



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

ADULTS / DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE / SPRING 2024 / VOL. 11



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GOD'S WORD TO YOU

A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

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THE EDITOR

Our God is a God of all nations. He loves every one of His created beings and desires that all people would come to know Him and trust Him.

But God’s example for us is a hard one to follow. We don’t always like all people, let alone try to love all people. Pride in us seeks to divide, to create us-and-them situations, to think one group is higher or lower than another group. This is not a new dilemma for the church. Our minds may desire unity and reconciliation, but our hearts don’t easily follow at times.

But as believers, the Holy Spirit helps us. God is in us and with us to help us love our brothers and sisters, even when the world would tell us not to. Even when culture says getting on top is the way to go and stepping on others is okay, the Spirit digs into our hearts and reminds us of Jesus—of how He could have been king on this earth, but He chose submission and sacrifice; how He could have demeaned and destroyed His enemies, but He chose grace and gentleness. Humility is the way of the Master. We need to follow in this way.

When we love all people well and don’t discriminate against others, the world notices. It sees the unique oneness in diversity of God’s people. It’s compelling, and people turn to Jesus. And it starts the cycle that brings the gospel to the nations, so that the nations would be one under Christ’s lordship, and together we may bring the gospel to more nations. All so God’s family may be complete and reconciled to Him and to one another. That is the mission. That is the goal. So let’s consider what we can do next to obey Christ’s command to “Go and make disciples of all nations!”

Y Bonesteele

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The Gospel Project®

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ALL AGES STUDY PLAN

VOL 1: From Creation to Chaos

(Genesis) Fall 2021

Unit 1: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God (Gen. 1–2; Pss. 8; 96)

Unit 2: Let Us Make a Name for Ourselves (Gen. 3–11)

Unit 3: I Will Make Your Name Great (Gen. 11–50)

VOL 2: From Captivity to the Wilderness

(Exodus–Deuteronomy) Winter 2021–22

Unit 4: Out of Egypt I Called My Son (Ex. 1–15)

Unit 5: To Dwell in the House of the Lord (Ex. 16–40; Lev.)

Unit 6: Be Holy, Because I Am Holy (Num. 13–14; 20–21)

VOL 3: From Conquest to a Kingdom

(Joshua–1 Samuel) Spring 2022

Unit 7: Lord, Teach Me Your Statutes (Josh. 1; 3–4)

Unit 8: Fear the Lord and Worship Him (Josh. 2; 6–11; 23–24)

Unit 9: There Is No Fear of God Before Their Eyes (Judg.; Ruth; 1 Sam. 1–6)

VOL 4: From Unity to Division

(1 Samuel–1 Kings) Summer 2022

Unit 10: Because of Your Hardened Heart (1 Sam. 8–15)

Unit 11: Create a Clean Heart for Me (1 Sam. 16–17; 2 Sam. 6–7; 11–12)

Unit 12: If You Walk Before Me with a Heart of Integrity (1 Kings 1–12)

VOL 5: From Rebellion to Exile

(1 Kings–The Prophets) Fall 2022

Unit 13: Your Passions Wage War Within You (1 Kings 12–18; 2 Kings 1–5; Isa. 44)

Unit 14: Seek the Lord, All You Humble of the Earth (2 Chron. 24; Isa. 22; 25; 30; Zeph.)

Unit 15: He Has Made Every Nationality (Jonah; Nah.; 2 Chron. 36)

VOL 6: From Captivity to Restoration

(The Prophets, Ezra–Esther) Winter 2022–23

Unit 16: The Lord Keeps His Eye on Those Who Fear Him (Jer. 29–30; Dan.)

Unit 17: Take Refuge in the Lord (Ezra 1–6; Zech. 13–14)

Unit 18: For Look, the Day Is Coming (Esth.; Neh.; Mal.)

