



# Gospel Basics

## *DVD discussion guide*

### Session 1 Seven Motivations for the Gospel

**Intro & Point One:** *Because the Gospel is the most important thing in the whole world*

1. What are the top three most important things in your life?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. According to the Bible, what is the most important thing in the whole world? Discuss some reasons why this is true.

**Point Two:** *A lot of people who say they are Christians don't understand the gospel*

1. Do you agree with Pat's statement that many professing Christians don't understand the gospel? Why or why not?
2. Could you explain the gospel in one minute or less? (Ask for a volunteer to stand up and do their best to share the gospel in less than one minute for your huddle OR have each person write out in their own words the gospel)
3. Read Romans 1:16. According to this verse, why would it be important for you to understand and know the gospel?

**Point Three:** *Getting the Gospel wrong is hazardous to your spiritual health*

1. Read Galatians 1:8-9. What are the consequences of getting the gospel wrong?
2. Why should this motivate us to get the gospel right?
3. Is it enough to be sincere in our convictions and beliefs? Why or Why not?

**Point Four:** *Jesus says that lots of people who think they are Christians aren't*

1. How would you feel if you believed yourself to be a Christian and found out on judgment day that you had been mistaken?
2. Read Matthew 7:21-23 and 7:13-14. What do these verses say about many professing Christians?

**Point Five:** *Too often we underestimate God and overestimate ourselves*

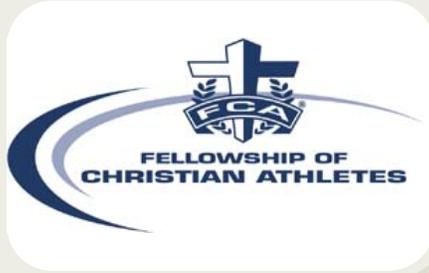
1. What are some ways you can "underestimate" (low view of) God and "overestimate" (high view of) yourself?
2. Have you ever heard the statements, "God helps those who help themselves" or "We do our part and God does His part"? Why are these faulty statements?
3. What kinds of things would you hear from a salvation testimony that incorporates the idea that "God helps those who help themselves"?

**Point Six:** *Moral Therapeutic Deism*

1. What are the two key components of "Moral Therapeutic Deism"?
2. Do you believe that good people go to heaven when they die?
3. How can you respond to friends that believe in a gospel that doesn't line up with God's Word?

**Point Seven:** *Too often our evangelism isn't Christian enough*

1. How can a misunderstanding of the gospel hinder your evangelism?
2. Which of the previous motivations has been the most challenging or convicting?



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### Session 2 Truths about God

#### Intro

1. Why is it important to have an accurate understanding of God, in order for us to have an accurate understanding of the gospel?
2. Read Psalm 50:21. What is God warning against? How do you think our view of God gets distorted?
3. What is the best place to discover truths about God?

#### **Point One:** *God is the creator/sovereign*

1. What does Genesis 1:1 say about God? Why is this important to know?
2. What does it mean for God to be "Sovereign"?
3. Read Psalm 103:19, 115:3, and 135:6. Discuss what these verses say about God.
4. What is wrong with the analogy of God=Coach?

#### **Point Two:** *God is Holy*

1. Read Isaiah 6:1-5. How do these verses describe God's character? How does Isaiah view himself?
2. What is the meaning of "Holy"?
3. Read Revelation 15:4. Is anyone Holy but God?

#### **Point Three:** *God is Righteous*

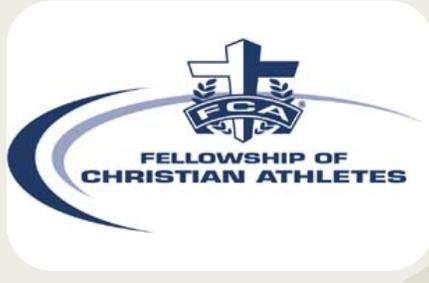
1. What is wrong with the statement, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life"? Is it appropriate to tell people that "Jesus died for them"? Why or why not?
2. What are some synonyms for God's "righteousness"? Have you ever thought of God as a Judge?
3. Read Psalm 11:7 and 119:42. Discuss how these verses describe God.

#### **Point Four:** *God has expectations/laws/standards*

1. What was the expectation God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?
2. Read Matthew 22:36-39. What is God's standard for you according to these verses? Have you kept this standard?
3. How does understanding God's law help us understand and appreciate the gospel?

#### **Point Five:** *God is a righteous Judge*

1. Read Psalm 7:11; 9:8, Acts 17:31, and Revelation 19:11. What do these verses say about God?
2. Will God uphold or compromise his law? Why or why not? Do you think God will take bribes from those who violate his law?
3. In view of God's character and law, how should we view ourselves?
4. The great dilemma of the gospel is "How can a just God justify the wicked"? Answer this question.



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### Session 3 Six Lies about Sin that Undermine the Gospel

#### Intro

1. Discuss Pat's illustration involving the doctor and cancer. Why is talking to people about their sin the most loving thing you can do for them?
2. Read Mark 2:17. How does this analogy describe our need for a Savior?

#### **Point One:** *Sin should not be talked about*

1. Why do you think people avoid talking about sin?
2. Read 1 Timothy 1:15. What was the ultimate reason Jesus came into the world?
3. How does talking about sin display Jesus as glorious and beautiful?

