

LIFE IN 6 WORDS

The GOSPEL Explored

LEADER'S GUIDE

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A Word to Youth Leaders

The GOSPEL will rock your teenagers' world. It is 2,000 years old but feels brand new. Its message is more relevant than ever. Each of the sessions in this one-of-a-kind curriculum unpack the gospel message visually and viscerally, practically and powerfully, focusing on one word of *Life in 6 Words*. As a result of marinating on these transforming truths, your teens will worship God louder as they sing His praises for redeeming them. Their hurts will be healed from the inside out through the precious blood of the Lamb of God. And, finally, they will be made ready to declare life, yes LIFE, to everyone around them by sharing this good news out of a renewed understanding of it. This is the GOSPEL. This is *Life in 6 Words*.

It may surprise you that the theology of the gospel message is a lot more important than we tend to give it credit for when it comes to teenagers. Here's a checklist of struggles that understanding and embracing the gospel tackles:

- Bad self image. . . . Why? Because we have been declared a new creation! 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Guilt. . . . How? Jesus paid the price for all of our sins! Colossians 2:13
- Sin's power When? The power of sin was crushed when Jesus was! Romans 6:6
- Unforgiveness How? We can forgive others because Jesus forgave us! Ephesians 4:32
- Spiritual apathy Why? We offer ourselves to Him in light of His sacrifice! Romans 12:1

And on and on and on the list goes! The gospel is so powerful and practical that I'm convinced of this radical premise: IF YOUR TEENAGERS GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL HAVING MASTERED AND BEEN MASTERED BY THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, THEY WILL BE WAY MORE LIKELY TO SERVE JESUS WITH PASSION FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!!!

The gospel reaches the lost, but it also transforms the found. 2 Corinthians 1:18 puts it this way: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

The GOSPEL in these pages is not the kiddie pool, it's the deep end. Don't get me wrong, any teen in your group can understand what Jason Petty ("Propaganda") and I will be teaching them, but these elemental truths are transformational. They will drive deeply into the souls of your teenagers and capture their hearts for Christ and His Cause, THE Cause.

Get ready.

How to Use This Curriculum

Using six key words, “Propaganda” and I explore the meaning behind the GOSPEL: God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

The Leader’s Guide and Student Handouts will help you unpack the biblical truth each of these words represents. Each session includes specific ways to apply these truths upward, inward and outward—to their relationship with God, to their own lives and to the world around them.

The Intro Session, along with the six words, provide a total of seven fully developed lessons. You’ll find step-by-step directions, lesson plans, discussion questions, prayers, Scripture, gospel presentations and much more in your Leader’s Guide. If your discussion times go well, there will be more content in these lessons than your group has time for, so feel free to pick and choose what to cover and what to cut. If your group is hesitant to participant in the discussion time, I encourage you to ask your question and wait patiently for your students to engage. Waiting creates tension, and tension is a tool for change. But, in either case, you know your students best, so customize your use of the materials to your own situation. The detailed lesson flow provided is simply a sample script to help you.

I would, however, strongly encourage you to give a clear gospel presentation each week. Don’t commit the sin of assumption that all your students have previously understood or embraced the message of the gospel. And follow up with those who make a decision to trust in Christ. Get them grounded and growing in their new faith. For help with this, check out Dare 2 Share’s *Now Grow!* discipling curriculum.

Don’t forget the other supporting materials in your download. In addition to this Leader’s Guide, you’ll find editable invites and other promotional materials to help you maximize your group’s *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* experience. You have permission to make copies of the videos, Leader’s Guide and Student Handouts for use within your own church.

May God bless you as you take your teenagers deep and wide into the message of the gospel!

Greg Stier

Founder and CEO, Dare 2 Share



WEEK 1

INTRO

GREAT STORIES

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*
“Week 1 – Intro Session” video
- Student Handouts – one for each student
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Movie trivia questions

Icebreaker: Movie Trivia

Divide your students into two teams and run a movie trivia contest using questions like the following (correct answers are noted by asterisk):

1. In *Twilight Saga: New Moon*, where did Edward break up with Bella?

- In the car
- In her room
- Over the phone
- *In the woods

2. In *The Princess Bride*, which character is searching for a man with six fingers on his right hand?

- Fezzik
- The Man in Black
- Vizzini
- *Inigo Montoya

3. Which Iron Man suit does Tony Stark wear in *Avenger: Infinity War*?

- *Bleeding Edge
- Silver Centurion
- Extremis
- Mark 42

4. What is the new name Nemo receives when he is “initiated” into the tank in *Finding Nemo*?

- Tiger Stripe
- Sunshine
- Kid
- *Shark Bait

5. What is Ethan Hunt and his team trying to retrieve in *MI 6: Fallout*?

- Gold
- *Plutonium
- Titanium
- Radioactive waste

6. In *Black Panther* Shuri is T'Challa's... ?

- Aunt
- Childhood friend
- *Younger sister
- Older sister

7. In which movie did Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams play high school rivals?

- Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
- Clueless
- The Breakfast Club
- *Mean Girls

8. In *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, who foresaw that Sauron wished to attack Minas Tirith?

- Elrond
- Aragorn
- *Pippin
- Gandalf

9. *Avatar* was nominated for nine Academy Awards, how many Oscars did it actually win?

- 1
- *3
- 4
- 5

10. Lowery is wearing a Jurassic Park shirt in the control room in Jurassic World. Where did he tell Claire he got it from?

- *e-Bay
- Amazon
- Craigslist
- A garage sale

Lesson

Settle your students and introduce the video series by saying something like:

Explain

Today we're starting a new video series called *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*. During this series we'll be watching spoken word artist Propaganda and Dare 2 Share's Greg Stier digging deeper into the message and the meaning of the gospel. So let's get started.

Everyone loves a great story, right? In fact, most of you probably have a favorite movie that tells a story you are really drawn to.

Ask

- What's your favorite movie or book?
- Why is it your favorite?

Pass out the Student Handouts, along with pencils/pens for those who need them.

Explain

On your handout you'll find a list of some of the top hit movies of all time. See if you can put them in the right order based on their box office success worldwide.

Give the students a minute to rank the movies in order of their success, then share the correct answers.

- #1 Avatar
- #2 Titanic
- #3 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- #4 Avengers: Infinity War
- #5 Jurassic World

(These ranks are based on worldwide gross proceeds as of October 2018.) Ask for a show of hands of those who had them ranked correctly.

Ask

- Now look at the next page on your handout, there's a list of several elements that help make a story great. Which of these do you look for in a good story? Mark your top three.
- Can I have a few volunteers share their answers and tell us why these three elements are the most important to you?

Explain

We're all drawn to great stories, but there's one grand, sweeping story that rises above the rest, because it's a true story and because it addresses the whole history of humankind. It's the story told in the pages of the Bible.

Ask

- Which of these elements from your handout do you see in the biblical story of God and His relationship with humans?
- Can you think of some specific examples of where the biblical story involves action, drama, sacrifice, heroes and villains and so on?

Explain

So we can see that the Bible, too, has many of the elements that make for a great story. And that big, grand, sweeping, true story is what we're going to be focusing on over these next few weeks.

Now, the Bible's a big book and you may feel overwhelmed at the thought of tackling the story contained in its pages. But relax, we aren't going to all speed read through the entire Bible in the next few weeks and then turn in a book report.

Instead, we're going to pull out just a few of the key themes of the biblical story, so you'll be able to understand and explain the essence of its message as it spans Genesis to Revelation. And that's what's great about this video series we're starting today. It slices and dices the biblical story down into a simple summary that's bite size and understandable. Of course, every word of Scripture is inspired and important, and we can learn a lot by digging into specific passages of Bible and studying them at great depth.

But sometimes it helps to step back and look at the story the Bible tells from 30,000 feet up—you know, like when you're zoomed out to get the big picture. And that's pretty much what we're going to be doing during this video series.

So let's begin by watching a short 4 minute video clip that provides the starting point for our simple summary of the gospel. But before we do, let's open in prayer.

