



DATE(S)

March 19-20, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Gospel – Week 1 (Creation)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

The Gospel says God is our perfect Creator.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Genesis 1:1
Isaiah 40:25-26, 28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

“The Impossible Shot”

It's March Madness! That means it's time for The Impossible Shot. Set up a small basketball hoop in your room and give students a chance to make it. Remember – it's supposed to be difficult! You can let everyone go if you have a smaller group, or you can allow first-time guests and the ones who brought them to go or choose students (or a group) at random. The prize needs to be BIG!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

In your opinion, what is the greatest invention of all time? Why?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Gospel – Week 1 (Creation)
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How many of you have heard of the 8 Natural Wonders of the World? What about the man-made wonders of the world? Here are some pictures of those natural wonders...

(Teacher's Note: Show photos of natural wonders – Everest, Grand Canyon, Victoria Falls – and then the photos of man-made wonders – Great Wall of China, Christ The Redeemer statue, and Stonehenge. Briefly explain what each one is and where it is – do a little research if you need to!)

I want to focus on this last photo of the Stonehenge. Scientists and researchers believe it was constructed over the course of 1500 years. There are roughly 100 of these massive stones, some of which are stacked on top of some others. The biggest stones are 24 feet tall and weigh over 40 tons. The material of most of the stones can be found in local quarries that are close by. However, the inner ring of Stonehenge is made up of bluestones – the closest ones found over 200 miles away up the coastline. All of this happened before the wheel was invented. How did they get these massive stones from one place to another?!

Here is something really interesting about this man-made wonder...no one knows who built it. Scientists and researchers have been stumped for centuries! One of the world's greatest creations doesn't have a known author/creator. It's like a super cool tech gadget that gets made and yet nobody knows who invented or how they built it. It's a mystery.

We are starting a new 4-week series today because we are officially four weeks away from celebrating the most important event about the most important person in human history! We will be celebrating Easter, which is about Jesus Christ being executed on a cross and then raising from the dead three days later. This series is simply titled "Gospel." The Gospel literally means "good news." It is the most important thing in all of Christianity and we are going to discuss it over the next few weeks.

As Christians, we ultimately believe that God is our Creator. He created every one of us and everything we see around us. Although some biological and geological processes helped create the natural wonders of the world, we believe God started it. Unlike the Stonehenge, we know who the author of the Christian Gospel is: God Himself. That means the first part of the Gospel is about the Creator and His creation.

Each **THP (Take Home Point)** of this series will begin with the phrase "The Gospel says..." so it will be easier to remember each of them as we go along. Here is our **THP** for Week 1!

THE MESSAGE

The Gospel says God is our perfect Creator.

(Teacher's Note: Instruct the students to grab their Lego blocks and hold them.)

Dr. C.D. Oliver, who is an expert in studying and teaching the Bible says this: "The heart of the Gospel is the phrase, 'In the beginning, God...'" That phrase is the first part of the first sentence of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 – *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* I love that! The first part of the Gospel simply says that God exists! He is real! It's not a make-believe God or a fairy tale or a legend. None of the other parts of Christianity (as we will see throughout this series) can be true without God existing from the beginning. In fact, the writer of Genesis tells us that creation was perfect just like God...including human beings – nothing was wrong with this world when it was first created!

Take your Lego block that says "God" and the Lego block that says "Us" and put them together. This represents the perfect relationship God (the Creator) had with His creation (us). This is how it all started. Now, set your blocks down in front of you – we'll get back to them in a minute.

In the Old Testament, God used prophets – men and women who would give large groups of people messages directly from God. Listen to one of these messages that a man, Isaiah, gives to the Israelite people in Isaiah 40:25-26, 28: *"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing...Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."*

God is saying through Isaiah that He is everlasting – that means He has always existed. Eternally! Before time began! He will last forever! He is also our Creator. That means God was there and knew us before we were born and will be there long after you and I are gone.

(Teacher's Note: Use a piece of rope, extension cord, etc. – or some string if you're in a smaller context – and find a really small portion of it; no more than one inch. Put a different color of tape around that section. Prepare this ahead of time so you can grab it once you've reached this part of the message. Once you have it, you can move on to the next section below.)

THE MESSAGE

Let's imagine for a second that this tiny piece of tape on this rope represents your life here on earth. God is the rest of the rope – and more – because God is eternal! He goes on forever! However, during this small fraction of time we have here on earth, we have a decision to make: are we going to be in charge of our life (creation) or is God (Creator) going to be in charge of our life? Some of you might be thinking, "Well, I want to be in charge. I want to decide what I do and don't do." Well, you're right...all of us have the freedom to make that choice.

Here's the problem...and we'll get into this next week...remember how I said creation was perfect when God originally created it? Well, humans disobeyed God and actually decided we wanted to be in charge. When that happened, sin entered the world. Rather than loving God for the beautiful creation He had given us, Adam and Eve (us too) made the decision to be in charge of our own lives. That means we are choosing between an imperfect person (you and me) being in charge of our lives...or God (our perfect Creator). Whatever we decide to do during our lives (this tiny portion of rope with the tape on it) affects the entire rope – or our whole life! God created us to be in relationship with Him, but it's up to us.

In spite of the fact that it is hard to let go of control of our lives, I want to trust in a perfect God who loves me and created me. **Pick up your "God" and "Us" Lego blocks again.** You and I may not understand God all the time. We may disagree or get angry with Him when certain things happen or don't happen in our lives, but ultimately, we have to understand that our lives aren't going to be perfect.

Instead, I would rather have a PERFECT God walking beside me through this IMPERFECT life. The Lego blocks you're holding represent that relationship. That's the first part of the Gospel...God is our Creator and we are His creation. There are other parts we will add in the coming weeks, but it starts there!

Let's review our **THP** one more time: **The Gospel says God is our perfect Creator.** That is the first part of the Gospel. Have you thought about that question we talked about earlier – do I want to be in charge of my own life and live however I want? Or do I want to trust God and follow what He wants me to do and how He wants me to live? Maybe you're not sure, and if that's the case, talk about that during your closing small group today with the other students and leaders in your group. The best news and hope I can give you is that God created you for a purpose. You are loved and valued by Him...simply because you are YOU...His creation. Now THAT is good news! Let's pray!



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Leaders Note: Make sure everyone in your group has their Lego Blocks!

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Let's re-read a verse in the Old Testament from the book of Isaiah that we heard in today's message. Can I have someone read Isaiah 40:25-26, 28?

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing...Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

What stands out to you about this verse? What does it mean to you that God is our Creator?

Each and every week of this series, we are going to be using our Lego blocks to learn and explain the Gospel. Does anyone remember the first part of the Gospel (based on our THP) and could explain it using their Lego blocks? **(Leaders Note: Refer to your handouts to explain how to do it if your students are having trouble. Feel free to explain it and then ask the question again.)**

Can someone summarize the illustration we saw during the message about the rope? How does that relate back to our Lego blocks? **(Leaders Note: We were created to be in close relationship with God!)**

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

Make sure that all students return their Lego Blocks before they leave!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Lego blocks and hand-outs
Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides
Lego blocks and hand-outs

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

