

NO ASHAMED

THE GOSPEL IS THE HOPE WE HAVE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God that
brings salvation to everyone who
believes: first to the Jew, then to the
Gentile.

Romans 1:16

But in your hearts revere Christ as
Lord. Always be prepared to give an
answer to everyone who asks you to
give the reason for the hope that
you have. But do this with
gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:15

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NOT ASHAMED – THE GOSPEL IS THE HOPE WE HAVE is designed and written for the Kingston Community Church family and its associated small group ministry.

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LIFE CONNECTIONS STUDY BIBLE By Lyman Coleman

Developed by

KINGSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

TO LOVE AND HONOUR **GOD** IN BEING
DISCIPLES
and helping make disciples of our
LORD JESUS CHRIST MATTHEW 28:18-20

Address: Corner of Kingston St and London Terrace
PO Box 1155

Palmerston North

Phone: 06 358 0716

Email: office@kingstoncommunitychurch.com

Website: <http://kingstoncommunitychurch.com/>

INTRODUCTION



This series is about being prepared and ready to share the truth of the gospel in our varying circumstances. Sharing the gospel boldly has nothing to do with our personality, nor is it related to how fascinating our life story is. The gospel is about the power of God. It is about the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and what He has accomplished. It is not primarily about our story. It's about God's story. A story, a gospel we should never be ashamed of. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

The intention for this series is to ground us in the big picture of the gospel as a story. This story is our framework by which we understand God, ourselves, our purpose for being here. This story is one that our story finds its place in. God invites us to participate in this story by being His witness, by proclaiming the gospel.

2 February 2025

KNOWING GOD'S STORY

Passage: 1 Peter 3:15-16; Romans 1:16-5:18; Acts 7

9 February 2025

SHARING OUR STORY WITHIN GOD'S STORY

Passage: 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Acts 24-26

16 February 2025

INVITING PEOPLE INTO GOD'S STORY

Passage: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Acts 2

23 February 2025

GOD IS RENEWING OUR STORY

Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18; Romans 8:18-27; Acts 17

KNOWING GODS STORY



It is important we know and understand the hope we have. The gospel that we are to share. The gospel has four pillars. Creation, fall, reconciliation, and restoration. God creates all things good (this we profess). We break God's good things (This we confess). God restores broken relationships through Jesus (This we proclaim). God will one day restore all of creation (This we hope for, participate in and witness through the gospel). We don't need to write the script; God's story is the script. This is how we prepare ourselves to give an answer.

MESSAGE NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

How would you define hope?

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read **1 Peter 3:15-16 & Romans 1:16-17**

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSION

- What has historically held you back from sharing the gospel with people?
- What does the writer mean by setting apart Christ as Lord?
1 Peter 3:15
- What are the basic elements of the gospel?
- How is Jesus central to these four pillars?
- How do the four pillars of the gospel provide hope?
- What's the difference between offering a "defense" and "preaching at people" about Jesus?

- Where does boldness, the power come from, when sharing the gospel?
- When was the last time you gave a “defense” for your hope in Christ?

PRAY TOGETHER

Have a time of praise for the hope we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

WHAT NEXT?

How have you found hope? Using the four pillars of the gospel, write down your own 3-5min testimony of the gospel transforming your life.

Who is one person you could share this with?

Be ready to share this with the group next time.

SHARING OUR STORY WITHIN GOD'S STORY

NOT
ASHAMED
THE GOSPEL IS THE HOPE WE HAVE

We are beings created to obtain our identity from God, and so it is important to understand our story within the context of God's story. Our life story did not begin at birth. We were a part of God's plan before we were even born. In God's story, he delighted in creating us. He also grieves our decisions to ignore Him. He provided a way to restore our broken relationship with Him. He is in the process of restoring us, and all of creation. Our stories must be expanded and revised within the context of God's story. When we can see our stories within His, it gives us meaning and purpose. It renews our hope. Our story is being shaped by the gospel.

MESSAGE NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING SHARING

Give the opportunity for someone to share their 3-5min gospel testimony.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSION

- Why do you think Paul took the time to explain his 'story' to Timothy?
- In Paul's short testimony here in 1 Timothy 1:12-17, where do you see the four pillars of the gospel?
(Creation, fall, reconciliation, and restoration.)
- How does your story, your testimony, reveal the four pillars of the gospel?
(Creation, fall, reconciliation, and restoration.)
- Paul's experience points to God's mercy and patience (1 Timothy 1:16). How has your experience/story pointed to God's mercy and patience?

PRAY TOGETHER

Share with each other the first name of the person you are seeking to share your story, within God's story, with. Pray together for opportunity and boldness.

WHAT NEXT?

Who's at the centre of your testimony? Review your own 3-5min testimony of the gospel transforming your life. Who does it point to?

Refine your testimony if needed.

Pray for the opportunity to share your story, within God's story, with the person you have identified.

Be ready to share this with the group next time.

INVITING PEOPLE INTO GOD'S STORY



The Gospel, God's story, is an invitation. An invitation into relationship with the living God. God, through His words and actions in Christ, is an invitation. God's consistent nature, character and actions across His story, reveal this relational invitation. Our day-to-day words and actions are to reflect that invitation. With our words, actions, and deeds we can invite others to come into God's story, the gospel. We are to do it with gentleness and respect. This story is to be shared. It is an invitation.

MESSAGE NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING SHARING

Give the opportunity for someone to share their 3-5min gospel testimony.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** and **1 Peter 3:15-16**

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSION

- How would you define wisdom?
- How does God define wisdom?
1 Corinthians 2:13
- What is our part and what is the Spirit's part in sharing the gospel?
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- How do we keep the focus on Jesus Christ and his crucifixion? 1 Corinthians 2:2
- Why is the way we share the gospel (our story within God's story), so important? 1 Peter 3:15-16

PRAY TOGETHER

Continue to pray together for opportunity and boldness in sharing the good news.

WHAT NEXT?

How dependent are you on the power and work of the Spirit?
Review your attitude and methods of sharing your story and ask God to increase your dependence on the Spirit.

Refine your testimony if needed.

Pray for the opportunity and the right tone to share your story, within God's story, with the person you have identified.

Be ready to share this with the group next time.

GOD IS RENEWING OUR STORY



The hope we have is both now but not yet. Your story is going somewhere, toward complete renewal. We have been saved (salvation), are being saved (sanctification), and will be saved (glorification). Our hopes determine our habits. We are made for relationship with God, in His presence. We are a future-focused people who need to live with this eternal hope now. What God has done for us is the foundation of our faith and hope in what He will finally do. Our story isn't finished yet.

MESSAGE NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING SHARING

Give the opportunity for someone to share their 3-5min gospel testimony.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read **2 Corinthians 4:1-18** and **Romans 8:18-27**

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSION

- Why is being a servant to others essential for sharing the gospel?
- In 2 Corinthians 4:1-12, how do we see Paul going about sharing his faith?
- In 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, what keeps Paul going despite his circumstances?
- There is a powerful statement shared in 2 Corinthians 4:13... "I believed; therefore I have spoken." How would you explain this statement?
- What is our hope set on?

- How does our hope in Christ help us share the gospel?
Romans 8:22-25

PRAY TOGETHER

Praise God for the hope we have both now and to yet be revealed. Continue to pray together for opportunity and boldness in sharing the good news.

WHAT NEXT?

How hopeful are you? Review your story and consider if there is hope threaded throughout.

Refine your testimony if needed.

Pray in hope, for the opportunity and the right tone to share your story, within God's story, with the person you have identified.

Be ready to share this with the group next time.

