Hell?
- How can God be just yet pardon and forgive sinners?
- How can the wrathful God of the Old Testament be the same loving God depicted in the New Testament?
- How did God save people who lived in the era of the Old Testament?

CHURCH WORDS DEFINED

Do not assume that people understand what these words mean. Think through how you would explain these concepts to those unfamiliar with the church's vernacular.

- **Grace/Gracious** - (Tit. 2:11; Ex. 34:6) God giving us what we do not deserve, His favor.
- **Holy** - (Isa. 43:15; 1 Pet. 1:16; Rev. 4:8) Unique, set apart. When used in reference to God, it asserts that there is no one like Him.
- **Just/Justice** - (Prov. 17:15) God punishes the guilty and justifies the innocent.
- **Mercy/Merciful** - (Ex. 34:6) God not giving us what we deserve.
- **Righteous** - (Ps. 145:17) Morally upright and sinless.
- **Sovereign** - (Job 38) As the Creator, God owns all things, is over all things, and has the ability to do what He wants with what is His.

The Sinfulness of Man

WHO AM I?

Sin has become an increasingly difficult and unpopular topic. Why are we tempted to downplay this component of the gospel? If we are to faithfully communicate the biblical gospel, we must be honest about human nature. If we do not view humanity in contrast to the infinite worth and holiness of God, we will have a skewed understanding of ourselves. A high view of God always leads to a humble view of man.

WE ARE CREATED BY GOD IN HIS IMAGE

Genesis 1:26-27

What does it mean to be made in God's image? How has sin affected us as image-bearers?

WE HAVE REBELLED AGAINST GOD

Romans 3:12

Describe humanity's rebellion against God. How have you rebelled against God?

WE ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD

Romans 3:23

Many people think that if they are generally good and do not commit "major" sins, then God will accept them. How is this position contrary to the truth of Scripture?

We are each created by God, but we are all corrupted by sin.

- We have rebelled against God (Rom. 3:12).
 - We have all turned away from God to ourselves.
 - What we thought would lead to freedom has led each of us into slavery.
- We are separated from God (Rom. 3:23).
 - The effects of our sin are varied (i.e., guilt, shame, and fear).
 - What we think is a relatively minor issue is actually an infinitely major problem.
- We are dead without God (Rom. 6:23).
 - What we thought would lead to life has led each of us to death.
 - We are completely unable to save ourselves.

WE ARE DEAD WITHOUT GOD

Romans 6:23

Describe the implications of this consequence of sin.

HOW DO I SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THE SINFULNESS OF MAN?

- Speak respectfully to and about all people as individuals created in the image of God.
- Look intentionally for opportunities to encourage others by the grace of God.
- Share confidently in view of the regenerating power of God.

Talking About Our Rebellion

- Acknowledge the reality of sin in and around you.
- Acknowledge the root of sin in and around you.
- Speak honestly about our propensity to sin.
- Talk about sin in all its forms.
- Talk about sin in light of its force.

Talking About Our Separation

- Speak humbly about the seriousness of sin.
- Let the effects of sin inform the way you talk about

CHURCH WORDS DEFINED

- **Sin** - (Rom. 1:28-32) Disobedience to God. It involves doing both what He has instructed us not to do and not doing what He commands.
- **Sin Nature** - (Ps. 51:3-5; Rom. 7:18) The nature or inclination of mankind to sin.
- **Depravity** - (Rom. 1:21-32; Eph. 2:1-3) We are dead in sin and are unable to save ourselves.
- **Original Sin** - (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-21) The first or original sin, which was committed by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden when they ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- **The Fall** - (Gen. 3) This term describes the fall of humanity into sin and refers to the first sin, which occurred in the Garden of Eden by Adam and Eve.
- **Physical Death** - (1 Cor. 15:54-57; Heb. 9:27) The death of the body.
- **Spiritual Death** - (Rom. 6:23) Separation from God.
- **Eternal Death** - (Rev. 20:6, 13-15) Eternal separation from God.

salvation.

- In conversations about guilt, look for opportunities to talk about the forgiveness of Christ.
- In conversations about shame, look for opportunities to talk about honor in Christ.
- In conversations about fear, talk about freedom in Christ.

