

The Gospel | Week 1: April 6th & 7th



Weekly Check In

2 minute share:

- BLESS update - who have you prayed for, listened to, ate with, served, or shared your story with this week?
- Share something God has been highlighting to you this past week through your Daily Encounter.

This Week's Big Idea: The Old Testament is the Gospel concealed and New Testament is the Gospel Revealed

What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?

Ice Breaker Questions:

- Share a time when someone shared good news with you.
- How would you define prophecy?

Group Interactive:

1. Individually or in pairs, read Psalm 22 & Isaiah 53 (on the next two pages) and circle prophecies about Jesus.
2. Share together as a group what you found.
3. As a group, read Matthew 27- the story of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and burial.
4. Discuss any new fulfillments you see now from the Old Testament passages.

Group Interactive & Scripture:

Isaiah 53

1 Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been
revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should
desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low
esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on
him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression[a] and judgment he was taken
away.

Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was
punished.[b]

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and
cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes[c] his life an
offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his
hand.

11 After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life[d] and be
satisfied[e];
by his knowledge[f] my righteous servant will
justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the
great,[g]
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,[h]
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Group Interactive & Scripture:

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not
answer,

by night, but I find no rest.[b]

3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.[c]

4 In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to
shame.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

8 "He trusts in the Lord," they say,
"let the Lord rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."

9 Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my
mother's breast.

10 From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother's womb you have been my
God.

11 Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

12 Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

13 Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.

14 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.

15 My mouth[d] is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

16 Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce[e] my hands and my feet.

17 All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.

18 They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.

19 But you, Lord, do not be far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

20 Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.

21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Group Interactive & Scripture

Matthew 27**The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the jews.

38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.

42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli,[c] lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").[d]

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and[e] went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

55 Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph,^[f] and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

The Burial of Jesus

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

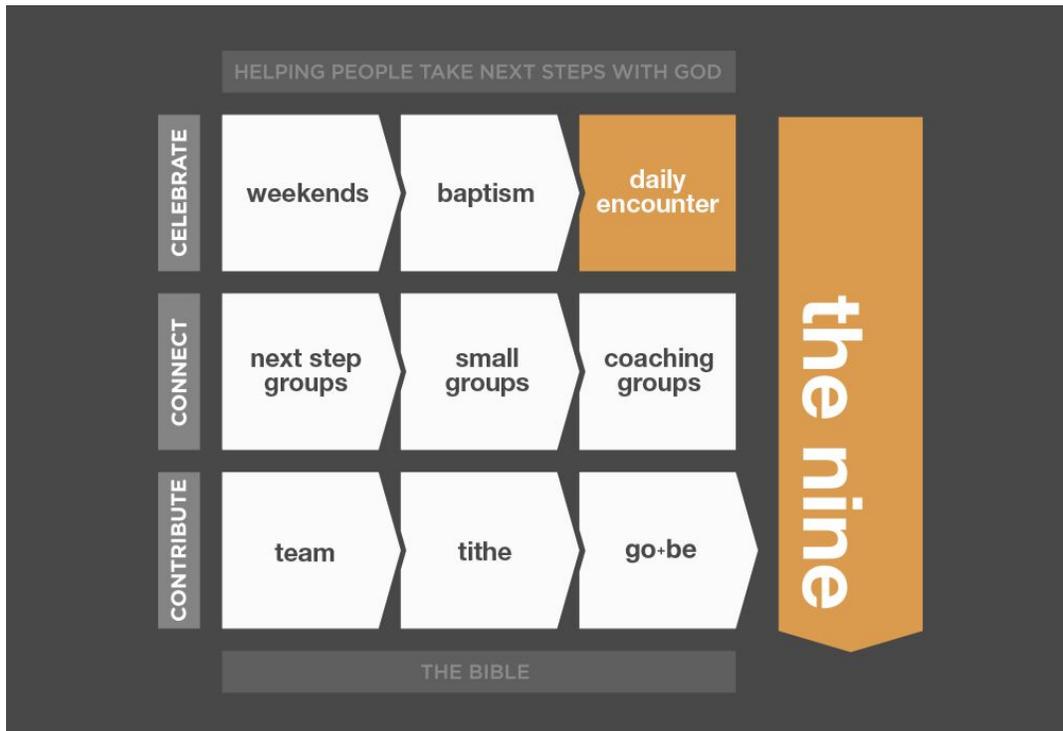
The Guard at the Tomb

62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

small groups

Next Steps: God's invitation, in the very beginning, was to know Him and to walk with Him. This is an invitation that He extends to us still today. God wants to be close to us and, just like any other relationship, we get closer to God by spending time with him - in prayer and by reading and meditating on God's Word. What is something you can commit to doing each day this upcoming week to grow in your relationship with God?



The Gospel | Week 1: LEADER GUIDE

This weekend's teaching helped us see that **the Gospel is good news that was predicted and prophesied about in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.** The story of Jesus is not just something we read about in the "Gospels," but rather is a story we see told throughout all of the Bible. In this lesson we want to give you time as a group to spend time studying some Old Testament passages looking for prophecies about Jesus.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. The word "*Gospel*" literally translates as "*good news.*" Use this question to have your group **talk about a time when someone shared good news** with them. Examples: new baby, cancer free, job promotion
2. As the majority of your group time is discussing fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament, **it is important to first clearly define what prophecy means and looks like.**

Strong's Concordance defines prophecy as: "*discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God....revealing things hidden, especially by foretelling future events.*"

2 Peter 1|20&21 also tells us "***Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.***"

Prophecy happens when someone is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit to speak revealed truth of what will happen in the future.

Group Interaction:

- In this section, you will need to provide **writing supplies for each of your group members.** We've have typed out two scripture passages from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. The idea beyond this section is to help your group **see how the Old Testament and New Testament are connected** and tell the full picture of the gospel. This is not meant to be a contest to see who can find the most. **For those newer to faith or still exploring, invite them to study alongside you and let God's Word speak to them as they read along.**
- Individually or in pairs, have everyone **circle phrases that are prophecies about Jesus** in both passages. You can decide as the leader if you'll have each person/group read both passages or assign people to each passage.
- After everyone has gone through the passages, **share amongst the group what prophecies everyone found.** Give time for each person, if possible, to share. **Allow for questions and discussion** to come up as people share the prophecies they found.
- Once everyone has shared their lists, **read together as a group through Matthew 27 to see the fulfillment of those prophecies in Jesus.** Discuss together as you find more.