



THE GOOD NEWS

The Good News Course Booklet

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Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information. This course is for the use of members of St Lucia Bible Church and the people they invite to do the course with them, as a trial during the development of the course. If you are not part of our church, and would like to trial the course, please contact us by email.

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WELCOME

Hi there, and welcome to the Good News Course! We're so glad you could join us.

The whole God, Jesus, Christian thing can be confusing - but it doesn't have to be. The message at the heart of Christianity is really very simple, and it's the best news you've ever heard.

Over the next 6 weeks the plan is...

Week 1: God the Ruler

Week 2: Rebellion

Week 3: Justice

Week 4: Jesus' death

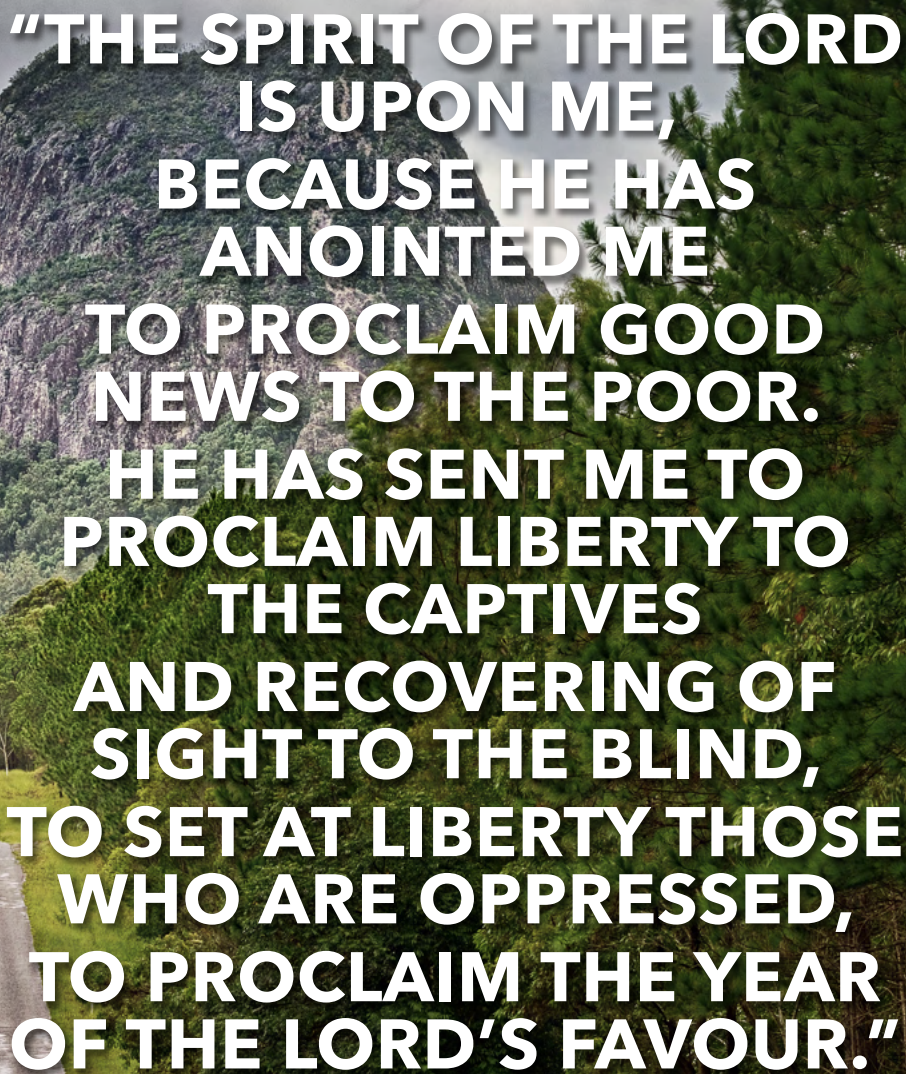
Week 5: Resurrection

Week 6: The Choice

Each week, our aim is to give you an opportunity to hear about Jesus in a relaxed and friendly place. To read the bible for yourself, ask questions, and think about who Jesus is and why he's such an exciting person to know.

Each session is designed to be built around a short talk/video presentation followed by discussion. Each talk goes for about 10-15 minutes. Your discussion can go for as long as you like.

Joshua Russell
Unichurch Pastor



**"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD
IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE HAS
ANOINTED ME
TO PROCLAIM GOOD
NEWS TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO
PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO
THE CAPTIVES
AND RECOVERING OF
SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE
WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR
OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR."**

LUKE 4:18-19

SESSION 1: GOD THE RULER

Key Passages: Luke 1:1-4, 4:42-43

1. CHRISTIANITY = GOOD NEWS

2. GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

God is the ruler of the world.

He made the world.

He made us to rule his good world,
giving thanks and honour to him.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What experience of Christianity did you have before joining this course? Have you ever had the chance to read about Jesus for yourself?
2. What difference does it make to know that you are created by God?
3. If humanity is supposed to be 'in charge' of the world (under God), what sort of job are we doing, do you think?