VOL 7: From Heaven to Earth

(The Gospels) Spring 2023

Unit 19: Here Is the Lamb of God
(John 1–2; Luke 2; Mark 1; Matt. 4)

Unit 20: God’s Love Was Revealed
Among Us in This Way (John 3–4)

Unit 21: Without Faith It Is Impossible
to Please God (Luke 4–5)

VOL 8: From Wonder to Rejection

(The Gospels) Summer 2023

Unit 22: The Works That I Do in My
Father’s Name Testify About Me
(Mark 4; 8; Luke 5; Matt. 9; John 10)

Unit 23: The Kingdom of God Is in Your
Midst (Matt. 5–7; 13; 24; Luke 15; 17)

Unit 24: God’s Glory in the Face of Jesus
Christ (Luke 13; John 11)

VOL 9: From Death to Resurrection

(The Gospels) Fall 2023

Unit 25: Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
Who Kills the Prophets
(Matt. 21–25; Mark 1; John 6; 14)

Unit 26: The Hour Has Come
(John 12; Matt. 26)

Unit 27: The King of the Jews
(Luke 22–23; Matt. 27–28)

VOL 10: From Many People to One People

(The Gospels, Acts) Winter 2023-24

Unit 28: I Am with You Always
(Luke 24; John 20–21; Matt. 28)

Unit 29: You Will Be My Witnesses
(Acts 1–2)

Unit 30: Every Day the Lord Added to
Their Number (Acts 2–5)

VOL 11: From One Nation to All Nations

(Acts and Epistles) Spring 2024

Unit 31: Every Knee Will Bow
(Acts 5–8; Phil. 2)

Unit 32: The Power and the Wisdom
of God (Acts 9–12; 1 Cor. 1; 12)

Unit 33: A Prisoner of Christ Jesus
(Acts 9; 13–14; Philem.)

VOL 12: From This World to the World to Come

(Acts, Epistles, Revelation) Summer 2024

Unit 34: Ambassadors for Christ
(Acts 15–19; 2 Cor. 5; Eph. 4)

Unit 35: That I May Gain Christ
(Acts 20–28; Phil. 3)

Unit 36: A New Heaven and a New Earth
(Rev. 4–5; 19–22)

HOW TO USE THE DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Central to your personal and group experience with The Gospel Project for Adults is the Daily Discipleship Guide. Here's how to make the most of your time with it:

BEGIN WITH PERSONAL TIME IN THE WORD

We recommend beginning your week with the daily devotions. These devotions lay a foundation for what will be explored and discussed in your group time as you build healthy rhythms of personal discipleship.



DAY 1

READ:
Acts 6:8-15

FOCAL PASSAGE:
Acts 6:8

NOTES



KEY DOCTRINE #41: SIN AND DEATH

The ultimate consequence for sin is death—physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death (Romans 6:23). God was clear to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden that, if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die (Genesis 2:17). The type of death that would result from the fall in the garden of Eden wasn't only physical death but spiritual death as well, the separation of a person from God. Spiritual death continues in a permanent state when someone dies apart from the reconciling work of Christ, who defeated death through His own death on the cross and subsequent resurrection.

In Acts 6:8, Stephen was described as “full of grace and power.” The Lord was performing miracles through Stephen. These miracles did not come from Stephen's own might, rather this power came from the Spirit's work in Stephen's life. Every person who trusts in Christ as the Savior is filled with the Holy Spirit. We should seek to live our lives full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Does your life demonstrate that you are led by the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to live according to God's design for you in His Word, or do you live like the world around you?

Despite Stephen's living his life for Christ, others became jealous of the work that God was doing through him. Stephen's enemies lied against him and accused him of blasphemy (Acts 6:10-11). Ultimately, Stephen was put to death for his testimony about Jesus. Our lives lived for Christ may cause others to oppose the work that God is doing in our lives. However, we should seek to remain faithful to Christ amid opposition.

What lies against the gospel, God, the Word, or His people are prevalent today?



STUDY THE BIBLE WITH YOUR BIBLE

Reading and studying the Bible is absolutely life-changing, and we believe the best way to study the Bible is to use the Bible you own. Whether you read from the CSB, ESV, NIV, KJV, or many other translations, the Daily Discipleship Guide helps you engage with the session not only with our book but your Book.



GET BACK TO BASICS

As you read and study, we recommend using the tool found in your Daily Discipleship Guide called the “7 Arrows of Bible Reading.” The 7 Arrows guide both novice and experienced students of the Word through the basic mechanics of Bible study by asking a few key questions of any passage (see pages 10-11 for more information).

