

Should the good news about Jesus still be spread throughout the world? Why/why not?

Who do you know who needs to hear this message? What might keep him/her from believing this news? If they received it, how would it change his/her life?

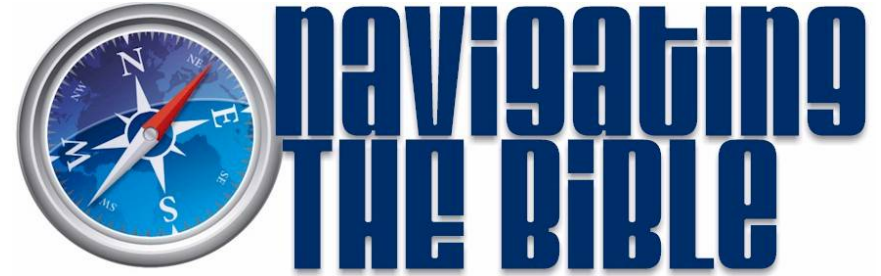
REFLECT

In Romans 1:16-17, Paul writes, "I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, **saving everyone who believes**—Jews first and also Gentiles. The Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

How do people today understand what it means to believe? Review Rob's explanation of belief in the sermon. Given the full, accurate meaning of belief, do you think salvation is too easy, too cheap, or too widely available?

RESPOND

Write down the name of someone you care about that needs the real, fulfilling life offered by Jesus. Take a moment to bring him (or her) to God in prayer. Tell God about this person: who he is, what he needs, why you care about him. Ask God to bring to your mind what He knows and sees in this person. Pay attention to any thoughts that arise about something you could do to help him take a step closer to God. Write down whatever comes to mind. Take a few moments to write a sentence or two that would thoughtfully open a discussion about faith in Jesus with this person. Pray for opportunities to do so.



Our word "gospel" is derived from the Old English, *gōdspel* (*gōd* "good" + *spel* "news"). It is a word-for-word translation of the Greek word *εὐαγγέλιον*, *euangelion* (*eu-* "good", *-angelion* "message").

The written accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus are generally known as "Gospels".

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called "synoptic" which literally means "same seeing."

Matthew was one of Jesus' original twelve disciples.

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him...

Mark was a younger missionary companion who traveled and served with Paul and Barnabus and then later Peter, one of the original twelve.

Luke was a physician who traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys and also set out to record a history of the Christian movement.

Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



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John was another one of the original twelve, one of Jesus' closest disciples.

John 20:31

..these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Believe=Pisteuō (pē-styū'-ō)
verb : to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to place confidence in, to trust with conviction, to be committed to

Messiah=Christos (khrē-sto's)
adjective : "anointed", the Son of God

Matthew 16:13-18 (page 671)
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

Life=Zōē (zō-ē) noun : the absolute fullness of life which belongs to God, life real and genuine, life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

But what makes this all possible is the event or set of events that changed everything: The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

John 20:24-29

"blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

1 Corinthians 15:14-19

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Run John run, the law commands,
But gives me neither feet nor hands;
Far Grander news the Gospel brings,
It bids me fly and gives me wings!
--John Bunyan

What we learn about God:

He loves us enough to become one of us and live with us.

What we learn about ourselves:

We must be reborn spiritually and find true life.

What we're encouraged to do:

Believe and follow Jesus.

NAVIGATING THE BiBLE...Part Five: Gospels

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

What's the best news you have ever had in your life? What effect did it have on you?

What is your favorite story or teaching from Jesus' life?

What principle, story, or observation from this week's message was most helpful, new, or challenging to you?

READ

The following passages are significant events or teachings from Jesus' ministry. After reading an account, summarize it in your own words and answer the questions that follow for each one:

Sermon: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-20)

Miracle: Jesus Heals and Forgives a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-17)

Salvation: Jesus Promises New Life to Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)

Mission: Jesus Sends His Followers Out with His Message (Luke 24:44-51)

What does this passage reveal about God? About Jesus?

Who was this passage good news for at the time? How? Is it still good news today?

How has this been good news in your life?