

Discovery Group - Gospel Foundations

(1) *The Good News*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Acts 17:22-34

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Would you say you are near to God or far from God?
- *If far*: Do you want to turn and believe?
- *If near*: What makes you near to God?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- John 3:1-21

The Good News

God created the world perfect. His original design was for a place of beauty and love and wholeness. A place of plenty and peace. But that is not the world in which we live, is it? The real world is full of pain and sickness and death. It is a broken place, filled with broken people. People don't like the brokenness, and so they try to escape it. Some turn to riches and power. Others to sensuality and the pursuit of pleasure. Some to drugs and alcohol. Others to education or religion or trying to be good. But none of these things fix the brokenness. In fact, they just cause even more. The world is like this because mankind arrogantly disobeyed God (what the Bible calls sin). We are the ones who have spoiled God's perfect creation. It is our fault.

And yet, in spite of what we have done to His beautiful world, God still loves us. He loves us so much, in fact, that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for us. When Jesus died on the cross, He made us an offer. He would take all our sin - our rebellion and disobedience and pride. He would carry our shame and guilt. In return, He would give us His goodness. His rightness. His wholeness. He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, and promised that He would come again. When He comes, He will judge the world - receiving all who belong to Him to live with Him forever, and casting out all who rejected Him.

In order to be His - to move from brokenness to God's perfect design, we must go through Jesus. We put our trust in Him to be forgiven and delivered from sin. We decide to follow Him, and let Him rule our lives. We are no longer our own masters, but instead we allow Him to be in charge of every area of our lives. When we do this, he begins to restore us to God's perfect design, and then He sends us back into the brokenness of the world to help rescue others. This is the Good News!