7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING

by Matt Rogers

There is often a vast disconnect between the awareness of the need for disciple-making and practical tools that actually aid in this work. Three factors are essential: Scripture, relationships, and time. Discipleship happens when the life-changing truth of Scripture is infused into genuine relationships over an extended period of time.

Our desire was to create a simple, reproducible strategy that would facilitate this process. This led us to develop a simply strategy for small clusters (2-3 people) to meet together regularly and talk about the Scriptures and apply them to their lives.

The seven arrows of Bible reading were an attempt at developing a tool for proper hermeneutics to power these relationships. We did not want our people to simply talk about the Bible. We wanted them to understand the Bible and know how to apply it to their lives. Each cluster would read a predetermined passage of Scripture and discuss it using these seven arrows.

10

The diagram consists of seven questions arranged vertically, connected by arrows. From top to bottom: 1. A circular arrow pointing clockwise above the question "What does this passage say?". 2. A horizontal arrow pointing left above the question "What did this passage mean to its original audience?". 3. A vertical arrow pointing up above the question "What does this passage tell us about God?". 4. A vertical arrow pointing down above the question "What does this passage tell us about man?". 5. A horizontal arrow pointing right above the question "What does this passage demand of me?". 6. A horizontal arrow pointing left above the question "How does this passage change the way I relate to people?". 7. A circular arrow pointing clockwise above the question "How does this passage prompt me to pray?".

DISCUSS AND APPLY IN COMMUNITY

Each session concludes with a two-page discussion guide. This guide includes the key points of the session along with interactive questions and activities designed to address the needs of a variety of learning styles. Mark up the discussion guide, make notes, do the activities, write out questions and thoughts—make it yours!



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What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

ARROW 1: The goal was for the clusters to start by summarizing the main point of the passage as succinctly as possible, ideally in one sentence.

ARROW 2: Next, the clusters sought to discern authorial intent for the passage by asking what it meant to its original audience. Since a text of Scripture can never mean what it never meant, it is necessary to begin by discerning what the text meant. Often this may require the clusters to consult other study tools or cross-reference other biblical texts to arrive at the meaning of the text.

ARROW 3: Thirdly, we asked what the text tells us about the nature and character of God and specifically His work through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

ARROW 4: Fourthly, the text was analyzed to see what it tells us about humanity. Bryan Chappell refers to this as the “fallen condition focus” of the text. What does the text reveal about sin and humankind’s need for the gospel?

ARROW 5: Then we moved the clusters to application. Since we had rooted the clusters in the meaning of the text, they were now positioned to rightly apply it’s meaning to their lives.

ARROW 6: From there we wanted our clusters to apply the Scripture to their relationships with others. Ideally, they would discuss how the text shaped both how they related to other believers and how they lived on mission in the world.

ARROW 7: Finally, the clusters rooted their prayers in the Scriptures. Hopefully, the previous six arrows kindled the flames of passionate prayer in the lives of the clusters—both for their own sanctification and for their mission to the lost.

With this model, we touched on three important areas for discipleship:

Scripture—Disciple-making was rooted in a rightful understanding of Scripture and not in simply doing life together, unpacking another sermon, or dependance on classroom instruction.

Simplicity—Disciple-making was simple enough for everyone to get involved. All believers could take these principles, a Bible, and a relationship with a young Christian and get to work.

Stickiness—Disciple-making through understanding and applying Scripture was etched in the minds of our young church. They could use these same arrows not only to guide their cluster discussions but also their personal Bible study, small group leadership, and comprehension of sermons.

These arrows have proven to be a unique tool in our disciple-making toolbox that the Lord is using to call and build faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus.

Matt Rogers is the teaching pastor at The Church at Cherrydale in Greenville, South Carolina. His church developed the Seven Arrows tool to help people read and understand Scripture within their small groups. The concept has gone on to form the basis of a 52-week devotional for teens from Lifeway Students, the Seven Arrows Bible from B&H, and is now featured in The Gospel Project for Adults and Students.

UNIT 31

+

EVERY KNEE

WILL BOW

“And Every Tongue Confess That Jesus Christ Is Lord”

by James Jackson

In college, I spent one summer as a missionary in Florida through what is now known as the North American Mission Board. My friend and I served five different churches in the Sarasota area, assisting with VBS, neighborhood canvassing, and anything else the church found for us to do. On Sundays, we would lead the worship service. My friend, Chuck, was always the preacher, and I always led the music.

