



THE *Good* GOSPEL

UNDERSTAND THE
GREATEST NEWS YOU'VE
EVER HEARD

Leader's Guide



How to Study

THE GOOD GOSPEL

We are so glad you picked up this study! This six-week study guide was created for you to use on your own or in a group. Throughout the study, you will find reflection questions for your own personal time of study and you will find group questions as well. Use these to facilitate conversation within your small group and dig deeper into each week's topic.

STUDY COMPONENTS:

1. The book (or web page): This is where you will find the daily reading and reflection questions. This can all be found in two places:

- In the study book. This is the most effective format for groups. If you need a copy, head to shoppe.ifgathering.com.
- ifequip.com. This is our web-based version of the study. Each devotional is added *daily*. If you access the study through this site, your group members will need to keep journals to write down their answers each day, so they can refer to them during group discussion.

2. Videos: The videos are a tool to help unpack the weekly topic of the study. Watch the video at the start of each week. We encourage you to watch and discuss the videos as a small group before diving into the daily reading.

Note: If you are leading a group, it can be helpful to plan an “intro” group meeting to give an overview of the study format and schedule before diving in. This also gives your group members time to get to know one another.





How to Study

CONTINUED...

TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

1. Get together with your group to watch the video. After week one, review what you learned through the daily readings from the previous week before watching the video.
2. Go over the discussion questions in the Leader's Guide with your group.
3. Do the week's reading and questions on your own (there are five days of content for each week).

HOW TO ACCESS THE WEEKLY VIDEOS:

- **Watch on RightNow Media.**
 1. Log in to your RightNow Media account and search "IF:Gathering" to find the *The Good Gospel* video series.
 2. If you do not have a RightNow Media account, go to rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering to access the videos for free through an exclusive RightNow Media and IF:Gathering resource library. After creating an account, log in and search "The Good Gospel" to watch the series.
- **Watch on ifequip.com.**



Created for This

1 Week

LET'S GET STARTED

The gospel changes everything and in the next six weeks we're going to be reminded why that's true, so we can live in the freedom we have because of Jesus.

Watch "Created for This" with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry.

ACCESS SESSION ONE AT [RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/IFGATHERING](https://rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering).

13 minutes



Week One



REVIEW

Jennie talked about how God created humans and was in relationship with them. What does it mean to you that God created you and wants a relationship with you?

The gospel is the greatest story ever told. Based on Jennie's teaching and your experience, how would you describe the gospel?

Jennie, Jackie, and Jamie shared how they first heard and believed the gospel story. What's been your exposure to the gospel? In what ways do you relate to the experiences Jennie, Jackie, and Jamie described?



DIG IN

The story begins with creation. God created everything—the sky, the sea, humans. Read Genesis 1:26–31. How would you describe God's attitude toward humans in this passage?

The opening pages of the gospel story tells us that God created us in his image. Read Romans 1:1–6. What details does Paul include in his description of the gospel?

Read Romans 1:16. What do you think it means to not be ashamed of the gospel?



MAKE IT MATTER

Whether you've heard the story thousands of times or this series is the first time you're hearing it, the gospel is for everyone. What questions do you have about the gospel going into this study?

Jennie addressed that some of us are walking through difficulty right now. The gospel speaks to us in every situation and offers us hope. Where do you find yourself today? In what ways do you need the hope of the gospel in your life?



REFLECT

Read Genesis 1 and 2 this week. Write down what you learn about God and humans from these chapters. How would you summarize the beginning of the gospel story from these chapters?

Reflect on your attitude toward the gospel. Is it new to you? Something you've studied before? Pray that God would give you insight into who he is as you go through this study.



Why We're Broken

2 Week

REWIND AND REFLECT

What stood out to you the most in this past week's study of creation and the beginning of sin?

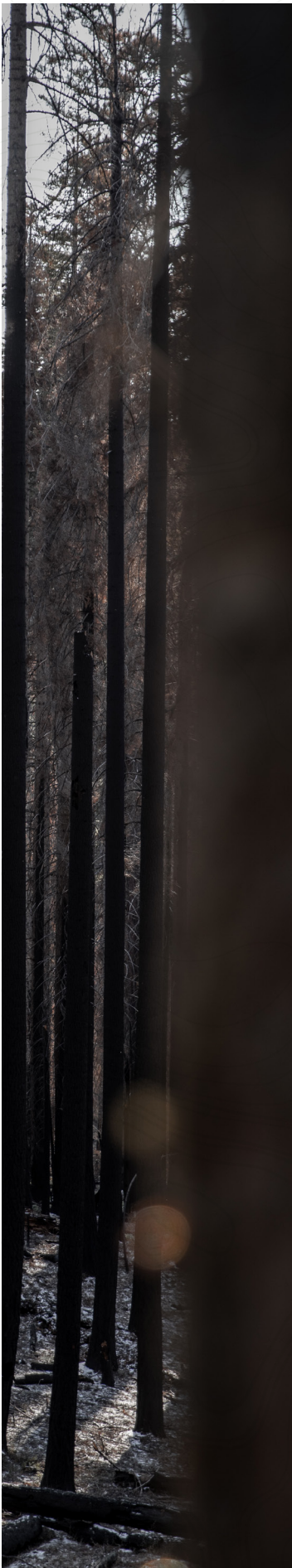
What do you hope God will show you through this study on the gospel?

