



TRANSFORMED BY HIS MISSION

What is the Gospel (Good News)?

The good news is that:

- The one and only God who is holy made us in his image to know him (Gen. 1:26-28).
- But we sinned and cut ourselves off from him (Gen. 3; Rom. 3:23).

- In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for sins (John 1:14; Heb. 7:26; Rom. 3:21-26, 5:12-21).
- He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ's sacrifice and that God's wrath against us had been exhausted (Acts 2:24, Rom. 4:25).
- He now calls us to repent of our sins and trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness (Acts 17:30, John 1:12). If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God (John 3:16).
- He is gathering one new people to himself among all those who submit to Christ as Lord (Matt. 16:15-19; Eph. 2:11-19).

Where is the Gospel in the Bible?

Romans 1-4 contains one of the fullest expositions of the gospel in all of Scripture, and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 contains a succinct summary of the gospel.

Why is the Gospel important?

- A biblical understanding of the gospel is important because the gospel contains God's power to save people from the consequences of being separated from God. The Gospel is the only revealed way for sinful people to be reconciled to a holy God.
- Not only that, but everything in a church flows from its understanding of the gospel, whether preaching, counseling, discipleship, music, evangelism, missions, and so on.¹

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Jesus said in Mark 1:15: "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Believers create opportunities to share the Gospel with others by building relationships. **We build relationships by "loving our neighbor." We love our "neighbors" (the people all around us) by enjoying them, recognizing and responding to their needs with words, acts of kindness and out loud prayer.** We believe that Jesus is the one who saves, not us. Based on this truth, Missiologist Greg Finke writes:

¹ The Gospel section is extracted from 9marks.com

“Jesus is on a mission and he invites you to join Him. He does not give you a mission to do for Him. He is on a mission and invites you to come with Him.”

For more on this, please read *Joining Jesus on His Mission by Greg Finke*. Here are some more ways to build relationships and enjoy people:

- Have a party and invite friends who are not Jesus followers (ice cream party, s’mores are ideas)
- Invite your co-workers to lunch who do not know Jesus
- Participate in community gatherings like festivals, art shows and city celebrations, and talk to people
- Invite neighbors or friends to happy hour
- Do a food drive or invite friends/neighbors to make a difference in the community
- Invite friends/neighbors to watch the big game
- Go walking/exercising with a friend/neighbor
- Get involved in recreational sports and other hobbies where you can meet others
- Work with neighbors to have a community garage sale and give the money to a community cause
- Go to Starbucks and look for people who are regularly there when you are. Eventually introduce yourself.
- Be a regular at a community center or park
- Let your kids play in a park league. Strike up conversations with other parents.
- Know your testimony and be ready to share it
- Study so that you have answers to people’s questions

A “Neighborhood” is any network of people to which we have regular access. Who is regularly within our reach? Who are the people who live near us, work near us, play near us, etc.?

The church exists to connect people to Jesus. She exists not for herself, but for the lost. She exists not to be a club, but to be on a mission for Jesus. Jesus’ last words prior to ascending into heaven were, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20). In everything we do here at St. John’s, we must ask the question, “Are we connecting people to Jesus?”

Crucial Conversations: What is Evangelism?

Once relationships are built, you may feel it is time to share the good news. Evangelism is simply telling non-Christians the good news about what Jesus Christ has done to save them and inviting them to repent and believe. In order to biblically evangelize you must:

1. Preach the whole gospel, even the hard news about our sin separating us from God.
2. Invite people to repent of their sins and trust in Christ. A person's repentance is typically expressed verbally to God in private. If they have never been baptized you can lead them to baptism.

Where is Evangelism in the Bible?

Scripture contains both teaching on evangelism (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Pet. 3:15-16) and examples of evangelistic preaching (see Acts 2:14-41, 3:12-26, 13:16-49, 17:22-31). Moreover, any time Scripture speaks of the gospel, it is teaching us what we are to share in evangelism (see, for example, Romans 1-4 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Why is Evangelism important?

- When a church has an unbiblical understanding of the gospel, they don't evangelize, they evangelize in misleading or manipulative ways, or they share a message that's not the gospel.
- On the other hand, a biblical understanding of evangelism clarifies our role in the mission God has given to the church: we are to preach the good news about what Christ has done and pray that God would bring people to believe it.²

Head: These questions help us understand Scripture

1. What stood out to you about this lesson?
2. What is the Gospel?

² The evangelism section is extracted from 9marks.com

3. What is Evangelism?

Heart: These questions help us wrestle with our beliefs for our lives

4. When is the last time you shared the Good News with someone else?
How did it go?
5. What fears do you have about sharing the Good News with others?

Hands: These questions help us do something after hearing the Word

6. Who is one non-believer you need to reach out to this week to build
friendship?
7. Who is one non-believer you could share the Good News with this week?