Chuck had been licensed to preach just a couple of weeks before the summer started, and he only had one sermon, which I heard five times. His text was Philippians 2:5-11 and focused on how one day every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

Chuck was a big farm boy from Dawsonville, Georgia, and he was normally reserved, keeping his emotions

to himself. Still, every week, one line from his own sermon would bring him to tears. Forty years later, I can still see him on that platform, tears streaming down his face, as he said, “And on that day when every knee bows, I believe that even those who spent their lives hating Jesus, and rejecting Jesus, and spitting in the face of Jesus will look at Him and bow before Him. And even as they are being led to hell, they’re gonna look over their shoulders and in that moment they will worship Him.”

OPPONENTS WILL BOW

Did you know that in the Gospel of Mark, the only ones who acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God (other than Mark himself, in the introduction) were demons (3:11; 5:7) and the Roman centurion who oversaw His execution (15:39)? None of these were in Jesus’s corner. Neither were the Pharisees, who opposed the

Even those who spent
their lives hating
Jesus, and rejecting
Jesus, and spitting in
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apostles in Acts 5. Yet, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord, according to the apostle Paul. That doesn't necessarily mean the Pharisees ever surrendered to His lordship. They were stating an objective fact, not a heartfelt conviction. Likewise, the demons are beyond redemption. What their tongues confessed was not a confession of faith, but an inescapable reality.

Philippians is not the first place this phrase is found in Scripture. Centuries before Paul, God, through the prophet Isaiah, said that every knee would bow to Him (Isaiah 45:23). Isaiah went on to say that one day all who are enraged against God would come to Him and be put to shame (v. 24). Every knee will bow, whether they want to or not.

SERVANTS WILL BOW

One of the most meaningful ceremonies at our church is the ordination of new deacons. Deacons and their spouses either kneel at the altar or sit in chairs as our deacon body lays hands on them and prays over them. From that moment on, these deacons serve our congregation, meeting needs and extending the pastoral ministry of the church.

Today's deacons are joined in spirit with deacons throughout the history of the church, going all the way back to the original seven deacons chosen in Acts 6. When they kneel at their ordination, they are acknowledging the lordship of Jesus in their lives and pledging themselves in service to Him, regardless of what that might entail. For Stephen, that meant becoming the first martyr (Acts 7). Notice what happens at his death. Acts 7:60 says he knelt down and cried out to the Lord. Just as in Isaiah 45:24 where those who hate God will still come and bow the knee, all the descendants of Israel too will come glorify the Lord (v. 25).

ALL NATIONS WILL BOW

One of the first deacons, Stephen, became the first martyr. Another deacon, Philip, became the first missionary when the Holy Spirit directed him to talk

Every knee will bow, whether they want to or not.

The eunuch wanted to know who the prophet was talking about, and Philip excitedly told him about Jesus, beginning with Isaiah 53.

to the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch was traveling home on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. As Philip drew near the man's chariot, he heard the eunuch reading the words of the prophet Isaiah, all about this mysterious servant who was like a lamb led to the slaughter and deprived of justice (Acts 8:32-33). The eunuch wanted to know who the prophet was talking about, and Philip excitedly told him about Jesus, beginning with Isaiah 53.

It's possible that Philip even told the eunuch that the prophet Isaiah also wrote that every knee would bow and every tongue would swear allegiance to God. Philip could have easily pointed out Isaiah 45:14, which says that Egyptians, and those from Cush, and Sabeans (those from the ends of the earth) would one day confess that the God of Israel is the one true God. Cush was another name for biblical Ethiopia. Thus, in the same passage where Isaiah referenced that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, men of stature from Ethiopia would be among the first to do so. You may have Acts 8:37 in the body of the text, or it may be in a footnote.

Either way, before he was baptized, the eunuch would have confessed Jesus as Lord.

One way or another, every knee will bow. On the day of judgment there will be those who bow the knee in adoration, saying, "Because of You, Jesus, I am justified to enter Your presence." Others will bow the knee in acknowledgment, saying, "You are Lord; I can no longer deny that."

Which will you be?



THE OPPOSED APOSTLES

+ **SESSION IN A SENTENCE:**

Jesus had instructed His disciples to preach about Him, a mission they strove to be faithful to even when their lives were in peril.

