**The American Gospel Leader’s Notes**

I think this DVD can be helpful in two main ways:

* Reinforces and teaches the true Biblical gospel in many different ways and so helps to increase understanding of it
* Encourages us to be students of the Bible and to be prepared for false teaching by giving examples of false teachings and teachers in American churches today

Blue text are the leaders notes to give examples and ideas to start your discussion. It is not complete, so you may want to add others ideas or scriptures

As you watch this video – use this guide to take notes and organize your thoughts. Keep in mind the video cuts back and forth between a Biblical view of the gospel and many variations of false gospels and false teachings that misinterpret what the Bible teaches.

**In a just a few sentences describe key parts of the Biblical gospel - the "good news" highlighted in the DVD**

You may want to just use the other handout for discussion of this section on the biblical teaching on the Gospel entitled “Gospel Understanding Assessment”

Here are some of the key points and scriptures from the video:

* God is holy and just – looking at God we see how sinful we are
* Man is a sinner
  + Ephesians 2:1- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (ESV)
  + Romans 3:10–12 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (ESV)
* Jesus lived a perfect life
* Because of our sin we owed a debt - Christ bore our sin paid our debt on the cross
  + Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)
  + John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again. (ESV)
  + Justification (act of being declared righteousness in the sight of God) by faith alone in Christ alone
* Jesus is **the** way
  + John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)
* Others:
  + Gospel is not a plan it is a person – a living vibrant relationship with a person
  + Law (obedience) is do, Gospel is done (relationship)
  + The gospel is not just for lost people
  + We are saved
    - by Grace Alone
    - through Faith Alone
    - in Christ Alone
    - according to Scripture Alone
    - for the Gory of God Alone

There are many false teachings about the gospel– several are discussed in the video. List some key teachings from these “false gospels” Use the right side for the false statements or teachings and the left for the response or scriptural teaching. Note these false teachings overlap and are often mixed together, so don’t worry about finding the perfect category.

**Salvation by Works**

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| * We are saved by being a “good person” – by being morally good and doing good works | * This results in pride or despair * It is impossible to be good “enough” under our own efforts * Matt 19:17 And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good….(ESV) * Matt 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV) * Ephesians 2:8–9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing**; it is the gift of God**, [9] **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. (ESV) |

**The Power Gospel/Signs and Wonders**

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| * We are gods (little gods) and so have the same power that Jesus did to do miracles * Your words have power | * This is the Gospel plus signs and miracles * Jesus was fully man and fully God * Luke 16:31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” (ESV) * Romans 1:16 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. (ESV) * 1 Corinthians 1:22–23 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, (ESV) |

**Word of Faith**

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| * We call into existence what we say – what we declare creates reality * The more money you give the more God will answer your prayers * Remind God of the good you have done to be blessed | * Only God and call create things and call them into existence * Colossians 1:16 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. (ESV) |

**Prosperity Gospel**

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| * God’s will for a Christian is to be healthy and wealthy and happy * We are good people by nature * If you have enough faith you will never be sick and God will always heal you * God will give you the desires of your heart (like a Genie) * Jesus bled and died for us so that we can lay claim to the promise of financial prosperity | * 2 Peter 2:3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (ESV) * God can and does heal people, but we do not have a guarantee of healing and health, rather that God will be with us in health and in suffering * 2 Timothy 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (ESV) |

**How can we avoid being deceived by false teachings?**

Counterfeit Gospels focus on man and his ability, the true gospel’s focus in on God and his glory

Galatians 1:6–8 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— [7] not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. [8] But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (ESV)

Watch out for False Teachers

* 2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, **just as there will be false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (ESV)
* Matthew 7:15–20 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. [16] You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? [17] So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. [18] A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] **Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.** (ESV)
* Matthew 10:16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so **be wise** as serpents and innocent as doves. (ESV)

Know God’s Word

* Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so**. (ESV)
* 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth**.
* Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, **that by testing you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
* 1 Thessalonians 5:21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. (ESV)

Gather with others to study and understand

* Hebrews 3:12–13 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. [13] **But exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (ESV)
* Hebrews 10:24–25 And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)
* Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom**, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (ESV)