

## Talking about Jesus with others - #2/5 WHAT is the good news?

For growth groups 12/8/24

Warm up #1: which is better a vast theoretical mastery of a subject, or a little practical knowledge?  
(and which do you have when it comes to the Lord Jesus?)

As a church we want to be talking with people about Jesus. In this short series, we're looking at things that help and hinder this. Today WHAT is the message we ultimately want others to hear and consider and respond to?

[Evangelism = talking about Jesus & inviting a response of turning to God and trusting in his promise of forgiveness and life]

### Pray & read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What parts are not clear or could use some explanation?
2. According to verses 1-3, what is the spiritual condition of people before they become Christians?
3. Is there any hope for people in this situation? Why?
4. What has God done for these Christians that Paul writes to? (vv. 4-6)
5. Why has God done all this?
6. What does the future hold for those who are saved (v. 7)?
7. Verses 8-10 show that God saves people as his gift. What is the way to respond to his gift? What is the way not to respond?

One way to summarise the good news from God is 'the 4 R's. Have group members read these out aloud to the group. (could give this table as a separate handout?)

**Rebellion.** Eph 2:1-3. Everyone has rebelled against God, rejecting him, instead doing what we want and following the spiritual forces of evil. As a result we are under God's judgement.

**Rescue.** Eph 2:4-5. Because of God's great love and overflowing mercy he sent Jesus to bear the judgement for sins in our place. He turns aside the judgement from us and makes possible a new relationship with God.

**Resurrection.** Eph 2:6-7. Jesus did not stay dead—he was raised to new life as the ruler of God's new people. When we are joined to Jesus by trusting in him, God 'makes us alive with him' = what is true of Jesus becomes true of us: spiritually now, eternally & physically then.

**Response.** Eph 2:8-10. God saves people as his free gift. To former rebels who turn to trust Jesus, our response is to live in ways that please Jesus (no longer live for ourselves). The question is: what is your response to Him?

8. Of these 4Rs
  - Which are you glad to talk about with others? Why?
  - Which do you hesitate to talk about with others? Why?
  - Why are all 4 parts important to talk about (at some point)? What happens if some are left out?
9. Of the parts we hesitate to talk about, can we share our own experiences of how we have been able to talk? E.g. its hard to talk about rebellion and its consequences: how have you found to do this?

Pray that God will give us church opportunities and courage to speak.

(and pray for those individuals whom God has put on our hearts / brought across our path)