



Outsiders

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Sharing the Gospel in Trying Times

Week of September 12, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

This study looks at the difficult year Isaiah had in his life and circumstances and application is made to our lives in today's trying times. Three main points are made that should help us realize God is going to help us deal with our circumstances and be a strong witness and testimony to others of the reality of God's love and offer to help us in our time of need. God is still on the throne, God is still Holy and God is still to be served! When outsiders see our commitment to our Holy God and witness His activity in our lives, they will at least be curious and hopefully will be inquisitive as to how we are able to still have peace and joy in the midst of trying times. When they inquire, we should be ready to point them to Jesus!

Main Scripture

- *Read Isaiah 6:1-8*

How can we be a faithful witness to outsiders during seasons of difficulty?

1. Remember God is Still on the Throne (Isaiah 6:1)

- ***"In the year that King Uzziah died"*** - The setting is 739 BC, and King Uzziah, one of the more successful kings of Judah, has died. He poured a lot of money in the defense of Jerusalem making it one of the most fortified cities of his era. He led the nation to develop agriculture and commerce to the point that the economy was booming. As a result of his leadership, the people enjoyed great peace and prosperity. But this great king dies, and his death ushers the period of uncertainty, anxiety, and concerns on every corner. Certainly, for Isaiah, God's prophet, this was a difficult year.
- ***"I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on the throne"*** - Isaiah has a vision of the Lord God sitting on the throne. He is the absolute Ruler of the Universe. He is high and lifted up, He is above all, He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The train of His robe, the hem or fringe of his robe fills the whole temple. He can't be contained by space or time, he transcends space and time. He is the

Sovereign God who is on the throne. Even in the midst of an anxious and difficult season, Isaiah's vision reminds us that through it all, God was, and is, and always will be on the throne. Nothing catches the Lord of guard. Nothing surprises him. As the late Adrian Rogers used to say, "The Holy Trinity never meets for an emergency session."

- **Ask Questions**

- *Many people say this year has been the most difficult year of their life. Is that the case for you? If not, what was the most difficult year of your life? Why?*
- *How has the truth that God is still on the throne encouraged you during a trial? Who in your life needs to be encouraged with this truth right now?*

2. Remember God is Still Holy (Isaiah 6:2-7)

- **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty"** - When the prophet Isaiah gets a glimpse of God, the seraphim are praising God. Seraphim means the burning ones and they are the angelic beings leading in the praise of the HOLY God. Our most majestic God that is so different from everything and anything that the only way that you can properly describe him is as HOLY (the Hebrew word used is *Kodesh* - "separate, set apart, cut above"). Holiness is not something that God has, something God does, it is who God is! Holiness is the very essence of God!
- **"Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for"** - God is different from all of the creation described in this chapter, different from the world and humanity represented by Isaiah. God is set aside and separate in many ways from us, and the most distinct way is that He is sinless. In His nature there is not an ounce of ability or proclivity to sin, he is sinless. Notice how Isaiah responds to the vision of the Holy, Sinless God. Tongs with a live coal purge his sin. What tongs did for Isaiah, the blood of Christ does for you and me. Through Christ, we can approach the sinless God and live. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven and set free.
 - **Ask Questions**
 - *Have you ever felt unworthy to share the gospel because of your sin? In what ways does God's holiness (sinlessness) give you confidence to share?*

3. Remember God is Still to be Served (Isaiah 6:8)

- **"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? Here am I, Send me!"** God doesn't exist so that He can serve your needs and desires, you exist to serve God. No matter what is happening in the world, we are still to serve God. Isaiah is a faithful example of this truth. God commissioned him to prophesy and speak without any apparent results for 40 years. In the same way, one of the greatest kinds of service that you can render to the king of kings is when you speak the gospel of Jesus Christ with someone. God has given you a job, your ministry, your house, your education, and abilities to share the gospel on through various platforms.
 - **Ask Questions**
 - *Have you ever served God in a specific way without seeing any results or delayed results? Explain.*
 - *What platform do you have in your life that can be used with more intentionality to share the gospel with others?*

Evangelism Preparation (See Next Page)

