

St Martins C3 – June 22, 2025

The Greatest Story Ever Told – Sharing the Story

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to mission month! This month we will focus on evangelism and levelling you up in your ability to share the good news about Jesus with others.

Read Matthew 9:35-36

People need Jesus. The gospel is the greatest story ever told, and it has the power to bring hope and life to every man, woman and child. Jesus preached the gospel of his kingdom, and he showed it through the good things he did.

When we see war and abuse these aren't just social problems—they are spiritual signs of a world in need of God's healing. This comes by being made right with Him.

Read Matthew 9:37-10:1, 5

Jesus asked his disciples to pray for more workers. ***We are the answer to that prayer!***

We encourage you to do two things in this series:

- 1 – Identify who you can share the gospel with
- 2 – Pray for God to open hearts for opportunities to share

There are signs of something stirring in the world. More people than ever are hungry for things of God. We need to know what to say when we are asked.

Here is an easy to remember way to tell the whole gospel.



Creation: Christians believe that God created a good world, to know Him and love each other.

Fall: We were separated from God when we used our free will to do things that were wrong and selfish and brought brokenness to the world.

Redemption: God loved us and had a rescue plan. Through what Jesus did at the cross all can be forgiven.

Restoration: Now as God's followers we can be part of his wider plan to see all people and all things the way God originally intended it to be.

Read Genesis 1:1; Romans 3:23-25 ; 2 Corinthians 5:17

The focus is Jesus and the big plan of God to rescue the world. This is the greatest story ever told that others need to know

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

God calls us to share the good news with others and we need to be ready to share simply and openly.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

As you explore the gospel we shared on Sunday, how does it align with your faith beliefs?

When did you decide to follow Jesus, and how much did you know at the time?

What experiences have you had sharing your faith?

If asked to explain why you're a Christian, could you do it in a minute or two? Why not try with each other now?

What are the pros and cons of using the method shared on Sunday?

Do you find it easier to share about God with people you know or strangers?

Which elements of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration do you think our world finds easiest or hardest to accept?

Who in your life can you pray to come to know Jesus?

Monday Devotion: Creation

Read Genesis 1

This week, we study the greatest story ever told from creation to restoration. As you read these passages, consider how you might explain it to someone who doesn't know Jesus.

What is the reason for life? Our world is dazzling in its complexity and beautiful beyond description. We can all agree on that. But why does it exist?

Christians believe the answer is clear. It's God. His creativity, his goodness, his life has been poured into this world. He is the artist, and he created because he loves.

Contrast the formless world with the form God gives it (Genesis 1:2, 31). These verses are almost poetic – the canvas is created and things are placed on it: light (day one), sky and water (day two), land and seas (day three), are filled with the sun and moon and stars (day four), fish and birds (day five), and animals and humans (day six). Into the emptiness and waste, he creates something good. This goodness is the perfect alignment of everything.

The amount of time it took to create is not as important as the reason for it. This world is designed as a place of joy, life, and relationship with each other and with him. Humanity is given the task of transforming it into more than it currently is.

As you explain this to others, you can emphasise the good things we see in the world that we can't attribute to chance. Like beauty and the love found in close relationships.

Tuesday Devotion: Fall

Read Genesis 3; Romans 8:18-23

The hardest question ever is this: Why is there so much pain and suffering in the world? This is a tough question for atheists because it reveals that their worldview leads to a lack of meaning in life.

It is also a tricky question for the believer in God. If God is all-powerful and all-good, then why do many live with pain, grief, anxiety, and depression? Why are there wars, earthquakes, famines, and climate change?

The Christian answer to this question is found in the fall of humanity in Genesis 3. Whilst Genesis doesn't address the natural disasters we face, Paul does in Romans 8. He says that when humanity chose to reject God and his way, a curse came on the world. What we experience now is the groaning of creation longing for it to be renewed.

The result of the sin of Adam and Eve is seen in every human who is at their core self-serving and broken. We live in a world still filled with beauty, love, and truth but stained by sin and its disastrous effects.

The core issue that sin has caused is our separation from God. If everything that is good is found in God, then being separated from Him means we never get to experience the fullness of that goodness and the relationship with our creator that we were made to be part of. Our soul longs to be united with Him again.

Wednesday Devotion: Reconciliation

Read John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

As we have already seen, God created a good world which He wanted to share with us. But when the moment of testing came, we chose the wisdom we could gain for ourselves rather than the wisdom that God offered. The result was our separation from God.

But God did not leave us in this place of misery. He had a rescue plan. His rescue plan was Jesus.

Jesus is the central character in the gospel story. He is the one part of the story you can never avoid: God as a man; the divine King in human flesh. The mystery of the incarnation is the hope of humanity.

If you have not talked about Jesus, then you have not shared the gospel.

God came into the world through Jesus to restore all things to Himself. He preached the Kingdom of God, which is the bringing of peace between God and all of creation. He showed it through the miracles He did and the sinless life He lived.

He died on the cross though He had committed no crime. He became the atoning sacrifice that was needed to pay for the sins of the world. He then rose from the dead to bring us to God.

To those who believe in Him, He offers eternal life. It is always and only through Jesus.

Thursday Devotion: Restoration

Read Revelation 21:1-22:5; Colossians 1:15-20; Romans 8:19-21

At the end of all things, we see the completion of the mission of God. It is a beautiful picture. God comes to live with His people. He is present to comfort them, to do away with evil, and to rule over all things. He will be their life source, and there will be no wickedness, pain, or decay.

In this world, God does what He has been longing to do all along – He makes everything new. Everything that was broken will be renewed. All the abuse and hurt from our past will be ultimately redeemed. We will have a world filled with love that never ceases, faith that never wavers, and hope that never ends – for there will always be new things to learn and discover in God's kingdom.

Knowing this is what the world will be like then, we can see God's mission to make our world a bit more like that now. When we know Jesus, He begins the restoration work in our lives and through us to the world around us. This is the full gospel that we are longing for. Not just one that gets us to heaven after we die but one that brings restoration here and now.

For all the activists who want to see the world made better, the way to do it is to connect with the Creator and His way of doing life.

Friday Devotion: Share Sensitive

Read Acts 13:16-41; Acts 16:31

A few years ago, I got my Bible nerd hat on and studied all eighteen gospel presentations in the gospel of Acts. I was looking for what they recorded was said about the gospel.

The results were fascinating. The most mentioned aspect of the gospel story was that Jesus was the Messiah, the fulfilment of God's plan (11 times). The next most mentioned element was the resurrection (9 times). The least mentioned elements were creation (once), Jesus' return (twice) and His reign (three times). Sin was only mentioned five times.

There was no formula. The early sharers of the gospel brought in the elements that were most necessary for their audience. Many of the hearers already believed the world was created by God or by gods. Many of them also believed that the world was in a fallen state and that people were sinful. Peter, Paul and others used these as starting points to share the story.

You may find the same when you talk to others. For some, emphasising the existence of a good and eternal God is essential, for others it is unnecessary because they already believe in some form of God. Others won't believe sin exists or that we find redemption from an outside source. We don't have to tell the whole story every time. Just part of it may be enough to open up other faith conversations.

What is clear is that every person who told the story of the gospel always talked about Jesus as the central character in the story. So should we.