

## SOME READING SUGGESTIONS

David Seccombe ***The Gospel of the Kingdom: Jesus' Revolutionary Message***

ISBN 9780620712736

Gospel is a word we often hear. But what does it mean? This book looks at gospels in the ancient world, and seeks to understand Jesus' gospel and the proclamation of the first Christians. The gospel is the instrument God uses to save lives; fuzzy thinking can be dangerous. The author argues that Jesus' gospel defines a new reality, requiring a new response in human behaviour. It is truly revolutionary.

John Chapman ***Know And Tell The Gospel*** ISBN: 9781876326029

This modern Australian classic deals with questions such as: Just what is the gospel? Is it my job to explain it to people? What is God's role and what is mine? This new edition has been extensively revised and rewritten, and contains up- to-date information on current resources for evangelism.

John Chapman ***A Fresh Start*** ISBN: 9781875245697

Isn't being good good enough? How can God love me? Can I really believe the Bible is true? This modern Australian classic explains simply how anyone may enter into new life with God through friendship with Jesus.

St Mark's Bassendean

# God's Great Announcement

Getting the Gospel Straight



Lenten Studies

2020

Our aim is to see how the Bible describes the Great Announcement from God that we call the Gospel. As we read and study you are encouraged to ask, how does this benefit me, and also how can I put this in a way that an unbeliever will understand.

# God's Great Announcement

Lenten Studies 2020

Week ending

- 16 Feb 20                    **God's Great Announcement**  
Gen 12.1-3; Ps 110 ; Is 52.5-12; Rom 1.1-6; Lk 2.25-32
- 23 Feb 20                    **Jesus' Great Announcement**  
2 Sam 7.11b-16; Ps 2; Acts 17.1-9; Lk 4.14-30
- 1 Mar 20                    **Isaiah's Great Announcement**  
Is 52.13 - 53.12; Ps 32; 1 Pet 2.18-25; Jn 10.11-18
- 8 Mar 20                    **Jesus' Strange Secret**  
Jer 8.8-9; Ps 22.1-8; Acts 10.34-43; Mark 8.27-9.1
- 15 Mar 20                    **Announcing Jesus' Victory over the Great Enemy**  
Gen 3.1-20; Ps 96; Col 2.8-15; Jn 12.20-33
- 22 Mar 20                    **Proclaiming the Lord of All**  
Is 44.6-8; Ps 95; Acts 2.22-41; Matt 28.16-20
- 29 Mar 20                    **Announcing a Death for All**  
Lev 16.15-22; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5.11 - 6.2; Mk 10.35-45
- 5 Apr 20 Passion Sun      **The Power of God's Great Announcement**  
Is 55.1-7; Ps 116; 1 Cor 1.18-25; Matt 26.17-30
- 10 Apr 20 Good Friday    **Announcing our Death**  
Is 52.13 - 53.12; Ps 22; Gal 2.15-21; Jn 18.1 - 19.42
- 12 Apr 20 Easter            **The Announcement that Saves**  
Ps 16; Hymn to the Risen Christ; 1 Cor 15.12-28; Matt 28.1-10

You can use these studies in  
your private reading;  
in prayer groups;  
in home groups;  
and as preparation for  
Sunday Sermons

**Bill and/or Mary Perth** are two not-yet-believers who don't have much church background. They are the kind of people you normally connect with, the kind of people you are familiar with. They are open to understanding the Christian faith.

## 9. ANNOUNCING OUR DEATH

WEEK ENDING 10 APRIL [GOOD FRIDAY]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12;  Ps 22;  Gal 2.15-21;  Jn 18.1 - 19.42

### ***For Thought and Talk***

1. Isaiah says it was due to our sins that the Servant died. Why do humans deserve death? And how does Jesus' death help them?
2. Paul says he was crucified with Christ (Gal 2.20)? Were you crucified with Christ? When and in what sense? The life you live now can be described as ....
3. How will you help Mary and Bill to understand Jesus' last words (Jn 19.30)?

## 10. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SAVES

WEEK ENDING 12 APRIL [EASTER DAY]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Psalm 16;  1 Corinthians 15.12-28;  Matthew 28.1-10

### ***For Thought and Talk***

1. The women are to tell the disciples that they will see Jesus in Galilee. What difference does it make that we didn't see him?
2. Paul thinks that if Christ hasn't been raised from the dead then our preaching and faith are useless (1 Cor 15.-17). What is it about the resurrection that makes it crucial?
3. Psalm 16.9-11 - is this your confident hope? How would you explain and justify it to Bill and Mary?

