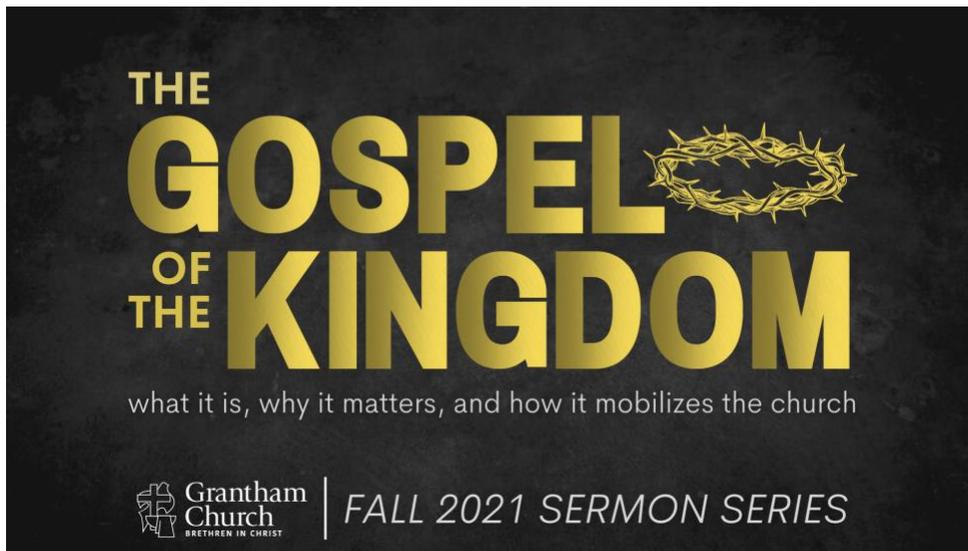


The Gospel of the Kingdom (1 of 7) Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, September 12th 2021



Sermon Series Focus: Throughout the Scriptures and church history, every spiritual awakening and renewal was founded on intense, corporate, Kingdom-centered prayer. Therefore, we must see prayer as being about more than going to God for our own spiritual and physical needs, or for the purpose of personal growth. In addition to those things, we must see prayer as our cry for more of the Kingdom! What does the Bible say about this? And what might it look like if we begin to pray this way at Grantham?

Sermon Title: Gospel as Story

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-15; Romans 8:18-30; Colossians 1:19-20; Revelation 21:1-4

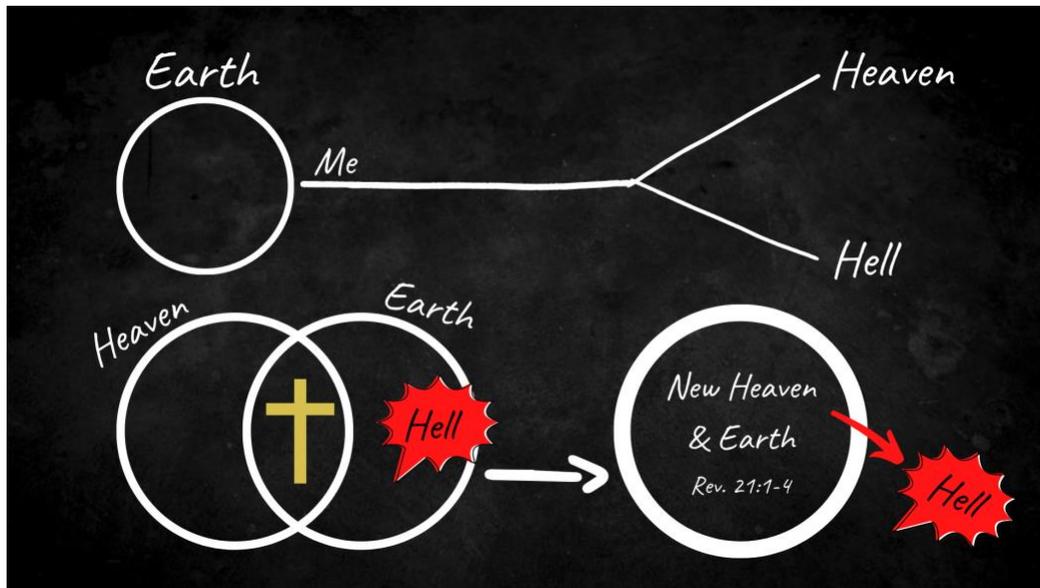
Sermon Focus: Jesus said, “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” But what is the *good news*? And what does it mean to embrace the gospel story in a world of competing narratives—stories intended to tell us who we are and where we’re going. In the first message of our 7-week series, Pastor David challenges us to see all of the stories we have to choose from, and then invites us to embrace the gospel story revealed in Christ.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Mark 1:1-15 together. According to Mark, the “good news” (gospel) of Jesus is a story that began with Israel and is being fulfilled in the life and ministry of Christ. This

certainly poses a challenge to how we have often tried to reduce the gospel down to a “plan of salvation” or 4 spiritual laws, the Roman road, an atonement theory, or a sinner’s prayer. Why do you think we do this?

2. Pastor David said that we can sum up the sweeping narrative this way: creation, fall, redemption, and resurrection. What do we miss if we don’t understand the larger story of where it began and where things are going? What are the dangers of articulating a “good news” that doesn’t include this grand narrative? Give examples of how doing this has distorted the Christian message.
3. Pastor David challenged a reductionist view of the gospel that is full of partial truths, but not the *whole truth*, and doesn’t capture the grand narrative. Discuss the image below. The top illustration is a popular understanding of the story, and the bottom one more accurately captures what Jesus believed and taught. How does this challenge you? How does this help you?



4. Since God plans to unite heaven and earth (and remove hell from his creation), how ought this to change the way we live, navigate pain and suffering, and respond to the evil around us? What Scriptures are helpful here?