



The gospel is not just a list of beliefs about something that happened 2,000 years ago. It's the controlling narrative that makes sense of everything that's ever happened, and everything that will happen. It is the constant flowing river underneath every commandment, every prophetic message, every story of conflict between good and evil, and every hope expressed to God by a people crying out for deliverance.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Introduction:

"Name something that seems simple but is actually complex."

SIMPLE? YES. SIMPLISTIC? NO. Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**. Paul says the gospel "we preach", the one you "believed", and the one you "received" is about Jesus—the one who died, was buried, raised by God, and was seen by others. Why is it important to focus the gospel on Jesus, not ourselves? While the gospel is simple, how much is packed into "the gospel is about Jesus"?

THE BASIS AND GOAL OF THE GOSPEL. Read **Romans 5:6-11**. Notice Paul bases the gospel in the love of God for powerless, sinful enemies (you and me). He says the goal of the gospel is for us not only to be saved but reconciled. Why is all of this important?

THE JEWISH AND GENTILE GOSPEL. Read Romans 1:1-5. How is the gospel about a Jewish Messiah? (see also 2 Timothy 2:8). How is the gospel about a savior for Gentiles? (see also Eph 3:6). **Follow up: Read Gal 3:8.** How was the gospel preached to Abraham?

FOUR QUESTIONS, GOSPEL ANSWERS. The Bible repeatedly asks and answers 4 basic questions:

- (1) Where did I come from?
- (2) What went wrong?
- (3) How will it be made right?
- (4) How do I participate?

Discuss how knowing the answer to question #3 (the gospel) helps every other question fall into place.

Try out the four questions with these Bible themes:

- Creation
- Covenant
- Exile

OPEN OUR MINDS. Read **Luke 24:13-27 & 44-45**. How does knowing the gospel is all through the Bible (from start to finish) help open our minds, and explain the stories?