



Gospel Fluency

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:16-20

"Mission is more and different from recruitment to our brand of religion; it is alerting people to the universal reign of God through Christ."

- David Bosch

"Every generation...has to be evangelized, that is, confronted with the good news of the kingdom in Jesus Christ."

- Mortimer Arias

Preaching the Gospel to a Hurting and Broken World

For Jesus, preaching the gospel meant declaring the good news of the arriving Kingdom of God. The King has come, forgiveness of sins, eternal life with God, redemptive healing and hope are on offer. While the gospel has 30,000-foot generic realities - we all need forgiveness of sins, to be washed clean, reconciled to God, brought into His Kingdom and His family. It also has specific realities - It's good news specifically for the heartaches, struggle, and brokenness of our individual lives.

To learn to preach the gospel to a hurting, lost, and broken world requires *gospel fluency* - that is, being able to speak the gospel into the lives of those around us.

While the gospel is not true yet for those who are not Christians, part of "making disciples" and "preaching the gospel" is declaring to our non-Christian friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members what could be true for all who repent and believe.

The verses below offer a great starting point for various parts of the gospel which could be proclaimed to those around us.

VERSES FOR GOOD NEWS

- **Salvation** (Acts 4:12, Romans 1:16) -- Jesus' life, death, and resurrection saves us from our sins. We are all working to fix our problems through work, relationships, success, etc. - trying to save ourselves. But only Jesus can make us complete.
- **Justification** (Romans 3:20-26, Galatians 2:16)—We are given the righteousness of Jesus and have his perfect standing with God. Our value doesn't come from who we are or what we do - it comes from Jesus.
- **Reconciliation** (Colossians 1:21-22)—We were once enemies of God through our sin, but Christ has brought us back into a right relationship with God. We can now mend broken relationships with those around us.
- **Adoption** (Romans 8:12-17)—We have been adopted as sons and heirs of God. We are now cherished members of God's eternal family - the church.
- **New Creation** (2 Corinthians 5:17-22)—We are made into a new creation: new heart, new mind, new desires. We are no longer controlled by our sinful desires or marked by our sinful past.
- **New Identity** (Romans 8:1, 15-17)—We have been given a new identity in Jesus. We are no longer labeled by what we have done or by what has been done to us.
- **Freedom** (Galatians 5:1, 13; Romans 8:1-4)—We were slaves to sin and idolatry, but by the grace of God, we've been completely freed. Jesus accomplished what the law, moralism, obedience, religion, and human effort could never do.
- **Eternity** (Philippians 3:12-21, Revelation 20-22)--We have been given eternal life with God. We can experience all of life, the good and the bad, with hope in the knowledge that our future is secure and eternal.
- **Works** (Ephesians 2:4-10)-- We are saved by Jesus' work on the cross and not works of our own. This means that all of our actions can be motivated by having God's love rather than by trying to earn it.
- **Love** (John 3:16, 1 John 4:4-7)-- We are fully loved because Jesus loved us first, so you can rest in his love. We can love other people out of the overflow of that gift, not based off of our similarities, interests, compatibility, etc.
- **Security** (Galatians 3:6-9) -- Our salvation is held eternally secure because God promised that he would save us, and then Jesus accomplished that salvation on the cross. Salvation begins and ends with God. No amount of money, success, or titles on earth will provide that security.
- **Provision** (2 Corinthians 8:9) -- Jesus provides our greatest need of rescue by dying on the cross. We can trust him all the more to provide for our basic needs of water, food, shelter, clothing, etc.
- **Propitiation** (Romans 3:21-26) -- The wrath that God has toward sin and sinners was absorbed by Jesus on the cross. God is not mad at us when we sin. He is not punishing us for our mistakes.
- **Justice** (Romans 3:21-26) -- God's ultimate justice is satisfied by Jesus on the cross - all sin is paid for. We never have to seek vengeance when we've been wronged. All sin will be paid for either by sinners or by Jesus.
- **Expiation** (Leviticus 16, Romans 8:1, Hebrews 12:1-2) -- Jesus takes away all the shame and guilt of our sin and the sins committed against us. We can talk about our sins and struggles without fear.
- **Sacrifice** (Matthew 16:24) -- Jesus gave his life as a ransom to save sinful people. In response to this gift, we can sacrificially give of our own lives for the good of others, knowing the certainty of our future.
- **Sanctification** (Romans 8:9-11, 12:1-2) -- Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He sends the Holy Spirit to indwell and lead believers. As we follow Jesus, He transforms us more and more into His image.

PRACTICE

Using the verses above or others, spend some time thinking through how you can “preach the gospel” to various individuals in your life:

Individual #1:

- **Name:**
- **Current struggle/suffering/pain/life situation:**
- **How does the gospel offer hope for them:**

Individual #2:

- **Name:**
- **Current struggle/suffering/pain/life situation:**
- **How does the gospel offer hope for them:**

RESOURCES

The following are recommended resources if you would like to journey further into this practice:

- **Three Circles Evangelism Tool** by The North American Mission Board
- **The Master Plan of Evangelism** by Dr. Robert E. Coleman