

# Mt. Zion Baptist Church

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GOSPEL  
FLUENT





**The Booklet Proudly Belongs To:**

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# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Curriculum Introduction

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- Does Jesus have power over sin?
- Is the Gospel relevant?
- Is Christ really the answer to the world's problems?
- What does God have to say about sickness, disease, violence, pain, divorce, depression, confusion about sexual orientation, sexual identity, and death?

Believers have been commissioned by Jesus Himself to present the answer, the gospel, to all these problems. Many Christians are not fluent in the Gospel message. This curriculum aims to get those who are followers of Christ to become fluent in the good news of Jesus and show the Gospel is the answer to all of the issues and circumstances that mankind faces.



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## Expected Curriculum Outcomes

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- LifeGroup members will become fluent in the Gospel and be able to connect the Good News to everyday life circumstances.
- LifeGroup members will be excited to share the Gospel and encourage others to share the Gospel.
- LifeGroup members will present Jesus as the primary answer to the issues of life.



# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 1:

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**Discussion Topic:** Everyone is an Unbeliever

**Scripture(s):** Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 1:9

**Outcomes(s):**

- LifeGroup members will understand though they may be saved, they often behave as unbelievers.
- LifeGroup members will see areas of life where they behave as unbelievers.
- LifeGroup members will repent and obey immediately in the areas of disobedience.

## LifeGroup Exercise(s):

**Instructions:** Read the story and answer the questions below. Completing the chart will assist with seeing areas of disobedience. (See Fig 1.1 for example)

"It was our day off, and I had just returned from dropping the kids off at school to find Jayne still in her blue bathrobe, drinking her morning coffee. It was clear she wasn't doing well. Jayne was struggling with a lot of anxiety over our children. Where were they with Jesus? Were they going to surrender their lives to him? Were they safe in our neighborhood? How could we protect them? And what about school? Should they actually be going to a public school? What were they being exposed to? She was being crushed by the weight of so many concerns. Clearly, Jayne was experiencing not the fruit of the Spirit but the fruit of the flesh. She was experiencing strife, not peace. Why? Because at that moment, she was not believing the truths of the gospel.

So I started asking Jayne the questions designed to help her see her unbelief in the gospel. First, I drew a tree on a napkin and asked Jayne what she was experiencing. She said she was experiencing anxiety and fear, so I wrote anxiety and fear hanging from the tree like fruit. I also asked what she was doing or trying to do. She said she was worrying and trying to figure out how to control the situation. So I wrote down *worry* and *desire for control*-two more pieces of fruit hanging on the tree of Jayne's life.

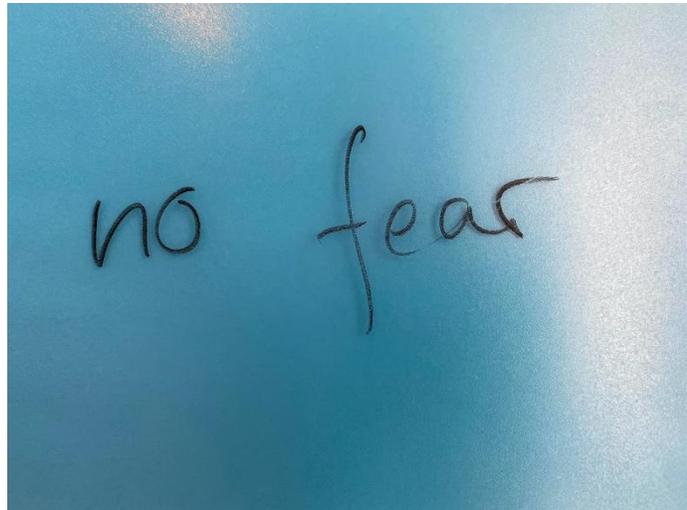
Next, I asked her, "In light of what you are experiencing, what are you believing about yourself right now? How do you perceive who you are in this situation? She responded, "I am in control." "But if you're in control," I asked, "Why are you anxious?"

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Why do you worry?" She said: "Well, because I'm not in control. But I believe I have to be." Jayne was believing she was supposed to be in control -like God- Sovereign and all-powerful. And she was believing that her worrying could actually fix everything. She believed her worrying would solve problems, but, in fact, it was creating more problems. "What do you believe God is doing or has done, sweetheart? I asked. I feel as if he has stopped loving me," Jayne said. "No, I asked you what you believe, not just what you feel. You feel anxious and afraid, but what do you believe about what God has done. "I believe he has stopped loving me. I believe he has lost control of what's going on with our children. And...he's abandoned me," Jayne said. I wrote these answers under the fruit, next to the right side of the tree trunk. "And what do those beliefs tell you about what you are believing God is like?" I asked. "He's unloving. He's impotent. He is absent," she said. I wrote all this down too.

