



# THE GOSPEL CALL

## SESSION 1

**Theme:** Christ wants believers to appreciate and share the gospel's power.

### I. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:1)

Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, uses His \_\_\_\_\_ today to continue to command His gospel mission.

### II. Christ Is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:2–4)

Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ proved His \_\_\_\_\_ and established Him as the only way of salvation.

### III. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:5–7)

God commissions all believers (saints) to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the world.

### IV. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel's \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:8–15)

#### A. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8, 9)

Christ responds to prayers that the gospel would \_\_\_\_\_ to the world through \_\_\_\_\_ members and \_\_\_\_\_ missionaries.

#### B. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (1:10–12)

As a church we must work together to prepare ourselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ in our parts of the world.

#### C. Through \_\_\_\_\_ (1:13–15)

Even when God prevents us from ministering in certain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we can \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives.

### V. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel's \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:16, 17)

#### A. Power for \_\_\_\_\_ (1:16)

The gospel's power delivers from sin and gives \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Power for \_\_\_\_\_ (1:17)

The righteous can live \_\_\_\_\_ for God through faith in Christ.



# Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

## MONDAY

*Read Romans 1:1.*

What is the significance of Paul's identification of himself as a servant of Christ?

Why might it have been especially important for Paul to note his calling as an apostle in his letter to the Romans?

## THURSDAY

*Read Romans 1:8, 9.*

How did Paul's prayer affect the spread of the gospel?

What are your prayer requests in relation to the spread of the gospel? What should they be?

## TUESDAY

*Read Romans 1:2–4.*

Jesus had to be both divine and human to be the acceptable sacrifice for sin. How did Paul establish Jesus' humanity?

What act, which is central to the gospel, proved Jesus' deity?

## FRIDAY

*Read Romans 1:10–15.*

How does your church prepare you to share the gospel?

God prevented Paul from going to Rome to preach the gospel? Does that mean God made a bad decision? Explain.

## WEDNESDAY

*Read Romans 1:5–7.*

Through grace, we have been called by Christ to a life of obedience. How does your life show obedience through faith?

All believers are set apart for the gospel. How are you participating in God's plan to spread the gospel?

## SATURDAY

*Read Romans 1:16, 17.*

Why did Paul say he was not ashamed of the gospel?

Pray that God will give you courage to share the gospel without shame or embarrassment.

# Tough Questions Answered



## Why did Paul distinguish between Jews and Greeks?



Every person who believes the gospel message will be saved (Rom. 1:16). Why, then, did Paul distinguish between Jews and Greeks (that is, Gentiles)?

God did not choose Israel because He loved them more than other people or because they deserved it more. Neither were they more righteous than others (Deut. 9:4–6). Rather, God chose Abraham and his descendants as a special group of people to be set apart for His purpose. Through Abraham’s descendants, the Messiah would come to earth, bringing salvation to all (Gen. 3:14, 15; 12:1–3).

So, from the beginning, the gospel was for all people. In having a chosen people, God was not excluding others from the gospel. God revealed Himself to Israel so they could be a light to the Gentile nations (Isa. 43:10–13; 49:6), leading other nations to the one true God.

**Salvation came through the Jews, but God offered it to all.**

When Jesus arrived on the scene, the Jews should have been the first to understand the fulfillment of prophecies in their Scripture and to accept Him as the Savior. Naturally, the gospel message was proclaimed to them first because they were in the best position to understand the message and proclaim it to others. When Jesus sent out His disciples, He told them to preach first to the Jews and then to Gentiles (Matt. 10:5, 6). Sadly, however, many did not accept Him, and as a nation, the Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah.

Paul’s reference to the Jews’ place in salvation history highlighted God’s plan. Salvation came through the Jews, but God offered it to all. Distinguishing between the two groups emphasized that although they were God’s chosen people, the Jews still needed to accept the gospel call and that God’s salvation was intended for Gentiles as well (Rom. 2:9–11).

How about you? Have you accepted the gospel call to salvation? If so, have you become a light to those around you, spreading the gospel to others?

# Columbus's Calling



Some people brand Christopher Columbus as a cruel explorer seeking to conquer and enslave native Americans. Not quite! Historical documents reveal Columbus's zealous efforts to take the Christian message to other lands.

Wherever Columbus landed, he planted a large wooden cross. He requested from Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain that a percentage of gold found on the islands be used for establishing churches and that workers be sent to help evangelize the natives. Columbus described his calling as a fire from the Holy Spirit, urging him "to press forward."



Columbus wasn't perfect, but the evidence points not to a greedy villain but to a man determined to follow his calling. Not unlike the apostle Paul, Columbus viewed himself as a sinner saved by grace, willing to face great danger to spread the gospel.

We're not all called to take long, dangerous journeys as did Columbus or Paul. But God calls all believers to help spread the message of salvation.

## Memory Verse Review



### Memory Verse—Romans 1:16

Wherever Paul preached the gospel, he faced the possibility of opposition. He, however, was not ashamed or afraid to preach—not even in the powerful and thoroughly pagan city of Rome. The gospel originated from God. It has the power to solve man's enslavement to sin. Through the gospel, God brings salvation and the power to change lives. Although offered first to the Jews, the gospel is for everyone.

1. When might you feel embarrassed to share the gospel? How should you respond?
2. How have you experienced or witnessed the power of the gospel?
3. With whom will you share the power of the gospel?

**Additional Memory Verses**—Romans 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:8, 12.

## Measuring Growth



Paul's letter to the Romans served as an introduction of himself. He established his authority as an apostle and then summarized the gospel, declaring Christ is the core of the gospel message. Paul noted his calling to proclaim the message as well as the believers' calling to be set apart for God's work. Paul longed to visit Rome to share more of the gospel and to fellowship with the believers there. In spite of the inevitable opposition he would experience in Rome, Paul declared that he would never be ashamed to preach the gospel. He longed for all people to respond to the gospel call and receive God's righteousness through faith in Christ.

Look for the following indicators that you understand the gospel call.

1. I can explain the gospel in my own words.
2. I have answered the gospel call to salvation by trusting in Christ as my Savior.
3. I am trusting Christ to help me live for Him.