

# **The One Thing: Knowing, Living, and Sharing the Gospel**

## **Section 1- RECEIVE (Gospel Truth)**

Week 1 - Introduction and Scope- Charlie Rutledge January 7, 2023

### **Why this class**

Our mission statement “Calling all people to receive, demonstrate, and declare God’s transforming grace through Jesus Christ.”

We all know we are to receive, demonstrate, and declare the gospel, but how do we grow in these things? This class will get very practical to help us grow together in:

1. Having a clear understanding of the gospel
  2. Seeing the transformation being born again brings to our daily lives
  3. Being prepared in practical ways to share the good news with your world.
- The class format will include testimonies, instruction, and discussion groups, to increase our understanding and ability to live out the transforming grace we have in Jesus Christ."

### **Class content and format:**

Start at 9 sharp

10 min testimonies and follow up on homework

30 min Presentation

25 min Small discussion groups

Leaves a few min for transition to groups and margins for flex.

## **Section 1- RECEIVE (Gospel Truth)**

Week 1 (January 7)- Introduction and Scope- Carlie Rutledge

Week 2 (January 14)- The Gospel Message- Nathan Ream

Week 3 (January 21)- Developing Your Testimony- Greg Hogerheiden

## **Section 2- DEMONSTRATE (Gospel Transformation)**

Week 4 (January 28)- A Changed Heart- Nathan Ream

Week 5 (February 4)- A Changed View of God- Walter Lopatka

Week 6 (February 11)- Changed Priorities- Charlie Solomon

## **Section 3- DECLARE (Gospel Proclamation)**

Week 7 (February 18)- Tools for Sharing the Gospel- Nathan Ream

Week 8 (February 25)- Knowing Your Circle- Charlie Rutledge

Week 9 (March 3)- The Gospel for the Long Haul- Steve Hagberg

Week 10 (March 10)- Serving in Light of the Gospel- Walter Lopatka

Week 11 (March 17)- Sharing the Gospel with Religious People- Nathan Ream

Week 12 (March 24)- Taking it to Your World- Nathan Ream

### **What to expect at the completion of this class and its discussions, exercises, and application:**

Overall, we hope to see each of us grow in living out the gospel, experiencing the power of God in daily life and in how he uses us to share with others. And that this will be practical way we move the culture of our church in line with God's will for us and our community.

#### **Some of those ways:**

- We should know the mission statement of the church from memory.
- We should be able to express why those three areas of receiving, demonstrating, and declaring are essential to the making of disciples, and how one aspect naturally flows into the next.
- We should have a clear understanding of the content of the gospel. And be able to distinguish between the biblical, saving gospel, and common cultural expressions that fall short of the truth.
- We should be able to clearly express our testimony, that is, how that gospel has impacted our lives. This is more than a life story and more than just a retelling of gospel facts.
- We should be able to point out places in our lives where we have seen God work. This does not necessarily mean drastic changes. We want to see God in the daily and often mundane areas of life. We want to be able to see God working in places that likely would have been overlooked prior to the class.
- We should be able to identify those that need the gospel that God has placed in our lives. The 5-10 people that God routinely puts in our path who are unsaved, with whom God might lead us to have a serious or spiritual conversation.
- We should be growing in prayer for specific opportunities to share with those in our circle.
- We hope to be able to share stories of opportunities that were seized and how God used those conversations for both our growth and the benefit of others.

Let's go back to our church mission statement.

“Calling all people to receive, demonstrate, and declare

God's transforming grace through Jesus Christ.”

**Let's walk through each element and why it is so important we included it.**

### **Calling all people**

The church is not meant to be an insider's club, a place where we have our comfort zone with those who are like us. The gospel unites people from very diverse lives and backgrounds. Then as we are conformed to be more and more like Christ we have fellowship in the Son. We have in common our love for God and life he give us in Christ. So our mission is to call all people to experience God's transforming grace.

### **To Receive God's transforming grace**

To be born again, to be transformed from death to life.

For this to genuinely take place, we need to have a clear understanding of the good news and how we are born again.

We need to be aware of and on guard against false gospels and messages that confuse or deny the truth.

We need to know what God is calling us to when we put our faith in Christ.

What does it mean when it says we will no longer live for ourselves, and that we will die to self, and live for the one who gave himself for us?

### **Demonstrate God's transforming grace**

Our new life in Christ is one of growing in grace, growing to be more like Jesus, filled with faith in God and therefore growing in obedience.

If we have been born again, our lives will show the change, and that change will be in increasing measure.

Our daily lives will demonstrate the power of God to change us in ways we could never change ourselves. It is transforming grace. Think of the transformation of a newborn baby into a full grown person, both in physical appearance and their intellect and personality. Our growth is obvious, and it demonstrates God's transforming grace in our lives through the power of Christ.

And as we are growing and demonstrating, we will have a personal message to:

## **Declare God's transforming grace through Jesus Christ.**

When something terrific happens to you, you can't wait to share it.

When we are daily experiencing the power of God, when He changes us in ways we never expected, we want to share it with others, especially with those who also need it. Some have said it is like one starving person telling another starving person where to find bread.

I think the reality is we often lose that wonder and begin to believe some lies that hold us back.

### **Lies that hold us back:**

- It is up to me to convince others of the truth. Actually, only the Holy Spirit can change a heart and mind, we are just called to share what we know.
- Non-Christians don't want to hear what I have to say, and therefore I should wait until someone asks about the hope that is in me. It may be very true that they don't want to hear it, but we never know how God might use the truth in their life.

How many Christians do you know that did not take hold of truth the first time they heard it. For some, they were antagonistic, until God changed their heart. But someone had to speak the truth. Who better than one who knows God's grace and was once lost as well. That is all of us if we are born again.

### **Group discussion questions:**

1. What was it like when you first heard the gospel? What gripped you? What struck you? How did God change your mind? If you "grew up in church", how did God lead you to "make it your own"?
2. What are some examples of false gospels in our culture? What are some examples of missing elements of the gospel that weaken believers?

### **Homework:**

1. Memorize the church mission statement: Calling all people to receive, demonstrate, and declare God's transforming grace through Jesus Christ."
2. Recall how God has led you in receiving and growing in His transforming grace.