## 7. ANNOUNCING A DEATH FOR ALL

WEEK ENDING 29 MARCH [LENT 5]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Leviticus 16.15-22;  Psalm 51;  2 Cor 5.11 - 6.2;  Mk 10.35-45

### *For Thought and Talk*

1. How was it possible for the scapegoat ritual to work, and for David's sin to be washed away? How do you feel about that?
2. 2 Cor 5.14-15 suggests that Jesus' death does not allow us to get off scot-free. How does Gal 2.20 help us understand the implications of this?
3. How could you explain to Bill and Mary the idea of Jesus' death as a ransom (Mark 10.45)? How could they benefit from it?

## 8. THE POWER OF GOD'S GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT

WEEK ENDING 5 APRIL [PASSION SUNDAY]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Isaiah 55.1-7;  Psalm 116;  1 Cor 1.18-25;  Matt 26.17-30

### *For Thought and Talk*

1. What is it that you find attractive in Ps 116 and Isaiah 55.1-7? Why?
2. Why did God make his announcement in a way that people find repulsive (1 Cor 1.21-25)? And why is the message of the cross so powerful? Where does the power come from and show itself?
3. How would you explain "Christ crucified" to Mary and Bill?

## 1. GOD'S GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT

WEEK ENDING 16 FEBRUARY [EPIPHANY 6]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Genesis 12.1-3  Psalm 110  Romans 1.1-6  Luke 2.25-32

### *For Thought and Talk*

1. How are all the peoples on earth blessed through Abraham? How does Simeon's prayer help explain this?
2. God's great announcement is about his Son. How should people respond to this announcement? What gets in the way of doing this?
3. How would you explain God's great announcement in plain words to Bill & Mary Perth?

## 2. JESUS' GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT

WEEK ENDING 23 FEBRUARY [EPIPHANY 7]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

2 Samuel 7.11b-16;  Psalm 2;  Acts 17.1-9;  Luke 4.14-30

### *For Thought and Talk*

1. Jesus' summary of his message was "the Kingdom of God" (Lk4.43). How does 2 Sam 7 and Lk 4.18-19 help us understand what this means?
2. What powers are threatened by Jesus' rule nowadays (Ac 17.7)? How are Christians caught in that conflict and what should we do?
3. How would you explain the hope of Jesus' rule to Bill or Mary?

### 3. ISAIAH'S GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT

WEEK ENDING 1 MARCH [LENT 1]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12;  Psalm 32;  1 Pet 2.18-25;  Jn 10.11-18

#### ***For Thought and Talk***

1. Why did God do this to his Servant? Was it really necessary?
2. How does 1 Peter 2 help us understand why the Good Shepherd laid down his life for the sheep? How are we involved in this?
3. Bill & Mary Perth may not find this announcement very attractive. How would you help them appreciate it?

### 4. JESUS STRANGE SECRET

WEEK ENDING 8 MARCH [LENT 2]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Jer 8.8-9;  Ps 22.1-8;  Acts 10.34-43;  Mark 8.27-9.1

#### ***For Thought and Talk***

1. Peter has realised who the King in God's kingdom is. How does Jesus explain what it means to be this King?
2. Why must the elders and other leaders reject Jesus and have him killed? Why must his followers take up their cross?
3. How would you explain taking up your cross to Mary and Bill?

### 5. ANNOUNCING JESUS' VICTORY OVER THE GREAT ENEMY

WEEK ENDING 15 MARCH [LENT 3]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Genesis 3.1-20;  Psalm 96;  Colossians 2.8-15;  John 12.20-33

#### ***For Thought and Talk***

1. How does Genesis 3 and John 8.44 explain some of the power of the devil? How does Col 2.8-23 show how the devil can affect Christians? What does Paul think we should do about it?
2. How does Col 2.13-15 explain how the death of Christ takes away the devil's power?
3. How would you explain the benefit to Bill & Mary of Christ's victory over Satan?

### 6. PROCLAIMING THE LORD OF ALL

WEEK ENDING 22 MARCH [LENT 4]

READINGS THIS WEEK:

Isaiah 44.6-8;  Psalm 95;  Acts 2.22-41;  Matthew 28.16-20

#### ***For Thought and Talk***

1. As well as Psalm 95 and Isaiah 44, what other examples in the Old Testament do you know that declare that the LORD is the only God? What do these passages think people should do about it?
2. Is Matthew 28.18-20 applicable to all of us, or only some people? What needs to change for us and St Mark's for this to happen?
3. How would you put Acts 2.36 into plain English so Mary & Bill could understand it?