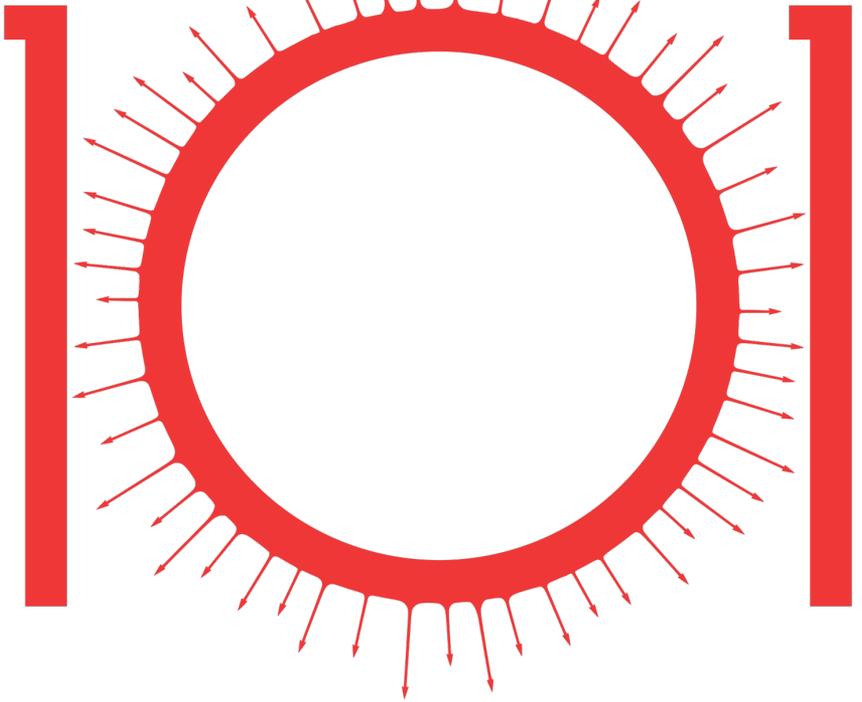


GOSPEL



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Learning, Living, and Sharing the Gospel



**GRAND POINT
CHURCH**

Welcome to **GOSPEL** |

We're so glad you're joining a Gospel 101 Circle! Over the next nine weeks, you'll explore the Gospel in a fresh way—what it is, how it changes your life, and how to share it with others in real life.

This guide will help you get the most out of the experience, as you take an adventure with fellow Christ-followers toward Gospel-community.

What to Expect Each Week

Your group will follow a simple, consistent rhythm:

1. Connect and check in.
2. Share how last week's assignment went.
3. Discuss the weekend message.
4. Talk through the Gospel 101 chapter for the week.
5. Pray through what you're learning each week.
6. Preview the next assignment.



Each gathering will last around 45–90 minutes, led by your group host. Their role is to keep the group focused, encourage group members to take another step, and point the group back to Christ.

How to Prepare

Each week:

- Read the assigned Gospel 101 chapter.
- Complete the short reflection exercise.
- Pray for an opportunity to share the Gospel.
- Come ready to discuss ***honestly*** and ***openly***.

Group Expectations

To make your group experience meaningful for all participants, please commit to:

- Listening well and giving others space to share.
- Speaking honestly about your experiences.
- Being respectful, even when disagreeing.
- Keeping personal sharing confidential.
- Trying each weekly assignment—even if it stretches you.

Growth happens when we take steps of obedience ***together***. Your growth will be increased by those in your group, AND their growth will hinge on your presence and contributions.

Your presence matters! So, commit yourself to the *process* and the *people* on the journey with you!

Weekly Practices

Each chapter of Gospel 101 includes practical exercises and assignments. These practices help you live out what you're learning. Examples include:

- ◆ Identifying who you're praying for.
- ◆ Sharing a piece of your story.
- ◆ Having a Gospel conversation with someone in your life.

You are not expected to do these perfectly—just faithfully. Progress, not perfection is our goal!

