

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE NATIONS

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING ON MISSION / SERIES: ACTS

BIG TRUTH: THE GOSPEL OF JESUS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE NATIONS

Psalm 18:49; 22:27; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10; Luke 24:47

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 28:28

“Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

BIG IDEAS

- The Gospel of Jesus is the salvation of God.
- The Gospel of Jesus has been sent to the Gentiles.
- We respond by proclaiming the Gospel with all boldness and without hindrance.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 28:28-31

KNEEL: LIVING ON MISSION

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- The gospel has the power to turn the world upside down.
- They are empowered and chosen to be a gospel witness in the world.
- Our salvation has come by grace alone.



Every student should feel...

- Comfort that the Lord is with them wherever they go.
- Hope in the God of salvation.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



Every student should strive to...

- Read, study, and meditate on the entire book of Acts.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Pray consistently for boldness to make Jesus known.



Every student should want...

- To pursue faithfulness in living on mission.
- To share the gospel with people in their lives who do not know Jesus.
- To sacrifice their personal freedoms for the sake of the gospel

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 28:28

“Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

The redemptive work of Jesus is salvation for the world.

“Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles...”

- The work of Jesus is a redemptive work. It is through His life, death, and resurrection that mankind can be saved and redeemed from their sin. People move from darkness to light through repentance and faith in Jesus.
- This work is not just for a few people but for the world. God prepared His salvation for all people who believe. The redemptive work of Jesus is sufficient for every person in the world. Jesus' death is enough to pay the sin debt for every person who has ever lived and will ever live. The redemptive work is full and complete.

The Gospel has been sent for the whole world.

“Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles...”

- God has not kept His Gospel for the Jews only. When He first called a people to Himself, He called the Jews to be His chosen people. After the Jews heard His Gospel, He sent His redemption to the whole world.
- The Gospel has been sent to the whole world because His redemption is for all who believe. God uses His chosen people as the conduit for His Gospel reaching all people in the world. It is through His redeemed people that the Gospel is to reach the ends of the earth.

Believers participate by taking the Gospel to the world who will listen.

“...they will listen.”

- God uses His chosen people as His vessels to carry the Gospel to the world. He chooses to do this for His glory and the good of His people. His people get to participate in carrying the good news to the ends of the earth.
- God is a sovereign, all-knowing God who calls His people to Himself. He has prepared people to hear the good news and as He has sent His Gospel to the world, there will be people who hear it and believe it. God's redeemed people can trust that the Gospel they share throughout the world will not always fall on deaf ears. We are not tasked with knowing or deciding if someone will listen. We are commanded to faithfully share the gospel with all.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE NATIONS

BIG IDEA #1: THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IS THE SALVATION OF GOD.¹

[THIS]

Before the foundation of the world, Jesus existed as the Son of God. 1 Peter 1:20 tells us that Jesus has existed as the Son of God before the world even existed. Jesus has always been God's plan for salvation. There is no other plan or way for man to get to God. Throughout Paul's earthly ministry, he proclaimed this truth: Jesus is the salvation of God. In the beginning, God promised that He would send the One who would right the wrong committed by mankind. We see this promise first emerge in Genesis 3 when God curses the serpent. As the book of Acts and Luke's account of the missionary journeys of Paul and the other disciples ends, we see that the early church taught and proclaimed that the only way for man to be saved was through a faith in Jesus. In Acts 28:28, Paul declares that the salvation of God is Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

What other ways does the world try to access God? How are these ways deceptive?

The world attempts to create its own version of God. It attempts to reduce Jesus to a good person or teacher rather than the Savior of the world. Matthew 7:15 and John 14:6 warn us that Jesus is the only way to know God. Jesus is the only salvation from God. He is the only way to know God.

[THIS]

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus is the way to share the salvation God offers the world. When we tell others about Jesus, we are telling them the salvation that God offers. By telling people that Jesus is not just a good person or wise teacher, we are showing people that God's plan for salvation is through His Son. It is our responsibility to tell others the truth about God's salvation plan. It is our calling to share with others what Jesus has done. Paul set this example by continuing to tell people that Jesus is the salvation of God offered to the world. There is no other way to be redeemed from our sin debt. When we share the Gospel, this is what we share—to be saved from our sin debt, we must repent of our sin and turn to Jesus. We cannot just believe that God exists or think of Jesus as a good person. We must believe and trust that He is the salvation offered to us.

[THEREFORE]

Since Jesus is God's salvation, what should we tell others about Jesus when sharing the Gospel?

1 Timothy 2:5, Acts 2:38, and John 8:12 help us understand that Jesus is the salvation of God and the only way for man to be saved. When we tell others about Jesus, we should share that He is the One God sent to redeem the world. We should share that the Gospel is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for the salvation of the world.

What habits help you share the truth about who Jesus is to others regularly?

In Acts 28:28-31, Paul regularly shared the truth about Jesus. It was his habit to tell others who Jesus was. When we focus our minds on heavenly things and expanding the kingdom of God, we will regularly tell others about Jesus and that He is God's salvation for the world.

