

## SESSION 1

# THE VITAL GOSPEL

"The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart." — John Calvin

**T**he Gospel. This is a word that Christians use frequently and with some reverence. If you have been in any church for five minutes you have likely heard that it means "Good News." But for many that is about as far as their knowledge of this word goes. In this section we are going to seek to understand what the Gospel is not only for ourselves but to clearly share with others.

### KEY QUESTION:

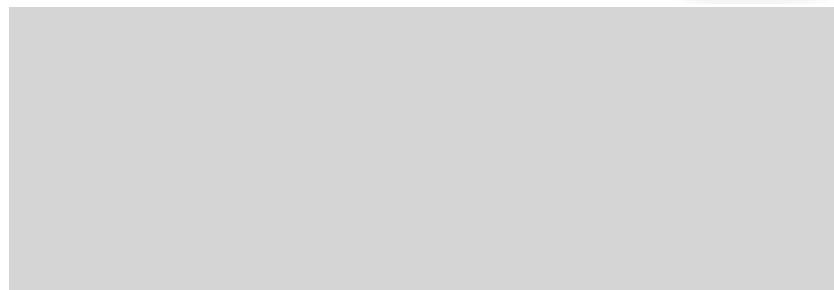
HOW VITAL IS THE GOSPEL?

Again, in Christian circles, we agree the gospel is important, but have you ever taken time to consider how important it is?

If your spiritual life were a body, what part of the body would the gospel represent?



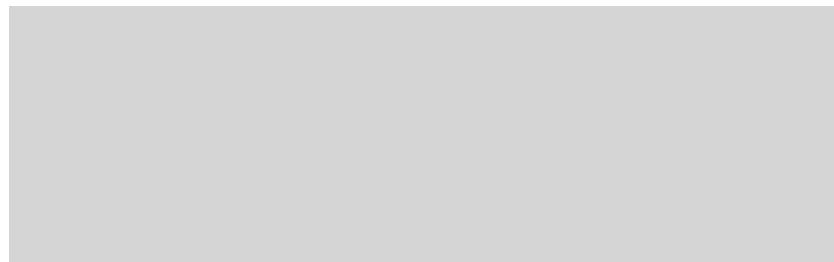
What body part did you pick & Why?



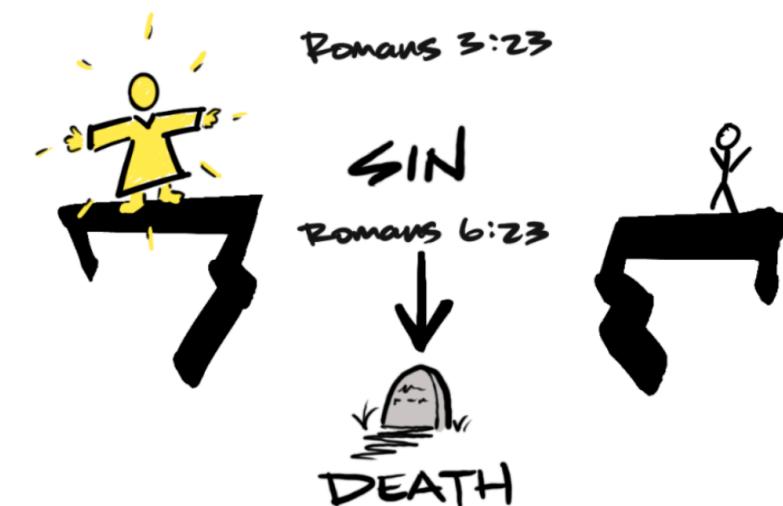
#### KEY QUESTION:

IF THE GOSPEL IS VITAL TO SPIRITUAL LIFE, WHY DON'T MORE CHRISTIANS TAKE TIME TO KNOW IT?

What do you think are some reasons Christians don't take the time to know the Gospel?