If You Feel Nervous or Underprepared

You are not alone. Many people feel hesitant about sharing their faith. Remember:

- ☑ God uses ordinary people.
- ☑ You don't need all the answers.
- ☑ Your story matters.
- ☑ The Holy Spirit empowers you.

This group is a safe place to learn and grow. The great thing about being stretched and uncomfortable is that ***we are in this together!***



How to Get the Most Out of This Study

- Show up each week.
- Do the reading and assignment.
- Participate actively.
- Pray daily for one person far from God.
- Look for small open doors to share encouragement and hope with others.

This series isn't just about information—it's about ***transformation!***

After the Campaign

Around Week 7-8, your group will discuss your next steps. Options include:

- Continuing as a group or starting new groups.
- Meeting monthly to stay connected.
- Going our separate ways.

Ask God what your best next step should be.

Thank You

We are so grateful for you joining us on this Gospel journey. We believe God will deepen your love for Jesus, clarify the Gospel for you, and open opportunities for meaningful conversations with the people in your life. We're here for you and are praying for you!

GPC Adult Ministry Team

The Gospel Teaching Series and Gospel 101 Book Discussion Schedule:

2/15-3/1 *The Gospel* teaching series begins (final 3 weeks to sign up to Host and Join a Gospel 101 Circle)

3/8 G101 Circles begin meeting – Romans 2:1-29 – **G101 Intro**

3/15 Why the Gospel Matters – Romans 3:1-20 – **G101 Lesson 1**

3/22 Why Starting with God Matters – Romans 3:21-26 – **Lesson 2**

3/29 Why Understanding Humanity Matters – Romans 3:27-31 – **Lesson 3**

4/5 (Easter) Why the Centrality of Christ Matters – Romans 4:1-25 – **Lesson 4**

4/12 Why Justification Matters – Romans 3:19-5:21 – **Lesson 5**

4/19 Why Our Response Matters – Romans 6:1-8:17 – **Lesson 6**

4/26 Why Belonging Matters – Romans 8:18-30 – **Lesson 7**

5/3 (Last G101 Session) Why Culmination Matters – Romans 8:31-38 – **Lesson 8**

5/10-31 Final 4 weeks of *The Gospel* teaching series

WEEKLY CONVERSATION GUIDE

Use the following pages to follow along and track each week's conversations. This guide picks up with week 4 of *The Gospel* teaching series on the book of Romans. The first week in this guide will serve as an introduction to the Gospel 101 small group campaign and allow for your group to get to know each other as you prepare for this journey together! If you have a chance to read through the Introduction in the Gospel 101 book before your first week together as a group, this would be helpful.

WEEK 1

Key Scripture: Romans 2:1-29

Big Idea: Religious or not, we desperately need the Gospel! It isn't a matter of our best behavior or law-keeping. God's judgement is we are all lawbreakers, and it is time for God's people to lead the way in repentance and a circumcision of the heart.

Icebreaker Question:

What comes to mind when you think of God's judgement, or consider God as our judge?

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week's message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Introduction):

- In the Introduction, Jeff Dodge shares a quote recalling a friend’s attempt at sharing the Gospel. Was the Gospel clear to you when you first heard it? Is it clear to you today?
- Which of the two ditches described in the Introduction do you tend to fall into when you try to share the Gospel?
- “*Studying the gospel necessarily leads to worship...*” (p. 4) Honestly... is this your experience? Why or why not?
- _____

Prayer Prompt:

Pray for *humility* as you dive into studying the gospel for the rest of this group experience.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Catch-up and read Gospel 101, Introduction (if you have not read it yet) & Lesson 1.
- Complete the weekly assignments from Lesson 1 (Reading, Article, Workbook, and Survey).
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!

WEEK 2 - The Gospel Reset: Why the Gospel Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 1:16–17, 3:1-20; 1 Corinthians 15:1–8

Big Idea: Before we can learn, live, or share the gospel, we must rediscover it. The church loses power when it assumes the gospel instead of clearly articulating it.

Icebreaker Question:

What is one word you've often used to describe Christianity—and why do you think you chose that word?

