

LIFE IN 6 WORDS

The GOSPEL Explored

LEADER'S GUIDE

Table of Contents

Intro
page 4

God
page 10

Our
page 17

Sins
page 22

Paying
page 27

Everyone
page 32

Life
page 38

A Word to Youth Leaders

The GOSPEL in this box will rock your teenagers' world. It is 2,000 years old but feels brand new. Its message is more relevant than ever. Each of the sessions in this one-of-a-kind curriculum unpack the gospel message visually and viscerally, practically and powerfully, focusing on one word of *Life in 6 Words*. As a result of marinating on these transforming truths, your teens will worship God louder as they sing His praises for redeeming them. Their hurts will be healed from the inside out through the precious blood of the Lamb of God. And, finally, they will be made ready to declare life, yes LIFE, to everyone around them by sharing this good news out of a renewed understanding of it. This is the GOSPEL. This is *Life in 6 Words*.

It may surprise you that the theology of the gospel message is a lot more important than we tend to give it credit for when it comes to teenagers. Here's a checklist of struggles that understanding and embracing the gospel tackles:

- Bad self image. . . . Why? Because we have been declared a new creation! 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Guilt. How? Jesus paid the price for all of our sins! Colossians 2:13
- Sin's power. When? The power of sin was crushed when Jesus was! Romans 6:6
- Unforgiveness. . . . How? We can forgive others because Jesus forgave us! Ephesians 4:32
- Spiritual apathy. . . . Why? We offer ourselves to Him in light of His sacrifice! Romans 12:1

And on and on and on the list goes! The gospel is so powerful and practical that I'm convinced of this radical premise: IF YOUR TEENAGERS GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL HAVING MASTERED AND BEEN MASTERED BY THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, THEY WILL BE WAY MORE LIKELY TO SERVE JESUS WITH PASSION FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!!!

The gospel reaches the lost, but it also transforms the found. 2 Corinthians 1:18 puts it this way: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

The GOSPEL in this box is not the kiddie pool, it's the deep end. Don't get me wrong, any teen in your group can understand what Jason Petty ("Propaganda") and I will be teaching them, but these elemental truths are transformational. They will drive deeply into the souls of your teenagers and capture their hearts for Christ and His Cause, THE Cause.

Get ready.

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How to Use This Curriculum

Using six key words, “Propaganda” and I explore the meaning behind the GOSPEL: God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

The Leader’s Guide and Student Books will help you unpack the Biblical truth each of these words represents. Each session includes specific ways to apply these truths upward, inward and outward—to their relationship with God, to their own lives and to the world around them.

The Intro Session, along with the six words, provide a total of seven fully developed lessons. You’ll find step-by-step directions, *ALT*-ernative Teaching lesson plans (Ask - Listen - Teach), discussion questions, prayers, Scripture, gospel presentations and much more in your Leader’s Guide. If your discussion times go well, there will be more content in these lessons than your group has time for, so feel free to pick and chose what to cover and what to cut. If your group is hesitant to participate in the discussion time, I encourage you to ask your question and wait patiently for your students to engage. Waiting creates tension, and tension is a tool for change. But, in either case, you know your students best, so customize your use of the materials to your own situation. The detailed lesson flow provided is simply a sample script to help you.

I would, however, strongly encourage you to give a clear gospel presentation each week. Don’t commit the sin of assumption that all your students have previously understood or embraced the message of the gospel. And follow up with those who make a decision to trust in Christ. Get them grounded and growing in their new faith. For help with this, check out Dare 2 Share *Now Grow!* discipling curriculum.

Don’t forget the other supporting materials on your CD Support Files Disc. In addition to this Leader’s Guide, you’ll find editable invites and other promotional materials to help you maximize your group’s *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* experience. You have permission to make up to ten copies of the Program DVD and Support Files CD for use within your church.

May God bless you as you take your teenagers deep and wide into the message of the gospel!