Talking About Our Deadness

- Respond to the death of non-Christians...
 - With appropriate honor
 - With biblical honesty
 - With personal humility
 - With heart-breaking anguish
 - With life-giving resolve
- Respond to the death of Christians...
 - With profound sorrow
 - With abiding joy
 - With sincere worship
 - With unshakeable hope
- Constantly point to our dependence on God.
- Constantly point to our desperation for God.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SINFULNESS OF MAN?

- How can God love and forgive *me* in light of what *I* have done?
- How can you respond to people who feel like they must first clean themselves up before they can come to God?
- How would you engage with a person who is a “cultural Christian”?
- How would you react to a person who does not want to give up their sinful lifestyle in order to follow Jesus?
- How would you counter someone who thinks that man is basically good?
- How can you answer someone who does not think their sins are “that bad,” especially when compared to what other people have done?
- Why would God create humanity if He knew that Adam and Eve would sin?
- How would you respond to a person who believes that as long as their good outweighs their bad, they will go to Heaven/Paradise?
- What happens to children when they die? Is there an “age of accountability”?

The Sufficiency of Christ

HOW IS JESUS UNIQUE?

The just character of God is at odds with the loving character of God when we consider salvation. Why is this tension essential to the gospel? Because Christ is fully human and fully God, He is able to resolve the tension between God's justice and God's love with regard to sinners. As a result, He alone provides the way to salvation (Jn. 14:6).

HE LIVED THE LIFE WE COULD NOT LIVE

1 John 3:5

How did Christ's life as a man on earth enable Him to be the only eligible substitute to pay the penalty for sin?

HE DIED THE DEATH WE DESERVE TO DIE

1 Peter 2:24

How does Christ's death satisfy the wrath of God?

HE CONQUERED THE ENEMY WE CANNOT CONQUER

Revelation 1:18

How does Christ's resurrection demonstrate the power of God?

Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God.

- He lived the life we could not live (1 Jn. 3:5).
 - He was fully tempted by sin.
 - He fully triumphed over sin.
 - As a perfect man, He alone is able to substitute for human sin.
 - As a perfect God, He alone is able to satisfy divine judgment.
- He died the death we deserve to die (1 Pet. 2:24).
 - The essence of sin: man substitutes himself for God.
 - Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be.
 - The essence of salvation: God substitutes Himself for man.
 - God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserved to be.
 - At the cross, God expresses His judgment upon sin, endures His judgment against sin, and enables salvation for sinners.
- He conquered the enemy we cannot conquer (Rev. 1:18).
 - He is Lord over life and death.
 - He is Lord over sin and Satan.
 - He is Lord over you and me.

HOW DO I SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST?

- In looking for opportunities to talk about Christ, one way is to share how Christ is working in you. How is He currently working in your life?

Talking about Jesus' Life

- Look for opportunities to highlight Jesus' example for us.
- Look for opportunities to acknowledge Jesus' work in us.
- Look for opportunities to point out Jesus' identification with us.

Talking about Jesus' Death

- Never stop emphasizing the gravity of sin.
- Never stop talking about your gratitude for Christ.

Talking about Jesus' Resurrection

- Speak about difficulties with hope.
- Speak about death with hope.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

- Why did Christ have to come to earth and die?
- How do we know Christ is fully human and fully God?
- Why is it important that Christ be fully human and fully God?
- Why was the virgin birth of Jesus necessary?
- How do we know that Jesus actually rose from the dead?
- Why is it important that Jesus is the only way to God? Why can't there be multiple paths to God?
- How is Jesus unique from us, from the founders of other religions (i.e., Muhammad, Siddhartha Gautama (Buddhism), Joseph Smith, etc.), and from the gods of other religions?

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." -C.S. Lewis

CHURCH WORDS DEFINED

Because many of the words below appear in Scripture, take time to discuss what these words mean and how to explain these concepts to others.

