

**SERMON:** Gospel Centered Church  
**SERIES:** Gospel Centered Church  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Mark

August 5, 2018

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:**

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. Believe the Gospel
- II. Stand in the Gospel
- III. Walk in the Gospel

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. As a group interact with this definition of Gospel Centered: The gospel is not only the entry point into the Christian life, but also the foundation and power that shapes all we do as followers of Jesus Christ in daily life and as a church.
2. Paul says that the gospel is of “first importance.” What is of “first importance” to you? Why will anything other than Christ being of “first importance” actually just crush you? How will making anything other than the gospel of “first importance” destroy a church?
3. Paul describes the gospel as the NEWS that Jesus died, was buried, and raised. How is this story far better than just good advice? Can you think of any ways that you have reduced the gospel down to just good advice (something to be done) rather than good news (something that has already been done)?
4. Paul says that we “stand” in the gospel. The gospel is what saves us and sanctifies us. Remember the gospel says that we are both wicked and loved at the same time. How do these truths allow us to live in the love and holiness of Christ? How do they guard our hearts from both legalism (I have to live holy to be saved) and license (because I’m saved I don’t need to be holy)?
5. The gospel shapes how we do life together:
  - We humbly confess sin and confront sin.
  - We strive for an atmosphere of grace.
  - We forgive one another.
  - We share the gospel with others.

Which of these stands out to you? Does your small group practice these things? Would you say that the gospel is at the center of your small group?

Pray: Praise God for the substitutionary work of Christ in your place, that the gospel is news and not advice. Confess anything that has taken over “first importance” in your life. Ask God to keep your heart from both legalism and license.