Here's a suggested prayer:

Dear God, help us understand more about the big story the Bible tells about You and Your desire to be in relationship with each and every human being on the planet. Reveal Yourself to us as we discuss some of the core essential truths of the gospel message so we can know and love You better and share your message of grace with others.

Play the *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL* video.

Ask

- What did you think? Give me a few one sentence reactions to the video you just watched.
- Did you catch Prop's line in the video where he calls the gospel "the greatest story ever told, that's hardly ever told"? Had you ever heard the gospel referred to as "the greatest story ever told"?
- Do you think that's a fair description? Why or why not?

Explain

This short 4 minute clip is what we're going to be unpacking over the coming weeks. We'll spend the next 6 weeks talking about each of the 6 words—exploring the Biblical truth each word represents and applying these truths upward, inward and outward, to our relationship with God, to our own lives and to the world around us.

And to help us do that, to focus our thoughts and launch us into our own discussions, we'll be watching a brief video discussion between Prop and Greg each week. These videos are designed to both explain and prompt us to go deeper with 6 key words of the gospel message: God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

Today, we'll be watching Prop and Greg's short introductory clip for the coming series.

Play the "Week 1 – Intro Session" video.

Ask

- Prop expressed his hesitation about trying to come up with a short, concise way to explain the gospel. He was concerned that it would be corny, or miss the meat of the message. Do you ever feel that way about trying to talk about God with others?
- Do you think that spiritual things should stay private? Like it's too personal to try to talk about with others? Why or why not?
- Do you agree or disagree with Prop's statement in the video that the gospel is "the single most important piece of information known to man"? Why or why not? If you disagree, what would you say is "the single most important piece of info known to man"?

Explain

Let's look up 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Can someone read that for us?



As it is written:

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Ask

- What is this verse saying about what's of first importance?
- If the gospel is so important, why don't we talk about it more with others?

Explain

Look at the next page in your Student Handout and check all that apply.

Well, whatever your reasons for not sharing your faith, help is on the way. By the end of this video series, you'll be prepared to understand, apply and explain to others 6 key truths that are the foundation of the biblical story of God's interactions with humans—the story of the GOSPEL. We're going to go deep into the theology of these 6 words so that you can go wide with the message of the GOSPEL to your friends.

For this week's Upward, Inward and Outward applications, divide your students into groups of 2-3 to discuss the following questions.



Upward

Ask

- From the beginning to the end, God is at the center of the human story. But He wants this story to be personal to us as individuals. Is God personal to you?
- What do you think it should look like when God is personal to you?

Inward

Ask

- Are you living like you really believe the gospel is “the greatest story ever told”? Why or why not?
- Take a few minutes and brainstorm together some things each of you could do this week to start living like this Jesus deal really is “the greatest story ever told.” (Ideas: use music to spend time in worship, share generously with someone as a reflection of God’s generosity to you, spend more time in the Word, pray more, talk to someone about Jesus...)

As time allows, invite students to share their ideas with the big group.

Outward

Think of one friend who needs Jesus at the center of their story. Write their name down in your book and pray for them this week. Take a couple minutes right now to pray for them together in your small groups.

Closing

Close by allowing time for any questions and for giving a clear invitation to trust Christ. Say something like:

Give the GOSPEL

Maybe when you watched the *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL* video today you heard the message of the gospel in a way you could understand for the first time ever. If that’s true for you, then I invite you to step out and put your faith in Jesus alone based on what He did for you on the cross and trust in Him as your only hope of a restored relationship with God. Like Prop said in the video, “everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.” By simply believing you receive this free gift of life with Jesus, a life that starts now and lasts forever.

Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to see you after the meeting or talk to their friend who invited them to youth group.



WEEK 2

GOD

CREATED US TO BE WITH **HIM**

Key Scripture: John 1:1-4; Psalm 100:3

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* “Week 2 – God” video
- Student Handouts – one for each student
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- 4 sheets of poster-size blank paper
- 4 sets of colored markers
- 4 slips of paper containing 4 common views of God – one view on each paper



Icebreaker: God in a Box

Divide your students into 4 groups. Pass out poster-size sheets of paper and markers, one set per group. Give each group a slip of paper containing one of the following common views of God. Ask them to keep their slip of paper secret from the other groups.

1. Cosmic Vending Machine
2. Kill-Joy Rule Enforcer
3. My Buddy
4. Hand-Wringing Nanny-in-Chief

Give the groups 8-10 minutes to brainstorm together and draw a picture, do a skit, write a poem or song that gives a representation of the view of God they've been assigned. Have each group share their creation with the whole group. Ask the rest of the students to guess what each group's efforts are trying to communicate about the different ways people view God.

Lesson

Settle your students and open in prayer by saying something like:

Dear God, help us today to understand more about who You really are, so we can know You better. Help us gain Your perspective on what a deep and personal relationship with You looks like and how we can better live that out in our moment by moment lives. Reveal more of Yourself to us as we discuss the simple yet profound truth that You created us to be with You.

Explain

The point of our Icebreaker Activity today was to demonstrate that there are a lot of differing views of God floating around out there. And many of them consist of us trying to put God in a box and think of Him this way or that way.

On the handouts I'm passing out, you'll see a list that includes these four views of God that we just tried to communicate, plus a few more. I want you to look over the list and then circle the one (or ones) that best describe your current view of God. Be honest—I'm not going to ask you to share what you circled with the group.

Ask

- Why do you think there are so many different views of God floating around out there?
- Do you think anyone really knows what God's like? Why do you think that?
- Do you think it matters what your view of God is like? Why or why not?

Let's watch the session of *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* about "God" and see what you think.

Play the video "Week 2 – God."



Ask

- Do you think a lot of people tend to view God the way they want Him to be, rather than the way He has revealed Himself to be through Jesus and through the Scriptures? Why or why not?
- What was your reaction to Greg and Prop's discussion about why it matters whether we have an accurate, biblical view of God? Do you agree or disagree?
- How does our view of God affect us in real life?

Explain

Knowing more about what God is really like helps us in a lot of ways. A more accurate view of God gives us a more accurate view of life—our world, ourselves and others. And being in tune with God's reality is a central key to doing life well—in both the ups and downs of life.

The \$99.00 word for getting a more accurate view of God is “theology.” Go to the next page of your handout and get ready for some definitions. Not for the sake of acquiring more “head knowledge”—like that would impress anyone—but for the sake of actually getting to know God better so you can be tight with Him.

Ask

- Theology. What is it? Anybody remember the definition from the video? (Def.: The study and understanding of God.)
- Based on what we've just been talking about, is theology just a bunch of big, dusty books on a shelf, or is it important to us and how we do life? Why do you think that?

Explain

So in each Session of this series we're going to be learning one new theological term—we'll call it our “Theological Term of the Day.”

But first, let's take a look at a couple key passages in the Bible that have some things to say about what God is like. Let's all go to John 1:1-4. Can someone read that passage for us?

Next, let's go to Psalm 100:3. Can someone read that passage for us?



As it is written:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his; the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

Ask

- What are some truths about God that we can pull out from these passages?

Encourage answers such as...

- existed from the beginning of time
- the Maker and Giver of life
- the transcendent, all-powerful One
- the King of the Universe
- the Light of all mankind

Upward

Explain

One of the amazing truths found here is that God not only initiated creation, He initiated a relationship with us! We see this stated very clearly in Psalm 100:3, when it says “Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

And here we have the essence of the first word in this *Life in 6 Words* series: GOD. **GOD** CREATED US TO BE WITH HIM.

There's a big word for this theological truth about God wanting to be in relationship with us. And it's our “Theological Term of the Day”: **IMMANENCE** (not to be confused with eminent, as in about to happen soon, or with Eminem...)

The definition of immanence is “to remain within.” This basically means that God is not only the maker and giver of life, but that He is always with us. He remains active and engaged in His creation.

Ask

- Do you remember the conversation Greg and Prop had about their earthly fathers? How engaged were their dads with them?
- How is God different than our earthly fathers?
- Prop talked about how this truth can make you both uncomfortable (God sees and knows everything) and comfortable (God is always there with us) at the same time. How does it make you feel? Why?

