

STUDENT GUIDE



Gospel Reset

EVANGELISM CURRICULUM

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Student Guide

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FOREWORD BY KEN HAM

The gospel hasn't changed, but the culture has.

Christian values and traditions are no longer the norm in Western culture. Even terms that were once common knowledge are unheard of by many, especially millennials and those of Generation Z. The once very Christianized nations of the West are rapidly becoming “Acts 17” cultures. They are losing their biblical foundation and have more in common with the pagan Athenians of Acts 17 than the Jews of Acts 2.

As Christians, it should be more than obedience that drives us to share the gospel. We want to impact the world with the saving gospel message. If we truly want to reach today's people with the good news of salvation, we must reconsider how we approach evangelism.

That is why I suggest a radical but biblical way to present the gospel. How about we start sharing the gospel the way God does in the Bible? By starting at the beginning!

This *Gospel Reset Evangelism Curriculum* will equip and encourage you to boldly share the gospel using the approach we should have always followed: to present the message of the Bible and its saving gospel chronologically. I am confident that this engaging curriculum will prepare you and others in your church family to present the never-changing gospel message in a way that people today will truly understand!

ARE YOU READY FOR G.R.E.A.T. CONVERSATIONS?

Customized to work in tandem with *Gospel Reset: Salvation Made Relevant* by Ken Ham, this curriculum contains everything you need to get equipped by example to begin opening your Bible and having G.R.E.A.T. conversations about Christ!

- G** — Gospel: knowing it and sharing it.
- R** — Relevance: articulating the relevance of the creation/evolution issue.
- E** — Evangelism: proclaiming the full power and authority of God's Word.
- A** — Apologetics: simple conversational strategies to advance and give a defense of your faith.
- T** — Training: field-tested training that bears fruit.

But there's more.

Gospel Reset is more than an evangelism and apologetic adjustment. It's a brand-new opportunity to start fresh in

those key areas of gospel ministry where we have all failed or faltered at one time or another:

- ◇ A reset of your *resolve* to develop a robust biblical worldview.
- ◇ A reset of your *responsibility* to disciple your family and church to faithfully follow Christ.
- ◇ A reset of your *relationships* with non-Christian family and friends with whom you can finally effectively share Christ.

To reset your entire life and witness for Christ, just press play . . . and let's get started.

SESSION 1

Evangelism Reset

*For I delivered to you as of first importance
what I also received: that Christ died for our
sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that
he was buried, that he was raised on the third
day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

In this first session we open Scripture together to reset our definition of evangelism and the gospel. We also begin considering the importance of adapting our evangelistic approach to our audience.

Group Discussion

- ◇ Briefly introduce yourself and discuss your number one fear of sharing your faith with family and friends.

- ◇ Could you teach a lost loved one the truth of Christ and his gospel starting in Genesis? Why might starting at the beginning be so important in biblical evangelism?

Video Notes

FUNDAMENTAL FIRSTS

This training assumes that these “believer’s basics” are already actively happening in your walk and witness:

- ◇ **The Law of Love:** I actively love God and love others, and I am already in faithful relationship with both.
- ◇ **The Priority of Prayer:** Everything in my life and witness is being bathed in and birthed out of persistent prayer.

DEFINING THE TERMS

Evangelism: teaching of Christ and his gospel through preaching and personal witness.

- ◇ Christ (John 1:35–42)
- ◇ The gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)
- ◇ Preaching and personal witness (Mark 16:15; John 18:37; Acts 1:8, 8:26–40)

WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN?

Principles for presenting the unchanging gospel in a changing culture:

- ◇ Peter's evangelistic approach with Jews (Acts 2)
- ◇ Paul's evangelistic approach with Greeks (Acts 17)

Group Application

1. Review the definition of evangelism suggested in this session and discuss why starting from Scripture is so important.
2. Discuss how your Christian and non-Christian Practice Partners might respond to the gospel.
3. Pray for a favorable response to the invitation you'll extend to both of your Practice Partners.

