

TANGIBLE KINGDOM: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

God's promise of redemption and hope forms our understanding of the word "Gospel." The definition of the word *gospel* is, simply, "good news." This good news brings us "beauty instead of ashes, gladness instead of mourning, praise instead of despair." In other words, it's a simple word for something very big. In fact, the Gospel that Jesus talked about was so big that he had to give people many different teachings and practical examples to help explain it. His Gospel was about a new Kingdom that would change everything about a person, their community and their world." (Source: *The Tangible Kingdom Primer*, page 50)

Opening Prayer:

Read Isaiah 61:1-4 and pause for prayer.

Scripture Readings:

- Luke 4:18-21
- Mark 1:14-15
- 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8
- Colossians 1:3-6

Scripture Reading Discussion Questions

In Luke 4:18-21, Jesus says to those in the synagogue, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." What was the good news he brought to the poor?

As you read of how the gospel is portrayed in these New Testament Scriptures, think of what Jesus is saying about the coming of the kingdom. Describe your understanding of the kingdom.

Application: What does this message mean to me?

The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world. As you think about your own life, how are you carrying the good news to others?

When you are fulfilling God's message of sharing, teaching, curing, and bringing hope to your community, what takes place in your life?

The good news brings us "beauty instead of ashes, gladness instead of mourning, praise instead of despair." Discuss some of times when you have shared the message and felt the fullness of God's promise.

Closing Prayer: Ephesians 3:16-19

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