#### THE DOWNFALL



Romans 3:23

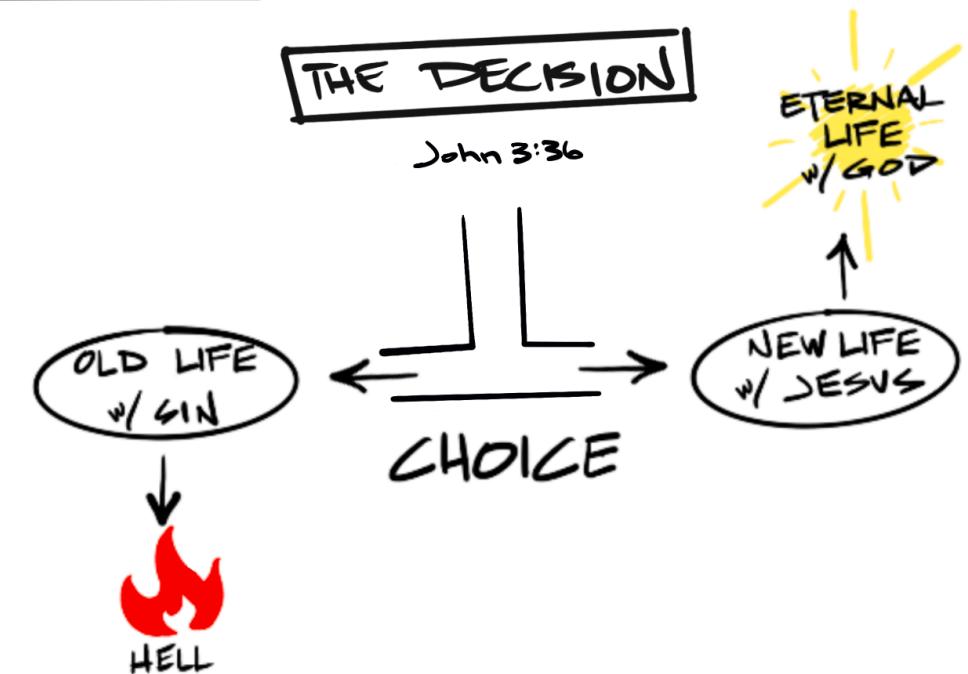
SIN

Romans 6:23

DEATH

#### THE DECISION

John 3:36



OLD LIFE  
w/ SIN

NEW LIFE  
w/ JESUS

CHOICE



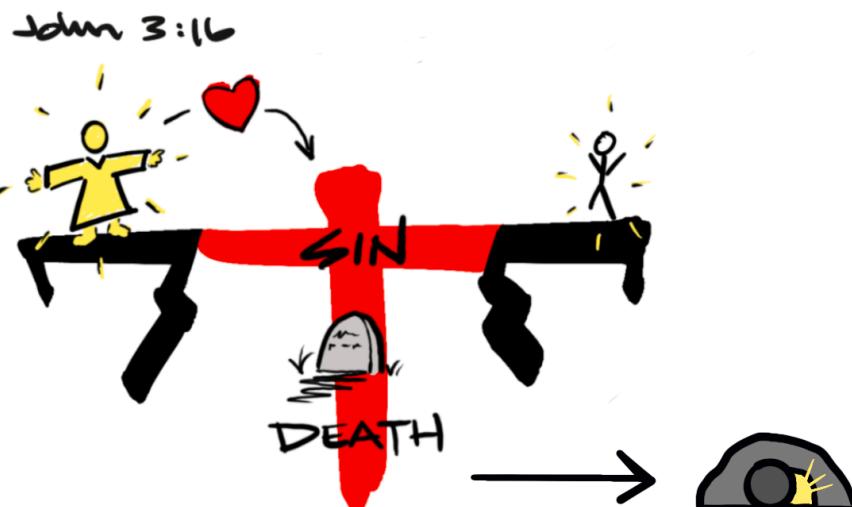
## THE DESIGN

Genesis 1:26-27



## THE DELIVERANCE

... Romans 6:23



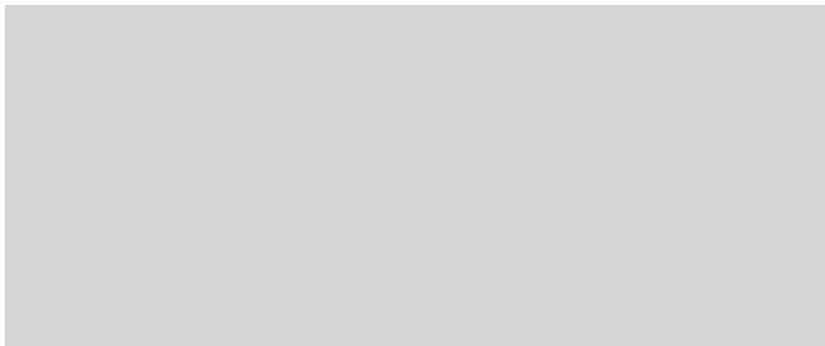
### Some Statistics:

- 66% of Christians are not familiar with any "methods for telling others about Jesus."
- 70% of Christians have not shared with a stranger how to become a Christian in the past six months.
- 62% of Christians have not "shared with a friend or family member how to become a Christian in the past six months."

(Lifeway Research survey: "Evangelism Explosion Study of American Christians' Openness to Talking about Faith")

*If the gospel is so vital for spiritual life, doesn't it seem paramount that christians would take time to know it & share it?*

**What are some reasons Christians may have for not sharing the Gospel?**



### Mark 16:15

And He [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Jesus told His disciples to preach the gospel to everyone everywhere. This was not a suggestion. This was a command.

Why?

Because **the Gospel is Vital to Spiritual Life!**



**"Give what you Got"**

*What did you get from this?*

*Who is someone you could share this with?*

If you have decided to believe Jesus for who He said He is (God) & what He did for you (paying your penalty of death & restoring you to His Design)

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

***You have been Made New; Born Again as a Child of God!***

Now starts the exciting journey of living the Abundant Life promised by Jesus (John 10:10).

***Galatians 2:20***

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Living as a Disciple is learning to walk in your new life — Christ's life. It is exciting but I won't lie, there are ups & downs in this journey. But know this, now that you are God's, He will never let you go!