For this week's Inward and Outward applications, divide your students into groups of 2-3 to discuss the following.

Inward

Ask

- We all juggle different, competing priorities in our lives. What are some of them?
(*School, family, church, work, sports, etc.*)

Explain

So let's take a look at how this is often lived out in our lives. Turn to page 9 and let's walk through the exercise about the role God has in our day to day lives.

God and You

Step 1

Write down your top 5 priorities

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Step 2

Write down your estimate of how much time you spend on each priority on the average day

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Step 3

Reorder your priorities based on how you actually choose to spend your time

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Ask

- Feeling a little guilty? Be honest, based on the numbers there in black and white, do you often treat God like He isn't your top priority?

Explain

Well, if you're feeling guilty, it's because you just bought the God Stuff/My Stuff Myth. This little exercise was not designed to be a guilt trip. In fact, quite the opposite. It's designed to debunk the God Stuff/My Stuff Myth, which sets up a false dichotomy.

Take a look at the diagram on page 10. The Me Circle represents the compartmentalized view of the Christian life. This is what it looks like if you think of God as just one more competing priority on your list of activities. But I want to challenge you to consider a totally different perspective on this, and that's reflected in the God Circle diagram.



When you take yourself out of the center of your Me Circle and put God there instead, that's when you begin to see that everything is God stuff—your friends, your school, your sports, and so on—it's all God stuff.

God isn't just a Sunday morning or Wednesday night "responsibility" on our checklist of things to do. Knowing Him and being in relationship with Him becomes the most important thing in our life and something that impacts everything else because His immanence permeates everything. Write these next 3 phrases down in your book.

- Who I am
- How I see the world
- How I act and react

◀ Outward

While the truth of God's immanence and desire for relationship impacts our lives as believers, it's also a truth that those around us who don't know Jesus should hear about.

I want to encourage you this week to start the conversation with one of your friends who needs Jesus in their life. Ask them whether they believe there's a God, and if so, find out what they think God is like. Listen carefully, then share what you believe about God wanting an infinitely intimately fond relationship with each and every human He's given life and breath.

Closing

Close the meeting by allowing time for questions and praying for friends who don't know Jesus.

Give the GOSPEL

Present the GOSPEL message by saying something like this:

God shows us in His Word that He wants to be in an infinitely, intimately personal relationship with us. But according to the Bible, the first people He created chose to reject His plan—we call that sin—and they disconnected from God. And we do that too—we do wrong things, we sin and disconnect from God. And the result of our sin is the ultimate death—to be apart from God forever.

But God loves us with such a deep love that He designed a plan to bring us back into relationship with Him. God's perfect and holy nature demands a penalty be paid for our sins. Jesus paid that penalty when He died on the cross for our sins. The Bible tells us that God's loving plan to draw us back into His presence was to send His own perfect, sinless Son to die so that we don't have to. If we put our faith and trust in Him, we can receive the free gift of eternal life. He will come into our lives and walk with us, now, here on this earth, and also in heaven for all eternity.

Invite students to trust in Christ or to commit to living in a way that invites God in all His immanence into every part of their lives. Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to come see you after the meeting or to tell the friend who invited them.

Encourage teens to talk with their friends who need Jesus about this truth that God created us to be with Him.



WEEK 3

OUR SINS SEPARATE US FROM GOD

Key Scripture: Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* “Week 3 – Our” video
- Student Handouts
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Rope for tug of war
- Divider for establishing a tug of war line on the ground

Icebreaker: Tug of War

Divide your students into two groups and stage a tug of war competition.

Lesson

After the game time, settle your students by opening with prayer.

Here's a suggested prayer:

Dear God, give us insight today as we wrestle with a tough and often uncomfortable topic—evil in the world and in our own lives. Help us catch a glimpse of Your perspective on how sin is like a poison in our relationship with You and how it has separated us from You. Help us take a long, hard look, not only at the sin around us, but the sin inside us too.

Explain

We just played a game of tug of war and, in essence, it was a battle for control, with one side trying to win control over the other. Our tug of war was all in good fun and there was nothing at stake but bragging rights. But today we're talking about a different kind of tug of war—a spiritual tug of war. The tug of war between good and evil in the world and in our own lives.

Ask

- Have any of you ever heard of the Seven Deadly Sins?
- It's an ancient list of seven core sins that seem to be common to most all of mankind. What do you think might be some of the sins on this list?

This list of Seven Deadly Sins has been around for almost 2000 years—so some of the terms used for these sins may sound kind of strange to us. But if we take a closer look, I think we'll see that all of them are still widely prevalent in our world today. So grab a pen or pencil and your handout and take a minute now and see if you can match up the ancient list with their modern day equivalents.

After a minute, together as a group review the correct matches.

OK, now flip your page and glance through the headlines you see there. Which sins do you see at the core of these daily headlines?

Rage	_____	15 Die in School Shooting Rampage
Sloth	_____	Deadbeat Dads Duck Child Support
Greed	_____	Money-Making Pyramid Schemes and Scams Thriving
Envy	_____	8 Dead as Drug Gangs Jealously Guard Their Turf
Lust	_____	Date Rape on the Rise
Pride	_____	"It's Always All About Me!" Rapper Brags
Gluttony	_____	71% of American Adults Are Overweight

Explain

When we look around us and inside us, it's not hard to see that evil is very real and present.

And just talking about the pain and suffering humans inflict on each other can be a disturbing topic. Sin raises some difficult questions.

Ask

- Do you agree or disagree with this perspective that evil seems to have infected human nature?
- In your opinion, where do you think evil comes from?

Explain

Well, sin is a difficult subject, but one we shouldn't shy away from. Searching for answers to tough issues like this is one of the reasons we're working our way through the video series *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*.

We'll have plenty of opportunity to continue the conversation after we watch this week's video. So let's take a look.

Play the video "Week 3 – Our."

Explain

As you can tell from Prop and Greg's conversation, the sin around us and in us has some serious theology attached to it. So let's dive in and explore it some more.

Ask

- How did Adam and Eve eating a piece of fruit mess things up for all of us?
- How is that "fair" or "unfair"?

Explain

When you hit the rewind button on history and go all the way back to the Garden of Eden, the Bible tells us that it's part of human nature to want power and control. Adam and Eve rebelled against God and tried to declare themselves the rulers of their lives, independent from God's guidance and direction. They wanted to be like God and in charge.

Explain

So here's where we come to our "Theological Term of the Day": **FEDERAL HEADSHIP**. And here's what the term means: One individual's actions representing a larger group.

Sometimes the President acts on behalf of all Americans; he represents America to the entire world. Whether we voted for him or not, whether we like the action he's taking or not, sometimes he acts on behalf of the entire country as our representative. His actions have ramifications on all Americans simply because of his position as our "federal head."

Let's look at Romans 5:12. Can someone read that for us?

**As it is written:**

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12

Ask

- How does this theological term "federal headship" apply to Adam in Romans 5:12?

Explain

So we've looked at Adam and Eve's role, but now let's shift the focus a bit and take a look at our role.

Look up Romans 3:23. Can someone read it?



As it is written:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Ask

- What's your reaction to Prop's line in the video where he says, "You participated in the mutiny"?
- How is our sin "a violent assault on the holiness of God"?
- We all make wrong choices and turn away from God at times. At its root, is sin always a rebellion against God? Why do you think that?

The whole concept of sin is a stumbling block for a lot of people. It's easy to think, "I'm not that bad, compared to so-and-so..." But when we think that way, it's usually because we are not tuned in to God's holiness. God is perfect. He is holy. This verse we just read makes it pretty clear that according to God's perfect, holy standards, no one measures up.

Ask

- We'd all like to think of ourselves as basically "good" people. Do you think this idea that we all share in Adam and Eve's sin is viewed as old fashioned and out of sync with our times? Why or why not?