1. Acts 28:28: *God's salvation is Jesus sent to the world to pay man's sin debt.*

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE NATIONS

BIG IDEA #2: THE GOSPEL OF JESUS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE GENTILES.²

[THIS]

In Acts 28:28, Paul declares that the Gospel is not just for the Jews. He declares that it is for the Gentiles also. Every person who is not a Jew is a Gentile. This means that the Gospel is for all people. In Acts 28:28, Paul's statement is an indictment against the Jews because they received the Gospel first and didn't listen to it. In saying that the Gospel was for the Gentiles, Paul was saying that others, who had not received all the prophecies and information that the Jews had would listen to it. People who were pagan nations having never heard the truth would hear it and believe it quicker than the Jews had received it. This condemnation towards the Jewish people was a statement against the hardness of their hearts towards God. They had ultimately rejected God's salvation to them, thinking that they did not need the salvation He was offering them. God had always intended His salvation for the whole world and the Jews hardening their hearts worked toward expanding the Gospel to the Gentiles.

[THEREFORE]

How did the Jews' rejection of the Gospel lead to the Gentiles receiving it?

In John 10:25-27, Jesus teaches that the Jews have rejected the Gospel, thus God has sent it to the Gentiles. Paul further teaches this in Acts 28:28 when he proclaims that it has been sent to the Gentiles who will indeed listen to it. The Jews' rejection of God led to the spread of the Gospel to the rest of the world.

[THIS]

When God sent the Gospel to the Gentiles, He chose His redeemed people to carry it to them. We are His redeemed people and God has chosen us to carry His truth to the ends of the earth. Just as Paul was chosen to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, we are chosen to tell all people about Jesus. For people to know that Jesus is the salvation of God and this salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, we must tell people. We must give up our own desires and take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Jesus commissioned His followers to carry the Gospel to the ends of the world so that all may hear the truth. We are the chosen ones who are called to carry the Gospel that has been sent to the Gentiles. When we focus our hearts and minds on eternal things, we will determine to make Jesus known to everyone all over the world.

[THEREFORE]

Read Acts 28:28-31. How does Paul's example of telling everyone continually about Jesus inspire you to focus your life on carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth?

In these verses, we see that Paul was focused on telling as many people as possible about Jesus. Paul's life was centered around spreading the name of Jesus to the world. He did not stop telling people about Jesus and the truth of the Gospel. He continued to tell people about Jesus even when it brought persecution to his life.

What hope do you have since the Gospel has been sent to the Gentiles?

Every person who is not a Jew is a Gentile; therefore, the hope we have is to have our sins forgiven. Because Paul willingly carried the Gospel to the Gentiles, we know who Jesus is and have the opportunity to repent and believe. Without God sending the Gospel to the Gentiles, we would be lost in our sin and still in the darkness of our sin. Ephesians 1:18 reminds us of the hope that we have in knowing Jesus as our Savior.

2. Acts 28:28: God has given His salvation to the whole world.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE NATIONS

BIG IDEA #3: WE RESPOND BY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WITH ALL BOLDNESS AND WITHOUT HINDRANCE.³

[THIS]

Because God has sent the Gospel of Jesus to everyone, our response should be to proclaim this truth with boldness. Paul leads in this response by proclaiming Jesus boldly throughout his ministry as a follower of Christ. After Paul's conversion on the Damascus Road, he proclaimed Christ boldly to all who would hear. Paul did not consider his own life worth saving, but instead, declared the truth about Jesus. Acts 28:28-31 shows us that even as Luke ends his account of Paul's missionary journeys, Paul is continuing to preach the Gospel of Jesus. God sent Jesus to everyone, and Paul responded by telling all who would hear the truth of who Jesus is and the salvation available to them. He did this boldly no matter the consequence to himself. He faced much persecution and eventually lost his life for the sake of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

[THEREFORE]

How have you been able to share the Gospel with boldness in your daily life?

1 Corinthians 16:13, Hebrews 13:6, and Proverbs 28:1 help us understand that God helps us with boldness and instructs us to be bold when we live for Him. As we share the Gospel, we can do so with boldness because His Spirit is with us always. It is in the power of His Spirit that we can share the Gospel boldly everywhere.

[THIS]

Paul responded to God sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth by preaching the Gospel no matter the circumstance. Paul could have made excuses for not preaching the Gospel. He could have used his imprisonments or his beatings as reasons to not preach the Gospel, yet he did not. He continued to preach the Gospel at every opportunity with no hindrance. He preached the Gospel until he was no longer alive. The only way to stop him from preaching the Gospel was to kill him. As believers, our response to God sending the Gospel to all nations is to preach without hindrance. This means that we do not look for excuses or allow human obstacles to stand in our way. Instead, we trust that God has sent the Gospel to the ends of the earth and He will make sure that it makes it to the ends of the earth. Our response is obedience in sharing the Gospel everywhere.

[THEREFORE]

Why do we allow human obstacles to keep us from taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth?

We often allow human obstacles to prevent us from sharing the Gospel because our understanding is limited. God has told us in His Word that with man things are impossible, but not with Him. We are reminded of this truth in Jeremiah 32:12 and Job 42:2. God has said that His Gospel is for all people; therefore, we can trust that no human obstacle can stand in the way of the Gospel going to all people.

Why should our response be to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth since God has sent it to all people?

Carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth is an act of obedience. John 14:15 and James 1:22 remind us that God requires our obedience to His Word. Because God has sent His Gospel to all people, our only response is to carry it to all people.

3. Acts 28:31: Paul did not stop proclaiming the coming of Jesus even when he faced persecution. We should continue sharing Jesus with boldness.