Move forward with the confidence & joy that the Lord will always be with you. He will carry you through every season. He will keep you until the end & you will live with Him in Heaven. Guaranteed!

***Welcome to Abundant Life!  
Life as a Disciple of Jesus!***

## SESSION 2

# THE 4D GOSPEL: DESIGN

*“Never be content with your current grasp of the gospel. The gospel is the life-permeating, world-altering, universe-changing truth. It has more facets than a diamond. Its depths man will never exhaust.”*

— C.J. Mahaney

**T**here are countless ways to share the Gospel. The problem for many Christians is that they haven't intentionally learned even one way. We encourage disciples to learn & practice the "4D Gospel" method: 4 Words; 4 Pictures; 5 Verses. It's simple & thorough.

As we learn it, we will emphasize the priority of understanding not just memorizing. Once you understand it, you won't need a Method. It'll be life!

## DESIGN

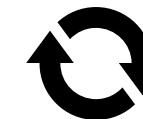


**Genesis 1:26-27**

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness...*

### KEY QUESTION:

*What decision do you make about Jesus?*



### "Give what you Got"

*What did you get from this session?*

*Who is someone you can give this to?*

**KEY QUESTION:**

Why doesn't God save everyone?

Make no mistake, God desires that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), but as Billy Graham's daughter put it...

*"God is a gentleman. He won't force His way into your life or insist on helping when you don't seem to want it..." — Anne Graham Lotz*

God will not force Himself on you. He freely offers His Salvation to you but awaits your acceptance of His gift.

**Why does John 3:36 first say "believe," then says "obey"?**

It's either ALL or Not At All.

It's either fully in or fully out.

