

The Gospel Study Guide

- 1) The *Gospel* of Jesus
- 2) The *Life* of Jesus
- 3) The *Death and Resurrection* of Jesus
- 4) The *Promise* of Jesus
- 5) The *Response* to Jesus
- 6) The *Lordship* of Jesus

“The Gospel of Jesus”

Key Texts = Acts 2 and John 1

Background Information:

- Day of Pentecost = Jewish pilgrim feast celebrating the anniversary of the giving of the Mosaic Law at Mount Sinai (Refer: Acts 2:1)
- The Holy Spirit is poured out on the Apostles (Refer: Acts 2:2-13)
- Peter explains the significance of what is happening (Refer: Acts 2:14-21)
- Peter then preaches the very first “gospel” message about Jesus...
(Note: the word, “gospel” means “good news”.)

I. Jesus, the Man (Acts 2:22-35)

- A. The *Life* of Jesus (Acts 2:22)

- B. The *Death* of Jesus (Acts 2:23)

- C. The *Resurrection* of Jesus (Acts 2:24-35)

II. Jesus, the Plan (Acts 2:36-41)

- D. The *Lordship* of Jesus (Acts 2:36)

- E. The *Promise* of Jesus (Acts 2:38-39)

- F. The *Response* to Jesus (Acts 2:36-41)

III. Jesus, the Son of God (John 1:1-18)

- A. Jesus is *Eternal* (John 1:1-5)

- B. Jesus is *Announced* (John 1:6-13)

- C. Jesus brings *Grace and Truth* (John 1:14-17)

- D. Jesus *Makes God Known* (John 1:18)

Close

- A. God can be known through Jesus.

- B. Jesus can be known through his written word (John 20:30-31).

- C. The book of John is all about who Jesus is and therefore who God is.

- D. Recommend: read through the book of John to learn more about Jesus.

“The Life of Jesus”

Purpose: To establish the reason for God sending his Son and to provide an introduction to the person, the miracles and the claims of Jesus.

I. The Savior is coming (Two Old Testament prophecies about Jesus)

A. Isaiah 53:1-12 (The Savior – Messiah - is coming!) (750 BC)

1. Despised and rejected (verse 3)
2. Pierced for our transgressions (verse 5)
3. By his wounds we will be healed; brought back to God (verse 5)
4. Like a lamb led to the slaughter (verse 7)
5. He will bear sins and justify many (verse 11)

B. Zechariah 9:9 (The Savior – Messiah - is coming to Jerusalem!) (520 BC)

1. Bringing salvation
2. Righteous and gentle
3. Riding on a donkey

II. The Savior is here (Watch how Jesus’ miracles backed up his claims.)

A. John 6:1-15 (The miracle)

-Q: What does this tell us about Jesus?

B. John 6:30-40 (The claim)

-Q: What does Jesus claim about himself and how does he validate his claim?

C. John 8:1-11

-Q: What do we learn about Jesus from this scene?

D. John 11:1-44 (The miracle)

-Q: What does this imply about Jesus and about us?

E. John 11:25 (The claim)

-Q: What does Jesus claim about himself and how does he back up his claim?

F. John 11:45-53 (Two responses)

G. John 14:1-11

-Q: What is Jesus claiming about himself in this scripture?

H. John 20:30-31 (Jesus did many other things like these.)

-Q: Why were these things written down for us?

For further study:

I. Prophecies about the Messiah:

Genesis 3:1-15
Psalms 22:14-18
Micah 5:2
Isaiah 9:1,6,7
Zechariah 11:12,13
Daniel 9:24,25

II. Claims of Jesus:

John 4:13
John 5:24,25
John 7:16,17
John 8:12
John 8:19
John 8:23
John 8:31,32
John 8:46
John 8:51
John 8:58
John 10:7-9
John 10:11
John 10:30
John 12:32
John 12:49,50
John 15:5

“The Death and Resurrection of Jesus”

Introduction: Read 1 Peter 2:24 (Q: Why did Jesus die?)

Key Text: Read through the account of Jesus’ death and resurrection (In 18:28-20:31)

I. Jesus’ Death

A. Flogging (John 19:1)

1. Victim was stripped naked; hands were tied above his head to a post.
2. Two Roman officials alternately whipped the victim until appropriate punishment or death had occurred under the supervision of a Centurion.
3. Scourges were whips made of leather thongs with balls of lead or bone tied into the leather thongs.