HOME ASSIGNMENT: READ LUKE 1-4

Ask yourself three questions:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why did he come?
- 3) How should I respond to him?

And note down any other questions you have / want to discuss next week.

SESSION 2: REBELLION

Key Passage: Luke 5:17-32

1. THE BAD NEWS: SIN

We all reject God as our ruler by running our own lives our own way.

But by rebelling against God's way, we damage ourselves, each other and the world.



2. THE GOOD NEWS: FORGIVENESS & HEALING

*"I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.*

(Daniel 7:13-14)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the root cause of the suffering and injustice in our world?
2. How would you describe your own attitude towards God? Would you be prepared to admit that you are a 'sinner'?
3. Do you think it's possible to be quite religious and yet still to be rebelling against God our creator?

HOME ASSIGNMENT: READ LUKE 5-9

Ask yourself three questions:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why did he come?
- 3) How should I respond to him?

And note down any other questions you have / want to discuss next week.

SESSION 3: JUSTICE

Key Passage: Luke 13:22-30

LIVING IN UNREALITY

God won't let us rebel against him forever.

God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgement.



1. THE NARROW DOOR
2. THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE
3. THE ONES LOCKED OUTSIDE
4. THE DOUBLE-EDGED KINGDOM

HEED THE WARNING: STRIVE TO ENTER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Should Christians talk about hell? Why/why not?
2. Why is it important that God doesn't just let people get away with their Sin?
3. Elsewhere in the bible God is described as "slow to anger and abounding in love". Do you think God can be both angry and loving?
4. What difference does it make to know that Jesus is the one who will 'lock the door' to the Kingdom?

HOME ASSIGNMENT: READ LUKE 10-14

Ask yourself three questions:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why did he come?
- 3) How should I respond to him?

And note down any other questions you have / want to discuss next week.

SESSION 4: JESUS' DEATH

Key Passages: Luke 18:31-34, 23:13-25

JUSTICE AND MERCY

Because of his love, God sent his Son into the world: the man Jesus Christ.

Jesus always lived under God's rule.

But Jesus took our punishment by dying in our place.



1. JESUS' JOURNEY TO THE CROSS WAS DELIBERATE
2. JESUS WAS PRONOUNCED INNOCENT
3. JESUS' DIED IN THE PLACE OF BARABBAS THE REBEL

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The bible teaches that apart from the cross there is no other way for God to be both just and merciful. Do you think there is another way to pay for sins?
2. Many people think that Jesus was 'a good moral teacher' and that Christianity is all about teaching people to be good and do good. This misses the point of the cross. How?
3. How do you respond to the idea that God knows you completely and still loves you?

HOME ASSIGNMENT: READ LUKE 15-19

Ask yourself three questions:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why did he come?
- 3) How should I respond to him?

And note down any other questions you have / want to discuss next week.

SESSION 5: RESURRECTION

Key Passages: Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE...?

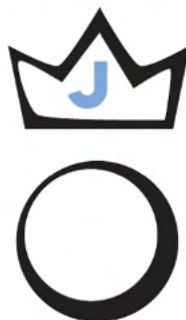
JESUS' RESURRECTION:

1. DID IT ACTUALLY HAPPEN?

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler and judge of the world.

Jesus has conquered death, now brings forgiveness and new life, and will return in glory.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you respond to the evidence Luke gives us to prove Jesus' resurrection?
2. If Jesus is the ruler of the world, what does this mean for our world and for us personally?
3. Why must the full arrival of Jesus' Kingdom be delayed now?
4. Why do Christians bother to live differently to those around them if forgiveness and salvation are free?

HOME ASSIGNMENT: READ LUKE 20-24

Ask yourself three questions:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why did he come?
- 3) How should I respond to him?

And note down any other questions you have / want to discuss next week.

SESSION 6: THE CHOICE

Key Passage: Luke 18:9-14

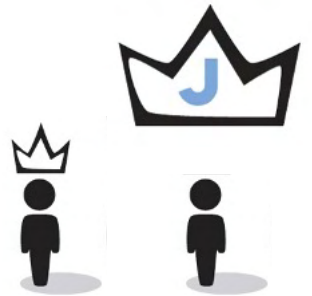
THE CHOICE WE ALL FACE

1. TWO VERY DIFFERENT MEN
2. TWO VERY DIFFERENT PRAYERS
3. TWO VERY DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

There are only two ways to live.

Our way

reject God as ruler
live our own way
damaged by our rebellion
facing death and judgement



God's new way

submit to Jesus as our ruler
rely on Jesus' death and resurrection
forgiven by God
given a new and eternal life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which way do you want to live?
2. Which way are you living?
3. How would living God's way change your life?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Do you want to become a Christian?
2. Do you have more questions?
3. Would you like to come to church?
4. Do you want to keep reading the bible?

A classic way to go is to organise a weekly catch up over coffee. Spend a few minutes catching up, but then open up the bible together and dig in.

You could kick off with *Just for Starters*, which looks at what the Bible teaches on seven fundamental topics - like salvation, prayer, church etc. Each study focuses on a couple of memory verses and one or two major themes.

just for
starters



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