Anything less cannot bring about God's Design.

Many gospel sharing methods begin with, "man has sinned." But, **the gospel starts with GOD.**

In the beginning GOD...

**KEY QUESTION:**

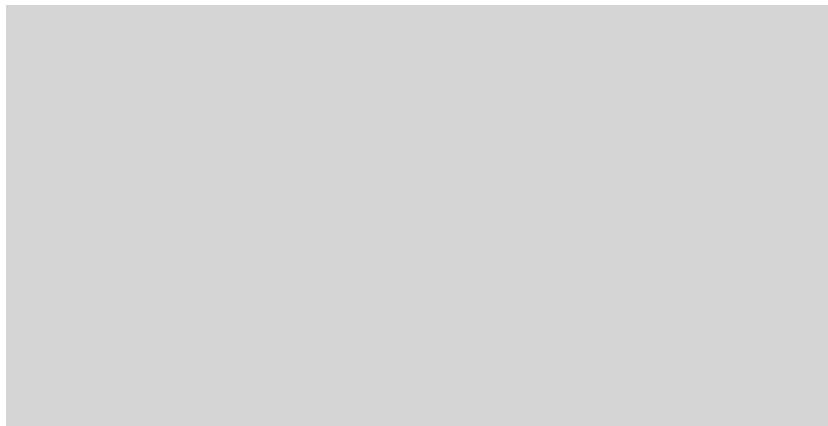
Why does the gospel start with God?

Man has a way of making man the center of attention, but it's important to realize that man is not the central figure of importance in creation. Doctrine & Theology will always be skewed if God is not the center & the source.

*"When we come to Christ, we're no longer the most important person in the world to us; Christ is. Instead of living only for ourselves, we have a higher goal: to live for Jesus" — Billy Graham*

**KEY QUESTION:**

*What does it mean to be made in the Image & Likeness of God?*



What's the DESIGN?

**KEY STATEMENT:**

*A Perfect Design by a Perfect God made us to be His Perfect Reflection for a Perfect Relationship.*

People tend to say, "Nobody's perfect." This statement is made, usually, to justify some wrong. However, when we consider what God's design of man was, we find that reflecting His Perfection is the point.

**Session 5**

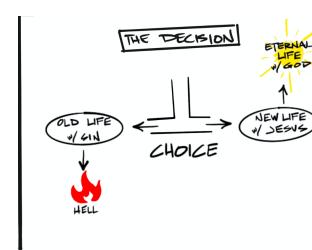
# THE 4D GOSPEL: DECISION

*I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back." – Simon Marak*

**N**ow that we know the message of God we are responsible to make a choice: Truth or Lie; Accept or Deny; Jesus or Myself; Religion or Relationship.

We need to make a...

## DECISION

**John 3:36**

*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not obey in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

The world wants to say there's many ways to God, but according to God there's only two options:

**Jesus or not Jesus.**

**Something to think about...**

**What was an Ambassador to a king?**

They were an official representative of the king in a foreign land. They were responsible for representing the rule and reign of their king.

Consider what this says of your worth. How valuable are you to God by design?



**"Give what you Got"**

*What did you get from this session?*

*Who is someone you can give this to?*

## SESSION 3

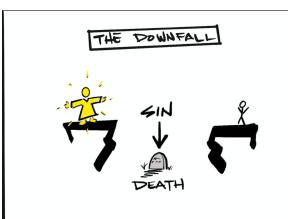
# THE 4D GOSPEL: DOWNFALL

"The seriousness of an offense rises with the dignity of the one offended." — Unknown

**W**hat a mind-blowing thing that God, out of all His creation, chose to make mankind reflect Himself! Our worth and value are second only to the One whom we reflect. Unfortunately, man messed this wonderful grace up terribly...

This is what we call the...

## DOWNFALL



**Romans 3:23**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Most gospel sharing methods start here, with sin. The problem is, many people, including Christians, don't have a great understanding of what sin is. Most think of

Jesus took our sin & death upon Himself. He paid the penalty to Deliver us from our Separation from God so that we could be Restored to our Design.