- **Substitution** - (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18) When Christ died on the cross, He paid our sin debt for us. Christ substitutes Himself for man, sacrifices Himself for man, and puts Himself where man deserves to be. An example of substitution is when Aslan takes Edmund's place at the Stone Table in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.
- **Justification** - (Rom. 3:24-26; 5:1; 8:33-34) The gracious act of God by which He declares a sinner righteous only because of the person's faith in Christ. The sinner who is guilty is declared "not guilty" by God because of Christ.
- **Redemption** - (Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:11-15; 1 Pet. 1:18-19) Sinners are bought by God with the blood of Christ for His name's sake. We are slaves to sin, and God purchases us out of slavery to sin. Our redemption is costly because it was paid with the blood of Christ.
- **Ransom** - (Mk. 10:45; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Rev. 5:9) A ransom is the price paid to purchase someone. The blood of Jesus Christ was the ransom paid to redeem sinners and to purchase them from their slavery to sin.
- **Propitiation** - (Rom. 3:25; 1 Jn. 2:2) The appeasement of God's wrath against sinners because of the blood of Christ. This frees us from all guilt of our sin.
- **Atonement** - (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:17; 1 Pet. 2:24) The work Christ did to obtain our salvation. His sacrifice satisfies the wrath of God against sinners. He makes amends and reparations for our sins.
- **Imputation** - (Rom. 4:5, 22-24) The righteousness of Christ is credited to the sinner who trusts in Him as Lord and Savior. As a result, when God sees us He sees the righteousness of Christ.
- **Reconciliation** - (Rom. 5:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:17-19) The restoration of the relationship between God and a sinner. It involves the work of both parties. Through Christ's death and resurrection, God offers people the opportunity to be reconciled to Him, but individuals are not reconciled to God unless they respond by trusting in Christ as Savior and Lord.

The Necessity of Faith

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS?

Confusion exists in our culture about faith and what it means to be a Christian. Some dilute the faith and are “unconverted believers” because they say that they believe in Jesus yet they do not follow Him.

Others complicate the faith to the point that they never know if they actually have it. So what *does* it mean to follow Jesus?

WE CAN BE RESTORED TO GOD ONLY THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS

Colossians 2:13-14

What is the goal of the gospel? Why is faith in Christ the means of salvation?

WE TURN FROM OUR SIN AND OURSELVES

Mark 1:15

Explain “repentance.” Discuss the difference between repentance that occurs when trusting in Christ for salvation and the repentance that should occur throughout our lives as God continues to sanctify us.

WE TRUST IN JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD

Romans 10:9-13

Explain the relationship between faith and repentance. What does it mean to trust in Jesus as *Savior* and *Lord*?

We can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.

- We can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.
 - We can be restored to God...
 - We can be acquitted before God the Judge (He will cancel our guilt).
 - We can be adopted by God the Father (He will remove our shame).
 - We can be assured by God the King (He will overcome our fear).
 - Only through faith in Jesus.
 - Jesus is the basis of salvation.
 - Faith is the means of salvation.
 - Works are the evidence of salvation.
- We turn from our sin and ourselves (Mk. 1:15).
 - We confess our sinfulness.
 - We die to our selfishness.
- We trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord (Rom. 10:9).
 - We believe in Jesus as the Savior who died for us.
 - We submit to Jesus as the Lord who rules over us.
- An initial moment of faith in time leads to inevitable growth in faith over time.

AN INITIAL MOMENT OF FAITH LEADS TO INEVITABLE GROWTH IN FAITH OVER TIME

Luke 9:23; James 2:14-26

What is the relationship between faith and works in the Christian life?

HOW DO I SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF FAITH?

- Take advantage of every opportunity you have to tell your story.
 - Keep it simple and understandable.
 - Keep it focused on the greatness of God and on the threads of the gospel.
 - Be humble and prayerful.
 - Be passionate and be yourself.

Talking About Restoration

- In conversations about guilt, talk about the forgiveness of Christ.
- In conversations about shame, talk about honor in Christ.

CHURCH WORDS DEFINED

- **Conversion** - (Mk. 1:14-15; Heb. 6:1) The divinely enabled response of individuals to the gospel in which they turn from their sin (repent) and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- **Born Again** - (Jn. 3:3-21) It refers to regeneration, the act of God at the moment of salvation when one instantly goes from being dead in sin to alive in Christ.
- **Adoption** - (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:14-17) The gracious act of God by which He confers upon sinners the position of sons and the privileges of sonship.
- **Repent** - (Ez. 18:30-32; Mk. 1:15; Acts 3:19; 2 Cor. 7:9-10) Repentance involves an intellectual acknowledgement of sin, an emotional sorrow over sin, and a personal decision to flee sin.
- **Faith** - (Jn. 1:12; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9, 14-17; Heb. 11:1) It involves knowing about Christ, believing that He is Who Scripture describes, and establishing a trusting relationship with Him as Lord and Savior.
- **Sanctification** - (Rom. 6:11-14, 19; 12:2; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 12:1; 13:20-21) The process by which God transforms our lives into the image of Christ. Sanctification occurs after salvation and is not a means of obtaining salvation.
- **Election** - (Rom. 9; Eph. 1; 1 Pet. 1:1-3) The sovereign act of God before the foundation of the world in which He chose to save people solely by His grace and for His glory.

