

### WARM-UP

- What is the best story you've seen or heard? What makes it memorable?
- Recall a time when someone saved you from getting hurt or in trouble. How did it make you feel?
- Think of a time when you forgave someone or received forgiveness. How was the relationship restored?

**WORD** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

The word “gospel” means “good news.” It is good because it is the message that God made a way for humanity to be redeemed from sin through Jesus. Since the Fall, our relationship with God has been damaged. What once were hearts that loved God were replaced with rebellious hearts before Him. No matter how hard we try, our good works could never be enough to meet God’s righteousness, and every person will face an eternity of death and separation from God. This is why we need Jesus, our Savior. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died—in our place—so that we could be right with God. Today, let’s look at the good news that we believe and how it affects our lives.

## 1 | Jesus Christ knew no sin.

*For our sake he made him to be sin who **knew no sin**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21*

God's standard of holiness is unattainable for us to meet. Sin has affected every aspect of our being. Jesus, however, lived a perfectly sinless and righteous life in spite of having been tempted in every way like the rest of us (Hebrews 4:15). He was without sin in His thoughts, motives, words, and actions. Why do you think it is important that Jesus lived a sinless life?

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## 2 | Jesus Christ became sin for us.

*For our sake **he made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21*

Sin needs to be dealt with, and its penalty is death. God hates sin. All of humanity had sinned against God and this broke His heart. But because God is loving and gracious, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice as the substitute for man. While we were still dead in our sin, Jesus took all our sins and died for us (Romans 5:8). Jesus—in our place—received the full wrath of God, so that those who believe in Him will be saved from the just penalty of their sins. If Jesus took all of God's wrath for us, how much wrath is left for those who have put their faith in Him?

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### 3 | Jesus Christ made a way for us to become the righteousness of God.

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection made a way for us to meet God's standard of righteousness. Anyone who believes in Jesus and His finished work is reconciled to God and declared righteous—as Jesus is righteous. This was because His perfect life and righteousness was credited to us who believe. This means forgiveness of our past, present, and future sins. We are now a new creation in Him. Those who receive Jesus as Savior can experience all the benefits that God has intended to give. What does John 1:12 and 1 John 3:1 say about those who believe in the finished work of Jesus?

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When we trust Jesus for our salvation, we can experience a true relationship with God. We are given a new heart, are being made whole in Christ, and are promised to have a future hope with God eternally. This is the good news that we can happily share with the world that longs to experience the true joy that is only found in Christ.

## APPLICATION

- Have you experienced the saving and transforming power of Jesus in your life? What areas in your life still need to change?
- What are some things that hold you back from talking about the gospel? How can you overcome these challenges?
- To whom can you share the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus this week? How may you lead others to the saving knowledge He brings?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for the finished work of Jesus on the cross that enables us to be restored to a right relationship with Him and follow His ways.
- Pray that God would continue to mold you into the image of Christ and to make the reality of the gospel alive in you every day.
- Pray that God would open doors in your community, campus, or workplace to talk about the gospel with boldness and a heart for others to know Him.



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