## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Gospel story is the singular connecting thread of the whole Bible. Simply put, the Gospel is the "good news" of Jesus Christ. Jesus, God's one and only Son, came into this world to save all of humanity from Sin and restore all that sin had broken and destroyed. We are all sinners and all people are in need of a Savior. That Savior is Jesus Christ. That's why here at Wellspring we want our kids to be experts at Finding Jesus in every Bible story. Every Story is about the good news.



#### 1. GOD CREATED.

The Bible tells us that in the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). God created all things and He created them "good." Humanity is the most important thing ever created because we are created in His image (Gen. 1:27). We were so special that God entrusted humanity with all other created things (Gen. 1:28). However, God is still the ruler over all of creation and He is worthy to be praised for all He has done (Rev. 4:11).

**READ** Take a moment and Read Revelation 4:11. Consider how great God is, being our creator. The fact that God is mighty and powerful to bring about all of creation and give us life makes Him worthy of praise and glory.

**DISCUSS** How would you feel if something you created out of clay or Legos decided to tell you what it wanted to be made into? Aren't you the one in charge of them?



### 2. WE SINNED.

Adam and Eve were the first humans (Gen. 2). They were placed in a perfect Garden where they had a perfect relationship with God. Adam and Eve declared their independence from God when they chose to disobey God's one command and ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen. 3). Because of this, sin entered the world. Sin is the failure and/or refusal of human beings to live the life intended for them by God their creator. Sin is our rejection of God's rule and declaring independence to live how we choose. The Bible teaches that we are all sinners (Rom. 3:23) and that the punishment for sin, like God told Adam and Eve, is death (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 5:12). This is a problem because our sin separates us from a Holy God (Isa. 59:2).

**READ** the story of how Adam and Eve fell in Genesis 3. See how they were tricked to believe a lie? We too believe lies of the enemy, that we are greater than God and our desires matter more. Believing this lie causes us to sin too.

**DISCUSS** Talk about a time when you personally rejected your parents authority. What happened? (You share, then have your child share).



#### 3. GOD PROVIDED.

Since God is perfect and righteous, he must always do what is right (2 Tim. 2:13). Because all people are sinners and rebel against God, God must hold them accountable for their sins. God saw that the deeds of man are so wicked, even their good deeds (Isa. 64:6). This saddens the heart of God. So, because God is merciful and loving, He stepped in and freely gave his one and only son, Jesus, so that we might be saved (John 3:16, Eph. 2:8).

**READ** John 3:16. Memorize this if you have not already done so. This verse is a reminder of God's great love, not for just you and me, but for the entire world. God gave of His most prized possession, His only Son, so that we might again be able to have a restored relationship with our creator.

**DISCUSS** Talk to your child about what happens to kids at school who don't follow the rules. Ask them if that is just or fair. What happens when they don't follow the rules?



#### 4. JESUS GIVES.

Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not live (2 Cor. 5:21), died a sinners death, on the cross, which we all deserved (Rom. 3:25). Jesus defeated sin and death when God brought Jesus back to life. Because He took our place, Jesus alone can forgive our sins, save us from hell and give us everlasting life (1 Pet. 3:18).

**READ** Colossians 1:22-23. Next, read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Talk with your child about how great it is that Christ makes us Holy because of what He has done, not what we have done.

**DISCUSS** Jesus didn't sin, but He took all of our sins and God punished Him...is that fair? Have a discussion about grace. Grace is better than fair. Grace is getting something we don't deserve.



#### 5. WE RESPOND.

Each individual person, once they have heard the Gospel, must decide how they will respond. The Bible tells us that some people will hear the "good news" and will reject it (Acts 17:32). We must believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord and trust that His death on the cross is enough to save us (Rom. 10:9-10). That's it! By trusting in Jesus, we surrender our life to God and our relationship with Him is restored (1 Pet. 2:24-25). Being in right relationship with God empowers us to follow Him and fight against sin (Phil. 2:12-13).

If your child, or you, would like to receive the free gift that Jesus gives, you can do that right now. If your child, or you, are ready to surrender to God and accept the free gift of Christ as Lord and Savior, you can follow the "ABC's" in this pamphlet.

# READY?



The Bible says that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9). Tell God that you have messed up, you have been selfish and have been living for you. God calls us to repentance (Acts 3:19). Turn from your sins and trust Jesus only to save you.



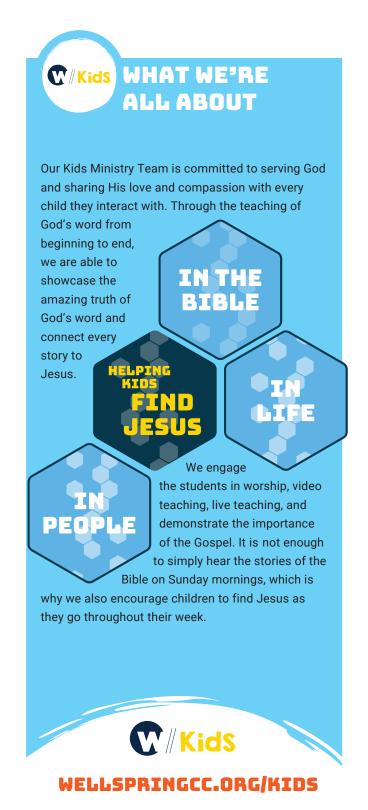
Believe that Jesus is God's Son and believe that He is the sacrifice for your sins—You need to trust in Jesus and believe in Him alone (Eph. 2:8-9). You cannot save yourself from sin. Praying, going to church, and reading your Bible are things that Christians do, but these things do not save you, Jesus alone does that.



Life with Jesus starts today and lasts forever. But this is a choice, and not just now, but everyday. Jesus taught that we should take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23). And he has given you power to do that. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live within us. Walk with the Holy Spirit and you will begin to desire the things of God more than the things of your flesh (Gal. 5:16). Choose to surrender to God, always.

Don't forget that God loves you perfectly. Nothing you do will make Him love you more or less. God's grace and love are sufficient (2 Tim. 2:13; Rom. 8:38-39). Engage the world around with this good news, the greater story of God's Word (Mark 15:16).

If you or your child has made the decision to trust Jesus, please let us know. We would love to talk with you about your decision and help you in anyway we can.



The GREATER Story of God's Word **GOD CREATED. WE SINNED.** GOD PROVIDED. **JESUS GIVES.** W/KidS