In this next session, we're going to take a deeper look into our humanity and the way sin has separated us from God.

Watch "Why We're Broken" with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry.

ACCESS SESSION TWO AT [RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/IFGATHERING](https://rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering).

15 minutes



Week Two



REVIEW

Jackie, Jamie, and Jennie talked about our sin and our need God. When have you realized your need for God? In what ways—if at all—was sin part of that realization?

Jamie talked about two reactions people have when she talks about brokenness. Either people are fully aware of their sin or they think they aren't that bad. When have you fallen into these categories? What effect did that mindset have on your attitude toward sin?

What stood out to you from Jamie's teaching on sin? Why is sin something we need to take seriously?



DIG IN

Read Romans 3:10–18, 23. What does it mean that no one is righteous? How do these verses describe us in our sin?

These verses make it clear that no matter what we do, we're still sinners separated from God. What are some ways people try to make themselves righteous? Why do those actions fall short of the righteousness God requires?



MAKE IT MATTER

As we've seen in this session, everyone sins. There's no escaping it. When have you experienced the effects of sin in your life?

Facing our sin is weighty—it shows how powerless and needy we are. In what ways does discussing sin impact the way you view God? Yourself?

If you feel comfortable sharing with your group, what are some ways you're struggling with sin right now? How can your group be praying for you?



REFLECT

Read Genesis 3 this week. What does this chapter show you about how sin entered the world? What does it reveal about the human heart? In what ways does it teach us about God's character?

Spend some time journaling about your attitude toward sin this week. Which of the two people Jamie described are you? What could it look like to acknowledge your sin and your need for God?



The Greatest News

3 Week

REWIND AND REFLECT

How often do you find yourself trying to work for God's grace?

On day four of week two, we were challenged to "put down our shovels and pick up the cross." How easy/hard is this for you?

We are going to look at God's response to our sin in session three and discover the greatest news we've ever known.

Watch "The Greatest News" with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry.

ACCESS SESSION THREE AT [RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/IFGATHERING](https://rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering).

10 minutes



Week Three



REVIEW

Jackie walked through the various examples of sinful humanity in the Bible. What do these examples show us about the pervasiveness of sin?

Instead of letting us remain dead in our sin, God sent Jesus to die on our behalf and raise to life for our redemption. What does the story of the cross show us about the way God sees us?

In what ways does the gospel story give us hope?

Jennie, Jackie, and Jamie discussed how they've experienced the transition from death to life in their walk with Jesus. In what ways have you experienced the life Jesus offers us when we follow him?



DIG IN

Read Romans 5:6–8. These verses reveal God's profound love for us. Jesus died for us while we were rebelling against him. What difference does it make in your life to know how much God loves you? In what ways does God's love impact the way you think about yourself? Others?



Read Romans 5:17–19. We’ve looked at how sin has infected all of humanity—no one is righteous. But Jesus offers us hope. According to these verses, how does Jesus bring righteousness to his people? In what ways have you seen these verses to be true in your life?



MAKE IT MATTER

Jesus’s death and resurrection changes the story for all of us who believe. We move from unrighteousness to righteousness, from death to life. When have you seen God’s transformative power at work in your life? In what ways is he at work right now?

This session reminds us how much God loves us. We have so much to be grateful for in Christ. What from the gospel story are you thankful for today?



REFLECT

Write out a prayer of thanks to God this week. Thank him for salvation and the way he’s been moving in your life since. What has he done for you in the past? What is he doing right now?

The gospel is meant to be shared. It can be as simple as telling someone how God has worked in your life or how much God loves them. Who is someone you could tell this part of the story to this week?



The Turning Point

4 Week

REWIND AND REFLECT

How do you feel about your future with God after going through this past week's reading? What stood out to you?

How does God's response to your sin change the way you think about your past?

In session four, we're going to study what our response to God should be as we understand the reality of the gospel in our lives.

Watch "The Turning Point" with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry.

ACCESS SESSION FOUR AT [RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/IFGATHERING](https://rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering).

13 minutes



Week Four



REVIEW

Jamie, Jennie, and Jackie shared what held them back from accepting Jesus at first—shame, pride, rebellion. What, if anything, held you back or is holding you back from following Jesus?

Jamie shared about when she became a Christian. If you're a Christian, what was it like when you first believed in Jesus? What made you decide to follow him?

Jamie also talked about how we grow in faith as we live the Christian life. In what ways have you seen your faith grow since you started following Jesus?



DIG IN

The beauty of the gospel is that salvation comes only by faith—not by self-improvement or good deeds or positive thinking. Read Romans 1:17. What characterizes the life of those who follow God? Why do you think it's important that salvation comes through faith and not by anything we do?