B. Crucifixion (John 19:16)

1. Victim carried the crossbeam to the place of execution.
2. Victim stripped of clothing, thrown back onto the cross beam and nailed through the wrists.
3. Crossbeam lifted onto the stake and feet nailed to the stake.
4. Hours of terrible pain to keep the breathing process going until exhaustion or dehydration or whatever other factor caused the victim to die.

C. Burial (John 19:40)

1. Jewish burial customs were very important. Body was washed and carefully prepared.
2. Three linen strips were used to wrap the body. Myrrh and aloes (gooey and sweet smelling substance) were spread between the strips of linen to stick it all together. Linen strip #1 was wrapped from one foot to the waist. Linen strip #2 was wrapped from the other foot to the waist. Linen strip #3 was wrapped from the shoulders around crossed arms to the waist. A separate cloth was placed over the head.
3. The body was placed in the tomb.

II. Jesus' Resurrection

- A. Proof of Jesus' resurrection = eyewitness accounts
 - 1. Peter and John find empty tomb (John 20:1-9)
 - 2. Mary Magdalene (John 20:10-18)
 - 3. Jesus' disciples (John 20:19-20)
 - 4. Thomas (John 20:24-28)
 - 5. Over 500 others (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

III. Importance of the Resurrection

- A. Proof that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:30-31)

- B. Proof of Jesus' authority (John 2:12-22)

- C. Proof that there will be a resurrection and a Judgment day for all of us (Acts 17:29-31)

Close: Read 1 John 4:9-10

- A. The cross demonstrates God's Grace (God's unmerited favor on man).

- B. Q: What more could God do to show his love for us?

- C. Q: How does all this affect you, personally?
(Suggestion: take turns praying together about these things.)

Reasons Jesus Died:

Mark 10:42-45	To be a ransom for us
Luke 22:19-20	To help us
John 3:16-21	To save us because of love
John 12:20-33	To draw us into a relationship
Romans 5:12-21	To undo the sin issue
Romans 4:25	To make us innocent
2 Corinthians 5:14-21	To give us a new unselfish life
Galatians 3:10-14	To free us from legalism and give the Spirit
Galatians 6:14	To free us from "the world"
Ephesians 2:14-18	To unite us with all kinds of people in Jesus
Colossians 2:13-15	To remove our sins and legal obligations
Colossians 3:1-4	To give new lifestyle, freed from the old patterns
Philippians 2:5-11	To give us a new, humble attitude
1 Timothy 2:3-7	To unite us to God
Hebrews 2:9-18	To free us from the fear of dying
Hebrews 9:14-15	To forgive ALL sin
Hebrews 9:27-28	To take away sin
Hebrews 10:19-25	To give us confidence with God and each other
1 Peter 2:21-25	To be our example
1 John 1:5-2:2	To forgive us always
1 John 3:16-24	To show us how to love (sacrifice); to give comfort
1 John 4:9-21	To overcome our fear of punishment

More Evidence for Jesus' Resurrection:

Matthew 27:45-28:20	
Mark 15:42 - 16:20	
Luke 23:50 - 24:53	
John 21:1-25	
Acts 1:3-8	40 days of convincing proofs
Acts 10:39-43	Chosen witnesses
Acts 13:32-41	Old Testament foretold this
1 Corinthians 15:1-20	More eye witnesses
Acts 26:1-31	Paul's complete turn around
1 Peter 1:16-21	Eyewitness confirmation of predictions
1 John 1:1-3	Seeing and touching the dead now alive

“The Promise of Jesus”

-Key Text = Read Acts 2:38-41

I. The Promise

A. If you:

1. Repent (verse 38)
2. Baptized into Christ (verse 38)

Then:

1. Sins are forgiven (verse 38)
2. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (verse 38)

B. This is “the promise” referred to in verse 39.

C. This promise is issued to every generation (verse 39), including ours.

II. The Forgiveness of Sins

A. Acts 3:19-20 Sins wiped out

B. Colossians 1:21-23 The extent of our forgiveness because of Jesus

C. Ephesians 2:1-10 Saved by grace, not by works

III. The Gift of the Holy Spirit

A. Titus 3:3-8 Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit, not of man (Vs 6);
This salvation from the penalty of our sins (also called "justification") is what gives us the hope of eternal life (Vs 7).

