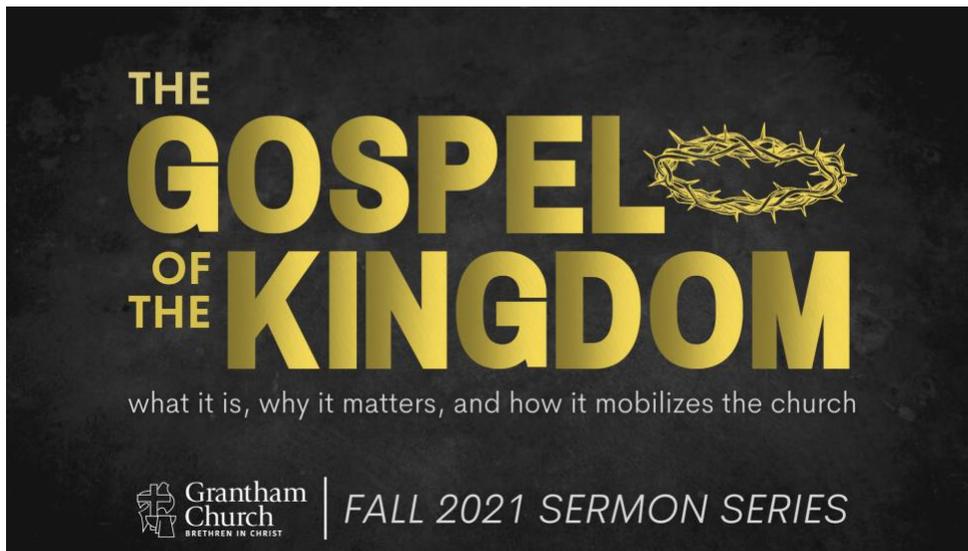


## The Gospel of the Kingdom (2 of 7) Small Group Discussion Questions

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 19th 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 Truths

**Scripture Reading:** John 3:16-21; Romans 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Galatians 1:1-9

**Sermon Focus:** It's critical that we understand the gospel as story and then embrace historic Christian beliefs about Jesus—his identity and his saving work in the world. These beliefs not only ensure that we are faithful to the original good news, but they impact the way we live and respond to God's coming kingdom. In the second message of our 7-week series, Pastor David helps us to see why our beliefs about Jesus matter and how the good news changes everything.

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 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, 20-28 together. The apostle Paul simplifies the gospel message in this passage to Christ dead, buried, and risen according to the Scriptures.

Then, he shares the importance in believing that Jesus was physically raised from the dead, and what God will do one day because of it. What do you think it says that Paul doesn't go into great depth as to the meaning of the cross (atonement theories), but rather focuses on resurrection?

2. Do you see any danger in reducing the gospel down to a "Plan of Salvation" and not understanding the good news as part of a larger story? Do you see any signs that this reductionist gospel has failed at making disciples in the church?
3. Pastor David shared an illustration called, *The Gospel in Chairs*. He shared two different versions of the gospel: (1) a modern, Western, legal view – God as "judge" – in a Western lawcourt sense; and (2) an ancient, Eastern, restorative view – God as loving Father or a great physician.
  1. What were some similarities in the two versions?
  2. What were some stark differences that you noticed?
  3. Which one do you think is more reflective of the good news? Why?
  4. How did God speak to you through this illustration?
4. In the illustration (second version of the story), Pastor David kept saying that Jesus "confronted them with his love" when he encountered sinners. What do you think about how God in Christ (who is holy) comes to us instead of turning away? Is this what God is really like? If so, why do you think we struggle with it?
5. Read John 3:16-21 together. This is good news! So, why do you think more folks don't understand it that way? What do you think we've "added to the gospel" (or ways we've misrepresented God's character) that has repelled people?
6. What was most encouraging to you in this message? Also, what challenged you or still has you pondering? Share that with your group.