Faith marks God's people. Jamie talked about Abraham as an example of what it means to pursue God in faith. Read Romans 4:18–25. What did Abraham do that showed his faith in God?



Paul says Abraham was “fully convinced” or “fully persuaded” by God’s promises. What do you think it looks like to have the kind of faith that’s “fully convinced” of God and his promises? Who is someone you’ve seen live out this kind of faith?



MAKE IT MATTER

Abraham didn’t have an easy life but he still believed God even when it was hard. When has it been difficult for you to hold onto faith? What helped you keep going?

In what ways have you seen yourself grow in your faith? What does faith look like in your life today?



REFLECT

As Jamie taught, faith begins our walk with Jesus and it grows as we follow him. Take some time to write out the ways you’ve seen God mature your faith. What events, people, or challenges did he use to grow you?

Walking by faith as Abraham did is hard. We need each other as we follow Jesus. Find someone to encourage this week. Send them a note or a text. Pray for them. What could you do to encourage them in their faith?

Raise the White Flag

5
Week

REWIND AND REFLECT

How would you describe who you now are in Christ?

Do you ever feel like God may change his mind about you? If so, when?

Now that we've studied God's response to our sin and how we then respond to him, we're going to look at how to daily surrender to a life with him.

Watch "Raise the White Flag" with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry.

ACCESS SESSION FIVE AT [RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/IFGATHERING](https://rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering).

11 minutes



Week Five



REVIEW

Jennie, Jackie, and Jamie talked about what it's like to deal with sin after becoming a Christian. What's it like for you to confront sin in your walk with Jesus? In what ways is it a struggle? In what ways is it freeing?

Jackie used the metaphor of a prison cell to talk about how God has freed us from our sin. When has sin felt like a prison cell for you?

Jackie talked about repentance, confession, and belief. How would you define each of those terms? What does it look like to practice each of them?



DIG IN

Romans 6:5–7. What does it mean that we're set free from sin? How did Jackie explain it in the video? In what ways have you experience freedom from sin?

Read Romans 6:11–14. Paul encourages us to live free from sin, which means we actively choose to obey God in all we do. When is it easy for you to obey God? When has it been difficult for you?

In Romans 7:14–25, Paul describes the tension he feels between wanting to follow God, but also feeling tempted to sin. When have you felt a struggle between wanting to sin and wanting to follow God?



MAKE IT MATTER


Walking in freedom doesn't mean we do whatever we want. It means we continually surrender our lives—all we do, everything we say, and what we think—to God by obeying him. What could it look like to offer all of yourself to God in obedience? What's difficult to give to him?

Jackie encouraged us to be honest with our community of believers about our sin. In what ways, if any, do you feel trapped by sin? What could it look like to find freedom from that sin?



REFLECT

Jackie gave three takeaways from her teaching: repent, confess, and believe. Which of the three could you focus on this week? What could it look like for you to repent from sin? Who could you confess to? What does it mean for you to believe Jesus today?



You are Free

6 Week

REWIND AND REFLECT

In what areas of your life does it feel the hardest to let go and surrender to God?

When do you think other people notice Jesus in you?

In the final session of this study, we are looking at what a true life of freedom looks like because of the gospel. You are free!

Watch “You are Free” with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry.

ACCESS SESSION SIX AT [RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/IFGATHERING](https://rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering).

16 minutes



Week Six



REVIEW

Jennie reminded us that when we put our faith in Christ, our identity shifts from being a slave to sin to being a child of God. What does it mean to you that you're God's child? What impact does knowing you're part of God's family have on the way you view your identity?

The Holy Spirit is with us always—he guides us, grows us, and reminds us of our hope in Jesus. In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life right now?

Jennie closed by talking about how Jesus will return. He is our hope as we struggle through life and follow him. What does it look like for you to put your hope in Jesus?

Jamie, Jackie, and Jennie closed by discussing practices they have in place to help them live in the freedom Jesus gives us. What are some disciplines you have in your life to help you do the same?



DIG IN

Read Romans 8:1–2. What does it mean to be free from condemnation? How have you experienced that freedom in your life?



Read Romans 8:14–17. What do these verses say about our identity in Christ? What does it mean to you that you're one of God's children? In what ways has the Spirit reminded you of who you are in Christ?

Read Romans 8:37–39. In what ways does God's love for you offer you hope for what's going on in your life right now? What about hope for the future?



MAKE IT MATTER

Thinking back over the series, what have you learned about the gospel? What has God taught you about himself? What have you learned about freedom?

As we've already discussed, the gospel is a story that's meant to be told. Who is someone you could talk to about the gospel this week? Who is someone you could be praying for to receive salvation?



REFLECT

Write out the gospel story in your own words this week. What specific points of the story are you thankful for? Where do you see room for you to grow in your faith?

Take some time to reflect on what God has taught you through this study. What's one takeaway you've gathered from this series? What could it look like for you to apply it to your life today?