▲ Upward

Explain

Well, to sum it up, the point of this Session is that we all personally carry this sin nature in our soul's genome. It's not just Adam's sin that messed things up with "positional sin," it's also that **"OUR SINS SEPARATE US FROM GOD."**

Sin messes up our relationship with God.

But it's not just Adam's sin back then that messed it up for us, it's the sin we commit every day.

⊗ Inward

So it's time to look inward. How are you doing in your tug of war with the Seven Deadly Sins? Is sin pulling you over the line and winning? Go back to the page of your handout with the list of the seven deadly sins. Take a few minutes right now and, if you're a follower of Jesus, talk to God privately about any areas of your life—in your thought life or in your outward actions—where you've pushed God out of your life. 1 John 1:9 promises us: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* So ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to help you win your own personal tug of war with sin.

But if you've never put your trust in Jesus as your only hope of salvation, then during this time I'd like you to consider whether it's time to put your faith and trust in Jesus for the very first time. When it comes to eternity, all sins are deadly, not just the Seven Deadly Sins. According to James 2:10, *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."* If you've broken any one of God's commands just once, from God's perspective—the only one that ultimately matters—you've broken them all. In other words, you and I need God's forgiveness more than we may even imagine.

Give the GOSPEL

Clearly present the gospel here by saying something like this:

You see, God created each one of us to be in a close, personal relationship with Him. But He also gave us free will and the ability to choose for ourselves. And we humans chose to rebel against God and push Him away. As a result of our sin, we deserve to be separated from a holy and perfect God forever.

Still, God longed so deeply to bring us back into relationship with Him that He designed a plan to pay for our sin and restore us to Himself. But before we could approach a holy God, a penalty had to be paid for our sins. God's loving plan to draw us back into His presence was to send His own perfect, sinless Son, Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross, so that we don't have live apart from God.

If we put our faith and trust in Him alone, we can receive total forgiveness for all our sins—past, present and future—and receive the free gift of eternal life. He will come into our lives and walk with us, both now and forever. But it takes a decision. I invite you to make that decision today.

Give your students some quiet time to reflect and respond individually to God about their own personal tug of war with sin. Invite any who made a decision to trust Christ to come see you after the meeting or to tell the friend who invited them.

Outward

As we talked about earlier, the reality that "our sins separate us from God" can be an uncomfortable concept. But it's a truth that those around us who don't know Jesus should hear about. God's holiness is a reality that each and every individual who ever lived will come face to face with one day. There's no getting away from it.

I want to encourage you this week to start the conversation with one of your friends who need Jesus. Bring up a current news story about some trouble or tragedy in the world this week and ask them where they think the evil in the world comes from. Listen carefully, then ask if you can share what you believe based on what the Bible has to say about how God and humanity's relationship got derailed and how it can be restored.

Closing

Close the meeting by allowing time for questions and praying for friends who don't know Jesus.

Challenge students to report back next week about their conversations with others about good and evil. Be sure to follow up next week with a time for sharing these stories—including your own personal experience talking with someone who needs Jesus!

WEEK 4

SINS CANNOT BE
REMOVED
BY GOOD DEEDS

Key Scripture: Romans 3:10-12, Ephesians 2:8-9

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*
“Week 4 – Sins” video
- Student Handouts
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- 2 sets of kids’ building blocks (e.g., Jenga blocks)
- 2 upfront tables

Icebreaker: Tower Building Competition

Ask for 8 volunteers for this up front game. Divide them into two teams. Give each team a set of building blocks. The goal is to build the tallest tower.

Flip a coin to see which team takes the first turn. Have teams alternate turns as they build their own block tower by stacking the blocks one by one onto their own team’s tower. The tallest tower wins.



Lesson

Settle your students and transition to the lesson time.

Explain

We're going to be talking today about how we humans often try to build a different kind of tower—a tower of good deeds to get to heaven.

But before we jump into today's topic, let's quickly review from the last couple weeks. So far, we've been talking about how God created us to be with Him. But then sin came in and infected our world and our own souls—most all of the religions in the world agree that there's something wrong with us. But they disagree about how to fix what's wrong. And that's what we'll be talking about today.

Ask

- What does it take to get to heaven?
- If we try really hard, can we be good enough to earn our way?

Great discussion. We'll have plenty of opportunity to continue the conversation after the video. Let's check in and see what Greg and Prop have to say about the topic. But first, let's open in prayer.

Here's a sample prayer:

Dear God, we ask for Your help today as we discuss what the Bible says about what You really want from each of us. It's easy for us to sometimes see Christianity as a list of do's and don'ts. But our human efforts are futile if we think it's all about piling high our own good deeds so we can feel good about ourselves. You call us to a deeper place. You want our relationship with You to be about so much more than that. Help us embrace that truth today.

Play the video "Week 4 – Sins."

Explain

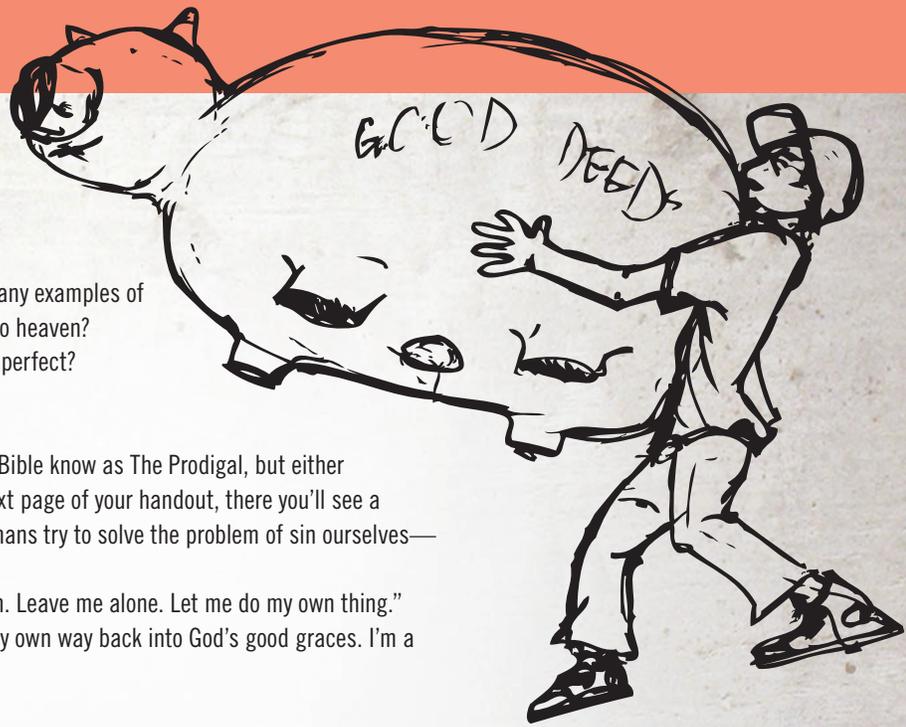
Both inside us and around us we see the evidences of sin...so how do we address this big, glaring problem that affects the whole human race and each of us personally?

Take a look at your handout. There's a sketch there that was drawn by Propaganda to get you thinking. Take a minute or so and write your own caption for the sketch.

Ask for volunteers to share what they wrote.

This sketch shows a tower of people stretching into the sky. Many religions have created all sorts of different strategies for earning your way back into God's good graces.





Ask

- Let's talk about some of those...can you think of any examples of things people do to try to earn God's love and go to heaven?
- Do these kinds of efforts make someone holy and perfect?

Explain

You may or may not be familiar with the story from the Bible know as The Prodigal, but either way, let's take a closer look at this story. Turn to the next page of your handout, there you'll see a summary of two of the most common ways that we humans try to solve the problem of sin ourselves—

- The younger brother says: "I don't like your system. Leave me alone. Let me do my own thing."
- The older brother says: "I'm determined to earn my own way back into God's good graces. I'm a good person. I can make God like me."

Ask

- What are some modern day behaviors that demonstrate how people live out the younger brother's attitude today?
- Can you think of any present day examples of how the older brother's attitudes and behaviors might show up? (i.e., judgmental attitudes, legalism, holier-than-thou comments)

Explain

So you see, whether you're a rebel like the younger brother or a "goodie-goodie" like the older brother, Jesus says you have problems when it comes to your relationship with the Father that you can't solve by yourself.

