

Good News for Our City

How to tell your story and share your faith

SESSION 3

SESSION 3:

The Faith That You Share

LAST WEEK'S FOLLOW UP

1. What are some stories you heard or saw this week? Could you spot the Exposition, Crisis, and Conclusion?

2. Share about any experiences you had this week of telling your story to someone.

Introduction to Session 3

In Session 1 we said that “Evangelism is the proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ with a view to bringing about the reconciliation of the sinner to God the Father through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit” (*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*). Evangelism involves telling people good news, what the church has traditionally called the Gospel. Now, our Bible has a lot of stuff in it! Lots of truth. Lots of stories. Lots of wisdom. Lots of commands. But central to all of it is an announcement of good news. That good news gives structure and perspective to everything else in the Bible. Without that good news, we are subject to misunderstanding everything else. It is therefore crucial that we are clear on what the good news is that we plan to share with others.

1. What is some of the best news you have ever received in your life? What was that experience like?
2. What is the difference between good news and good advice?
3. If you were to summarize the Gospel in a sentence or two, what you say?

The Power of the Gospel

READ ALOUD:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” –Romans 1:16-17

1. The word “power” here means the ability to do something. What is it that the Gospel is able to do?

2. For whom does the gospel have this power?

The Events of the Gospel

READ ALOUD:

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

– 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

1. In verses 1 and 2, Paul describes the readers' relationship to this "Gospel" or good news. Describe how they have interacted with the Gospel according to these verses. Hint: look at the verbs related to the word "Gospel."

2. According to verses 3-6, what is the Gospel that Paul preached? What are the key facts?

3. Why are those facts good news?

The Response to the Gospel

READ ALOUD:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —John 3:16

*Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.
—John 6:47*

The Whole Story

READ ALOUD:

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^m and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

— Ephesians 2:1-10

1. According to verses 1-3, what was life like before the Gospel came to us? Why did we need good news? How has this looked in your life?

2. According to verses 4-6, what were God's purposes in salvation?

3. According to verses 8 and 9, along with passages from John listed above, how are we saved by the Gospel?

4. According to verse 10, what is the purpose and result of this salvation in our lives?

Discussion

1. Taking what we learned about telling stories last time (exposition, crisis, conclusion), how would you tell the Gospel story?

2. In light of the survey of passages above, what do you see as essential to the good news?

Homework

This week practice what you've learned in two ways:

1. Try to write out on one 3"x 5" note card a summary of the Gospel. Use your own words.

Devote some time thanking the Lord for the good news of salvation in your life. Ask the Spirit to give you insight into the "good works" He created you to do.