



## NG Study Guide: 1Cor. 15:1-4 “Gospel for Life” [2017 Resurrection Sunday] [4.16.17]

### Love God + know the Bible better:

1. Read the passage cited above, and try to answer the questions below before your group meets.
2. **Leader note:** Please review the brief instructions for leaders at the bottom.

### The Study

**Thesis:** All of us want to make sense of life. We want to find something that can satisfy. We yearn to be whole and be able to rest our mind, body and soul. We want our loved ones to share that experience and have hope. Well today my friends we have some great news! Today, you can find what you are looking for – life in Christ.

#### I. The gospel is great news [1-3]

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins” [1Cor. 15:1-3, emphasis added].

The Greek term translated “gospel” [1] referred to any good news. Since Jesus’ resurrection it now refers to *the* good news.

**A. The great news is that Jesus saves [2]:** What does Jesus save you from?

#### 1. Jesus saves you from the penalty for your sins against God:

All of us have sinned against an all-holy, pure, perfect, and righteous God [Rom. 3:23]. No one gets perfect scores on all the tests and quizzes of life. And if you had to be perfect to graduate then no one would graduate. The bad news is that each of us deserve God’s judgment. Imagine going to the dentist, and she starts to drill, and you don’t have any pain-killer and it never ends. God’s judgment would be a billion times worse than that! Jesus died for our sins [3]. Jesus was a sacrifice for our sins. He took the penalty we deserved. Because of what Jesus did on the cross we can experience life with God today and forever. Imagine going to Disneyland with your friends, and you’re the only people there. And you get

to go on all the rides you want, as many times as you want, there are no lines, and eat all you want and it's all free! Heaven is a billion times better!

***Q1. How would you explain to someone the “bad news” regarding sin and God’s judgment? People need to understand the bad news before they can appreciate the good news that “Jesus saves.”***

## **2. Jesus saves you to the True and Living God:**

**a. Life:** Eternal life [Jn. 11:25-26] is the spiritual life that you can experience with God through Christ today and every day forever. Death is defeated [1Cor. 15:54-58]. This life gives purpose that transcends the vain pursuit of pleasure that never satisfies. Those who live for God discover real satisfaction. Life with Christ produces peace. When you're at peace with God there is rest for your soul. Then confident trust in God provides peace for your mind and body too. This life gives hope because you grow to appreciate that difficult seasons are brief compared to eternity; and that God has everything under control and is working your greatest good.

**b. Love:** [Jn. 13:34-35] God's love is pure, unconditional, committed and truly perfect. God proves His love by sending His only Son to be a sacrifice for our sin, while we were still enemies with God [Rom. 5:6-10]. His love provides restoration and forgiveness for our guilt and shame. As we receive and grow in His love we learn to respond and show that love to God, our loved ones, our neighbors, and even enemies.

**c. Liberty:** [Jn. 8:31-32] Before I came to faith in Christ, I thought real freedom was doing whatever I wanted to do. I wanted to be the boss of my life (essentially making me god of my life). But I wasn't free. Everything that a life apart from God told me would make me happy never satisfied. Recently a group of pastors from our church went to an “escape room” teambuilding event. There were countless “wrong” clues that were a distraction but didn't get you out of the room. You waste time energy and emotion chasing the wrong clues thinking you'll find freedom but you're stuck. Then they give help to discover the way out. That's what God does. He shows you the way that will give you the freedom that you yearn for in Christ. Not freedom from God that creates bondage, but freedom to worship your Creator that will satisfy and set you free.

***Q2. How have you experienced God's life, love and liberty? Share how Christ has changed your life.***

**B. How you are saved [1-3]** Salvation is a gift from God. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ [Eph. 2:8-9]. But we must receive Christ [1]. And we are to stand [1] and hold fast to the gospel [2]. You receive salvation when you choose to submit your will to Jesus and decide to deny self and follow Him [Lu. 9:23]. A follower of Christ has a compelling desire to know Jesus, His teachings and live them.

***Q3. How would you explain to someone that is curious about the gospel how they can be saved? What does it mean to receive (believe in) Jesus?***

**C. How can you be sure it is true [3-4]? “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...” [1Cor. 15:3-4].**

The resurrection proves that Jesus’ sacrifice was accepted by the Father. The resurrection of Jesus is a foundation of the Christian faith [1Cor.15:14]. The evidence supporting the resurrection and the gospel is overwhelming. The Old Testament has hundreds of predictive prophecies regarding the First and Second Coming of Messiah. There are several prophecies related to Jesus’ death and resurrection [e.g. Gen. 22, Ex.12, Is. 53, Ps. 16:8-11, Ps 22:16-24]. Therefore, Paul affirmed to the Corinthians that the message of the gospel was “according to the Scriptures.” In addition, there is abundant evidence including: eyewitnesses (5-8), transformed lives, martyrs, Christ’s missing body, etc. The evidence is beyond a reasonable doubt.

***Q4. Describe some of the evidence that helps us to know beyond a reasonable doubt that the gospel is true. Consider doing an internet search to become more familiar with the evidence.***

**Love your neighbor *outside* the group better:**

1. Who would like to share how they sought to befriend or build relationship with their neighbors where they live, work, study, or play this past week?
2. Are there some needs that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbor outside the group?
3. Here is a neighboring idea(s) for us to consider for the week(s) ahead:

**Pray and look for opportunities to share with neighbors how the hope and truth of Jesus’ resurrection has changed your life.**

**Love your neighbor *inside* the group better:**

1. Are there some needs in our group that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbor within the group?
2. What might we do about that need to help?

**Prayer [Loving God and Neighbors better]:**

Close the NG meeting with a time of group prayer. Encourage each participant to pray, but don’t force anyone to pray. Encourage the group to keep their prayers brief so that each person can pray.

**Leader Notes:**

**1. Seek to involve as many group participants as possible.** A good group discussion time allows people to get to know the passage and one another better.

**2. Feel free to pre-select the discussion questions that you want to focus on** in case there isn't enough time to answer them all.

**3. Feel free to use an icebreaker question or activity** to get to know one another better.

**4. Every time you meet consider asking:**

**a. What about this passage is particularly exciting, challenging, or confusing?** If a leader is uncertain about a question of doctrine or theology don't hesitate to follow-up with your coach during the week. Then revisit the issue(s) when the group gathers next time.