#### **Point Two:** *There are no consequences for sin*

1. Do you usually tend to view your sin as horizontal (offending man) or as vertical (offending God)?
2. Read Romans 5:6-10. According to these verses, what is the impact of sin on the unbeliever?
3. Read Romans 6:23 and Revelation 20:11-15, 21:5-8. What is the consequence of sin? How is this described in the Book of Revelation? Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?

#### **Point Three:** *Sin is only external*

1. Read Jeremiah 17:9. Have you ever heard someone say, "He/She has a good heart"? Why is this a faulty statement?
2. Read Psalm 51:5 and Romans 5:12-21. What do these verses say about us?

#### **Point Four:** *Sin is not universal*

1. Be Honest. Do you sometimes view yourself as a good person OR better than others, because you don't commit the "Big" sins (murder, adultery, etc.)?
2. Read Romans 3:9-12. What do these verses say about universal sin?
3. What is the difference between "relative" and "absolute" goodness?

#### **Point Five:** *Sin can be overcome*

1. Read Isaiah 64:6. Why is it wrong to try to overcome sin by good works? What does God think of the good works of an unbeliever?
2. Describe a time that you tried to earn forgiveness or overcome the guilt of sin by doing something (good works)? Why is this an insult to God?

#### **Point Six:** *Sin is only breaking the 10 Commandments*

1. How is sin more than just breaking the Ten Commandments?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What are the specific terms used to describe the unbeliever?
3. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. How does the analogy of the "diamond against a black backdrop" relate to Jesus Christ and sin?



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### Session 4 Nine Gospel Realities

#### Intro

1. If God is creator, sovereign, righteous, has righteous standards and consequences; then, what is God morally obligated to do with sinners?
2. What motivated God to send His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world? Read John 3:16.

#### Point One: *Incarnation*

1. What does the "Incarnation" mean?
2. Read Matthew 1:18-23. Why is the Incarnation of Jesus a necessary part of the Gospel?
3. True or False. Salvation is secured by works.

#### Point Two: *Substitution*

1. What does it mean to be a substitute?
2. Read Romans 5:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. What do these verses say about Jesus death on the cross? Why is this both amazing and humbling news?

#### Point Three: *Justification*

1. Define justification.
2. Read Romans 3:24-26. How are we justified? How does the cross show that God can be both just and justifier?

#### Point Four: *Redemption*

1. What does "Redeem" mean?
2. When you become a Christian, what have you been bought from and who does this?

#### Point Five: *Propitiation*

1. Read Romans 3:24-25. Define propitiation.
2. Why does the crucifixion scene in the "Passion of the Christ" movie fall short of depicting what REALLY happened to Jesus on the cross? What did Jesus experience on the cross?

#### Point Six: *Reconciliation*

1. Read Romans 5:1, 8-11 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What do these verses say about reconciliation?

#### Point Seven: *Resurrection*

1. Read Romans 4:25. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be raised from the dead?

#### Point Eight: *Imputation*

1. Read Romans 4:22-24. What does it mean to have Jesus' righteousness "imputed" to us?
2. Read Philippians 3:9. Do you have to be perfect to go to heaven? Would you rather count on your own good works or on Jesus' perfect righteousness?

#### Point Nine: *Regeneration*

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3. Define regeneration. How does this happen?



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### Session 5 Our Responsibility to the Gospel

#### Our Responsibility as Unbelievers to the Gospel

##### Intro:

1. Does Jesus death and resurrection automatically mean every single person is saved and going to heaven? Why or why not?

##### Point One: *Belief/Faith in Jesus Christ*

1. Read John 3:16. What is the responsibility of people to the gospel?
2. What or who are you currently trusting in for your salvation?
3. Read Acts 16:31. What does this verse say about believing? Who has the authority?
4. Read John 3:18. What does the bible say about those who don't believe?

##### Point Two: *Repent*

1. Read Acts 17:30-31. According to these verses what does God command everyone in the world to do? Is this optional?
2. What does it mean to "repent"?
3. Read Mark 1:15. What was Jesus' command as he began his ministry?

#### Our Responsibility as Believers

##### Point One: *Know the Gospel ourselves*

1. How did Pat's of being "in diapers" illustrate this point?
2. Read Romans 1:15. What was the Apostle Paul eager to do for the new believers in Rome?
3. How well do you feel you know the gospel? If asked, would you be able to proclaim the gospel with your huddle?

##### Point Two: *See the Gospel as most important*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-3. What does this verse say about the gospel? Be honest, is this the most important thing in your life? What has been more important?

##### Point Three: *Resolve yourself to stick to the Gospel*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Why is it important to stick to the gospel and not try to manipulate or sell unbelievers a "product"?
2. According to these verses, how did Paul preach the gospel? Why?

##### Point Four: *Defend the Gospel when necessary*

1. What are some situations in which you may need to defend the Gospel?

##### Point Five: *Show the life that the Gospel produces*

1. Read Titus 2:11-14 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Why should believers be eager to do good works?

##### Point Six: *Be Assured...if you should be.*

1. Read Matthew 7:21-24 and 2 Corinthians 13:5. What do these verses say about assurance?
2. Are you assured of your salvation? On what basis? (Homework: Read 1 John for test of assurance)
3. Whose role is it to assure people of their salvation?