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The Beautiful Gospel

***The Beautiful Gospel* is the central message of the Bible from beginning to end. It is the most important message we can receive and share. The Gospel impacts our past, present, and future. It includes God's plan for you, the church, and the whole of creation. Praise God who creates, saves, transforms, and restores His people!**

Definition – The Gospel is the Good News of God's redemptive plan to create, save, transform, and restore His people and the world through the work of Christ to the glory of God.

We summarize the *Gospel in 10 Words* to make it easy to understand and share the Gospel, whether you're 5 or 75 years old.

The Gospel in 10 Words:

God Creates

Sin Breaks

Jesus Saves

Jesus Transforms

God Restores

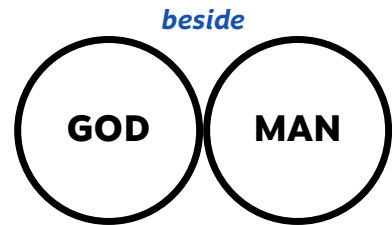
The next two pages are an overview of the 10 Words of the Gospel—the words, a brief description, and a simple diagram expressing what we learn about our relationship with God.

An Overview of *The*

God Creates

God *beside* us! God created all things, including mankind, in His own image to live in a relationship with Him.

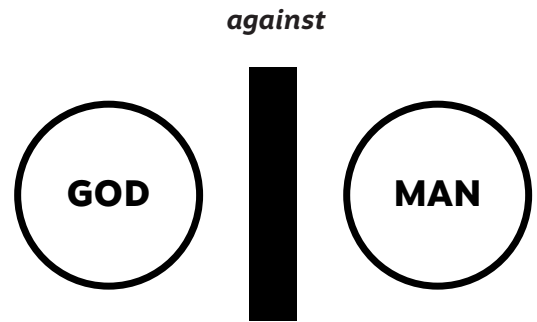
Genesis 1-2 • Colossians 1:15-17 • Psalm 139



Sin Breaks

God *against* us! Sin broke our relationship and we are separated from Him. We are considered enemies and hostile toward God.

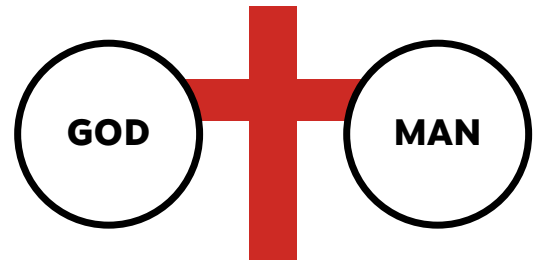
Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:8-10 • Colossians 1:21



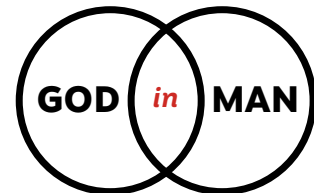
Jesus Saves

God *in* us! Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He forgives and saves all who place their faith in Him, and He gives them the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-9 • Romans 10:9-10



Receive Christ—you can talk to God now: *This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. Romans 10:8b-10*



Gospel in 10 Words

Jesus Transforms

Jesus is *for* us! Jesus transforms us to be more like Him through a process of growth and calls us to make disciples of Him.

Philippians 1:6 • Matthew 4:19



God Restores

God *with* us! One day Jesus will return and will renew and remake all things including you, the church, and all of creation!

Colossians 3:4 • Revelation 21-22



A Deeper Look into *The Gospel in 10 Words*

Enjoy this devotional alone or with a group. Read through the verses and write down your thoughts in response to the questions.

Extended Definition: The heart of the Gospel is the creating and saving work of Christ applied to the individual, the church, and the world to the glory of God. The Good News of the Gospel is the story of God's redeeming work planned from eternity, accomplished through Christ in human history, and fully realized at the end of the age. We desire everyone at Bible Center to *understand and receive* the Gospel, to *apply* the Gospel to their lives and relationships, and to *share* this Good News with others.

The Gospel is the living and active story of God at work in the past, today, and until Christ returns. It should impact us daily—the way we think, the things we care about, and the way we live = it should impact our **head, heart, and hands**.



Head

We must know God through understanding and interacting with the Bible. It is important that we study God's Word and rightly interpret what it says.