+ **BACKGROUND PASSAGE:**

Acts 5

+ **SETTING:**

The book of Acts describes the growth of the church from Jerusalem out toward the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). But as the disciples preached, the religious leaders opposed God's will for the gospel to go forth. In Acts 5, these leaders thought they could keep the apostles from preaching by throwing them in jail. However, an angel of the Lord opened the jail so they could escape and continue preaching. The church continued to grow through the sovereign Lord pouring out His Spirit on people as they came to trust in Christ. But this happened in the midst of persecution and opposition.

DAY 1

READ:

Acts 5:25-32

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Acts 5:28

NOTES

After already being arrested once for preaching the gospel, the apostles were brought in and put on trial. Did you notice the first charge against the apostles? They were put on trial for filling Jerusalem with teaching about Jesus. The religious leaders could not stand for this teaching of Jesus to continue. However, right before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would help them and they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). They were being arrested by these religious leaders for doing exactly what Jesus had told them to do.

The religious leaders opposed the will of God and His gospel going forth. These leaders thought they could keep the apostles from preaching by throwing them in jail and beating them. However, God planned for them to keep preaching. Not even the opposition of the religious leaders could stop the gospel from advancing and the church from being built up.

Those who oppose the gospel message are opposing God. How does this encourage you in your Christian witness?

VOICES from THE CHURCH

"God may or may not send an angel to free you from prison should you find yourself incarcerated wrongly, but he is always with you. He does know the full truth. We don't enter the Christian mission alone. We have the power of God in us. The King of glory is for us."¹

—Tony Merida

DAY 2

READ:

Acts 5:25-32

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Acts 5:29

NOTES

The religious leaders opposed the spread of the gospel by imprisoning the apostles and telling them to stop preaching about Jesus. However, Peter and the rest of the apostles could not stop preaching Jesus because He is the One who is truly in charge of all things. Instead of submitting to the evil desires of corrupt leaders, Peter submitted to Christ. If they did not submit to Jesus ultimately, then they would not be preaching the only message that saves.

Throughout the New Testament, Christians were called to pray for and submit to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4). However, Acts 5 gives us an example where Christians should not submit to governing authorities: when these governing authorities command something that is disobedient to God. Christ had commanded His followers to preach the gospel; to submit to the religious leaders' demand would be disobeying God.

Peter explained that if the apostles followed what the council said, they would be disobeying God (v. 29). The church must go on preaching about the crucified and resurrected Jesus because repentance and forgiveness of sins is found only in Him. If the church stopped preaching the gospel, there would be no hope. Eternal life is found only through the work of Jesus Christ. Only through belief in Christ's perfect life, death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead will anyone be saved.

How can Christians still be respectful to governing authorities when they are asked to disobey God?

DAY 3

READ:

Acts 5:29-32

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Acts 5:29-32

NOTES

The good news of the gospel is not advice, but a message that demands a response. Peter and the apostles shared the good news about Jesus Christ with the religious leaders. They spoke of forgiveness for sinners that is found in Jesus alone. Yet, what was the religious leaders' response? Their response was filled with hate because they wanted to put the apostles to death right there.

Have you shared the gospel with someone who immediately responded hatefully? We cannot determine the way someone responds to the gospel; however, we can be clear in our explanation of the gospel and calling people to place their trust in Christ. Despite the intense opposition the apostles faced for their gospel witness, they continued to share the gospel clearly with the very ones who imprisoned and beat them.

When was the last time you asked someone to respond to the gospel and how did it go?

DAY 4

READ:

Acts 5:33-39

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Acts 5:38-39

NOTES

Gamaliel spoke up and was able to stop the council from murdering the apostles right there. He warned the council to use caution in dealing with this new movement. He reminded the council that movements of human origin don't last. However, if a movement is of God, then there would be nothing they could do to stop it. Even though Gamaliel was able to stop the council from murdering the apostles, the apostles were beaten.

Followers of Jesus are not promised a life of comfort. There will be times of great trials and hardships. Yet, we know that God is in control of all, and we should see our trials and hardships as moments to live for God. Even though the apostles' lives were spared here, many of them would continue preaching the gospel until their deaths. Many of the apostles would be martyred for their faith in Jesus.