- In conversations about fear, talk about freedom in Christ.

Talking About Turning

- Point to the mercy of Christ when people around you see their sin.
- Point to the presence of Christ when people around you come to the end of themselves.

Talking About Trusting

- Encourage people to see the lordship of Christ.
- Urge people to receive the love of Christ.

Talking with Children About Faith

- Maximize interaction.
- Utilize illustration.
- Use repetition.
 - Constantly emphasize the threads of the gospel.
 - Continually encourage a posture of turning and trusting.

Talking with Cultural Christians About Faith

- Ask thought-provoking questions.
- Avoid (or clearly define) over-familiar terms.
- Invite them to study the Bible with you.
- Expose them to good, gospel-saturated community and resources.
- Boldly and graciously call them to turn and trust.
- Intentionally and humbly weave gospel threads.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF FAITH?

- How can we have assurance of salvation? Can Christians lose their salvation (Jn. 10:27-29; Eph. 1:1-14)?
- Do we have to say a particular prayer (“the sinner’s prayer”) in order to be saved?
- What does it mean to be born again (Jn. 3)?
- How does sanctification relate to salvation?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit with regards to a person’s conversion?
- What is the relationship between God’s sovereignty and man’s will with regard to salvation?
- What if someone cannot identify the day/time when they became a Christian?

The Urgency of Eternity

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Ultimately, the gospel is essential because our eternal destiny hinges on our response to Jesus. Every single person responds to Christ in one of two ways and will end up in one of two eternal destinations when they die. As a result, each person must determine whether they will turn from Jesus or turn to Him.

HELL IS A DREADFUL REALITY FOR THOSE WHO TURN FROM JESUS

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

How is Hell “the greatest monument to human freedom” (C.S. Lewis)? Why do its inhabitants deserve to live there for the rest of eternity?

HEAVEN IS A GLORIOUS REALITY FOR THOSE WHO TRUST IN JESUS

Philippians 3:20

Describe the implications of being a citizen of Heaven. How does the Bible describe Heaven?

WILL YOU TURN FROM JESUS, OR WILL YOU TRUST IN JESUS?

John 3:16

Why would someone choose to turn from Jesus? Why would someone choose to trust in Jesus? Why would we delay this decision?

Our eternal destiny hinges upon our response to Jesus.

- Hell is a dreadful reality for those who turn from Jesus (2 Thess. 1:8-9).
 - A place of continual rebellion
 - A place of final separation
 - A place of eternal duration
- Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust in Jesus (Phil. 3:20).
 - A place of full reconciliation
 - A place of complete resurrection
 - A place of ultimate reunion
- Will you turn from Jesus, or will you trust in Jesus (Jn. 3:16)?
 - Will you turn from Jesus?
 - Live without Christ now
 - Die without Christ forever
 - Will you trust in Jesus?
 - Die with Christ now
 - Live with Christ forever

HOW DO I SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THE URGENCY OF ETERNITY?

- Minimize your conversations about temporal things.
- Maximize your conversations about eternal things.

Talking about Hell

- Speak about God's character with humble confidence.
- Speak about God's judgment with healthy fear.
- Speak about God's wrath with honest compassion.

"There are only two kinds of people - those who say 'Thy will be done' to God or those to whom God in the end says, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice it wouldn't be Hell."
C.S. Lewis

Talking about Heaven

- Talk like this world is not your hope.
- Live like this world is not your home.
- Talk about your anticipation of being with God.
- Talk about your realization that dying is gain.

CALLING People to Turn and Trust

- Clarify the gospel.
- Ask...
 - If they have any questions
 - If they have ever turned from their sin and themselves and trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord
 - If they would like to turn from their sin and themselves and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord now
- Let the Holy Spirit work.
 - Invite them to call out to God to save them.
 - Be willing to let them be alone with God.
- Lead them as a new follower of Christ.
 - We don't want to manufacture decisions.
 - We do want to make disciples.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE URGENCY OF ETERNITY

- How do you know that there is an afterlife?
- How can a loving God send people to Hell?
- What are Heaven and Hell like?
- Is purgatory biblical?
- Are people reincarnated when they die?
- Are there levels of punishment in Hell and levels of reward in Heaven?
- Why is Jesus the only way to Heaven?
- If I am a good person, will I go to Heaven?
- What happens to those who never have the opportunity to hear about Jesus?
- What happens to children who die in infancy or to people who have mental disabilities that prevent them from understanding salvation?