B. Ephesians 1:13-14 Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance

C. Romans 8:9-17 Living by the Spirit

IV. The Family of God

A. Acts 2:40-47 Another promise: added to the Lord’s church

B. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 Baptism into the body of Christ simultaneously puts us in a new relationship with God, as our adopted Father, and other Christians as our new, spiritual family

C. Ephesians 2:18-19 Through our union with Christ, we have become members of God’s household, God’s family, the church

Close

A. Review the promise in Acts 2:38-41.

B. Share: What aspects of the promise are most important to you, personally?

“The Response to Jesus”

Key Text: Acts 2:36-41

The preaching of the gospel was meant to bring about a response. It was meant to change people's lives.

- I. Faith: Changed Thinking** (Acts 2:36-37).
- A. The people's response to Peter shows that they had come to faith in Jesus as their Lord (master) and Christ (savior).
 - B. This faith in Jesus was more than an acceptance of the facts, but a trust in Jesus that moved them to action (verse 37).
 - C. Saving faith must lead to action in our lives as well (Read James 2:14-26).
 - D. The gospel message must be received with this kind of faith (Hebrews 4:2).
- II. Repentance: A Changed Life** (Acts 2:38) (Q: What is repentance?)
- A. Acts 26:20 Turning from a self-determined life to one that strives to please God.
 - B. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 No longer living to please self, but to please God.
 - C. Galatians 5:19-26 Repentance is “crucifying the sinful nature (vs 24)”.
Q: What sins do you need to crucify? (Suggest: share with each other.)
 - D. Genesis 6:5-13 Repentance comes from taking responsibility for the pain our sins cause God.
Share: how our sins make God feel.
Q: What does it mean that our sins crucified Jesus? (refer: Acts 2:36)
 - E. 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 Godly sorrow leads to repentance.
Q: Do you have godly sorrow about your sins?
Q: If not, what element of godly sorrow do you still lack? (Offer help.)

Baptism: A Changed Relationship – from separated to united in Christ (Acts 2:38-41)

- A. Isaiah 59:1-2 Our sins separate us from God.
- B. Acts 2:38-41
 - 1. Our sins are forgiven.
 - 2. We receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. We are added to God's church.
- C. Romans 6:1-8
 - 1. Through baptism we die with Christ to the old life of sin
 - 2. We are resurrected to a new life with Christ.
- D. Galatians 3:26-29 Baptism is an adoption into the family of God. It is also analogous to a marriage ceremony. Baptism is when we are joined with Christ. In fact, the marriage relationship is often alluded to in describing the relationship of God's people to Jesus (Refer: Ephesians 5:23, 29, 31-31; Revelation 19:7; 21:2, 9; 22:17).

“The Lordship of Jesus”

Jesus calls all of us to follow him and to make him Lord of our lives. When we do this, we are becoming disciples of Jesus (refer: John 8:31-32).

- I. Acts 2:36. Jesus is Lord (Master) and Christ (Savior).
(You cannot have one without the other.)

The Greek word for Lord used here means “master”. It was most commonly used to refer to the lordship of slave masters over slaves. Those who accept that Jesus is their Lord are accepting that he is the ruler over their lives – that he has ultimate and complete control over their time, possessions, decisions and so forth.

- II. Romans 10:8-13. Anyone who comes to Jesus to be saved must make him Lord of their whole life. If Jesus is not Lord *of all*, then He is not Lord *at all*.
- III. Luke 9:21-27. Following Jesus and making him Lord means denying self on a daily basis. (Suggestion: share what this means in your life.)
- IV. Luke 14:25-35. Counting the cost of becoming a disciple of Jesus, or making Jesus Lord.

A. Examples:

1. Mark 1:16-18. Following Jesus, fishing for men and leaving everything.
 2. Luke 9:57-62. No looking back.
- V. John 13:34-35. Following Jesus includes following his example of loving people.
- VI. Mark 10:17-31. The cost and the reward of following Jesus and making him Lord.

Close

-Q: What will be the cost for you, personally, to become a disciple of Jesus and make him the Lord of your life?

-Q: Are you willing to do that?