Personal Homework

- ◇ **PRAY** . . . for both of your Practice Partners and all those on your Top Ten List.
- ◇ **PREPARE** . . . by reviewing all Scriptures, Additional Training Tools, and Recommended Resources associated with this session and by reading to page 42 in *Gospel Reset*.
- ◇ **PRACTICE** . . . by contacting and confirming your Practice Partners.

Suggested invitation script: “Hey, <Practice Partner>, can I ask you a favor? I am taking training to learn how to share my faith and my homework is to ask someone I love and respect to be my Practice Partner—a sort of “sounding board” for a spiritual conversation. Your name was at the top of my list! So, can we connect for a cup of coffee the week of <date following this training>? I’m buying! <After they agree> Great! Between now and then, I’ll email three really important questions that everyone’s asking just to get your opinion. Thanks so much for your help!”

Additional Training Tools

SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS

Comprehensive Presentation

Who is God?

God is eternal, having always existed. He exists as one triune God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth. He is independent, lacking nothing in himself. God is holy, so pure that nothing imperfect can stand in his presence. He is just, always doing what is right, as he himself is the final standard for truth. Thankfully, God is also gracious and merciful. (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 7:11–12, 89:14, 145:8–9; Isaiah 5:16; Habakkuk 1:13; John 14:6, 17:17; Acts 17:24–25; Hebrews 12:29; 1 Peter 1:16)

Who is man?

Humans are created beings, made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore unique among all other creatures. All mankind is descended from Adam and Eve, our first parents supernaturally created by God. We are dependent upon God for our existence and purpose, which is to worship and enjoy him forever. Although created in his image in an original state of perfection, all mankind has rebelled against God in Adam and individually, refusing to acknowledge and honor him as he deserves. (Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 86; Romans 1:1–3:23, 5:12, 11:36; 1 Corinthians 6:20, 10:31)

What is our dilemma?

We have all rejected God and are all guilty of what the Bible calls sin. Sin is transgression of God's law—which was summarized by Christ as loving God with all our being and loving others as ourselves. None of us has loved God and others as Christ commanded. As sinners by birth and by choice, we have violated Christ's law and stand

condemned for disobedience. He cannot and will not leave sin unpunished, and just one violation of his law is sufficient for judgment. God's eternal punishment of all guilty lawbreakers is the second death in the lake of fire. (Psalm 51:5; Proverbs 17:15; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 5–7, 22:36–40; John 3:18, 13:34; Romans 3:23; James 2:10; 1 John 3:4; Revelation 20:9–15)

What is God's solution?

God's justice demands payment, but his mercy invites forgiveness. In his compassion, God the Father made a way to save condemned humanity in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—God the Son. It's on the cross of Christ that God satisfied his justice and demonstrated his love for sinners. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 4:8–10)

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, came into the world as a man to live a life perfectly obedient to all the commands of God the Father and to die the death required for the payment of sin. On the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserve to set sinners free.

On the third day after his crucifixion, Jesus Christ rose from the dead, defeating sin and death, and earning eternal life for those who trust him. His resurrection is God the Father's approval of Christ the Son's redeeming work applied in the heart of sinners by the Holy Spirit. (John 1:1, 1:14; Romans 3:23–26, 4:24–25; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11)

How should we respond?

The only acceptable way to respond to the gospel is with repentance and faith. Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ (Isaiah 55:6–7; Romans 7:15, 7:24; 2 Corinthians 7:9–10). Faith unto salvation is trusting in Jesus Christ—a living person who died a substitutionary death for sinners—for forgiveness of sins and receiving eternal life with God (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–9; Hebrews 11:1). It's only when we turn from sin (repent) and turn to Christ (faith) that we are saved (Acts 3:19).