CHURCH WORDS DEFINED

- **Glorification** - (1 Cor. 15:42-57; Rev. 21:1-4) One day soon, Christ will return for His people and resurrect their bodies to reign forever with Him.
- **Preservation & Perseverance** - (Ps. 37:28; Jn. 6:38-40; 10:27-29; Rom. 8:30; 2 Tim. 2:11-13, 19) Everyone who has been born again will persevere to the end by the power of God's preservation.
- **Resurrection** - (Matt. 28; Lk. 24; Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:1-11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15; 2 Cor. 4:14) It refers to God raising Christ from the dead three days after His crucifixion and to the day when Christ will raise our bodies from the dead and give His followers a resurrection or glorified body.
- **Consummation** - (Rom. 8:19-25; Eph. 1:13-23; 1 Jn. 3:1-3; Rev. 21:1-8; 22:1-5) When God's plan of redemption is accomplished and His purpose for creation fulfilled. It occurs after Christ's return when creation is renewed and our bodies are resurrected.

Section Two

Writing Your Testimony & Sharing The Gospel

*“But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8

Tips for Teaching Others How to Share the Gospel

As you speak with your group about weaving gospel threads and sharing their testimony, utilize the scale below. Ask group members to identify where they are in their love for the unsaved and *why* they would describe themselves as that particular number. What steps can they take to grow in their love for the lost, in their ability to share the gospel, and in their boldness in doing so?

Discuss with your group how God demonstrates love by choosing to include believers in His work. How should this transform our attitudes regarding evangelism and service? Ask the group what hinders them from feeling amazed that God involves them in Kingdom work?

In John 15:1-5, Jesus expresses to His disciples that they can do nothing unless they abide in Him. Either one-on-one or during group time, ask the group members to share about their relationship with God and how they are growing in intimacy with Him. Discuss with the group how our relationship with God affects our witness for God.

While Scripture is clear in its commands to share the gospel and most believers know to *do* this, many Christ-followers struggle in *how* to do this. In addition to weaving gospel threads into conversations, believers can also share the gospel through their own story of how God saved them. To equip your small group to share the gospel through their testimony, use the information on “How to Share the Gospel Through Your Story” (pg. 23) and “Writing Your Story” (pg. 24).

After having group members write their testimonies, consider taking one night for group members to practice sharing their testimony with the others in the

“but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy; always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” -1 Peter 3:15-16

group. Another idea involves having one person share their testimony at the beginning of small group each week. This allows the person to practice sharing, and it gives the group an opportunity for the group to get to know the person better. Also, if we are uncomfortable in talking about God with other believers, it will be difficult to share our faith with people who are lost. We talk about the people and things that are important to us, and if weaving the gospel is going to be a natural part of our conversations with unbelievers, it needs to be natural for us to talk about God in general.

In teaching others about practical insights about sharing the gospel (pg. 25), discuss how to recognize when the Holy Spirit is working in someone and drawing them to Himself. How can we tune our hearts to be sensitive to how God is working? How would our lives look if we truly believed that God is already at work in the hearts of people around us? Ask the group members how they can join God in *His* work this week. How can they intentionally make themselves more available to be around unsaved people? How can they cultivate relationships with the lost? Ask how they typically respond when opportunities to share arise and if they even recognize when such opportunities come their way. What do they need to rearrange in their lives this week to make evangelism a priority?

Love Those Not Yet In The Kingdom



How to Share the Gospel Through Your Story

Read the two paragraphs below. With each paragraph, underline the elements of the gospel that you see in the testimony. Do both of the testimonies include each of the five threads of the gospel?

TESTIMONY 1

I was born into a Christian family where my parents took us to church every time the doors were open. My brother and I were active at church as kids and participated in all the various programs. When I was ten, I attended Vacation Bible School at the First Baptist Church in the community where I lived. At the end of that week of VBS, the teachers took each of the children aside and told them about Jesus. I remember asking Jesus into my heart that day. Ever since that time, I have been faithful to attend church and to learn the Bible and pray. I was later baptized. Since VBS has had an important place in my life, I take a week out of my summer every year to serve as a teacher with that program. I really love serving at VBS every year and teaching all the Bible lessons.