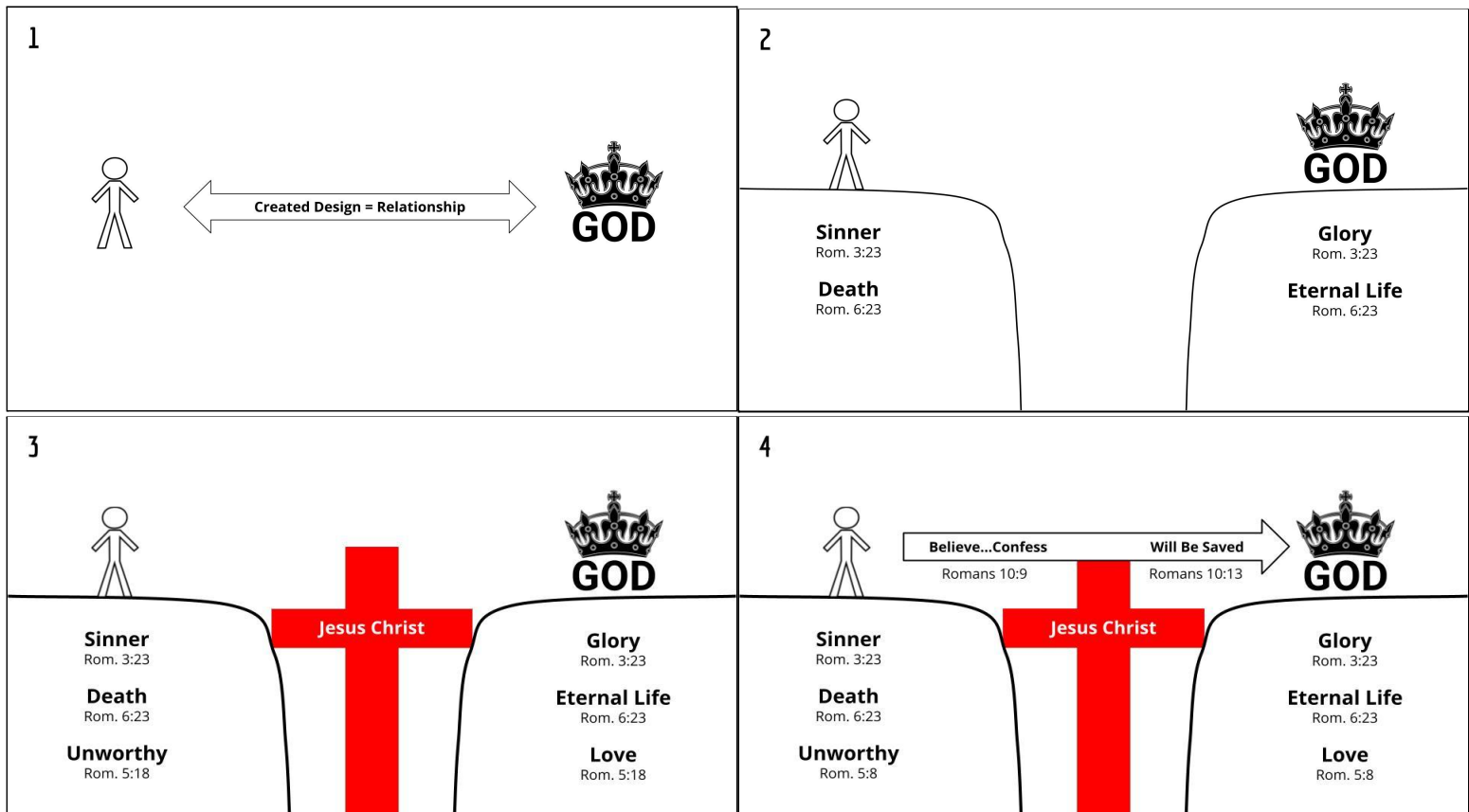
A. Share the Gospel from Scripture (The Romans Road)

- Each week in this series, have someone practice sharing the gospel using these five Scriptures. Use your Bible. It may not be easy determining what to say transitioning between the Scriptures, but that is okay. Perhaps other group members can help.

Romans		
3:23	We Are All Sinners	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
6:23	Consequence of Sin	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
5:8	God Loves Sinners	But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
10:9	You Can Be Saved	If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved
10:13	God's Promise	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

B. Share the Gospel Using a Gospel Illustration (The Chasm and the Cross)

- Review this Gospel Illustration and then have someone practice sharing the gospel with the group by drawing it out on a piece of paper. The scriptures it uses are from the Romans Road above. It doesn't have to be perfect, just give it a try.



C. Share the Gospel Using Your Testimony

- Have someone in the group practice sharing their story of how Christ saved them. They can use the following categories to help guide their conversation:
 - My life before Christ....
 - I accepted Christ....
 - My life with Christ....

Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.