A Prayer of Repentance—Psalm 51:1–12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out

all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

The Assurance of Salvation

A Christian who has been truly born again of the Holy Spirit is a new creation who will live a life that reflects God's radical work of re-creation. Assurance of salvation is based upon self-examination in the light of what the Bible says to be true about those who have eternal life in Christ Jesus. Practically, this means he or she continually grows in love for God and others, wants to share the truth of the gospel with those who don't know Jesus, holds fast to sound doctrine, hates sin, and increasingly displays the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Matthew 7:16, 22:37–40, 28:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 13:5; 1 John 1:5–10, 2:3–17, 2:24–25, 3:10, 4:13, 5:13; Galatians 5:22–23; Hebrews 12:5–6)

Conversational Presentation

Many today have had a brief but ineffective contact with Christianity. The following will clarify the truth of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

The good news comes to us through the Bible, which is God's message to all mankind. In it we find that God is sovereign—he does whatever he chooses and no one can stop him. But he is also good—all that he does is for good

reason. All that he requires of us, or forbids us, is for our good. He created us specifically to enjoy knowing him.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve, our first parents, doubted God's goodness and so they disobeyed his commandment. They sinned. And because God is good and just, he had to punish them for their sin. That punishment was death. Thus Adam and Eve brought sin and death upon themselves and on us, their descendants. We all continue to sin and be sinned against.

Our sinfulness now corrupts everything we do. We break God's laws even though we know it is wrong. We curse and lie and cheat and steal and lust and hate. The Bible says we are dead in sin. Unless God rescues us we will be lost in sin and death forever in the anguish of eternal hell.

However, because God is good, he is also merciful. In mercy God sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins by dying for us on the cross. Why did Jesus have to die? Because God has to be absolutely just. Someone has to die for what we have done, and Jesus agreed to do so. His perfect life was sacrificed in death to pay the debts of all who trust in him. In doing so, Jesus not only took our punishment, he also gave us his reward. God treats all who trust in Jesus as if they had never sinned, and he gives them a new life.

How can we know for certain that God's plan to save us actually worked? Because on the third day after Jesus died, God raised him from the dead. This was proof that his death satisfied all the demands of God's justice. Jesus is alive, and he is Lord!

Today, if you put your trust in Jesus Christ to save you, you will be born again into this new life. When that happens, all your sins will be forgiven. You will receive God's Holy Spirit in your heart and he will begin to change your deepest desires. You will no longer enjoy sin. You will prefer doing what pleases God. You will find your greatest joy in just knowing God, worshipping him, learning from the Bible, talking with God in prayer, and telling others what God has done for you. You will love others, forgiving those who hurt you and helping those who need you, especially fellow members of God's eternal family, the church. And when you die, you will go to be with God in heaven forever.

All this happens to those who are born again. It is the evidence that one is spiritually alive. So, if none of this is happening in your life, you are still dead in your sins and you need to be saved! Admit the truth. Repent! Ask Jesus to save you and he will! That is good news!

Concise Presentation

Will you be with God in heaven? The Bible says that the price of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. So how many times have you sinned? How many times have you lied, lusted, stolen, hated, used God's name in vain? Because every time you have, you've sinned against Holy God, alienating yourself from him—even your thinking is against him! You will face the second death, which is eternity in the lake of fire!

But Jesus Christ paid for sins, having taken them and God's wrath against sinners upon himself. He shed his blood and died on the cross in place of sinners, and then he rose from

the grave, defeating sin and death—just as the Scriptures foretold that he would!

To be reconciled to God, you must repent and trust that Jesus died for your sins. Your sins will be forgiven, and God will grant you eternal life, and you will spend forever with God in heaven! Isn't that good news?

Recommended Resources

The following articles and products are available at AnswersInGenesis.org.

- ◇ “10 Biblical Reasons Jesus Is God” by Simon Turpin
- ◇ “The Real Jesus” by Dr. Mark Bird
- ◇ “Why Did Jesus Take on a Human Nature?” by Simon Turpin
- ◇ “Resurrection—No Doubt About It” by Tim Chaffey
- ◇ “What Does It Mean to Be ‘Saved’?” by Bodie Hodge
- ◇ “Has the Gospel Changed?” by Ken Ham