Perfect came and purchased our Perfection.

**John 14:6**

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

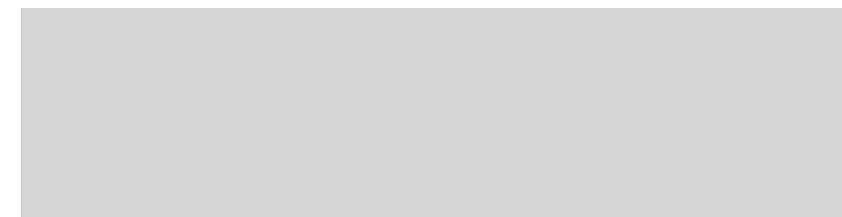
This is why there is only ONE WAY to God.

**Would you give up your only son if there was any other way?**



**"Give what you Got"**

*What did you get from this session?*



*Who is someone you can give this to?*



According to John 3:16, God so loved us that He gave an unimaginable thing... His only Son!

**WHY?...**

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

*For He [the Father] made Him [the Son] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

...So that we might become the righteousness of God!

**Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates His own love for toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

No good works, no good intentions, no religion — no value of our own at all. Why? According to Isaiah 64:6 “our righteousness are like filthy rags.”

**KEY STATEMENT:**

*Perfection is the only thing that can purchase our perfection.*

Therefore, God brought His perfection and exchanged it for our “wages”...

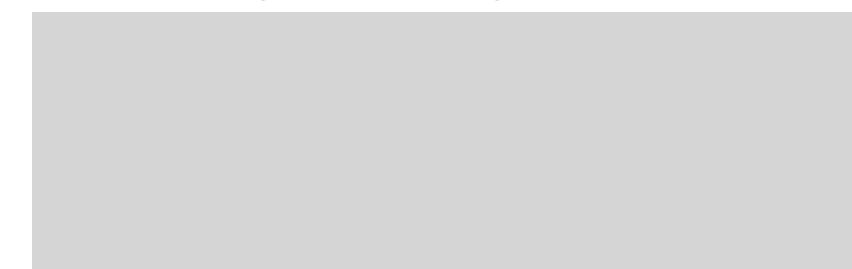


**1 Corinthians 15:3,4**

*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures*

sin as simply some religious term referring to wrongdoings or bad things. This is not a good enough understanding of the word since “wrong” & “bad” are highly subjective & often listed from, “not a big deal” to “worse,” in the world’s perspectives.

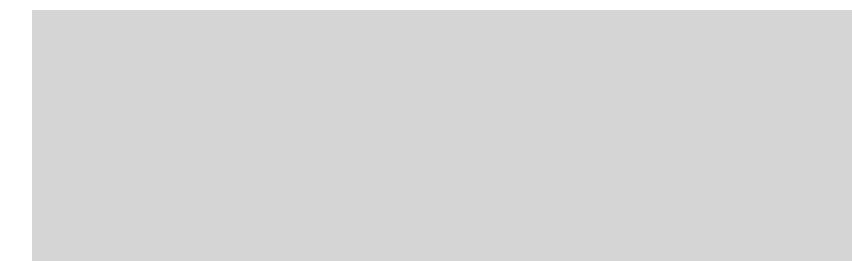
**Do you tend to give sins a rating? Describe why...**



Sin tends to be one of those Christian words that gets mentioned a lot which makes it important. But, do people really know and understand what it is?

**KEY QUESTION:**

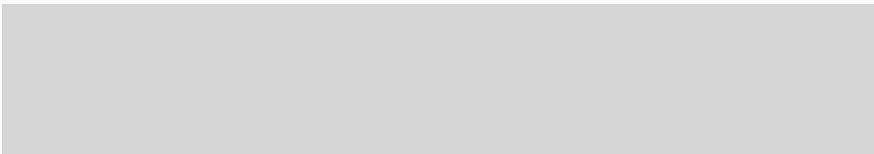
*What is Sin?*



Sin is not originally a religious term. Sin is an archery term.  
It means, "to Miss the Mark."