Greg Stier

President, Dare 2 Share



INTRO

GREAT Share

Dare **STORIES** Preview

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Supplies

- DVD projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* DVD
- Student Books – one for each student
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Movie trivia questions

Icebreaker: Movie Trivia

Divide your students into two teams and run a movie trivia contest using questions like the following (correct answers are noted by asterisk):

1. In *Twilight Saga: New Moon*, where did Edward break up with Bella?

- In the car
- In her room
- Over the phone
- *In the woods

2. In *The Princess Bride*, which character is searching for a man with six fingers on his right hand?

- Fezzik
- The Man in Black
- Vizzini
- *Inigo Montoya

3. One of the missing characters in *Harry Potter: Deathly Hallows 1*, compared to the book was...

- *Aberforth Dumbledore, Dumbledore's brother
- Wormtail, the rat
- Dobby, the house elf
- Olivander, the wand maker

4. What is the new name Nemo receives when he is "initiated" into the tank in *Finding Nemo*?

- Tiger Stripe
- Sunshine
- Kid
- *Shark Bait

5. Who captures the Joker in *The Dark Knight*?

- Batman
- Bruce Wayne
- *Jim Gordon
- Harvey Dent

6. In *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, who said, "Did no one come to save me just because they missed me?"

- *Jack Sparrow
- Will Turner
- Davey Jones
- Pintel

7. In which flick did Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams play high school rivals?

- Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
- High School Musical 3
- Drumline
- *Mean Girls

8. In *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, who foresaw that Sauron wished to attack Minas Tirith?

- Elrond
- Aragorn
- *Pippin
- Gandalf

9. *Avatar* was nominated for nine Academy Awards, how many Oscars did it actually win?

- 1
- *3
- 4
- 5

10. In *Inception*, characters have totems to remind them whether or not they are in someone else's dream? Two totems shown in the movie are:

- *A golden bishop and a weighted red die
- A blue marble and a spinning top
- A poker chip and a metallic rubix cube
- A keychain totem pole and black worry stone

ALT-ernative Teaching

Settle your students and introduce the video series by saying something like:

Explain

Today we're starting a new video series called *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*. During this series we'll be watching spoken word artist Propaganda and Dare 2 Share's Greg Stier digging deeper into the message and the meaning of the gospel. So let's get started.

Everyone loves a great story, right? In fact, most of you probably have a favorite movie that tells a story you are really drawn to.

Ask

- What's your favorite movie or book?
- Why is it your favorite?

Pass out the student books, along with pencils/pens for those who need them. Ask your student to put their names on their book.

Explain

Open your books to page 3. There you'll find a list of some of the top hit movies of all time. See if you can put them in the right order based on their box office success worldwide.

Give the students a minute to rank the movies in order of their success, then share the correct answers.

- #1 Avatar
- #2 Titanic
- #3 Harry Potter: Deathly Hallows 2
- #4 Lord of the Rings: Return of the King
- #5 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

(These ranks are based on worldwide gross proceeds in current dollars at time of print.) Ask for a show of hands of those who had them ranked correctly.

Ask

- Now flip the page, there's a list of several elements that help make a story great. Which of these do you look for in a good story? Mark your top three.
- Can I have a few volunteers share their answers and tell us why these three elements are the most important to you?

Explain

We're all drawn to great stories, but there's one grand, sweeping story that rises above the rest, because it's a true story and because it addresses the whole history of humankind. It's the story told in the pages of the Bible.

Ask

- Which of these elements from page 4 do you see in the biblical story of God and His relationship with humans?
- Can you think of some specific examples of where the biblical story involves action, drama, sacrifice, heroes and villains and so on?

Explain

So we can see that the Bible, too, has many of the elements that make for a great story. And that big, grand, sweeping, true story is what we're going to be focusing on over these next few weeks.

Now, the Bible's a big book and you may feel overwhelmed at the thought of tackling the story contained in its pages. But relax, we aren't going to all speed read through the entire Bible in the next few weeks and then turn in a book report.

Instead, we're going to pull out just a few of the key themes of the biblical story, so you'll be able to understand and explain the essence of its message as it spans Genesis to Revelation. And that's what's great about this DVD series we're starting today. It slices and dices the Biblical story down into a simple summary that's bite size and understandable. Of course, every word of Scripture is inspired and important, and we can learn a lot by digging into specific passages of Bible and studying them at great depth.