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week's message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 1):

- How does Paul’s summary in 1 Corinthians 15 clarify or simplify your understanding of the Gospel?
- Which part of the Gospel story is easiest for you to share with someone—and which is hardest?
- Why is it important to consider the ‘eternal gospel’ (the whole context of the Bible) rather than a narrower view?
- How would you explain the Gospel to a friend in 60 seconds?
- _____

Prayer Prompt:

Pray for clarity and confidence to articulate the Gospel this week.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Catch-up and read Gospel 101, Introduction & Lesson 1 (if you haven’t read these yet) and complete Lesson 1’s assignments(Reading, Article, Workbook, and Survey).
- Read and complete assignments from Lesson 2 by our next gathering.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!

WEEK 3 - The God Who Rescues: Why Starting with God Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 3:21-26; Genesis 1-3

Big Idea: To understand the gospel, we must understand God—His holiness, justice, mercy, and love. The gospel begins with God’s character, not human need.

Icebreaker Question:

When have you felt pursued, welcomed, or valued by someone unexpectedly?

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week’s assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week’s message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 2):

- What stood out about God’s character in this lesson from the book?
- Where do you see in your own life a dislike for God’s authority (or anyone else’s)?
- How do the three attributes described demonstrate both God’s love for his people AND his authoritative position over them? Why is it important to see both of these themes together?
- What obstacles keep you from pursuing the lost the way God does?
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Prayer Prompt:

Praise God for His greatness, holiness, and tenderness. Pray also for God’s compassion for the people in your life who may be far from Him.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Read Gospel 101, Lesson 3.
- Complete the weekly assignments from this chapter.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!

WEEK 4 - Humanity Undone: Why Understanding Humanity Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 1:18-3:31; Psalm 19; Ephesians 4:17-19

Big Idea: The gospel only becomes good news when we understand the bad news. Humanity is sinful, broken, and unable to save itself.

Icebreaker Question:

What is one moment in your life where God became more real to you?

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week's assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week's message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 3):

- In what ways have you encountered people ‘blaming’ someone else for their disbelief in God?

- How well do you deal with correction or when someone calls you out?

- Romans 2:4 says God is full of kindness, restraint, and patience. Though totally justified in his sentencing, this final Judge has chosen to offer us a way to enter that judgement day without fear. How might you be able to help friends or neighbors consider their posture before God? How might you point them to their (and your) need for Jesus?

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Prayer Prompt:

Pray for boldness and opportunities to share the ‘bad news’ so that others gain a clear understanding for why we need Jesus.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Read Gospel 101, Lesson 4.
- Complete the weekly assignments from this chapter.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!
- Invite 3 friends or family members to come with you to one of our Easter worship experiences this week!

WEEK 5 - The Christ Who Saves: Why the Centrality of Christ Matters (Easter Message)

Key Scripture: Romans 4:1-25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28; Matthew 4:1-11; Isaiah 53

Big Idea: Jesus is the central Hero of the Gospel. Who He is and what He has done defines Christian hope.

Icebreaker Question:

What is something that used to intimidate you but doesn't anymore?

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week's assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week's message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 4):

- How have you seen people giving up on changing their lives or finding a hero who can destroy our sin and corruption?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- How does Jesus’s resurrection complete our Christian hope?
- In one clear sentence, capture the Gospel message to you?
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Prayer Prompt:

Take a moment to thank God for the life, death, and resurrection of his son, Jesus. Pray also for courage to share how Jesus makes a difference in your life this week.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Read Gospel 101, Lesson 5.
- Complete the weekly assignments from this chapter.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!

WEEK 6 – Declared Righteous: Why Justification Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 3:19-5:21; 8:1-11; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

Big Idea: Justification is God’s legal declaration that sinners are righteous in Christ—not because of what they do, but because of what Jesus did.

Icebreaker Question:

Tell the story of when someone took the blame you deserved.

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week’s assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week’s message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 5):

- How would you have defined justification, and did this align with how it was defined in Gospel 101?
- Were any of the false views more aligned with how you previously defined justification?
- What does a biblical understanding of justification do for you? How does it change the way you think, live, or behave?
- How did you react to the story of The Merciful King? Are there any other stories or illustrations that help to communicate how Jesus has justified us?
- How does understanding justification shape how you will share the gospel with others?
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Prayer Prompt:

Pray for ears to hear how others think we are made right with God, and opportunities to describe the work of Christ.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Read Gospel 101, Lesson 6.
- Complete the weekly assignments from this chapter.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!

