

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

1. Purpose:

“The news of Jesus is inextricably linked with and set in the context of the whole biblical narrative. The story of Jesus is the climax and fulfillment of the story of Israel. When taken out of the context of that bigger story, the story of Jesus becomes impossible to rightly comprehend. Jesus and the apostles framed their gospel proclamations around the story of Israel, which finds its climax in Israel’s Messianic King, Jesus, who died for our sins and rose again so that we may be saved.” Jackson Wu *One Gospel for All Nations*

The purpose of this study is for you to have a very clear understanding of what the gospel message actually is so that you can share it with other people in such a way that they understand it clearly.

'At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. '

-Colossians 4:3-4

2. Time Frame:

- 5 Weeks
 - Week 1 Questions 1-3
 - Week 2 Questions 4
 - Week 3 Question 5
 - Week 4 Questions 6-7
 - Week 5 Questions 8-10

3. Objectives:

- Have a clear understanding of the breadth of the gospel message as found in the context of the whole Bible
- Be able to verbally state the good news of the Bible in 2-3 minutes in your own words.
- Be able to adjust the 'framework' of the gospel to enhance understanding of it for people from other cultures, worldviews or religious backgrounds.

Week 1

In most instances where the word “gospel” is mentioned in the New Testament, its meaning is assumed rather than explained. It was a shorthand way of referring to the core message of the Christian faith. But we do have some examples of summaries of the gospel. Below are three of the most concise ones we find in the Bible.

- 2 Timothy 2:8
- Romans 1:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

1. Carefully study and then paraphrase in your own words each of the passages above.

a. 2 Timothy 2:8

b. Romans 1:1-6

c. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

2. How do these summaries compare with how we often summarize the gospel?
How do they differ?

3. How does the New Testament portray the good news in the Gospels.

a. Mk 1:1,14-15

b. Mk 10:45

c. Luke 1:19, 32-33, 54-55, 69-70, 73

d. Luke 2:10-11

e. Luke 8:1, 4-15

f. John 1:1-18

g. John 3:16-18

Week 2



“The Book of Acts records several proclamations of the gospel by the apostles. Most likely these were summaries of the main message, but not the entire message. These messages were all articulations of the **one** gospel, but they were not all identical messages. They contain the same core content, but are tailored for each specific audience. We would do well to carefully study these proclamations and discover by comparing and contrasting them what we all we can about how the apostles proclaimed the gospel” Jackson Wu

4. Summarize/outline how the Gospel is presented in each passage below.

- Peter to the Jewish crowd at Pentecost - Acts 2:14-40

- Peter to the crowd at the temple - Acts 3:12-26

- Peter to the Sanhedrin - Acts 4:5-12

- Stephen to the Sanhedrin - Acts 7

- Peter to the Cornelius' Household - Acts 10:28-47

- Paul in Pisidian Antioch - Acts 13:13-51
- Paul in Lystra - Acts 14:8-23
- Paul in Athens - Acts 17:16-34
- Paul to King Agrippa - Acts 26:2-23

Week 3

5. How do the Epistles portray the meaning of the Good News?

a. Romans 1:15-17 - Romans 3:21-26

b. 2 Cor 4:4-6

c. 2 Cor 5:21

d. Galatians 2:14-16, 20-21

e. Galatians 3:7,8 Genesis 12:1-3

f. Ephesians 2:1-10

g. Colossians 1:6, 12-14

h. Colossians 1:21-23 (1:15-20 is the context?)

i. 2 Tim 1:8-11

j. Titus 2:11-14

k. Titus 3:3-7

l. Revelation 1:4-6

Week 4

6. What other passages do you think summarize the meaning of the good news?
7. How do these well known pastors/theologians/organizations summarize the gospel? What do they include in their presentation, what parts do they leave out? Which ones do you think most accurately describe the good news?

John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIfLFeb5vww>

Thabiti Anyabwile

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w79hiVcXSDc>

Ravi Zacharias

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

Nancy Guthrie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0Ovilv9o-4>

NT Wright - Starting @ 3:08-5:07

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

Matt Chandler

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSUAGm_J5dM

Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/euangelion-gospel>

Zume Training video

<https://vimeo.com/247064875>

Lecrea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt9VA3Cxdfo>

The Gospel In Four Minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K48-Li7IIfA>

Tim Keller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0g-s4Qhtyk>

David Platt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o04cOmtH8Vs>

KP Yohannah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A53q95A2zVA>

Eugene Cho

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kVaKZ5da5k>

Southern Seminary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5kJRX2JYS0>

Scot McKnight 1:30 ff

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HdyhUQ3Krs>

8. Why do you think there is so much diversity in how people explained the good news in the question above?

Week 5

9. How would you summarize the good news after doing this study in a 2-3 minute presentation? Draw a picture or diagram that illustrates what you are sharing.



10. How would you share it with an international friend that you know from another country or religious background? How would you 'frame' your message differently if the person comes from an honor/shame culture or power/fear culture, is an atheist, a Muslim or Hindu? Pick one of the above and share your 'framework' for sharing the good news.