But sometimes it helps to step back and look at the story the Bible tells from 30,000 feet up—you know, like when you're zoomed out to get the big picture. And that's pretty much what we're going to be doing during this video series.

So let's begin by watching a short 4 minute video clip that provides the starting point for our simple summary of the gospel. But before we do, let's open in prayer.

Here's a suggested prayer:

Dear God, help us understand more about the big story the Bible tells about You and Your desire to be in relationship with each and every human being on the planet. Reveal Yourself to us as we discuss some of the core essential truths of the gospel message so we can know and love You better and share Your message of grace with others.

Play the *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL* video.

Ask

- What did you think? Give me a few one sentence reactions to the video you just watched.
- Did you catch Prop's line in the video where he calls the gospel "the greatest story ever told, that's hardly ever told"? Had you ever heard the gospel referred to as "the greatest story ever told"?
- Do you think that's a fair description? Why or why not?

Explain

This short 4 minute clip is what we're going to be unpacking over the coming weeks. We'll spend the next 6 weeks talking about each of the 6 words—exploring the Biblical truth each word represents and applying these truths upward, inward and outward, to our relationship with God, to our own lives and to the world around us.

And to help us do that, to focus our thoughts and launch us into our own discussions, we'll be watching a brief video discussion between Prop and Greg each week. These videos are designed to both explain and prompt us to go deeper with 6 key words of the gospel message: God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

Today, we'll be watching Prop and Greg's short introductory clip for the coming series.

Play the Intro Session video of *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*.

Ask

- Prop expressed his hesitation about trying to come up with a short, concise way to explain the gospel. He was concerned that it would be corny, or miss the meat of the message. Do you ever feel that way about trying to talk about God with others?
- Do you think that spiritual things should stay private? Like it's too personal to try to talk about with others? Why or why not?
- Do you agree or disagree with Prop's statement in the video that the gospel is "the single most important piece of information known to man"? Why or why not? If you disagree, what would you say is "the single most important piece of info known to man"?

Explain

Let's look up 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Can someone read that for us?



As it is written:

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Ask

- What is this verse saying about what's of first importance?
- If the gospel is so important, why don't we talk about it more with others?

Explain

Turn to page 5 of your student book and check all that apply.

Well, whatever your reasons for not sharing your faith, help is on the way. By the end of this video series, you'll be prepared to understand, apply and explain to others 6 key truths that are the foundation of the biblical story of God's interactions with humans—the story of the GOSPEL. We're going to go deep into the theology of these six words so that you can go wide with the message of the GOSPEL to your friends.

For this week's Upward, Inward and Outward applications, divide your students into groups of 2-3 to discuss the following questions.



Upward

Ask

- From the beginning to the end, God is at the center of the human story. But He wants this story to be personal to us as individuals. Is God personal to you?
- What do you think it should look like when God is personal to you?

Inward

Ask

- Are you living like you really believe the gospel is “the greatest story ever told”? Why or why not?
- Take a few minutes and brainstorm together some things each of you could do this week to start living like this Jesus deal really is “the greatest story ever told.” (Ideas: use music to spend time in worship, share generously with someone as a reflection of God’s generosity to you, spend more time in the Word, pray more, talk to someone about Jesus...)

As time allows, invite students to share their ideas with the big group.

Outward

Think of one friend who needs Jesus at the center of their story. Write their name down in your book and pray for them this week. Take a couple minutes right now to pray for them together in your small groups.

Closing

Close by allowing time for any questions and for giving a clear invitation to trust Christ. Say something like:

Give the GOSPEL

Maybe when you watched the *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL* video today you heard the message of the gospel in a way you could understand for the first time ever. If that’s true for you, then I invite you to step out and put your faith in Jesus alone based on what He did for you on the cross and trust in Him as your only hope of a restored relationship with God. Like Prop said in the video, “everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.” By simply believing you receive this free gift of life with Jesus, a life that starts now and lasts forever.

Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to see you after the meeting or talk to their friend who invited them to youth group.

