

# *The Hope of the Gospel*

## TEACHING NOTES

**What is the Gospel?**

**What is my story?**

### KEY VERSES

John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5;  
Ephesians 2:8-9

### KEY THEMES

Salvation by grace through faith in Christ

The Gospel is the power to save everyone who believes

God uses people of faith

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVT. PROMISE LAW GRACE

**How should I live?**

**How should I share?**

**Lesson objective:** *To make sure we clearly know the Gospel and develop a deeper understanding of the hope salvation brought to our lives and the hope it can bring to others as well.*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Prepare your heart and mind**

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help focus and guide you during this time with Him.

**Knowing God's story**

Knowing God's story is essential. We have to have a clear understanding of the Gospel. It's important in our lives – it's the foundation we need for our spiritual growth. We have to understand our birth truth and identity truth before we move on to growth truth. Knowing God's story is also imperative for effective evangelism. We can't share the hope of the Gospel with people if we don't actually know what the Gospel is.

A great way to make sure you have a clear understanding of the Gospel is to spend time actually thinking through it and writing it out. The next few prompts will allow you to do just that.

Take some time to think about your understanding of the Gospel. Think especially about what was taught in this week's session. Feel free to flip back and look through the notes you took during the teaching. Then write down the thoughts that come to mind. Use the full space below and even grab some extra paper if you run out of room. Don't feel like you need to summarize things – that will come next. Really take time to fully think through and write out what the Gospel is.

Now think about how you would summarize the Gospel. Look through your thoughts above and try to boil them down to 1-3 sentences. Once you have your short explanation of the Gospel in mind, write it down.

### **Knowing your story**

*And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. (1 Peter 3:15b)*

Knowing your story is also important. Being able to share about how the Gospel transformed your life and how God has been at work in you is a key component of evangelism. The remainder of this study will help you think through your testimony and become more familiar with it and comfortable with the idea of sharing it.

The prompts below will provide a solid framework for building your story. As you work through the questions, try to think of specific examples and details that relate to each one. Take your time as you go through each section. The space provided isn't meant to limit you – grab extra paper or type it out on the computer.

What was your life like before you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior?

*What were your attitudes, needs, and problems? What did your life revolve around? What was most important to you? Where did you look for security, peace of mind, and happiness?*

How did you come to accept Christ?

*When did you first hear the Gospel? When were you first exposed to a believer who lived out an authentic faith? What were your initial reactions to Jesus Christ? What was the turning point? What feelings did you struggle with right before your decision?*

What happened after you trusted Christ?

*What changes did you see in your life? In your attitudes? In your actions? How long did it take before you noticed any changes? What does Jesus Christ mean to you now?*

Now that you've written about the various aspects of your story take some time to think about how you would summarize it. Just like you summarized the Gospel earlier in this study, write out your testimony in 1-3 sentences.

### **Prayer time**

Spend time in prayer thanking God for the gift of salvation, the hope you have in Him, and all the wonderful ways He's worked in your life. Ask Him to give you opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel and your testimony with people who don't know Christ yet. And ask Him to give you the boldness to respond to those opportunities.

