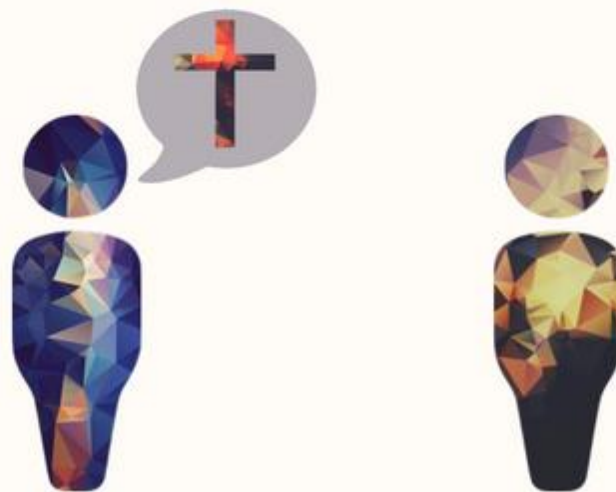


discipleship & mission

GROWING IN SPEAKING THE GOSPEL IN COMMUNITY
AND TO THE WORLD



session 1

INTRODUCTION TO GOSPEL DISCIPLESHIP

V I S I O N , O V E R V I E W & D E F I N I T I O N S



vision

"To increasingly to equip God's people to apply the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of disciple making relationships so that the church will grow in Christ-likeness and will be equipped to share the gospel well with the world."



What does the gospel do? What is the gospel for?

We find in Scripture three main ways in which the gospel affects us, which we can refer to as the three tenses of the gospel's work.

1. The past tense: saved from the penalty of sin. (justification)
 - a. See Romans 8:1-2; Act 13:38
2. The future tense: saved from the presence of sin. (glorification)
 - a. See Romans 8:21, Revelation 21-22.

These first two tenses are perhaps the ones most Christians think of when they think of the gospel's work, and not without reason! It is a glorious truth that *there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*. When we were saved we received the legal justification before God to release us from facing the wrath deserved by our sin. Hallelujah! And it is equally glorious and comforting to know that the final outcome of our justification will be our glorification: one day we will be with, in person, forever, and when that day comes, we will be finally delivered from the presence of sin. We will face no more temptations to sin because our depravity will be stripped away and only the image of God will remain. We will face no more of the brokenness which resulted from sin in this world, *God will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore*.

However, there is also a third tense of the saving work of the gospel which works in between the other two, and is perhaps the least well embraced by Christians:

3. The present tense: saved from the power of sin. (sanctification/transformation)

- a. See 1 Corinthians 1:1-2, 1 Peter 1:22-25, Ephesians 4:11-16.

What is discipleship? What is a disciple?

Oxford dictionary: "a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader or philosopher"

Thus a disciple is someone who learns from and takes up the ways of someone else.

For a disciple of Christ, this applies to every area of life, as we are called to grow up into him in every way, and Ephesians 4:15 gives us the method by which that happens: speaking the truth (of the gospel) in love.

Disciple:

"One who is increasingly worshipping Jesus in all of life, being changed by Jesus and obeying Jesus' commands." (Matthew 4:19, 28:16-20)

-Jeff Vanderstelt

Discipleship:

"Discipleship is leading people to increasingly submit all of life to the empowering presence and Lordship of Jesus" ("All authority has been given to me" Matt 28:18; "I am with you always" Matthew 28:20).

-Jeff Vanderstelt



overview

- Week 2-3 "Gospel foundations"
- Week 4-5 "gospel fluent discipleship"
- Week 6-7 "Mission in community"
- Week 8 "what now? summary and moving forward"

Course Outline

Lesson 2-3: Gospel Foundations

Spending solid time over two weeks building our understanding of the gospel narrative, starting in week 2 with the broad narrative of redemptive history, followed in week 3 by the person and work of Christ.

Goal: a stronger understanding of the gospel truth as seen from both the highest view of redemptive history and the nearest view of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Lesson 4-5: gospel fluent discipleship

more detailed examination of discipleship, keeping the gospel content of weeks 2-3 at the centre. Lots of small group application and practice.

Goal: a deeper view of gospel centred discipleship, a strong concept of gospel fluency, and a few tools which will be useful for application in relationships

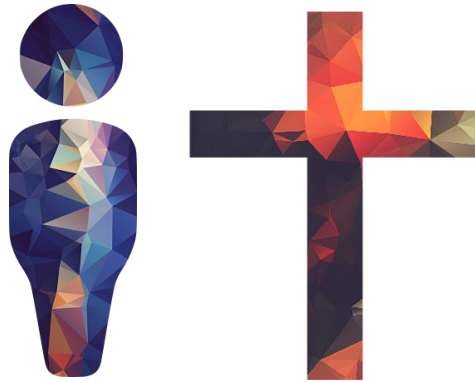
Lesson 6-7: Mission in community

Developing the vision of how gospel centred, gospel fluent discipleship equips the church to be a people ready to share the gospel into the lives and situations of non-Christians in a way that is faithful to the truth of the gospel and clearly related to the life of the recipient.

Goal: a clear idea of how gospel centred discipleship leads into better equipped evangelistic mission. Side goal: address evangelism issues such as reactive and proactive mission, individual and communal mission.

Lesson 8 “what now?” summary and moving forward – Living the gospel in community on mission to the world

Goal: a clear knowledge of the key concepts of the course, and a specific area of life in which to apply the learning.



Course outcomes:

1. That you would be inspired toward the Biblical call to be a disciple who makes disciples.
2. That you will grow in your knowledge of and love for the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. That you would have a clear idea of what Christian discipleship is, who is called to be a disciple, and how disciples are made.
4. That you would have some tools to help you to engage and grow in your discipling relationships.
5. That you would grow in moving towards unconscious competence in fluently applying gospel truth to everyday life.
6. That you would have some concepts/values of how to approach relationships in a way which will foster effective gospel discipleship.
7. That you would see the way in which evangelistic mission is equipped and enabled by Biblical gospel discipleship.

Reflection questions:

1. What relationships has God already given you where you are or could be involved more intentionally in discipleship?
2. When you try to share the gospel, what are the barriers that you come up against? Why do you think this happens?
3. what do you think it means to be a maker of disciples? How does your life line up with or differ from your answer?

Recommended resources:

- On the gospel's work in saving us from the penalty, power and presence of sin:
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-salvation-brings-freedom/>
- *Gospel fluency* – Jeff Vanderstelt
- Video – *definition of a growing disciple*:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6GnUaLbm14>
- saturatetheworld.com