



ENTER God's presence

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you
by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep
over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be
burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your
Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your
stead.

⁴Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and
because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your
children from the east and gather you from the west.

⁶I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do
not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my
daughters from the ends of the earth

Pray: Heavenly Father, You are a righteous and Holy God
and you alone have the power to save us from sin and
death and redeem us to be called your people. Thank you
for the gift of your word and the good news of Jesus. As
we gather now around your word, help us to understand
more completely just how good the Gospel of Jesus is.
Amen

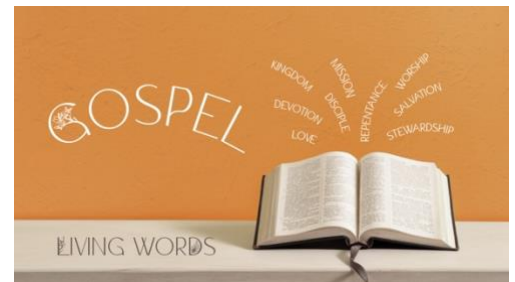


SHARE life together

1. **What are your highs and lows since you last met?**
2. **What is some good news you’ve either received or shared recently? What made that news so good to you?**
3. **Share a time when hearing some news (good or bad) changed not only what you knew but also how you felt or behaved as a result?**

Week beginning:
Monday 21st September 2026

Worship series:
Living Words
#2 “Gospel”



VERSE for the week

**“All are justified freely by his
grace through the redemption
that came by Christ Jesus”**

Romans 3:24



REMEMBER this week

**The Gospel is the power
of God to rescue and
restore all creation
through the life, death,
and resurrection of
Jesus, alive in and
working through you!**

Imagine your phone rings and the person on the other end says, "I've got some news for you." Sometimes the news might be interesting or useful, but once the call is over, life carries on much as it did before. Other times, a few words can change everything: "You got the job." "Your offer has been accepted." "The results came back clear." Suddenly, the future looks different. The word *gospel* simply means "good news," but when Paul talks about the Gospel, he means much more than interesting information about Jesus or even a story worth remembering or retelling. He says the Gospel **"is the power of God that brings salvation."** This is Good News that does something.

Read **Romans 1:16-17 and Romans 3:21-26** [HERE](#) or in your own Bible. As we explore these words from Romans, pay attention not only to what Paul tells us about the Gospel, but to what God is actually doing through it.

4. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
5. **In Romans 1:16-17, what words or phrases does Paul use to describe the Gospel and what it does?**
6. **According to these verses, what does the gospel reveal about God and the way he saves?**
7. **In Romans 3:21-26, what does Paul say is true about all people, and what does he say God has done in response?**
8. **Look closely at who is doing what in Romans 3:21-26. What does God do, what does Jesus do, and what do we do?**



Between the two passages we have just read, Paul spends a considerable amount of time explaining why this Good News is so desperately needed. Beginning in Romans 1:18, he describes humanity's rejection of God and the brokenness that follows. But just when his religious readers might be tempted to point the finger at "those people," Paul turns the argument towards them as well. Having God's law does not make anyone righteous before God, because no one keeps it perfectly. By the time Paul reaches chapter 3, there is nowhere left to hide: Jew and Gentile alike are under the power of sin; every mouth is silenced, and no one can make themselves right with God by keeping the law. The law can reveal the problem, but it cannot rescue us from it. That is what makes the words of Romans 3:21 so powerful: **"But now..."** Into a situation we cannot fix ourselves, God acts. The Gospel is not advice about how we might find our way back to God; it is the Good News of what God has done in Jesus Christ to rescue and restore us. So let's look a little more deeply at what makes this news not simply something worth knowing, but **"the power of God that brings salvation."**

9. **What difference is there between saying, "The Gospel tells us how God saves," and Paul's statement that the Gospel "is the power of God that brings salvation"? Why might that distinction matter?**
10. **Romans 3:24 says we are "justified freely by his grace," but the verses that follow show the extraordinary cost God bore in Christ to give us that gift. What does this tell us about what Paul means by "freely" and about the depth of God's grace?**
11. **Sometimes we can think of faith as our response to the Gospel—the part we have to contribute. What changes when we understand faith itself as something God creates and strengthens in us through hearing his promise?**
12. **Think back to the phone call at the beginning of the study. What does the Good News of Jesus actually change? What does the Gospel give or create that wasn't ours to achieve for ourselves?**



LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

The Gospel is more than a story about something God did long ago. It is God's living and active Good News, through which he continues to bring his saving work into our lives today. The same God who says, "I have redeemed you...you are mine," has acted decisively for us in Jesus Christ and continues to work in us through his Spirit. That means the Gospel doesn't leave us where it finds us. Not because we now have to prove ourselves worthy of God's grace, but because his grace is already at work—giving faith, restoring hope, reshaping our identity and forming us more and more into the people he has created and redeemed us to be. So, as we think about living purposefully, the question is not simply, *"What should I do now?"* but *"What is God's Good News doing in me, and where might his Spirit be leading me to live differently because of it?"*

13. **Where can you see God's Good News already at work in your life—giving you faith, hope, freedom, a new identity, or changing the way you relate to others?**
14. **Where might God already be at work in the lives of people around you? What could help you become more attentive to what his Spirit is doing rather than assuming that you need to make something happen?**
15. **Who in your life needs to hear or experience some Good News right now? How might God use your words, presence or actions to share the hope of Jesus with them this week?**

Plan your weekly devotions or **download the Church Central app** for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



PRAY intentionally

You might like to pray together the following prayer, or spend time sharing together your prayer needs and praying for one another.

Gracious God, thank you for the Good News of Jesus and for the salvation you freely give. By your Spirit, keep this Gospel alive in us, shape us by your grace, and use us to share your love and hope with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], The Gospel of Jesus is alive and at work in you. Amen.