

## THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS (WEEK 2) – SHARE THE JOY!

Key verses -- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

**Icebreakers:** What food item(s) have you never tried and ABSOLUTELY refuse to try? Why so?

Have you ever tried to talk a friend into tasting something that you LOVE, but they think is gross? What kind of persuasion did you use?

What food is your *favorite* food for making and *sharing* with others?

How do you feel when you share something that is really tasty with a friend – especially if they have never tried that food before?

Have you ever thought about the connection between sharing some delicious food and sharing the gospel with a friend? How are those two things similar? How are they different?

The Bible encourages us to “*Taste and see that the Lord is GOOD.*” (Psalm 34:8). Why does David use that “food tasting” analogy as an evangelism tool?

### **Dig into the scripture:**

Last week we learned that the word “gospel” really means “good news.” We also learned that “evangelism” comes from the same Bible word that is translated as “gospel” and “good news.” So, evangelism is really a very simple and joyous thing. Evangelism is spreading the good news that God loves us and wants to save us from our sins and give us a resurrection life. God wants us to SHARE THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION!

Last week we learned that The GOSPEL has **three elements** at its heart (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). Can you list them?

The D\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus for our sins

The B\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus for three days

The R\_\_\_\_\_ and appearances of Jesus after his r\_\_\_\_\_.

What is GOOD about the the death of Jesus?

Read Romans 5:6-7. Is there anyone you consider good enough to die for? Is there anyone you have loved enough to die for?

Have you ever had anyone love you so much that you *knew* they would give up *everything* to be with you? How did that make you feel?

How is the sacrificial love of God different from the kind of love one person may have for another person?

What does Romans 5:8 tell us about the kind of love God has for us in giving Jesus?

Why is the *burial of Jesus for three days* included in the good news of salvation?

What does the fact that Jesus was buried for three days tell us about the *resurrection* of Jesus?

I Corinthians 15 is devoted to proof that the resurrection is real and that the promise of resurrection should make you joyous!

Why is Easter traditionally the largest attendance day of the year for Christian churches? What is the typical focus of an Easter Sunday sermon?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-58.

What are some arguments and persuasions Paul uses to convince his readers that the resurrection is REAL?

How does Paul show us that the resurrection will be GOOD and glorious?

What does Paul mean by his statement in 1 Corinthians 15:54 – “*Death has been swallowed up in victory*”?

What difference does it make in the way you live when you KNOW that the resurrection is real—and the power of death has been destroyed?

Are you living a “victorious” life?

How does your belief in the resurrection of Jesus – and your own future resurrection through Jesus – empower the way you talk to others about Jesus, the church and even about the meaning and purpose of life?

The preacher shared that his mother often reminded her children: “You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.” How does that saying relate to sharing the gospel with others?

**Think about it:** Is it possible to truly win another person’s heart and soul for Jesus by focusing on judgment, punishment and hell?

Jesus DID talk about hell on several occasions – why so? How do those teachings empower the spread of the *good news*?

**Wrap it up:** The preacher shared that the English word gospel really means – “good story” (or more specifically, a “good spiel”).

This suggests that each of us needs to have a *good story* to tell about WHY we are Christians, the difference Jesus has made in our lives, and the hope he gives us for the future.

Wrap up your time by sharing your own personal stories that prove to you that GOD IS GOOD, and being a Christian is good and pleasant. Think of some things that put a smile on your face in your walk with Jesus. Talk about how you can be more purposeful in sharing those joyful stories – your “good spiel” – with others.