Heart

We are designed not only to know God, but also to be deeply connected to Him. We are personally moved by His nature, by His love, and by the work of Jesus on our behalf.



Hands

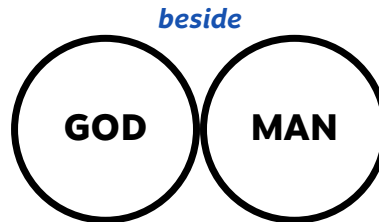
Followers of Jesus live out their faith. Our love for God is demonstrated in our love for others and obedience to Him.

Gospel Devotionals	Pages
1. <u>God</u> Creates Part 1	6
2. God <u>Creates</u> Part 2	8
3. Sin Breaks	10
4. Jesus Saves	12
5. Jesus Transforms Part 1: Spirit & Word	14
6. Jesus Transforms Part 2: Church & Mission	16
7. God Restores	18

God Creates


Part 1

God walks *beside* us! God creates all things. Mankind is created by God in His image to have a relationship with Him (*Genesis 3:8*).



The Gospel starts with **God**—His nature, His character, and His eternal purposes.

God the Father actively reveals Himself to us through His Son, His Word, and His creation.


 **Psalm 36:5-8** *LORD, Your faithful love reaches to heaven, / Your faithfulness to the clouds. / Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, / Your judgments like the deepest sea. / LORD, You preserve people and animals. / How priceless Your faithful love is, God! / People take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They are filled from the abundance of Your house. / You let them drink from Your refreshing stream.*

Underline descriptions of God. Which description of God most moves you and why?

 **Exodus 33:18** *Then Moses said, “Please, let me see Your glory.”*

Moses had been growing in his relationship and knowledge of God through incredible circumstances, but he wanted more. His heart longed to know God as deeply as possible. How would you put this same request in your own words?




 **Exodus 34:5-7** *The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name, “the LORD.” The LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed:*

“The LORD—the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.”

Circle ways that God describes Himself.


God is consistently revealing Himself to us throughout Scripture. We most clearly and ultimately see His love, character, and purposes in action in the person and work of Jesus ([John 1:18](#)).

How are the above aspects of God’s nature seen in the mission and work of Jesus?

 Which descriptions of God stick out to you in these verses?

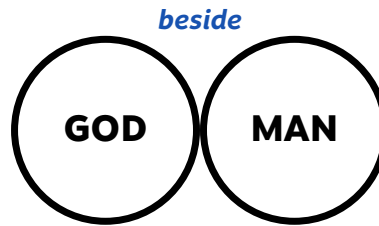
Exodus 34:8-9 *Moses immediately knelt low on the ground and worshiped. Then he said, “My Lord, if I have indeed found favor with You, my Lord, please go with us (even though this is a stiff-necked people), forgive our iniquity and our sin, and accept us as Your own possession.”*


How would you describe Moses’ response? How should we respond?

 What are your next steps in continuing to grow in your knowledge and love of God?

God Creates

Part 2



 The all-powerful and all-knowing God **Creates...** **Genesis 1:1-5** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness He called “night.” There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.*


Underline things that you learn about God in these verses. List some of your observations below:

Romans 1:20 *For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse.*

Underline what creation itself teaches us about its Maker. Why would people deny or resist the proclamation of creation (**Psalm 19:1-2**)?

Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” / So God created man / in His own image; / He created him in the image of God; / He created them male and female.*

Circle anything you see about the nature or purpose of mankind. Why do you suppose God created us in His image? Who rules over the earth?


 How does it impact your view of God and desire to know Him, understanding how and why you were created?




Genesis 2:7-8 Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He placed the man He had formed.

Genesis 2:18-25 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone / and flesh of my flesh; / this one will be called "woman," / for she was taken from man.

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

 Underline areas of **similarity** between man and woman. [Bracket] areas or things that are **distinct or different** about man or woman. Circle what you learn about the **union** of man and woman. In these passages, where do we see **similarity** between men and women? Where do we see **distinction**?

What sticks out to you about the similarities and distinctions between man and woman? Is it beneficial or detrimental to their union (how so)?