Having identified the points of Jayne's belief, I turned the questions around: "What do you believe about God? Who is God? I asked her. As she spoke, I wrote down her answers on the other side of the tree trunk, starting at the bottom and moving up with each question. "He is love," she said. "How do you know God is love?" I asked. In essence, I was asking the second question: "What has God done to show you he is love?" "Jesus died for me," she said. "That's right I said. "I want to remind you, sweetheart, of God's love for you. While you were a sinner, Christ died for you. When you were an enemy of God, he loved you enough to give his own Son for you. He loves you so much! Even when you don't trust him, he still loves you. When you're full of worry and anxiety. When you try to be god for our family instead of letting him be God. No matter what, he loves you."

Then I went back to the first question: "What else do you believe about God?" I asked. She responded, "He is powerful and in control." Again, Jayne was confessing, but this time she was confessing her faith." (Vanderstelt, Gospel Fluency, Pgs.117-127)



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Instructions: Complete the chart below by answering the questions. Completing the chart will assist with seeing areas of unbelief/disobedience. (See Fig. 1 for example)

| Identifying Areas of Disbelief/Disobedience (Fig.1)                          |  |
|--|--|
| What am I doing or experiencing right now?                                   | Anxiety, fear, worry, desire for control.  |
| In light of what I am doing or experiencing, what do I believe about myself? | I am in control  |
| What do I believe God is doing or has done?                                  | He has stopped loving me, He has lost control of what's going on with our children, He has abandoned me. |
| What do I believe God is like?   | He's unloving, He's impotent. He is absent.  |

Complete the chart below by answering the questions:

| Identifying Areas of Disbelief/Disobedience                                  |  |
|--|--|
| What am I doing or experiencing right now?                                   |  |
| In light of what I am doing or experiencing, what do I believe about myself? |  |
| What do I believe God is doing or has done?                                  |  |
| What do I believe God is like?   |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

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Instructions: Answer the following questions in order to assist with being conformed to the Gospel. (See Fig 1.1 for example)

| Conforming to the Gospel (Fig 1.1)      |   |
|---|---|
| Who is God?                             | He is love, He is powerful and in control. He is present.                       |
| What has God done?                      | Jesus died for me. He rose again from the dead, I have the spirit of God in me. |
| Who am I in light of God's work?        | I'm loved. I'm not alone. I am more than a conqueror through him.               |
| How should I live in light of who I am? | In love, joy, peace, and hope.  |

Complete the chart below by answering the questions:

| Conforming to the Gospel                |  |
|---|--|
| Who is God?                             |  |
| What has God done?                      |  |
| Who am I in light of God's work?        |  |
| How should I live in light of who I am? |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

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## Lesson 2: Case Study #1 Unforgiveness

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Joseph finally thought he had found the woman of his dreams. He was dating someone he began thinking he could spend the rest of his life with. They had been dating for two years, but recently, he received a call from his girlfriend. She had terrible news and admitted that she had cheated on Joseph with someone else. Joseph was heartbroken and devastated. He ultimately ended the relationship with his girlfriend. Joseph became very angry and bitter. He began to treat women with disdain. He would date women just to have his way with them and then would never contact them again. Joseph's friends noticed the change in his behavior. They noticed that Joseph was once a fun, loving, and compassionate guy but had now turned into something cruel. When his friends brought up his behavior, Joseph would blame his behavior on the pain that was caused by his past relationship. In spite of his friends telling him what they observed. Nothing changed.

**Instructions: Complete the chart below.**

| Gospel Focused Questions   |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?           |  |
| What about the Gospel does Joseph need to hear right now?        |  |
| What about the Gospel has Joseph forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what Joseph has, or what Joseph wants?  |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

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## Personal Case Study #1

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Instructions: Joseph's life had truly been impacted by unforgiveness. Think about a situation or circumstance that has happened in your life, where you struggled and it hindered your obedience. Complete the chart below by answering the questions.

### Note(s):

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel do you need to hear right now?           |  |
| What about the Gospel have you forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what you have, or what you want?      |  |

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(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 3:

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**Discussion Topic: Good News to me**

**Scripture(s): John 3:16-21, Luke 6:45 1 John 4:7-21**

**Outcome(s):**

- LifeGroup members will recognize how the Gospel is Good News to their lives.
- LifeGroup members will share the Gospel with another person and how it can be Good News to that individual's life.

## **LifeGroup Exercise:**

**Write down 1-2 ways the Gospel has been good news to you, in specific areas of your life.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Action Item(s):**

1. Have a conversation with someone you know to be an unbeliever. Share with them how the gospel has been good news to you and how it can be good news to them.