TESTIMONY 2

I trusted in Christ as my Savior and Lord at the age of ten. My Vacation Bible School teachers took me aside and explained the gospel to me. They told me that all of us do things which do not please God, that we are all sinners. They told me that by his death and resurrection, Jesus took the punishment I deserved. They asked me if I wanted to have a relationship with God for eternity. I did. But how? They taught me that only through faith in Jesus I could have a relationship with God. By confessing Jesus as Lord and by asking him to save me from my sin, I could have a relationship with God forever. I trusted Christ and asked for forgiveness that day. Later in life as I studied the Bible, I learned that God was a loving, merciful, and just God who hates sin. He sent his Son to be my Savior so that I could honor and glorify him with my life.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Could someone know to turn from their sin and trust in Christ simply by hearing your story? Does your testimony include each of the five gospel threads?
- Write your testimony, and after doing so, underline each of the gospel threads in your story. Does your testimony include each of the five elements of the gospel?
- If one of the threads is missing, edit your testimony until it contains all five elements. The point in doing this is to help you think through how you can share the full gospel story through your testimony.
- These gospel threads may not necessarily appear in the exact order of God, man, Christ, etc., but they do all need to be included in your story.
- *Our* story should not be the dominant note. What should be dominant is who *God* is and what *He* has done.

Writing Your Story

Use the following prompts to help you write your story.

I was awakened to my need for a Savior by (people, circumstances, books, etc.)...

I realized that God is...

I realized that I was separated from God because...

I came to understand that Christ...

I responded to the good news of Christ's death and resurrection by...

Use your comments from the previous five statements to write out your story in 100 words or less.

Practical Insights About Sharing the Gospel

In John 4, John describes an encounter that Jesus had with a stranger in which He initiated communication and used what they had in common to guide the conversation to spiritual matters. Read John 4:1-26. What insights can you glean regarding how to initiate gospel conversations with people that you meet? What threads of the gospel does Jesus weave into this conversation?

involves listening and actually hearing what they have to say. Avoid being a conversation hijacker and preaching at the person. Listen for root issues, questions, and beliefs that the person has, and do not be afraid of awkward silences because people often need time to process before responding. Listening also enables you to identify topics in the conversation that can help you transition to spiritual matters and weave gospel threads into the conversation. How can you take a natural conversation about common things and connect it to the gospel without it coming off like an abrupt topic change?

As you learn more about personal evangelism and train your small group in this, discuss the following precepts for talking with people about salvation.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

While some opportunities to share happen with complete strangers that you may never see again, establishing relationships with people enable them to see the gospel lived out, provide opportunities for ongoing conversation, and demonstrate care for the person. What questions do you have about building relationships with unbelievers?

ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

As you get to know people, ask them questions about themselves, find out what they know and believe, and create a dialogue rather than a monologue. Avoid questions that require a simple “yes” or “no” response such as “why” and “what” questions (“What do you think about...?” or “Why do you think...?”). What types of questions can you ask in order to start and engage a conversation with someone about faith?

LISTEN

We want to talk *with* people not *at* people, which

WATCH YOUR MANNERISMS & BODY LANGUAGE

Active listening involves our body language. How can you express care and interest through your facial expressions, posture, and other nonverbal actions?

AVOID “CHURCH” LANGUAGE

Christians have their own vernacular that can confuse people and even make people feel like outsiders. In conversations, explain concepts simply and clearly. What types of church words do you commonly use that an unbeliever may not understand? How can you explain those terms?

DEPEND ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

People may not be willing to discuss spiritual matters, so be sensitive if you seem to hit a brick wall. Continue praying for the person and for the Spirit to guide your conversations with them. Express your care for the person regardless of whether or not they follow Christ.

How Will I Share God's Love As A Witness In the World?

God's will in the world and for our lives is to spread His gospel, grace, and glory to all peoples. Instead of asking what God's will is for our lives, every disciple of Jesus asks, "How can my life align with His will for me to be His witness in the world?"

Every person whom God has graciously put around you is a sinner eternally in need of a Savior. You were once that person, yet someone intentionally sought you out to share the gospel with you. And now this is the purpose for which God has graciously created, saved, and blessed you.

WHO?