### **What was the "mark" we missed?**



This points us back to why the gospel starts with God. God is perfect. Our "DESIGN" gives us a definite "mark" that we were made to hit.

### **So WHY is sin a big deal?**



The seriousness of a sin rises with the dignity of the 'ONE' sinned against.

It's not about you; it's about God!  
Sin is not graded on a curve — it's graded on ONE Standard — God's Perfection!

### **IT'S A BIG DEAL!**

**What do we need deliverance from?** Well, if we take a step backwards to the 'Downfall' we find we need delivered from our Death — Separation from God.

**How does mankind attempt to fill that gap?**



So, we need delivered **FROM** our Death. Now, let me ask this question... What do we need delivered **TO**?

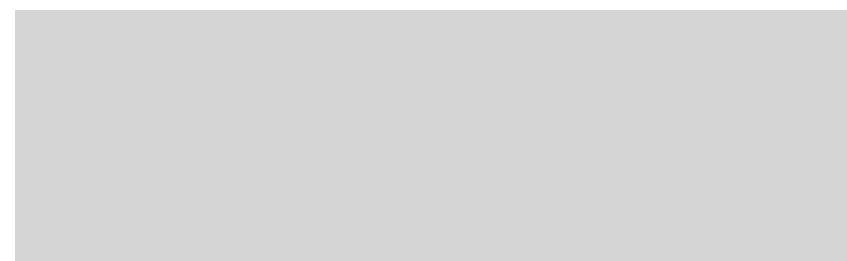
Go back to the beginning of the 4D Gospel...  
We need to get back to our Design...

**A Perfect Design by a Perfect God who made us to be His Perfect Reflection for a Perfect Relationship.**

*What would be good enough to cancel the debt of offending an eternal, perfect God who designed us to be His reflection?*

#### **KEY QUESTION:**

**Why do we need a Deliverer?**



## Session 4

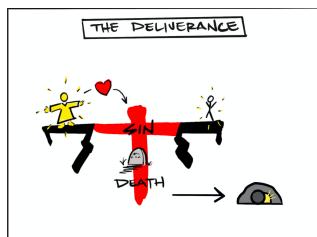
# THE 4D GOSPEL: DELIVERANCE

"I need forgiveness for my sins, but I need also deliverance from the power of sin... I appreciate the blessed fact of God's forgiveness, but I want something more than that: I want deliverance. I need forgiveness for what I have done, but I need also deliverance from what I am." — Watchman Nee

**W**e are in desperate need! God designed us from His own Image. Our worth and value are second only to the One whom we reflect. Horrifically, man messed this wonderful grace up terribly and is now destined for eternal death...

We need...

## DELIVERANCE



**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*

What are the consequences of SIN?

**Romans 6:23** ★  
*The wages of sin is death...*

What are wages?  
Something earned.  
**God did not give this to man.**  
**Man earns it.**

**KEY QUESTION:**

*What is Death?*

People tend to think death means you stop living or cease to exist. However, being created in God's likeness, we are all eternal beings.

**KEY STATEMENT:**

*You will exist forever.  
You will exist either with the One who is Life or you will exist apart from Him.*

**Is eternal separation (death) "fair"?**

Consider the One who was sinned against...

God designed you to reflect His Perfect Image.

If you stole something, God's Image is now seen as a Thief.

If you broke the law, God's Image is now seen as a Lawbreaker.

### **Is that Fair?**

#### **Think about this...**

**James 1:17**

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father...*

Every good & perfect thing that we have or receive comes from God. But a time is coming, after our bodies perish, where we will either be fully with Life (everything good & perfect) or fully separated from Him?

If you are separated from everything that is good and perfect what's left?



### **"Give what you Got"**

*What did you get from this session?*

*Who is someone you can give this to?*