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## Lesson 4: Case Study #2 Praying and Studying Together

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As a child, Gene was taught to pray. He would accompany his mother to church on Sundays and on Wednesdays for the weekly Prayer and Bible Study. His mother always told him that whenever he got in trouble or in a situation he couldn't handle, he could cry out to God in prayer. When he was younger, he always made sure that he would pray before meals and of course before bed. As he got older, his prayer life began to fade. As an adult Gene very rarely made it to church two Sundays in a row, and never made it to the weekly Prayer and Bible Study that the church he was a "member" of held. Gene had recently become frustrated and became inconsistent. He felt that his prayers weren't being effective, and he wasn't seeing many prayers answered. He was to the point where he thought if God doesn't answer prayer, does He really exist. Gene was on the verge of giving up on his faith.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel does Gene need to hear right now?        |  |
| What about the Gospel has Gene forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what Gene has, or what Gene wants?    |  |

(Note: Questions derived from *Gospel Fluency*, 2017.)

# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Personal Case Study #2

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Instructions: Gene's life had truly been impacted by his inconsistency. Think about a situation or a circumstance that has happened or is currently happening in your life, where you struggled, hindering your obedience. Complete the chart below by answering the questions.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel do you need to hear right now?           |  |
| What about the Gospel have you forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what you have, or what you want?      |  |

**Note(s):**

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(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)



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## Lesson 6: Case Study #3 Giving

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Abby has been at the same job now for five years. She works hard as a receptionist but only makes \$12.50 an hour. Abby is frustrated because she can barely make ends meet. She recently joined a church, and the Pastor recently preached a sermon on the topic of Christian giving. Abby felt guilty, her Pastor said that one of the ways that those who love Jesus and follow Him demonstrate their love for Him is through Christian giving. Abby hadn't given. She felt that she didn't have enough money to give. She feared that if she started giving, she wouldn't have enough to pay her bills, and she could possibly be evicted. Abby was overwhelmed and was thinking about finding another church where giving wasn't that much of a priority.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel does Abby need to hear right now?        |  |
| What about the Gospel has Abby forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what Abby has, or what Abby wants?    |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

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## Personal Case Study #3

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**Instructions:** Abby's life had been impacted by guilt and fear. Think about a situation or circumstance that has happened or is currently happening in your life, where you struggled, hindering your obedience. Complete the chart below by answering the questions.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel do you need to hear right now?           |  |
| What about the Gospel have you forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what you have, or what you want?      |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

**Note(s):**

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# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 8: Case Study # 4 Worship

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Douglas was early for church this morning; he was sitting in the pew listening to the preservice announcements. In the past, Sundays were usually the highlight of the week. Recently it just hasn't been the same. There have been a lot of changes that he didn't agree with and frankly just didn't like. The church he attends used to be a solemn place, it was quiet, nice, and traditional, just like he liked it. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been so many changes and adjustments that seemed to focus more on people outside of the church instead of inside. Now, when you walk into the sanctuary, there are lights and cameras, he thought it felt more like a production studio than a church sanctuary. He thought about leaving to find another church, but he hadn't felt like God had told him to leave. He thought about being a virtual member, but he felt the need to be connected to the rest of the body. Douglas loves God, but this new style of church worship doesn't do anything for him.

| Gospel Focused Questions  |  |
|---|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?            |  |
| What about the Gospel does Douglas need to hear right now?        |  |
| What about the Gospel has Douglas forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what Douglas has, or what Douglas wants? |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

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## Personal Case Study #4

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Instructions: Douglas had been impacted by self-centeredness. Think about a situation or a circumstance that has happened or is currently happening in your life, where you struggled, hindering your obedience. Complete the chart below by answering the questions.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel do you need to hear right now?           |  |
| What about the Gospel have you forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what you have, or what you want?      |  |

**Note(s):**

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(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 9:

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**Discussion Topic: Loving People Means Sharing the Good News**

**Scripture(s): 1 John 4:7-21**

**Outcome(s):**

- LifeGroup members will evaluate if they love others like God loves them.
- LifeGroup members will adjust and love others like God loves them.
- LifeGroup members will love others enough to share the Good News with them.

## **LifeGroup Exercise:**

**Write a list of 1-3 people you are acquainted with who need to hear the gospel.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Action Item(s):**

- (1) Be a blessing to an acquaintance you know needs to hear the gospel. Write a note, buy a coffee, or invite them to share a meal. Converse with this individual about real-life issues. In conversation, share how the gospel has been good news to you.
  
