

## Module 1: What is the Gospel?

### OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

- Session 1: What is the Gospel?
- Session 2: What is Baptism?
- Session 3: Telling Your Story

### WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- How would you define the Gospel?
  - Take a moment to write down your answer or talk about it.
  - What does the word “Gospel” mean?
- Two important ways to look at the Gospel:
  - Big Picture: The Gospel is God’s Grand Story
  - Close-Up: The Gospel is the Good News of the Work of Jesus Christ
- **Creation:** “The Way Things Are Supposed to Be”
  - Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
  - Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”
  - Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
  - God created all things *good*, and called them *very good*.
- **Fall:** “The Bad News”
  - Genesis 3: The Fall. Satan tempts Eve to disobey God and mankind falls.
  - Genesis 4: Cain and Abel. Sin is passed on from Adam and Eve to their children.
  - Because of sin, we now have broken relationship with God *and* with each other.
  - Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
  - Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death.”
- **Redemption:** “The Good News”
  - God’s plan for saving his fallen creation, worked out from Genesis 3 to Revelation 20.
  - The entire narrative of the Old Testament—from Noah to Abraham to Isaac to Jacob (Israel) to Moses to Joshua to the Kings and Prophets—is all leading up to *Jesus*.
- The Work of Jesus Christ, God Himself (John 1:1-3 & Colossians 1:15-16), who lived a perfect life (Hebrews 4:15), was rejected by his people and crucified, died, was buried, and resurrected.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
- Romans 10:9-10 “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”
- Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- **God — Man — Jesus — Response**
  - God is holy.
  - Man is sinful.
  - Jesus saves.
  - We respond in faith.
- **Consummation/Restoration:** “Return to the Way Things Are Supposed to Be”
  - This is God’s final plan: no more sin, no more rebellion, no more death, no more suffering.
  - Restored relationship between God and his creation.
  - All things will be made new.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?**

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I understand the Gospel?
- Do I believe the Gospel to be true?
- Can I explain this Gospel simply and clearly?