Which brings us to our Theological Term of the Day: **DEPRAVITY**. And here's what the term means: A complete inability to produce any good works that could merit salvation based on your own strength or merit.

Let's all go to Romans 3:10-12 and after that we'll go to Ephesians 2:8-9. Can I have a couple volunteers read these verses out loud for us?



As it is written:

*"There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.
All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."* **Romans 3:10-12**

*"For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith—and this is not from
yourselves, it is the gift of God—not
by works, so that no one can boast."*
Ephesians 2:8-9

Ask

- Why are all our human efforts to earn our way to God like "spraying cologne on a corpse"?

▲ Upward

Explain

One example sometimes used to illustrate this point is putting frosting on a burnt cake. But if the cake is burnt, no matter how pretty you make it look on the outside, deep down inside when you bite into it, it's still going to be burnt cake.

The Bible tells us that our best efforts can't build a tower back to God or make our burnt cake taste good. Which leads us to the third word of our *Life in 6 Words*: SINS. **SINS** CANNOT BE REMOVED BY GOOD DEEDS.

For this week's Inward and Outward applications, divide your students into groups of 2-3 to discuss the following.

⊗ Inward

Explain

Now take a look at the Inward section of your handout. Like we talked about earlier, Jesus' story of the Prodigal describes two distinct human tendencies when relating to God. Which best describes you? Share your response with the others in your group and talk about how knowing your own tendency might help you cultivate a healthier relationship with the Father.

- _____ The younger brother—setting out on your own to find happiness and satisfaction apart from God.
- _____ The older brother—trying to earn God's acceptance and approval through your good deeds.

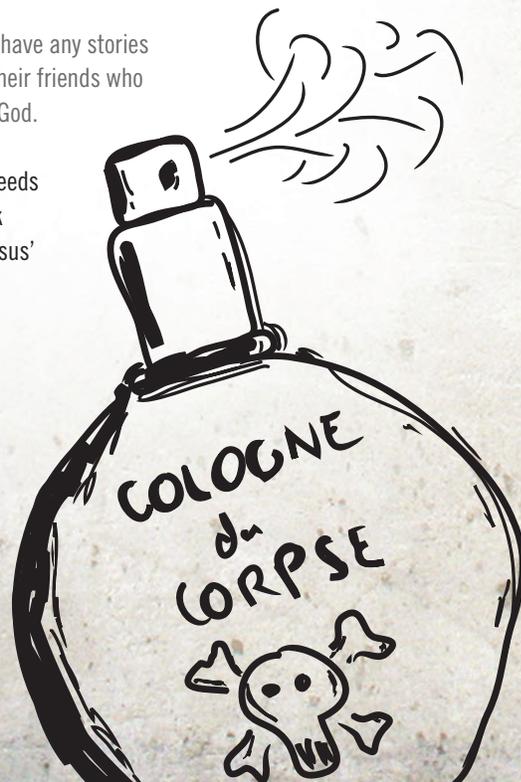
◊ Outward

Explain

Last week we talked about reporting back and sharing any conversations we had with someone about a current news story. I want to give you time to share in your group. Did anyone try to do this? What happened? ... First, let me share my own experience to get you started.

Allow a few minutes of sharing time. If there are groups who don't have any stories to share with each other, ask them to spend the time praying for their friends who need Jesus and for an opportunity to start the conversation about God.

This week I want to encourage you to try again with a friend who needs Jesus. Ask them what they think God wants from them. Listen, ask questions, get the dialogue going. Share what you believe about Jesus' teaching that we can't earn our way into God's acceptance—that the price is too high to be paid by good deeds.



Closing

Close the meeting by allowing time for questions, praying for friends who don't know Jesus and challenging students to get the conversation going with their friends.

Give the GOSPEL

Give a clear invitation to trust Christ by saying something like:

As we've been discussing these issues, maybe you've realized that you've been trying to "earn your way to God," rather than simply trusting in Jesus' work on the cross for your salvation. If that's true for you, then I invite you to step out and put your faith and trust in Jesus alone as your only hope of a restored relationship with God. By simply putting your faith and trust in Him alone, you receive this free gift of life with Jesus, a life that starts now and lasts forever.

Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to come see you after the meeting or to tell the friend who invited them.



WEEK 5

PAYING

THE PRICE FOR SIN

JESUS DIED

AND ROSE AGAIN



Key Scripture: Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22, 1 John 4:10

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* “Week 5 – Paying” video
- Student Handouts
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Fake blood supplies in cups: light corn syrup, red food dye, baking cocoa powder, flour and water – divide these individual ingredients into enough cups so that each team of four will have their own set of ingredients
- Plastic spoons, paper bowls and trash bag for each team
- Paper towels and wet wipes for clean up
- Optional: mirror for each team, small prizes for winning team

Icebreaker: I'm Bleeding!

Divide your students into teams of four. Explain that the end goal of this team activity is to create the most authentic-looking head injury.

Provide a crash course in how to make fake blood based on the following instructions:

Combine light corn syrup with a tiny amount of red food dye until you get a shade that resembles real blood. Carefully add a small amount of baking cocoa powder to the syrup mixture to darken the shade and cause the fake blood to turn opaque like real blood. Adjust the consistency by either thinning the blood by slowly adding water or thickening the blood with a couple pinches of flour mixed in slowly to avoid lumps.

Give each team a small amount of the fake blood ingredients and provide them with a plastic spoon and paper bowl for mixing. Once the teams have prepared their fake blood, they are to use it on one team member to create an authentic-looking head injury. Provide a trash bag to each team to protect the clothing of the student who will be the model for their makeup efforts. Provide paper towels and wet wipes for clean up. (A mirror for each team is also a good idea, if you have enough.)

You be the judge of the best effort.

Lesson

Settle your students and transition to the lesson time.

Explain

Fake blood is one thing, but how do you feel about real blood? There in your handout, circle the words that apply to you.

Ask

- Does anyone have a real life story of having fainted at the sight of blood?
- Well, whether you're brave or freaked out when it comes to blood, for a lot of us, real blood makes us uncomfortable. Why do you think that is?

Explain

Yet in the Bible, blood has played an important role in the God-human relationship, and that's what we're going to be talking about today. But before we go further, let's stop and pray and ask God to help us understand more about His grace and truth.

Here's a suggested prayer:

Dear God, a lot of us can get freaked out by blood. We can also be a little confused about why blood plays such a critical role in the Bible and in Your plan for our relationship with You. Help us understand more about this through our discussions today and our exploration of Your Word as we seek to know You better.

Ask

- Just like real blood makes a lot of us uncomfortable, the Bible's focus on blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins also makes some people uncomfortable. Why do you think that is?

Well, that's our topic today—uncomfortable or not—why blood is God's currency for the payment of sin. So to get started, let's watch Greg and Prop in the next session of our video series.

Play the video “Week 5 – Paying.”

Ask

- So what do you think based on the conversation you just heard between Prop and Greg, why does God demand the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin?
- How does someone “dying in your place” fix anything?

Explain

This brings us to our “Theological Term of the Day”: **ATONEMENT**. And here’s what the term means: to make a wrong right. Let’s see what the Bible has to say about this. Can I have three volunteers to read the following verses? Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22 and 1 John 4:10.



As it is written:

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life. **Leviticus 17:11***

*In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. **Hebrews 9:22***

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10***

Ask

- What phrases did you hear in these Bible verses that would lead Prop to the conclusion that blood is the divine currency for the payment for sin?
- So who’s perfect enough to make the payment permanent?
- When it comes to Jesus’ death and His payment for sin, why is the resurrection so important?



Upward

Explain

Atonement means that God has taken the punishment that was rightfully yours and mine and placed it on His Son. And what's more, He's taken Jesus' righteousness and placed it on us. That's why Greg said in the video, "The love of God and the justice of God collide at the cross."