- (2) Gather with 1-2 individuals in your LifeGroup and take advantage of a common interest. (ex. bowling, fishing, shopping, bike riding, etc.)

## **Note(s):**

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## Lesson 10: Case Study #5 The Lord's Supper

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Pedro was struggling with his life. He had recently lost his job, and he and his wife were separated. He was frustrated because his wife was keeping him from his children and desperately wanted to see his daughters. He had heard about a nearby church while scrolling on social media and decided to visit. Pedro enjoyed the service, the people were very hospitable, and he felt the worship experience was entertaining, informational, and even inspiring. He ran into what he felt was a problem towards the conclusion of the worship experience. It was a Sunday on which the church participated in the Lord's Supper. The night before, Pedro was depressed and lonely, some friends had invited him out to go drinking to get his mind off of things. He overdid it and got drunk; he was still feeling the effects of the hangover as he sat in Church. He was ashamed of his behavior from the previous night and didn't feel worthy of taking communion, so he chose not to participate. Pedro believed that Jesus was Lord, that He died on the cross for his sin and was raised from the dead. However, he was not comfortable taking communion. He was taught that if you had sin in your life, it disqualified you from participating in the Lord's Supper.

| Gospel Focused Questions  |  |
|---|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?          |  |
| What about the Gospel does Pedro need to hear right now?        |  |
| What about the Gospel has Pedro forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what Pedro has, or what Pedro wants?   |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

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## Personal Case Study #5

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Instructions: Pedro's life had been impacted by false biblical teaching. Think about a situation or circumstance that has happened or currently happening in your life, where you struggled, hindering your obedience. Complete the chart below by answering the questions.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel do you need to hear right now?           |  |
| What about the Gospel have you forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what you have, or what you want?      |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

Note(s):

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# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 12: Case Study #6 Sharing the Gospel

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Anne loves Jesus, she feels grateful for how God has demonstrated His love for her through Jesus Christ. As she works in the medical field as a nurse, she often encounters people dealing with hardships and challenges. She knows that Jesus can handle any problem or challenge. She's experienced Him working in her life personally. She loves Jesus, but she struggles with sharing her faith with others. She's an extreme introvert and likes to come to work, do her job, and go home. After her Pastor preached a message on the Christian's responsibility of sharing the Gospel on Sunday, she continued to feel like she should be serving the people at her job this way. She hasn't decided to do so. She's fearful that she won't say the right things, as well as rejection and how others will begin to see her.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel does Anne need to hear right now?        |  |
| What about the Gospel has Anne forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what Anne has, or what Anne wants?    |  |

(Note: Questions derived from *Gospel Fluency*, 2017.)

# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Personal Case Study #6

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Instructions: Anne's life had been impacted by her fear. Think about a situation or circumstance that has happened or currently happening in your life, where you struggled, hindering your obedience. Complete the chart below by answering the questions.

| Gospel Focused Questions                                       |  |
|--|--|
| How does the Gospel bring good news to this situation?         |  |
| What about the Gospel do you need to hear right now?           |  |
| What about the Gospel have you forgotten or failed to believe? |  |
| How is Jesus better than what you have, or what you want?      |  |

(Note: Questions derived from Gospel Fluency, 2017.)

**Note(s):**

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# 2022 FOCUS: THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 13:

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**Discussion Topic:** The Whole Story (Part 2)

**Scripture(s):** Genesis 3:15, 1 John 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:1

**Outcome(s):**

- LifeGroup members will understand God's redemption of man.
- LifeGroup members will understand the importance of being a new creation.
- LifeGroup members will communicate God's redemption of man and how to become a new creation to others.

**Action Item(s):**

- (1) Gather together with 1-2 individuals in your LifeGroup and take advantage of a common interest. (ex. bowling, fishing, shopping, bike riding, etc.)
- (2) Invite a non-believer you regularly engage with to join you in the common interest.

**Evaluation of Previous Week's Action Item(s):**

(1) Since you shared God's intention for man's creation with an individual, how did it go?

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(2) What was their response?

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(3) What adjustments do you need to make?

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## Lesson 14:

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**Discussion Topic:** Review

**Scripture(s):** All Scriptures Covered

**Outcome(s):**

- LifeGroup members will review the principles learned.
- LifeGroup members will ensure they are fluent in Gospel.

**Action Item(s):**

- (1) Gather together with 1-2 individuals in your LifeGroup and take advantage of a common interest. (ex. bowling, fishing, shopping, bike riding, etc.)
- (2) Invite a non-believer that you regularly engage with to join you in the common interest.
- (3) Discuss the gospel with the non-believer you invite, how it has impacted your life, and how it can impact theirs.



**“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”**  
**Mark 16:15 (NLT)**

