



HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY EVENING SEMINAR

What's His Story?

SESSION 5

Focus

In this session, we will identify the four major points of the Gospel message, and have an opportunity to present the Gospel message to another person.

Discovery

The Gospel Message

1. The Contents of the Gospel

a. God is loving.

"...God is love, and He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in Him." (I John 4:16b)

b. God is holy (absolutely pure).

"...for it is written: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (I Peter 1:16)

c. God is just (a good judge).

"...and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me." (Isaiah 45:21)

The Gospel Message

2. Us

a. We are all sinners (lawbreakers).

*“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)*

b. We deserve death (death).

“For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23a)

c. We are spiritually helpless (morally bankrupt).

*“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”
(Ephesians 2:2)*

The Gospel Message

3. Christ

a. Christ is God, who also became man.

*“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”
(John 1:14)*

b. Christ died as our substitute.

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (I Peter 2:24)

c. Christ offers His forgiveness as a gift.

“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Gospel Message

4. You

a. You and I must respond.

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” (John 1:12)

b. We must ask Christ to be our forgiver and leader (Lord).

*“For whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved.”
(Romans 10:13)*

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”
(Acts 16:31)*

c. The result is a spiritual transformation by the **Holy Spirit**.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away, all things have become new.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Presenting the Gospel

Do vs. Done

This illustration is a natural follow-up to the question, “Would you like to know the difference between religion and Christianity?”

Narrative

The difference between religion and truly knowing Jesus Christ is:

Religion is spelled “d-o.” It consists of trying to do enough good things to somehow please God, earn His forgiveness, and gain an entrance into heaven. This self-effort plan can take on several forms, from trying to be a good, moral person, to becoming an active participant in an organized religion.

The problem is we can never do enough. Simply put, the “d-o” plan cannot bring us peace with God.

True Christianity is spelled “d-o-n-e.” In other words, that which we could never do for ourselves, Christ has already done for us. He lived the perfect life we could never live, and He died on the cross to pay for each of our wrongdoings. And now He freely offers us His gift of forgiveness and leadership in our lives.

But it is not enough just to know this, we have to humbly receive what He has done for us. And we do that by asking for His forgiveness and leadership in our lives.

At this point ask them a follow-up question like: “Does this make sense to you?” or “What do you think about what I just said?”

Outline

Religion

- *is spelled “D-O”*
- *Trying to do enough to please God*

The Problem

- *We can never know when we have done enough*
- *The Bible says we can never do enough.*

True Christianity

- *Is spelled “D-O-N-E”*
- *Christ did for us what we could never do.*
 - *Lived the perfect life we could not*
 - *Died on the cross to pay for our sin*

Our Response

- *It's not enough just to know this.*
- *We have to receive what He has done for us.*
- *By repenting, asking for forgiveness and leadership in our lives*

Their Response

- *Does this make sense to you?*
- *What do you think about what I said?*

Presenting the Gospel

The Bridge

The Bridge uses a simple drawing to illustrate the Gospel message.

Narrative

God created man to honor, serve, and fellowship with Him. We matter to God, He made us and desires for our lives to please Him (Revelation 4:11).

Man chose to sin against God, rather than loving Him and pleasing Him. Our sin keeps us from fellowship with Him.

Sin must be punished. When man chose to disobey God, the punishment was death (Romans 6:23). The basic meaning of death is separation (Ephesians 2:1). Eternal death will separate us from God forever in Hell (Revelation 20:15).

Throughout time, man has tried many ways to please God, but every attempt has been unsuccessful. Some do many "good" deeds in order to reach God. Man tries to be a good neighbor, giving to churches, and charities, and living a moral life to reach God. There is nothing wrong with these actions, but the Bible makes it clear that none of them can earn us God's forgiveness or reestablish our relationship with Him (Titus 3:5).

It looks pretty bleak, but in God's eternal love, He sent Jesus to do what we could not do for ourselves. He provided a bridge for man to cross. Here we can find forgiveness, restore our relationship with Him, and begin to please Him.

Outline

- God made us to praise Him and wants to have a relationship with us.
- However, we have rebelled against Him and so our sin keeps us from God.
- Because God is holy, He must punish sin. That punishment for our sin is death. Death will eternally keep us from God.
- Most of us are aware of this and try to work our way back to Him. We try to do many good things, but it doesn't work.
- But God did what man could not do; He gave His life to be a payment for our sin, making a bridge for man back to Himself.

Presenting the Gospel

The Bridge, Cont.

The Bridge uses a simple drawing to illustrate the Gospel message.

Narrative

He built this bridge by coming to earth as man, and dying on the cross paying the penalty of sin, we owed (I Peter 3:18a).

This is the message of the cross. But it is not enough to know it is true. Man must act on it (John 5:24). We do this by admitting to God that we have rebelled against Him, and that we need His forgiveness. We must call to Him, personally accepting His death as our payment for our sin (Acts 16:31). At this time we are immediately adopted into His family as His child (John 1:12). We have eternal life, free from condemnation, and passed from death to life.

Outline

- It is not enough just to know this, we have to act on it by admitting that we have rebelled, and that we want His forgiveness.

Concluding Questions:

- Does this make sense to you?
- Where do you think you are?
- Is there anything keeping you from crossing to the other side?

Gospel Illustration Checklist

<p>WHICH ILLUSTRATION WAS USED?</p> <p>DO VS DONE</p> <p>THE BRIDGE</p> <p>WERE THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS MENTIONED?</p> <p>GOD</p> <p>US</p> <p>CHRIST</p> <p>YOU</p>	<p>What worked well?</p>
<p>OTHER POINTS</p> <p>Was the presentation easy to understand?</p> <p>Was what you needed to do clear to you by the end of the presentation?</p> <p>Was the presentation timely?</p>	<p>Areas for improvement:</p>

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