



REMEMBER

- God wants people to know the good news even more than we do! Thankfully he is the only one who can change hearts so we don't need to be in charge of people's responses. He can use our fumbling words but isn't counting on our "getting it right" so he can work!
- You cannot share the Gospel in sincerity unless it has first transformed your own life. It is essential to first recognize why you think God is worth giving your life to. You need to know what you have been rescued from, before you can invite others to step into the good news for them.
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 "I was unsure of how to go about this, and I felt totally inadequate – I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it – and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else." (The Message).



RECOGNIZE

- The Gospel is good news because it tells us about God's rescue operation to save us from ourselves. The Gospel is good news because without it we are entirely on our own to make meaning out of our existence.
- The good news isn't just that we will go to heaven someday - it's that we can walk with God here and now. Teens need to know this.
- God's deepest desire is for a true relationship with us. But inviting someone to step into that without introducing them to his heart is like inviting someone to become engaged to a person they've never met. Your story of encounters with God's heart gives them a way to see who God truly is.
- Accepting Jesus is about giving up control and giving over your heart. It's a big thing! The good news of the Gospel is that we don't have to be in charge any longer, but that doesn't always feel like good news if we're not sure we believe God is good enough and big enough for the job.



RESPOND

So what would we like teens to understand as they move toward God?

We were created by God and God called all his creation good! God loves his creation - not because we've done anything to deserve it but because we are his.

We like to have our own way, and when we try to make life work on our own instead of caring what God has to say, we push ourselves away from God and his love. A name for that separation is sin.

Sin has consequences. If we keep pursuing our own way, it means we'll continue to be separated from the purpose, hope and freedom God has made us for.

Jesus - who was God with skin on - showed us how much He loved us by coming to the earth so we'd see what God's heart is like. He let himself be put to death to pay for every wrong ever committed. His death showed us how far God will go to love us - that He is willing to sacrifice himself to rescue us.

Jesus was more powerful than death. He came back to life, to show us that His power is bigger than anything else in this world - even us! If he can conquer death none of our fears are too big for Him.

God wants a genuine relationships with so he lets us choose. If we want to step back into the relationship we were created to have with God, we need to ask Him to be in control of our lives, and forgive us for thinking we could run our lives without Him. We need to accept His crazy big love for us.

He invites us to believe first - not to behave first. Once we find our home in Him, He walks with us every step of our lives, teaching us how to live out of his love.



THE GOSPEL



RESOURCES

www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject - Clear and well made videos of the big story of the gospel in Scripture.

"Sharing the Gospel with the Next Generation". This Podcast focuses on the importance of Gospel conversations in youth work.