Wk 1 | Welcome/Life 101

simplify verse:

“No one’s ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it- What God has arranged for those who love him. But you’ve seen and heard because God by his spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (The Message)

memory verse:

**John 15:13 New International Version (NIV)**

13Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

thoughts:

1. Who made us, and to whom are we accountable?
2. What is our problem?
3. What is God’s solution to our problem?
4. How can I be included in his solution?

discussion:

God

The first thing to know about the good news of Jesus is that “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Everything starts from that point, so if you get that point wrong then everything else that follows will be wrong. Because God created everything—including us—he has the right to tell us how to live. You have to understand that in order to understand the good news about Jesus. To understand just how glorious and life-giving the gospel of Jesus Christ is, we have to understand that God is also holy and righteous. He is determined never to ignore or tolerate sin. Including ours!

## Mankind

When God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, he intended for them to live under his righteous rule in perfect joy—obeying him and living in fellowship with him. When Adam disobeyed God, though, and ate the one fruit that God had told him not to eat, that fellowship with God was broken. Moreover, Adam and Eve had declared rebellion against God. They were denying his authority over their lives.

It’s not just Adam and Eve who are guilty of sin. The Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Sin is the rejection of God himself and his authority over those to whom he gives life.

Once you understand sin in that light, you begin to understand why “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). That’s not just physical death, but spiritual death, a forceful separating of our sinful, rebellious selves from the presence of God forever. The Bible teaches that the final destiny for unbelieving sinners is eternal, active judgment in a place called “hell.”

But . . .

## Jesus Christ

The word “Christ” means “anointed one,” referring to anointing a king with oil when he is crowned. So, when we say “Jesus Christ,” we’re saying that Jesus is a King!

When Jesus began his public ministry, he told the people, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news!” As Jesus died on a cross, the awful weight of all our sins fell on his shoulders. The sentence of death God had pronounced against rebellious sinners struck. And Jesus died. For you and me!

But the story doesn’t end there. Jesus the Crucified is no longer dead. The Bible tells us that he rose from the grave. Jesus’s rising from the grave was God’s way of saying, “What Jesus claimed about who he is and what he came to do is true!”

## Our Response

What does God expect us to do with the information that Jesus died in our place so we can be saved from God’s righteous wrath against our sins? He expects us to respond with repentance and faith.

illustration:

Play a game of darts. Everyone gets one dart. One chance.

What is sin? Missing the mark.

What is repentance? Turning completely in the opposite direction.

WEEK ONE FOR LEADER: We discussed the different things repentance may involve, such as being broken and sorrowful. We also discussed that Jesus not only died for us but LIVES for us. We also discussed accountability, what it looks like and why.

Wk 2 | Baptism/Life 101

simplify verse:

“No one’s ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it- What God has arranged for those who love him. But you’ve seen and heard because God by his spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (The Message)

memory verse:

17and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased *and* delighted!” Matthew 3:17 (AMP)

thoughts:

1. Building off of last week: If we are accountable to God; we should do everything to mirror the way Jesus lived.
2. What are some ways in which we can act more like Jesus in our daily lives? Ways that are practical?
3. Do people we encounter in our daily lives know we are Christian, without us having to tell them?

discussion:

**Covenant** (the word defined)

The word "covenant, " infrequently heard in conversation, is quite commonly used in legal, social (marriage), and religious and theological contexts.

*The Idea of Covenant*. The term "covenant" is of Latin origin (*con venire*), meaning a coming together. It presupposes two or more parties who come together to make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities. In religious and theological circles there has not been agreement on precisely what is to be understood by the biblical term. It is used variously in biblical contexts. In political situations, it can be translated treaty; in a social setting, it means a lifelong friendship agreement; or it can refer to a marriage.

ADAM: had a covenant with God. God gave Adam authority and rule over all the fruit (animals & plants) of the land. Adam could do as he pleased (for the most part) and God would provide food, water and resources (everything Adam needed). God also provided Adam a forever companion (his wife, Eve). Adam was instructed to lead his wife. Both Adam and Eve was bound to one rule, to not eat from the tree of life. The point here is not *why* this was wrong, it was because of *who* said not to do it. You know the rest of the story…. After Adam & Eve were found guilty God cut a new Covenant with them and he used the skins of animals to cover Adam & Eve’s nakedness (blood sacrifice).

Throughout the Bible God tried to reestablish a Covenant with mankind. It’s a constant theme of God chasing man, even when man preferred to run-away.

Examples of other Old Testaments (before Jesus) Covenants include: The stories of Noah, Abraham and Moses. Man failed every time. Yet, God always made a way of repentance.

Following each of the above Covenants were not easy, all of theme required a blood sacrifice. Each Covenant also had a specific marking, that showed those on the outside who that person belongs to.

JESUS: God wanted to make a way for the repentance of man once and for all! He needed (or we needed) a blood sacrifice that was perfect and better than any animal. As we learned last week that sacrifice was Jesus! Those of us who have repented, and put our faith in Jesus Christ now have a New Covenant with God!

We will learn more about Covenants in the class: Multiply, for now the question is:

Now that we understand that we have a Covenant with God, what is it that we can do that marks us???

One thing we can do is the ordinance (practice) of water Baptism!

Why baptism?

Baptism is a symbolic expression to everyone in the real world and the spiritual world that you belong to God. It says that the old you have died, and the new you is now alive in Christ! It’s like putting a wedding ring on, on your wedding day. It lets everyone know you’re taken! Baptism is one of the ways we can worship God by following what Jesus did! READ Matthew 3:13-17

Wk 3 | Living IT/Life 101

simplify verse:

“No one’s ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it- What God has arranged for those who love him. But you’ve seen and heard because God by his spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (The Message)

memory verse:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ROMANS 8:1 (NIV)

thoughts:

1. Now that we have discussed salvation & baptism, we have realized there are certain things God tells us NOT to do and things He tells us TO do.
2. What does God want me to do?
3. Am I able to do what He has called me to do?

discussion:

**Today we are going to write letters to God.**

**Afterward we will discuss the challenge of what to write, the ability to talk to Him, the why we should talk to Him and the how. We will also discuss the words *conviction* and *condemnation*.**

Wk 4 | REAL LOVE/Life 101

simplify verse:

“No one’s ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it- What God has arranged for those who love him. But you’ve seen and heard because God by his spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (The Message)

memory verse:

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." **Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)**

thoughts:

1. Have you ever felt scared to love someone?
2. How have we redefined love?
3. What does real love mean to you? What are some false versions of love?

discussion:

**Today we are going to begin to consider the importance of accountability and how to live life together.**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7Amplified Bible (AMP)

4Love endures with patience *and* serenity, love is kind *and* thoughtful, and is not jealous *or* envious; love does not brag and is not proud *or* arrogant. 5It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong *endured*. 6It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. 7Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening].

 | ANOTHER BAPTISM/Life 101

simplify verse:

“No one’s ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it- What God has arranged for those who love him. But you’ve seen and heard because God by his spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (The Message)

memory verse:

thoughts:

1. Have you ever thought there may be more than just holding on for dear life to make it through this as a Christian?
2. Do you believe that power, through Christ exist?
3. What is and why does speaking in tongues exist, if it even does?

discussion:

**Today we are going to explore & examine 3 Baptisms straight from the Bible:**

**1. The baptism in Jesus 2. The baptism in water 3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit**

1. The Holy Spirit baptizes us in Jesus. (of the Holy Spirit) 1 Cor 12:13
2. The disciple(s) baptizes us in water. Matthew 28:19
3. Jesus baptizes us with/in the Holy Spirit. (In/with the Holy Spirit) Matthew 3:11
4. The Holy Spirt baptizes us in Jesus. SALVATION

This is salvation. Remember when we are saved we repent of our sins (turn a-way) and turn towards Jesus trusting in His grace & mercy by His blood sacrifice on the cross… Spiritually washing us in His blood[Jesus] (i.e. baptized or immersed)

1. The disciple(s) baptize us in water. WATER

Remember this is a symbolic expression (external) of what has already happened (internal) trough salvation. This tells the world (and the Spiritual world) that we are property of Jesus Christ and have decided to follow Him. Like putting a wedding ring on!

1. Jesus baptizes us with/in the Holy Spirit. SPIRIT

This is a complete immersion in the Holy Spirit.

Read: the last words of Jesus: Acts 1:4-5,

Read: the birth of the church & the outpouring of the H.S. Acts 2

Read: an account of 3 baptisms Acts 8:12,14-17

Read: another account of 3 baptisms Acts 19:1-6

So why speak in tongues????????????????