WEEK 7 - The Response That Saves: Why Our Response Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 6:1-8:17; Acts 17; Colossians 2:11-13

Big Idea: The gospel requires a response—Repentance and belief are how this good news is actually applied to our lives.

Icebreaker Question:

Share about a time the GPS was wrong, you had to stop to get directions, or you were far off course and had to correct.

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week's assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week's message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 6):

- After reading this Lesson, why would you say that sharing the good news is not enough?
- How would you describe to someone what it means to repent?
- How is Baptism a symbol of what repentance does? Have you taken the step of Baptism? If so, what was its significance to you?
- How did you initially respond to the gospel? What do repentance and belief look like in your life?
- How did others respond when you asked them, “How will God determine who goes to heaven and who goes to hell?”
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Prayer Prompt:

Pray for a right heart response *in you* toward those in your life who need to respond to God’s good news.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Read Gospel 101, Lesson 7.
- Complete the weekly assignments from this chapter.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!
- Begin to consider what you will do AFTER this small group experience is over. Will you go your separate ways, continue gathering in some way, or begin new groups to help others belong?

WEEK 8 - Welcome Home: Why Belonging Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 8:1-30; 12:1-21; Hebrews 10:23-25

Big Idea: The gospel brings us a new identify and a new community where we belong, which are essential for growth and mission.

Icebreaker Question:

Where have you been touched by loneliness or isolation?
Where have you experienced deep belonging or teamwork?

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week's assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week's message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 7):

- In what ways has belonging to Jesus changed things for you?
- This new, life-long growth process with Jesus is called sanctification. Where do we find the power to grow, change, and transform our lives? Why is this significant in our understanding of our new identity?
- How are sanctification and adoption intertwined?
- The church is both *universal* and *local*—why is this understanding so important?
- How would you now respond to someone that claims they don't need to belong to a church (or 'go to' a church)?

○ _____

Prayer Prompt:

Pray about the areas that are in need of transformation still in your sanctification. Pray also for those you are trying to reach to experience true belonging among God's people.

Preview for the week ahead:

- Read Gospel 101, Lesson 8.
- Complete the weekly assignments from this chapter.
- Prepare to share about the assignments next week in our group conversation!
- Did you discuss your options as a group after this campaign is over? Now is the time to talk out your plans.

WEEK 9 – The Gospel Movement Begins: Why Culmination Matters

Key Scripture: Romans 8:31-38; Revelation 20-22

Big Idea: Jesus and his gospel are our only hope of full restoration, and this hope spreads when ordinary believers live on mission with courage, clarity, and love. The movement begins now—with us, and with you.

Icebreaker Question:

When you think of *The End*, what are you feeling inside—dread and fear, or hope and expectation? *Why?*

Assignment Updates:

Please share how you lived out last week’s assignments.

Sermon Reflection:

The Key Points from this week’s message include:

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The major Takeaway that impacted the way I live:

Gospel 101 Book Discussion (Lesson 8):

- Why is John Lennon's song 'Imagine' only a partial hope for the world compared with the Christian hope?
- How do the final chapters of the Bible wrap up the story that began in Genesis?
- With the picture of the new heavens and the new earth the Bible describes, why do you think believers are timid or hesitant to share the end of the story? How might judgement and hell be good news?
- What causes you to look forward to the restoration of all things?
- How can we contribute to God's kingdom while we wait for this ultimate ending?
- _____

Prayer Prompt:

Pray that you all can more boldly carry the message of hope and restoration found only in the gospel.

Next Steps:

- Review Gospel 101 and create a personal ongoing Gospel action plan.
- This is the last week of the group campaign. What are your next steps after this experience?
 - Do you want to go your separate ways?
 - Do you want to continue meeting?
 - Do you want to begin new groups to help others belong and have a safe space to talk about spiritual things?