Which leads us to the fourth word of our *Life in 6 Words*: PAYING. **PAYING** THE PRICE FOR SIN, JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN.

We can't pay the price, only Jesus can. That's why trying to earn your way back into God's good graces through your own efforts is like a slap in the face of God. He sacrificed His only Son to give us this free gift. If you think you can live a good enough life or be a good enough person, and earn your own way, then according to the Bible, you have no real idea what God's holiness and judgment are all about—or what His love is all about.

Inward

Explain

Turn to the next page in your handout. I want you to spend a few minutes in silence connecting with God about the question you find there in the Inward section: Jesus sacrificed everything for us on the cross. Are you willing to sacrifice for Him?

Popularity
Comfort
Pride
Time

Think about one thing in your life you can change this week that would demonstrate your gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifice Jesus made for you.

Outward

Explain

Last week I asked you to step out and start the conversations about God with your friends who need Jesus by asking them what they think God wants from them. Did anyone have a conversation this week that they are willing to share? . . . Let me tell you about my own experience to get us started.

Allow a few minutes of sharing time. If there are no stories to share, ask your students to break into groups of 2-3 and spend a few minutes praying for their friends who need Jesus and for an opportunity to start the conversation about God.

Explain

This week I want to challenge you to start a conversation with a friend by asking them to share their own take on the following question: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Listen, ask questions and get the dialogue going. Then share what the Bible has to say about Jesus paying the price for our sins by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.

Closing

Close the meeting by allowing time for questions, praying for friends who don't know Jesus and challenging students to get the conversation going with their friends.

Give the GOSPEL

Give a clear invitation to trust Christ by saying something like:

As we've been watching these videos and discussing these issues, maybe it's news to you that God wants a relationship with you. Perhaps you've never really got it before that your sin created a huge chasm between you and God and that there's nothing you can do to get across that chasm through your own efforts. But the good news is that Jesus paid the price for your sins by dying on the cross and rising again. He paid the price because He loves you and would rather die than live without you!

So if this is news to you, I invite you to step out and put your faith and trust in Jesus alone as your only hope of a restored relationship with God, both now and forever.

Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to come see you after the meeting or to tell the friend who invited them.



WEEK 6

EVERYONE

WHO TRUSTS IN HIM ALONE
HAS ETERNAL **LIFE**

Key Scripture: John 3:16-18

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* “Week 6 – Everyone” video
- Student Handouts
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Blindfold
- Stable chair for standing on (not a folding chair!)
- Optional: communion supplies

Icebreaker: You Mean to Tell Me...?

Explain

All right everyone, pop quiz time. Are you nervous? No worries. Just take a couple minutes to do the True/False “You Mean to Tell Me...?” quiz there in your handout.

After a couple minutes, run through the correct answers below and ask for a show of hands for who got the most answers right.

True or False

F During your lifetime, you'll eat about 100,000 pounds of food. (The average person eats 60,000 pounds of food—about the weight of 6 elephants.)

T A cockroach can live for 9 days after their head has been cut off.

T A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 m.p.h.

F California has 4 times more counties than Texas (The opposite is true.)

T When glass breaks, the cracks move faster than 3,000 miles per hour.

F Big Ben is the name of London's famous clock. (The clock is called Westminster Clock. Big Ben is only the name of the bell that strikes the hours.)

T Slugs have 4 noses.

F A normal person will die from starvation sooner than from a total lack of sleep. (Without any sleep, humans will die in about 10 days, while starvation takes a few weeks.)

T Mosquitoes have teeth. (47 teeth)

T Babies are born without kneecaps. (The cartilage area over their knee joints doesn't turn to bone until around 2 years of age.)

Lesson

Explain

A lot of these facts in the quiz we just took fall into the “You Mean to Tell Me...” realm of hard to believe, don't they? Well, today we're going to be taking a closer look a different kind of “You Mean to Tell Me...” This one has to do with Jesus' gospel message. So before we watch the next video, let's talk a little bit about what some of the foundational truths of Christianity are that sometimes illicit a “You Mean to Tell Me...” response, both from nonbelievers, but also, if we're honest, from us sometimes, as well.

Ask

- Can you think of some “You Mean to Tell Me...” aspects of Christianity that you or someone you know has struggled with? (Encourage answers such as: the resurrection, Jesus is the only way to eternal life, God is both loving and judging at the same time, the Bible is infallible, salvation is by faith alone and not based on our good works.)
- Do you think wrestling with some of these aspects of our faith that are hard to grasp is a good thing or a bad thing? Why or why not?
- What should we do when we find ourselves dealing with these kinds of questions?

Explain

Well, our video session today is going to take on what may be the most fundamental of all these “You Mean to Tell Me...” spiritual truths. But before we watch the next session of the *Life in 6 Words* series, let's pray.

Here's a suggested prayer:

Dear God, we want to understand Your message of grace and truth more fully. Not just for our own sakes, but also so we can become more effective in our efforts to share Your message with others. Be with us now as we explore what the Bible has to say about putting our faith and trust in Jesus alone.

Play the video “Week 6 – Everyone.”

Ask

- So there we have it, our “You Mean to Tell Me...” spiritual moment: “You mean to tell me that all we have to do is believe.” What kind of reaction does this statement illicit from you?
- Prop said that it “crashes our human hard drive.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- What kinds of things do we try to add to faith in Jesus?
- What else do people sometimes put their faith and trust in instead of Jesus?
- Do you think it grates against our pride to think that we had nothing to do with our salvation? Why or why not?

Explain

This brings us to our “Theological Term of the Day”: **SOLA FIDE**. Does anyone remember the definition? (Def.: faith alone.)

Let's take a closer look at what the Bible has to say about this. Can I have a volunteer read John 3:16-18.



As it is written:

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **John 3:16-18***

Explain

Scripture lays it out clearly here when it comes to belief in Jesus—belief is at the very core of His message of salvation. But I think it's important that we spend a little time exploring what “believing” really means.

In the original language of the New Testament—Greek—the word believe carries a larger connotation than just “intellectual agreement.” It means “trusting in, depending on and relying upon completely.”

So “belief” means “trust.” Let's talk a little bit about “trust.”



Upward

Ask (Stand next to a stable chair as you ask the following questions.)

- What does it mean to trust? Can anyone take a stab at describing what trust is?
- If I put one finger on the back of this chair, am I demonstrating that I fully trust it to hold me?
- How about if I put my whole hand here on the back of the chair? Am I fully trusting it?
- Or what if I put my foot up on the seat?
- What do I need to do to demonstrate that I fully trust the chair to hold me?

Explain

When I stand on the chair, like I am now, I'm totally relying on the chair to hold me. I'm trusting it fully. Now it's pretty easy to trust a chair to hold me, so I'm going to take this illustration another step and do a “trust fall” from this chair.

(Pre position two strong, adult leaders to spot you on either side for the trust fall.) I'm looking for a handful of strong students to catch me when I take a blindfolded drop off this chair. Any volunteers?

Once the students are in position, pull your blindfold out of your pocket and tie it over your eyes.

Explain

As you can imagine, this is a little tougher than just trusting the chair to hold me. Now I'm having to trust in something I can't see to hold me. But here goes.

Make the trust fall, then remove your blindfold and stand back up on the chair for the rest of your lesson.

Ask

- If I'd backed out and decided not to take the dive off the chair, what would that have said about my level of trust in those of you surrounding my chair?

Explain

I demonstrated my trust by taking the plunge and being willing to go all in, right? And maybe you see where we're going with this illustration, because in a similar way, Jesus' gospel message includes an element of trust, it requires us to fully put our trust in something that is unseen. It requires us to go all in. Because faith and trust are at the very core of His message of salvation that's available to anyone and everyone. All that's required of us is to respond in faith to this free gift Jesus offers.

Which leads us to the fifth word of our *Life in 6 Words*: EVERYONE. **EVERYONE** WHO TRUSTS IN HIM ALONE HAS ETERNAL LIFE.