Take some time to write down the names of three, five, or maybe ten unbelievers whom God has placed in your life. Then begin praying specifically for God, through the power of His Spirit, to draw them to salvation and to use you to share the gospel with them.

HOW?

Think through how, in the context of where you live, work, and play, and with the people God has put around you, you can begin to speak intentionally about God's character, man's sin, Christ's provision, and our need to respond to that provision?

WHEN?

It's wise to consider how you can actively show Christ's love by creating opportunities to tell people about Jesus. Think about the people you identified above and how you can specifically and deliberately create opportunities to share the gospel with them.

HOW WILL I PRAY FOR THE NATIONS?

Plan to sacrifice and spend for the sake of the nations. Sacrifice the wants in your budget to give to the needs of the world - most particularly the need for every people group to hear the gospel.

HOW WILL I GIVE TO THE NATIONS?

Plan to sacrifice and spend for the sake of the nations. Sacrifice the wants in your budget to give to the needs of the world-most particularly the need for every people group to hear the gospel.

HOW WILL I GO TO THE NATIONS?

Consider all the avenues in which you might spend your life, lead your family, or leverage your work to penetrate the people groups of the world with the gospel. Intentionally plan how you might go to the nations, as the Lord leads.

Resources for Small Groups

GENERAL RESOURCES ABOUT THE GOSPEL

- 3:16 Sermon Series (Dec. 2007) by David Platt
- *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God* by J. I. Packer
- *Explicit Gospel* by Matt Chandler
- *Exploring the Holy Spirit* (Secret Church, Nov. 2008) by David Platt
- *Gospel* by J.D. Greear
- Lifeblood Sermon Series (March 2008) by David Platt
- *Radical* by David Platt
- *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart: How to Know for Sure You Are Saved* by J.D. Greear
- *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem
- Threads Sermon Series (July 2007 & Spring 2013) by David Platt
- *What is the Gospel?* by Greg Gilbert

CHARACTER OF GOD

- “How Do We Worship God In His Wrath?” (Sept. 2012) by David Platt
- “The Character of God” (Feb. 2013) by David Platt
- “The Character of God & the Sinfulness of Man” (July 2008) by David Platt
- “The Marvel of God’s Mercy” (Dec. 2010) by David Platt
- “Unwavering Holiness & Unrelenting Love” (July 2010) by Bart Box
- *Who is God?* (Secret Church, May 2008) by David Platt

SINFULNESS OF MAN

- “Prologue: Creation” (Jan. 2010) by David Platt
- “The Character of God & the Sinfulness of Man” (July 2008) by David Platt
- “The Sinfulness of Man” (Feb. 2013) by David Platt

SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST

- *Crucifixion, Salvation, & the Glory of God* (Secret Church, April 2011) by David Platt
- *The Cross & Suffering* (Secret Church, April 2012) by David Platt
- “The Cross-Centered Life” (Dec. 2010) by David Platt
- *The Cross of Christ* (Secret Church, April 2009) by David Platt

- “The Scandal of the Gospel” (Aug. 2010) by David Platt
- “The Sufficiency of Christ” (Feb. 2013) by David Platt
- “The Sufficiency of Christ & the Necessity of Faith” (July 2008) by David Platt

NECESSITY OF FAITH

- “Repentance & Resolutions” (Jan. 2012) by David Platt
- “The Necessity of Faith” (March 2013) by David Platt
- “The Sufficiency of Christ & the Necessity of Faith” (July 2008) by David Platt

URGENCY OF ETERNITY

- *Angels, Demons, & Spiritual Warfare* (Secret Church, Nov. 2009) by David Platt
- “Consummation of the Kingdom” (Oct. 2012) by David Platt
- *Erasing Hell* by Francis Chan
- *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn
- *Heaven, Hell, & the End of the World* (Secret Church, March 2013) by David Platt
- “The Urgency of Eternity” (July 2008 & March 2013) by David Platt

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

- *Evangelism* by J.D. Payne
- *Let the Nations Be Glad* by John Piper
- *Out of the Saltshaker & into the World* by Rebecca Pippert
- “Weaving the Gospel into the Fabric of Cultural Christianity” (March 2013) by Jim Shaddix
- “Weaving the Gospel into the Fabric of Humanism” (March 2013) by Jim Shaddix

APOLOGETICS

- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
- *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh & Sean McDowell
- *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel
- *The End of Reason* by Ravi Zacharias
- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell
- *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller

