

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Jesus the King was sent by the father

Message Reflection Guide

Without Jesus, we would not be able to see God. Jesus is, in fact, “the exact representation and perfect imprint of His [Father’s] essence” (Hebrews 1:3). That is, if you’ve seen Jesus, you’ve seen the Father (John 14:9).

Without Jesus, we would doubt God’s love. But in the works that He did and the death that He died, Jesus revealed God’s love (Luke 7:12-13; Romans 5:8). Without Jesus, we would question God’s goodness and care. But Jesus revealed God’s knowledge of our needs and His desire to meet them (Matthew 6:8). Without Jesus, we might consider God unfair. But in His interactions with people of all backgrounds, Jesus revealed God’s impartiality.

Without Jesus, we would be forever fatherless. But Jesus showed us that we can approach God as a child approaches his or her father. There’s a relationship not just based on creation, the law, or judgment; there is a family relationship. As J. I. Packer wrote, *“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. . . . Everything that Christ taught . . . is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. Father is the Christian name for God”* (Knowing God, InterVarsity Press, p. 201).

CONVERSATION STARTER

How does the truth of God the Father sending Jesus to rescue humanity comfort you?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

Read John 3:16&17

Read Mark 1:9-15 God the Father sent Jesus to invite you to know Him. Jesus was baptized then spent time fasting in the wilderness before beginning ministry. What made these steps important? We are invited to know God through Christ, what do you desire to learn more about the nature of the Father?

Read Hebrews 9:23-28 God the Father sent Jesus to eliminate the penalty of sin. The passage uses the phrase “once for all” how does it feel to know all your sins can be wiped out and not held against you?

Read 1 John 3:8 God the Father sent Jesus to give us victory over the enemy. Have you ever sensed that you were being attacked by the enemy? What happened and how was it resolved? What area of your life do you feel like you need a “win” which only Jesus can help you with?

Read Peter 2:21-25 God the Father sent Jesus to provide a right way to live. This passage notes that “when reviled he did not revile in return” what does this tell us about the value of seeking to forgive over seeking revenge. What characteristic of Jesus would you like to see grow in your life over the next few months?

MAKING IT REAL

God sent Jesus to invite you into a relationship with Him. Have you accepted that invitation? Jesus was sent to eliminate the penalty of sin, is there unconfessed sin in your life? In what ways do you need the help of Jesus to gain victory over the enemy? What is your next step in living as Jesus lived?