Ask

- That word “everyone” is pretty all inclusive, does that really mean “everyone”?
- Say someone’s had an abortion or they’ve been into internet porn or they’ve tried to commit suicide or they’ve done something they feel is totally unforgivable... what about people who feel like that? Does God just want the “good” people on His team?

Give the GOSPEL

Give a clear invitation to trust Christ by saying something like:

As we’ve been watching these videos and discussing these issues, maybe it’s news to you that God wants a relationship with you. Perhaps you never knew that your sins can’t be removed by good deeds. The Bible tells us they can only be removed by the work Jesus did on the cross. But all it takes is to put your faith and trust in Him and you can receive the free gift of eternal that starts now and lasts forever.

It doesn’t matter what you’ve done or even what you will do when you trust in Jesus alone to totally pay the price for your sin. I invite you right now to put your faith and trust in Him alone.

Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to come see you after the meeting or to tell the friend who invited them.

Inward

Explain

Now it’s time for us to look inward. What does this truth mean to us personally, if we’re believers in Jesus? It means that the same faith that saved you from the penalty of sin also saves you from the power of sin.

Let’s think about that for a minute. That’s a profound thought. The same faith that saved you from the penalty of sin also saves you from the power of sin. When Jesus died on the cross He made it possible for you to walk in victory over sin in your life. His death broke the power of sin once and for all. His resurrection power that is available to you through the Holy Spirit dwelling inside you makes it possible for you to live in a way that pleases God. That’s why it is vital to trust in Jesus every day, moment by moment, to give you the power to live in victory over that sin.

So I want you to think about one thing you could do this week that would demonstrate that you are trusting in Jesus moment by moment to help you live in victory over sin’s power. This could be anything from changing how you surf the net to stopping gossip in its tracks or anything in between. Take a minute and connect silently with God. Thank Him for the free gift of salvation and ask Him to help you live in victory over the power of sin.

If time and your church’s policies allow, consider doing communion at this point in your lesson.

Outward

Explain

Last week I asked you to step out and start the conversations about God with your friends by asking them what they think God wants from them. Did anyone have a conversation this week that they are willing to share? ...Let me tell you about my own experience to get us started.

Allow a few minutes of sharing time.

Explain

Faith alone in Christ alone means God's grace is available to anyone and everyone. There truly are no lost causes.

Think of someone who you've been writing off as a lost cause. Take a minute silently right now and pray for them. Your challenge this week is to begin the conversation with them about Jesus.

Closing

Close the meeting by allowing time for questions, praying for friends who don't know Jesus and challenging students to get the conversation going with their "lost cause."



WEEK 7



LIFE
WITH **JESUS**
STARTS NOW
AND LASTS
FOREVER

Key Scripture: John 5:24

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored* “Week 7 – Life,” “Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL,” and “Week 7 – Commissioning Prayer”
- Student Handouts
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Colored markers to share in groups of 4-6
- Disposable cups – one for each student
- Potting soil
- Flower seeds (black sunflower birdseed works for this if it’s out of season for garden seeds)
- Large picture of seeds you purchased as a full grown plant (or better yet, an actual live plant)

Icebreaker: Life!

Divide your students into groups of 4-6 and give each group a set of colored markers.

Explain

On your handout, there's a place for you to draw a picture. Using the colored markers, take a couple minutes and draw a picture of "Life." After you've drawn your picture take turns in your group sharing and explaining your picture.

Give students 4-5 minutes for this activity, then gather them back into the large group.

Lesson

Ask

- Most all of us drew pictures of physical life, but now let's move into the non-physical realm and play a little word association. Can you give me a two or three word response for whatever comes to your mind when you hear the words "life with Jesus"?
- When do you think "life with Jesus" starts? (Now or in heaven?)
- What does "life with Jesus" look like?
- When you think of heaven, do you think more along the lines of boring or a big party? Why?
- Do you think most people are intrigued by the concept of eternal life? Why or why not?

Explain

Now it's time to dig deeper into this concept of "life with Jesus." So let's get ready to watch the final episode of our *Life in 6 Words* series. But let's pray before I hit play.

Here's a suggested prayer:

Dear God, thank You for being with us over these last several weeks as we've explored the message of the gospel more deeply. Thank You that we've gotten to know You better and understand Your grace and truth more fully. Be with us in our discussions today about life with You. And give us hearts that long to go deeper and deeper with You, even as we go wider out into the world with Your message.

Play the video "Week 7 – Life."

Ask

- What's your reaction to Prop's comment: "Because I have been redeemed, because this is already true, that truth informs every other area of my life right now." What do you think this looks like in a young person's life?
- Why doesn't being a Christian make all our problems and struggles go away?

Explain

This brings us to our “Theological Term of the Day”: **ALREADY, BUT NOT YET**. And here’s what the term means: the fullness of our salvation is present now, but not completed yet.

While we’re here on earth, we’ll always be struggling with sin and pain and tough stuff. But one day we will be in perfect unity with God and there will be no more struggling.

We’re going to do a little activity now that’s designed to help us solidify this “already, but not yet” concept in our minds and hearts. We’re passing around cups, potting soil and seeds. I want you to fill your cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of soil and grab a few seeds. Hold on to your seeds for now until everyone gets theirs.

Pause until everyone has their cups, soil and seeds, then resume.

Ask

- Take a close look at your seeds. Does anyone have a guess as to what kind of seeds these are? Show the students a picture of the full grown plant their seeds will grow into (if cared for properly).
- Does anyone know where I’m going with this illustration? How are the seeds you’re holding in your hand and this photo of the full grown plant connected to our “Theological Term of the Day”: already, but not yet?

Explain

Our seeds are not a perfect analogy to “life with Jesus now and forever,” but I think you get the picture here. These seeds are sunflowers (or whatever seeds you’ve provided), but they are not the plant in full bloom yet, like it will be one day. Same with our life with Jesus. It begins the moment we trust Christ, but it doesn’t come into its full bloom until we see Him face to face in heaven. So spiritually, we are living in the “already, but not yet” world.

Now take your seeds and put them into the top part of the soil in your cup. You can take your cup home today, but you’ll need to give it some essential things if you’re going to encourage it to grow and develop—like water and sunshine.

And in the same way that plants need care and nurture, there are things we can do to nurture our faith and help it grow, too. Once the seed sprouts you are “saved,” but God doesn’t just want you to be a “sprout,” He wants you to be a beautiful flower in full bloom. How do you get there? Through prayer, time in the Word, fellowship and, most of all, learning to walk in dependence on the Holy Spirit who is in you as you live a life that honors God and is energized by Jesus Himself. These are the kinds of things that make living in this “already, but not yet” season richer and more God-focused.



Upward

Explain

Let's take a look at a couple key verses about eternal life: John 17:3 and John 10:28. Can I have a couple volunteers read these?



As it is written:

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

John 17:3

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." **John 10:28**

Ask

- This gift of eternal life is a personal, permanent relationship with the God of the universe. What phrase in these verses tells us it is personal?
- What phrase tells us it is permanent?

Explain

So this is our sixth and final word in our *Life in 6 Words* series: LIFE. **LIFE** WITH JESUS STARTS NOW AND LASTS FOREVER.

Inward

Explain

As we move toward closing out our series today, we're going to go back and watch the original *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL* video clip. As you watch it again, think about all you've learned in the past weeks. See if the video carries a deeper and richer meaning for you now than the first time you saw it.

Play the original *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL* video used during Week 1.

Ask

- Any observations or insights about how your reaction to the video changed compared to the first time you saw it?
- Do you have a favorite phrase or spiritual truth that jumped out at you?

Give the GOSPEL

Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes for a minute. Give a clear invitation to trust Christ and an invitation to respond to His gift by serving Him by saying something like:

Maybe the gospel's made sense to you for the first time today as you watched the video. If that's true, I want to invite you right now to put your faith and trust in Jesus alone as your only hope of a restored relationship with God.

Once you enter into that relationship, it can't ever be broken by you and won't ever be broken by God. That's not a license to sin, that's a reason to serve God. So let's each take a moment silently to thank God for the total security that comes from being in His hands.