Followers of Jesus should expect opposition because of what they believe about Jesus. However, this opposition does not mean that God has abandoned you. If Jesus—the only perfect person—suffered, then His disciples should not be shocked when they suffer as well.

How does knowing that the movement of the church is from God give you hope for the future?

DAY 5

READ:

Acts 5:40-42

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Acts 5:41

NOTES



KEY DOCTRINE #27: GOD'S GLORY

The glory of God is His manifest work, the way He represents His perfect character through His activity. It also refers to His excellent reputation and is given as one of the reasons we are to praise His name. Another sense of the word is the inherent beauty of God, the unbearable brightness and beauty of His being as He radiates His own attributes and characteristics for all to witness. The Scriptures speak of humanity as having "fallen short" of God's glory (Romans 3:23) because we have rejected the purpose for which God created us—to glorify Him.

The disciples rejoiced because they were counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of the name (Acts 5:41). They suffered for the name of Jesus Christ. They considered it an honor to suffer for Jesus's name because He is worthy.

When we say Jesus is worthy, we mean that He is worthy of praise and glory—the same glory due God the Father. God's glory refers to His excellent reputation, and we praise His name so that others may recognize God's magnificence and give Him the glory He deserves. The apostles glorified and honored Jesus in the way they responded to their suffering.

Jesus is worthy not only of our praises, but of our suffering. Following Jesus is not meant to be easy; the call to follow Jesus is marked by suffering. Suffering is not a sign of God's absence in your life, rather we should see suffering as an opportunity to demonstrate whether our faith and trust in Christ is truly genuine.

We should see our trials and hardships as opportunities to bring glory to God. Even though the disciples were persecuted for preaching the gospel, they continued to faithfully witness. The murderous threats of the religious leaders could not stop the spread of the gospel.

When was the last time you suffered for the name of Jesus? How was God faithful in your suffering?

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"The first need of every one of us is for salvation. But if you confine the Christian to a matter of personal salvation, then you are not only encouraging other people to go wrong in their thinking, you are putting a very grievous limit upon the glory of this great gospel. This is a Gospel for the universe. It starts with personal salvation, but it does not end with it."²

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones
(1899–1981)

POINT 1: Preaching Jesus requires conviction (Acts 5:25-32).

Like the apostles, we need conviction to spread the good news of Jesus Christ despite all the obstacles that may come our way.

? From Day 1: **Those who oppose the gospel message are opposing God. How does this encourage you in your Christian witness?**

Obedience to God, not man, is of utmost importance; this includes obedience to God's command to preach Jesus.

? **How is the apostles' conviction on display here?**

POINT 2: Preaching Jesus causes opposition (Acts 5:33-40).

Serving the Lord faithfully will lead to great opposition at times.

? **How should we respond when people are filled with rage because of what we believe as Christians?**

God protected His people, reminding the opposition that if the plan was of man, it would fail, but if of God, it would succeed.

? **What does enduring persecution teach us?**

POINT 3: Preaching Jesus prompts joy (Acts 5:41-42).

Despite opposition, disciples can find true joy in obeying Christ.



How does the apostles' joy in the midst of suffering encourage you?

KEY DOCTRINE #27: GOD'S GLORY

The glory of God is His manifest work, the way He represents His perfect character through His activity. It also refers to His excellent reputation and is given as one of the reasons we are to praise His name. Another sense of the word is the inherent beauty of God, the unbearable brightness and beauty of His being as He radiates His own attributes and characteristics for all to witness. The Scriptures speak of humanity as having “fallen short” of God’s glory (Romans 3:23) because we have rejected the purpose for which God created us—to glorify Him.



Like the disciples, how can we put God’s glory first in our daily life?

MY RESPONSE

Because Jesus suffered on our behalf, we seek to stand firm for the cause of the gospel in the midst of suffering, praying that God might use all of our adversity to bring glory to Himself.

- **HEAD:** What about God’s character allows us to trust Him in times of suffering?
- **HEART:** What about your current suffering or trials can you praise God for?
- **HANDS:** To whom can you share the gospel this week, perhaps someone who you know may be antagonistic toward it?



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

“People who consider themselves blessed when they suffer for Christ never desert, no matter how hard the battles they have to fight.”³

–J. I. Packer (1926–2020)