

Gospel Essentials Study Guide

Section 1: The Problem - God's Holiness and Human Sinfulness

Key Points:

- God is absolutely holy, perfect, and righteous in every way
- All humans are sinners by nature, not just by action
- Sin separates us from a holy God and deserves punishment

Scripture Fill-in-the-Blanks (KJV):

Romans 3:23 - "For all have _____ and come _____ of the _____ of God."

Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is _____ and desperately _____ above all things; who can _____ it?"

Isaiah 59:1-2 - "Behold, the Lord's hand is not _____ that it cannot save; neither his ear _____ that it cannot hear: But your _____ have separated between you and your God."

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to understand God's holiness before discussing human sinfulness?
2. How does understanding that we are "sinners by nature" change our perspective on why we need salvation?

Application Questions:

1. How can you help someone understand their need for salvation without being judgmental or condemning?
2. In what ways do you see evidence of humanity's sinful nature in everyday life around you?
3. How should understanding God's perfect holiness affect the way you approach Him in prayer and worship?

Section 2: The Solution - Christ's Sacrifice and Gift of Salvation

Key Points:

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again
- Salvation is a free gift that cannot be earned through good works
- Jesus took the punishment we deserved so we could have eternal life

Scripture Fill-in-the-Blanks (KJV):

Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is _____; but the _____ of God is _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ _____ for our _____ according to the scriptures; And that he was _____, and that he _____ again the third day according to the scriptures."

John 17:3 - "And this is life _____, that they might _____ thee the only _____ God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast _____."

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to both die and rise again for our salvation?
2. What does it mean that salvation is a "gift" rather than something we can earn?

Application Questions:

1. How would you explain to someone why Jesus had to die for our sins using the gift illustration mentioned in the transcript?
2. What are some ways people try to "earn" salvation today, and how can you gently redirect them to the truth of grace?
3. How does knowing that salvation is entirely God's work affect your confidence in sharing the gospel?

Section 3: The Response - Faith and Repentance

Key Points:

- Faith means "Forsaking All I Trust Him" - trusting in Christ alone
- Repentance is a change of mind, turning from anything that keeps us from trusting Christ
- We must personally receive Jesus as Lord and Savior

Scripture Fill-in-the-Blanks (KJV):

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that not of _____: it is the _____ of God: Not of _____, lest any man should _____."

Acts 3:19 - "_____ ye therefore, and be _____, that your sins may be _____ out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

John 3:36 - "He that believeth on the Son hath _____: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the _____ of God abideth on him."

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between intellectual belief about Jesus and saving faith in Jesus?
2. How do faith and repentance work together in salvation - are they separate steps or part of the same response?

Application Questions:

1. How can you help someone understand what it means to "receive" Jesus as a gift?
2. What are some things people might need to "repent" of (turn away from) in order to trust in Christ alone?
3. How will you apply the "Five Points" method (God is holy, man is sinful, sin deserves punishment, Jesus took that punishment, faith alone) in your own gospel conversations?

ANSWER KEY

Section 1 Scripture Answers:

Romans 3:23 - sinned, short, glory

Jeremiah 17:9 - deceitful, wicked, know

Isaiah 59:1-2 - shortened, heavy, iniquities

Section 1 Discussion Questions:

- 1. Why is it important to understand God's holiness before discussing human sinfulness?** *Sample answer: Understanding God's perfect holiness helps people see the contrast and magnitude of their sin. Without this foundation, people may not understand why they need salvation or may minimize their sinfulness. Answers may vary.*
- 2. How does understanding that we are "sinners by nature" change our perspective on why we need salvation?** *Sample answer: It shows us that our problem isn't just bad behavior that we can fix, but a fundamental heart condition that requires divine intervention. We can't simply "try harder" - we need a new nature. Answers may vary.*

Section 1 Application Questions:

- 1. How can you help someone understand their need for salvation without being judgmental or condemning?** *Sample answer: Share your own story of recognizing your need for salvation, use gentle questions to help them self-reflect, emphasize that we're all in the same boat as sinners, and focus on God's love and solution rather than condemnation. Answers may vary.*
- 2. In what ways do you see evidence of humanity's sinful nature in everyday life around you?** *Sample answer: Selfishness, dishonesty, pride, gossip, anger, broken relationships, corruption in leadership, and our natural tendency to put ourselves first instead of God or others. Answers may vary.*
- 3. How should understanding God's perfect holiness affect the way you approach Him in prayer and worship?** *Sample answer: With reverence, humility, and awe, recognizing our need for Christ's righteousness to approach God, being thankful for grace, and having a deeper appreciation for what Jesus did to make a relationship with God possible. Answers may vary.*

Section 2 Scripture Answers:

Romans 6:23 - death, gift, eternal life

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - died, sins, buried, rose

John 17:3 - eternal, know, true, sent

Section 2 Discussion Questions:

- 1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to both die and rise again for our salvation?** *Sample answer: His death paid the penalty for our sins, satisfying God's justice. His resurrection proved He conquered death and sin, validating His claims and providing the power for our new life. Both are essential. Answers may vary.*
- 2. What does it mean that salvation is a "gift" rather than something we can earn?** *Sample answer: A gift is freely given without payment or effort from the receiver. We can't work for it, deserve it, or repay it. We receive it with gratitude. This prevents pride and ensures God gets all the glory. Answers may vary.*

Section 2 Application Questions:

- 1. How would you explain to someone why Jesus had to die for our sins using the gift illustration mentioned in the transcript?** *Sample answer: Hold out a Bible or object and ask what they must do to receive it. The answer is "receive it" or "take it." Similarly, salvation requires us to accept what Jesus has already done for us simply. Answers may vary.*
- 2. What are some ways people try to "earn" salvation today, and how can you gently redirect them to the truth of grace?** *Sample answer: Church attendance, good deeds, religious rituals, and being better than others. Redirect by acknowledging their sincerity while explaining that these good things can't pay for sin - only Jesus can. Use the gift analogy. Answers may vary.*
- 3. How does knowing that salvation is entirely God's work affect your confidence in sharing the gospel?** *Sample answer: It removes pressure because conversion is God's work, not ours. We're simply messengers. It also gives assurance of our own salvation, as it doesn't depend on our performance but on Christ's finished work. Answers may vary.*

Section 3 Scripture Answers:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - grace, faith, yourselves, gift, works, boast

Acts 3:19 - Repent, converted, blotted

John 3:36 - everlasting life, wrath

Section 3 Discussion Questions:

1. **What is the difference between intellectual belief about Jesus and saving faith in Jesus?** *Sample answer: Intellectual belief is knowing facts about Jesus. Saving faith involves personally trusting and relying on Jesus for salvation—a relational process that consists in surrendering self-reliance. Even demons believe facts about Jesus, but aren't saved. Answers may vary.*
2. **How do faith and repentance work together in salvation - are they separate steps or part of the same response?** *Sample answer: They are two sides of the same coin - one single response. True repentance involves turning from self-reliance to Christ, and genuine faith consists in turning to Christ from self-reliance. You can't have one without the other. Answers may vary.*

Section 3 Application Questions:

1. **How can you help someone understand what it means to "receive" Jesus as a gift?** *Sample answer: Use physical illustrations, like offering them something and asking what they must do to receive it. Explain that receiving Jesus means personally accepting His payment for your sins and inviting Him to be your Lord and Savior. Answers may vary.*
2. **What are some things people might need to "repent" of (turn away from) to trust in Christ alone?** *Sample answer: Self-righteousness, trusting in good works, religious rituals, sinful lifestyle choices, pride, or any other means of salvation besides Jesus alone. The key is turning from anything that keeps them from trusting Christ alone. Answers may vary.*
3. **How will you apply the "Five Points" method (God is holy, man is sinful, sin deserves punishment, Jesus took that punishment, faith alone) in your own gospel conversations?** *Sample answer: Memorize the points and supporting scriptures, practice explaining each clearly, use them as a logical framework to ensure you cover all essential elements, and adapt the language to your audience while keeping the content biblical. Answers may vary.*

Remember: The goal is not just to know these facts, but to help others understand their personal need for Jesus and how to receive the gift of eternal life through faith in Him alone.