Invite students who made a decision to trust Christ to come see you after the meeting or to tell the friend who invited them.

Explain

Now please find the Inward section of your handout. How does this gift of life with Jesus make you feel? Take a minute and jot down what you will do in response to this gift. Not because you are trying to "earn your way," but because you are deeply grateful for this gift of life.

Outward

Explain

Now look at the Outward section. Like Greg and Prop said in today's session, *Life in 6 Words* has taken you deep into the meaning of the GOSPEL, not just to enrich your own personal relationship with God, but also so that you can go wide with the message of the GOSPEL to others.

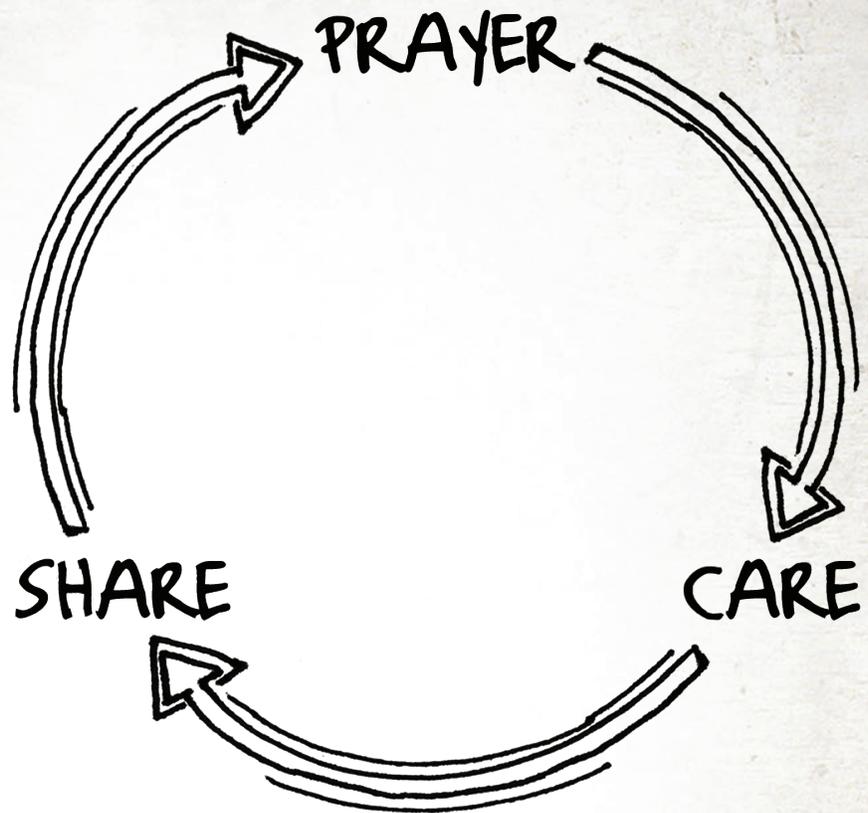
In Luke 19:10 Jesus explains His mission to us when He says, "*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*" And in John 20:21, He explains His mission for us when He says, "*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*" He has called us to seek and save the lost, too! This is the cause He has given us as His followers. It is His cause; it is THE Cause...to make disciples who make disciples.

We're going to finish up by taking a few minutes for you to fill out your own Cause Circle there in your handout. The Cause Circle is a simple tool that will help you be more intentional about sharing your faith. Here's how it works. Write the names of three friends who need Jesus in the center of the circle. Then start by praying for them and caring for them with the love of Jesus. After prayer and care, find an opportunity to share Jesus' message of grace with them and invite them to put their trust in Him. When we invite someone to put their faith in Christ, we are inviting them to make the biggest and best decision of their entire lives. A restored relationship with God is the absolute best news on the planet, so don't be afraid to ask them to put their trust in Jesus!

If they say "no" or "not now," continue the Prayer, Care, Share process. And if they say "yes," celebrate! Then get them plugged into a good church, help them grow deeper in the faith and challenge them to begin their own Cause Circle of Prayer, Care, Share with their own friends.

THE Cause Circle

Making disciples who make disciples



Closing

Play the video “Week 7 – Commissioning Prayer” video.

Close the meeting by dividing into groups of 3-4 and praying for the things Greg mentioned at the end of this session’s video. Thanking God for the gift of the gospel and asking for His help to:

- Fall deeper in love with Jesus
- Not be ashamed of the gospel
- Boldly explain this simple message
- Break our hearts and give us passion
- Reach our friends in our Cause Circle

Remind students to come back next week with stories to share about their efforts to reach their friends and make disciples who make disciples.



Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL

It's the full story of life, crushed into four minutes. The entire sea of humanity in the palm of your hand, crushed into one sentence. Listen, it's intense, right?

God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life. The greatest story ever told, that's hardly ever told.

GOD. Yes, GOD, the maker and giver of life, and by life I mean any and all matter and substance, seen and unseen, what can and can't be touched. Thoughts, images, emotions, love, atoms and oceans. God. All of it His handiwork, one of which His masterpiece made so uniquely that angels looked curiously. The one thing in creation that was made with His imagery, the concept so cold, it's the reason I stay bold. How God breathed in the man and he became a living soul.

Formed with the intent of being infinitely, intimately fond, Creator and creation held in eternal bond. And it was placed in perfect paradise until something went wrong. And species got deceived and started lusting for His job, an odd list of complaints as if the system ain't workin'. And used that same breath He graciously gave us to curse Him. And that sin seed spread through the souls' genome, and by the nature of your nature, your species, you participated in the mutiny.

OUR. Yes, OUR sins. It's nature inherited, blackened the human heart, it was over before it started, deceived from day one and led away by our own lust. There's not a religion in the world that doesn't agree something's wrong us. The question is, what is it? And how do we fix it? Are we eternally separated from a God that may or may not have existed? But that's another subject, let's keep grinding, besides, trying to prove God is like defending a lion, homie. It don't need your help. Just unlock the cage. Let's move on on how can our debt can be paid.

Short and sweet, the problem is **SIN. Yes, SIN**. It's a cancer, an asthma, choking out our life force, forcing separation from a perfect and holy God, and the only way to get back is to get back to perfection. But silly us, trying to pass the course of life without referring to a syllabus. This is us. Heap up your good deeds, chant, pray, meditate. Well, all of that of course, is spraying cologne on a corpse. Or you could choose to ignore it, as if something don't stink. It's like steppin' in dog poop and refusing to wipe your shoe.

But all of that ends with "How good is good enough?" Take your silly list of good deeds and line em up against perfection...good luck. That's life past your pay grade. The cost of your soul, you ain't got a big enough piggy bank... but you could give it a shot. But I suggest you throw away the list, 'cause even your good acts are an extension of your selfishness.

But here's where it gets interesting. I hope you're closely listening. Please don't get it twisted, it's what makes our faith unique. Here's what God says is Part A of the gospel: You can't fix yourself, quit trying, it's impossible. Sin brings death. Give God his breath back, you owe Him. Eternally separated, and the only way to fix it is someone dying in your place.

And that someone's gotta be perfect or the payment ain't permanent. So if and when you find a perfect person, get him or her to willingly trade their perfection for your sin and death. Clearly since the only one that can meet God's criteria is God, God sent himself as Jesus to pay the cost for us. His righteousness, His death, functions as **PAYMENT. Yes, PAYMENT.**

Wrote a check with His life, but at the resurrection we all cheered, 'cause that means the check cleared. Pierced feet, pierced hands, blood-stained Son of Man, fullness, forgiveness, free passage into the promise land. That same breath that God breathed into us, God gave up to redeem us.

And anyone and everyone, and by **EVERYONE**, I mean **EVERYONE**, who puts their faith and trust in Him and Him alone can stand in full confidence of God's forgiveness. And here's what the promise is, that you are guaranteed full access to return to perfect unity.

By simply believing in Christ and Christ alone, you are receiving **LIFE. Yes, LIFE.**

This is the GOSPEL – GOD. OUR. SINS. PAYING. EVERYONE. LIFE.