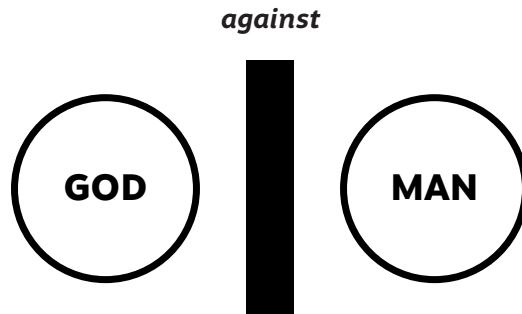
 Why would God give us similarity and distinction? What does this teach us about Him and about us?


Why and how does our culture fight against God's desire and design? How can we personally embrace God's desire and design?

 How would you explain "God Creates" to someone who hasn't read the Bible?

Sin Breaks

God *against* us! Sin broke our relationship and we are separated from Him. We are considered enemies and hostile toward God (*Romans 5:8-10, Colossians 1:21*).



 **Genesis 3:1-6** Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

“No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Underline the lies and deceptions used by the serpent. What do you notice about the lies used by the serpent to tempt Eve to eat the fruit?

How are these same lies alive and well today?

Genesis 3:14-19 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, / you are cursed more than any livestock / and more than any wild animal. / You will move on your belly / and eat dust all the days of your life. / I will put hostility between you and the woman, / and between your offspring and her Offspring. / He will strike your head, / and you will strike His heel.”

He said to the woman, “I will intensify your labor pains; / you will bear children with painful effort. / Your desire will be for your husband, / yet he will rule over you.”

And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': / The ground is cursed because of you. / You will eat from it by means of painful labor / all the days of your life. / It will produce thorns and thistles for you, / and you will eat the plants of the field. / You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow / until you return to the ground, / since you were taken from it. / For you are dust, / and you will return to dust."

Underline the consequences given to the serpent. [Bracket] the consequences given to the woman and (parentheses) around the consequences given to the man. What sticks out to you about these consequences?

What happens to creation / "the ground?"

Genesis 3:15 – This verse is often called the "protoevangelion" (first preaching of the Gospel). What or Who is the "seed" of Eve? What will He (the seed) accomplish?



What does it teach us about God that He preached the Gospel moments after the first sin?

Read **Romans 3:10-12, 3:23** – Who has sinned and what are the consequences?

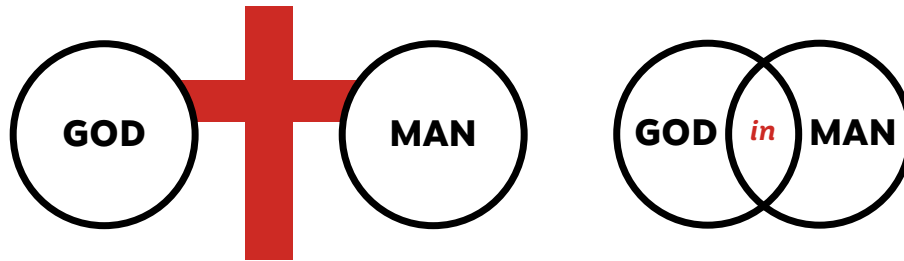
Read **Romans 5:8** and **Colossians 1:21** – What feelings does it invoke to know that without Jesus we are considered enemies of God and hostile toward Him?




How do we explain and teach "Sin Breaks" to those who do not know the Bible?

Jesus Saves

God *in* us! Through faith in the person and work of Jesus we are saved and receive the Holy Spirit.



 **John 3:16-17** *For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

Underline why God sent His Son. Circle the results of believing in the Son. Why did the Father send the Son? Why did Jesus need to become one of us?

What do these verses teach us about the depth of God's love for us?

Romans 5:8-10 *But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we have now been **justified** by His blood, will we be saved through Him from wrath. For if, while we were enemies, we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life.*

Underline all the benefits that are offered to us through the death of Christ.


Reconciled – the walls of enmity and hostility are torn down by the work of Christ, and peace with God is offered through Jesus.


Justified – the judicial declaration of righteousness (holiness and right standing) before God.


Why did Jesus have to die for us?

What did He accomplish for us by dying on the cross?

What did we have to clean up or change before Christ died for us?

 How does it impact you to see the love of God in action for you even while you were opposed to God and considered His enemy?


 **Romans 6:8-10** *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, because we know that Christ, having been **raised from the dead**, will not die again. Death no longer rules over Him. For the death He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

 Underline the results of Jesus rising from the dead. What does it look like for you to live your life like Christ? How do we live “dead to sin” and “alive to God?”

