

Help spread the gospel: *Extra! Extra! Read all about it!*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What is the gospel?
- What are the main points of the gospel?
- How did Jesus teach the gospel?

I believe...

- The gospel is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 137)
- The major statements are about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man. (Catechism Q&A question 151)
- Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospels through more than 40 parables recorded in the first three Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). (Catechism Q&A question 150)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- ["What is the Gospel?" video](#)
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 89-90, 114, 135, 137, 150-151
- Bible: Luke 17:21, John 3:13, John 3:16

- The "What is the Gospel?" video can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#) *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) under the "Teaching" section

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Have you heard any good news lately? Please bring a recent newspaper to our youth discussion tomorrow. We'll be meeting at _____ at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary. Consider adding a video link from above for families to use as a conversation starter.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about the gospel, what it is, and how Jesus taught it. As you may know, the word "gospel" translates to "good news". In order to understand good news, we need to be aware of the bad news. The bad news in this context is the sinful nature of man that separates us from God and the good news of the gospel is that Jesus came to reconcile that broken relationship. This week, take some time to share with your student how your understanding of the gospel has changed over the years. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders (customizable with your names)

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- It may be helpful to have a few extra newspapers or even advertisements that students can use in case they didn't bring one with them.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- From the text message sent out before the lesson, ask the students if they have heard any good news lately?
 - Students can share their personal examples of good news
- Say something like: Whether it is in print or online, a headline can usually indicate whether the news being shared is good news or bad news.
- Using the newspapers that they brought to small group, ask the students to take a few moments to find some headlines that they would consider to be good news.
- Students can share the headlines that they found and explain why they consider it to be good news.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is the gospel? (Catechism Q&A question 137)
- What are the main points of the gospel? (Catechism Q&A question 151)
- How did Jesus teach the gospel? (Catechism Q&A question 150)

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 	<p>This semester focuses on the “H” of the THRIVE membership expectations acronym, which is “Help spread the gospel”. In order to spread the gospel, we need to know what it is.</p> <p><u>Student question #1</u> What does the word “gospel” mean?</p> <p>Say something like: “gospel” is a Greek word that translates to “good news”. Anytime you hear good news, it is gospel. Do you like Jurassic Park and you just heard that there is a new Jurassic Park movie coming out? That is gospel; that is good news. Or perhaps you like pizza and your friend just told you the news that your class at school has won a pizza party. Again, that is good news and it is true; that is gospel. However, it is not <u>THE</u> gospel.</p> <p><u>Student question #2</u> What is the good news of <u>THE</u> gospel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When we’re referring to THE gospel, this is specifically the gospel of Jesus Christ. ➤ The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ (Catechism Q&A question 137). ➤ John 3:16 is one of the most recognized verses in the bible and summarizes the gospel message. <p>It is important to distinguish between the gospel as the message of salvation, and the Gospel books at the beginning of the New Testament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospel books because they contain the direct accounts of Jesus’ life and teaching. ➤ The Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar wording. They stand in contrast to John, whose content is distinct.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “What is the Gospel?” video can be found on the NAC USA YouTube channel <i>and</i> in the NAC USA mobile app under the “Teaching” section 	<p><u>Play the “What is the Gospel?” video (7 minutes and 40 seconds)</u></p> <p>Student questions 3-5 are for the students to consider when listening to the video</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Student question #3</u> If the gospel is the good news, what is the bad news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The bad news is that because of the fall into sin, human beings experience separation from God. Human beings cannot undo the condition of separation from God on their own. (Reference Catechism Q&A questions 89-90) ➤ <u>Student question #4</u> What is the evidence of the bridge being opened between man and God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, His sacrificial death, and resurrection, God created the opportunity for all human beings to be delivered from spiritual death. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 90) ➤ <u>Student question #5</u> What are some of the responsibilities of a Christian mentioned in the video? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pray, hear the preached word, partake worthily in Holy Communion, change our will to conform to God’s will, and align our lives to the example that Jesus set.

- The IGNITE Bible defines a parable as: *a story that teaches a lesson by comparing two things.*

- **Luke 17:21:**
 "...nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

- **John 3:13:**
 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven

Student question #6

How did Jesus teach the gospel and make it understandable?

- In His sermons, Jesus often spoke in parables. These stories are taken from daily lives of His listeners so that they might better understand them. With these parables, Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospel. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 150)

More than 40 parables are recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In these parables, Jesus illustrated major statements about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man.

- **What is meant by the term "kingdom of God"?**
 - The "kingdom of God" is not a national territory, nor is it a political sphere of dominion. Rather the "kingdom of God" means that God is present and rules among mankind. In the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the "kingdom of God" has come to all people (Luke 17:21). Jesus Christ is the ruler, He creates justice, He grants grace, He turns to the poor and needy, and He brings salvation. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 135)
- **What is meant by the term "Son of Man"?**
 - When the term "Son of Man" is used as a majestic title, it is not referring to the son of a man, but rather, a heavenly being who judges and rules over mankind. At the time of Jesus, devout Jews were expecting the "Son of Man", who would assume rule over the world from God. According to John 3:13, Jesus also identifies Himself as the Son of Man who came down from heaven. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 114)

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Our Vision is to create a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, ***align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ*** and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.
- Our Mission is reaching out to all people in order to ***teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ*** and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.

Wrap up the lesson with an overview question asking the students "What is the gospel?", linking it to our mission and vision and the "H" member expectation.

- In order to help spread the gospel, we have to know what it is.

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- As you review each question, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to answer with an "I Believe..." statement, or state an "I Believe..." statement in their own words, for each of the "I Wonder..." questions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to avoid evil and surrender themselves to the Triune God as they help spread the gospel message.

I wonder...

- What is the gospel?
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Point to Ponder....

- Think about why Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to return are necessary for us as human beings.

A Call to Action....

- Either as a whole group or in smaller groups, at some point before the next small group session, use your phone to make a news report for the good news of the gospel. If time allows, share them the next time the youth group gets together.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Help spread the gospel: *Extra! Extra! Read all about it!*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the gospel? ➤ What are the main points of the gospel? ➤ How did Jesus teach the gospel? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The gospel is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 137) ➤ The major statements are about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man. (Catechism Q&A question 151) ➤ Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospels through more than 40 parables recorded in the first three Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). (Catechism Q&A question 150)
References: Catechism Q&A questions 89-90, 114, 135, 137, 150-151; Bible verses: Luke 17:21, John 3:13, John 3:16,	

1. What does the word "gospel" mean?

2. What is the good news of THE gospel?

3. If the gospel is the good news, what is the bad news?

4. What is the evidence of the bridge being opened between man and God?

5. What are some of the responsibilities of a Christian mentioned in the video?

6. How did Jesus teach the gospel and make it understandable?

Point to Ponder: Think about why Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to return are necessary for us as human beings.

Call to Action: Either as a whole group or in smaller groups, at some point before the next small group session, use your phone to make a news report for the good news of the gospel. If time allows, share them the next time the youth group gets together.