Romans 10:9-10 *The message is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart. This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you **confess** with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in **salvation**.*

Underline the actions and words given for salvation. How does someone receive forgiveness and salvation?

Have you confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart that Jesus is Lord? If not, you can talk to God right now. Reread the above verses and express your faith and belief in Jesus. If you just made that decision, call a Christian friend now and let them know.

 Read **2 Corinthians 5:20** and **Matthew 28:18-20**. Who in your life needs to hear about this Good News of grace found in Jesus? How can you get more time with them?

Jesus Transforms

Part 1: Spirit & Word

Jesus is **for** us! He transforms by His Spirit through His Word and His people. Jesus gives us a mission to multiply followers of Jesus by meeting needs and sharing Christ.



 **Philippians 1:6** *"I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

It has been said, "Jesus does not save us and leave us—Jesus saves us and transforms us." What do we learn about the work of Jesus in this verse?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is committed not just to your salvation, but also to your transformation?

Philippians 2:12-13 *"Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to His good purpose."*

Underline how we spiritually grow. What is our role in spiritual growth? What is God's role?

The work of Jesus has secured us in Him forever. "Fear and trembling" are a result of reverence for God in the process of transformation, not from fear of separation or loss of salvation. The work of Jesus in our lives is a holy and precious thing.



Jesus transforms us using **His Word** and **His people** through the work of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Underline all of the roles of God’s Word in our lives. What do you suppose happens when a Christian does not spend much time in God’s Word?

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

The Bible is living and active because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. How is *Talking to God* interconnected with *Being in the Bible* and the work of the Holy Spirit?



What are your next steps to *Be in the Bible* more?

My Bible Reading Plan

I will read _____ times per week.
(The Bible Recap, a YouVersion plan, or my own plan)

I will ask _____ to hold me accountable.




**JOINING US?
LET US KNOW**



Jesus Transforms


Part 2: Church & Mission





 **Ephesians 4:1-6** *“Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”*

Underline the character qualities necessary for Christian unity. Circle the core beliefs of every Christian.


What qualities and beliefs are central and necessary for the unity and growth of the church?

 How are these qualities impacted by the depth of your experience and understanding of the love of God (**John 14:15**)?

 Which character quality is your growing edge? What can you do and who can help you grow and improve?

 **Ephesians 4:15-16** *But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.*

How is the body of Christ supposed to function in order to mature?



 Read **1 Corinthians 12:14-18**. What do we learn from this picture/illustration of the church? What gifts have you been given to contribute to the whole?

Each part of the body is interdependent upon the other parts of the body. Each part matters, each part contributes, and each part plays its unique role for the benefit of the whole.

What is your unique contribution to make? What is your next step to become more interconnected with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Matthew 4:19 *Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

What is Jesus' end goal for His disciples?


  **Matthew 28:18-20** - What is Jesus' desire for you? How can your life be more shaped around your mission?

How can you help make more disciples of Jesus?

God Restores

God *with* us! One day Jesus will return and renew and remake all things including you, the church, and all of creation!



 **Colossians 1:27** *God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*


Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

What does each verse teach us about our hope?

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 *What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruption. Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality.*

Underline everything that happens at the last trumpet (the return of Christ). What do we learn about our bodies (present and future) from these verses?

What is the significance of our bodies being “clothed with immortality?”

 What do you most look forward to at the last trumpet?





Revelation 21:1-2 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.*

What does God do with His creation?

We often view heaven as sitting in the clouds with harps. According to these verses, what do we learn about the eternal nature of heaven and earth?



Revelation 21:3-5 *Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is **with** humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.*

Then the One seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true."

God **with** us! Describe our forever with God...

What sticks out to you about that day?



How does your "forever with God" help you in the trials of today?

The Gospel is the most important message given to the world. How has this study increased your understanding of the Gospel?

Who in your life needs to hear this Gospel message? Are you willing to commit to consistently praying for them?

When will you get time with them?

***The Beautiful Gospel* is the central message of the Bible from beginning to end. It is the most important message we can receive and share. The Gospel impacts our past, present, and future. It includes God's plan for you, the church, and the whole of creation. Praise God who creates, saves, transforms, and restores His people!**





BIBLE CENTER | CHURCH[®]

Making disciples of Jesus