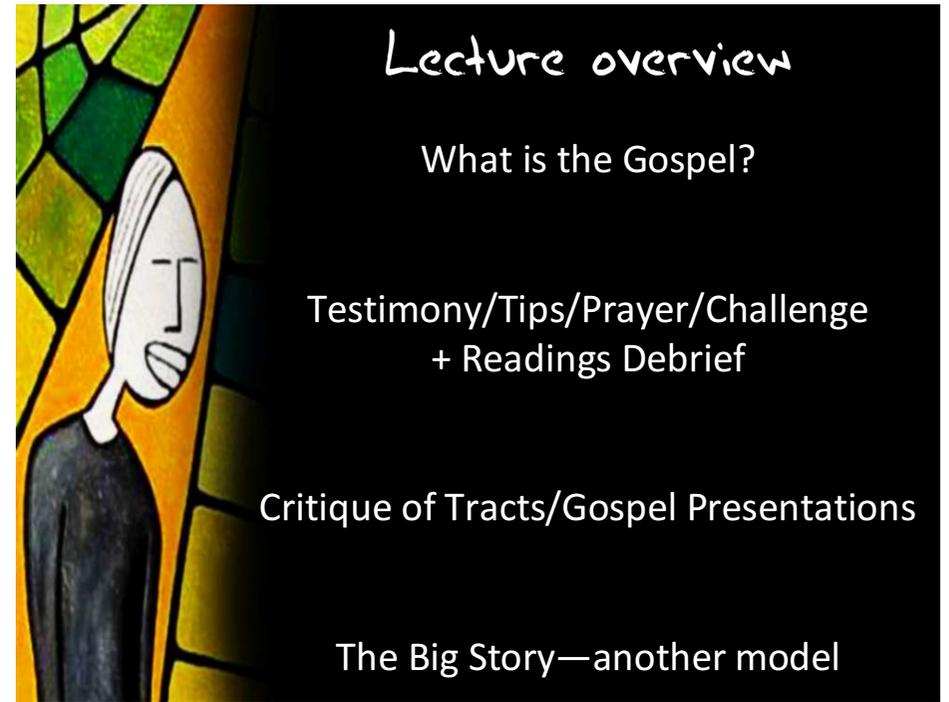




Principles of Evangelism  
EM324/524

Module 2: The Good News About the Gospel



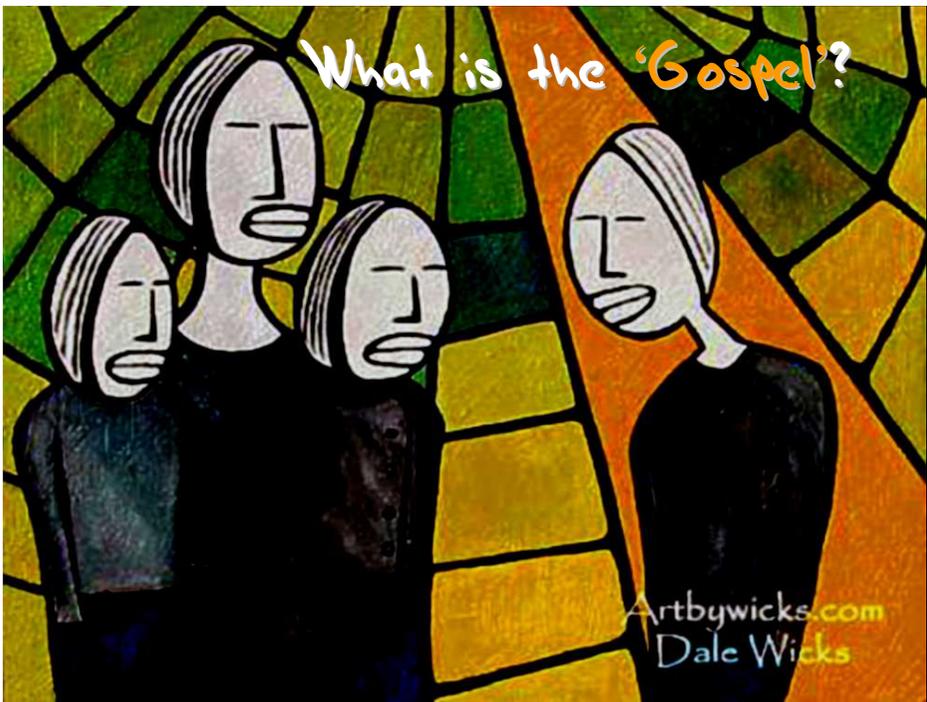
Lecture overview

What is the Gospel?

Testimony/Tips/Prayer/Challenge  
+ Readings Debrief

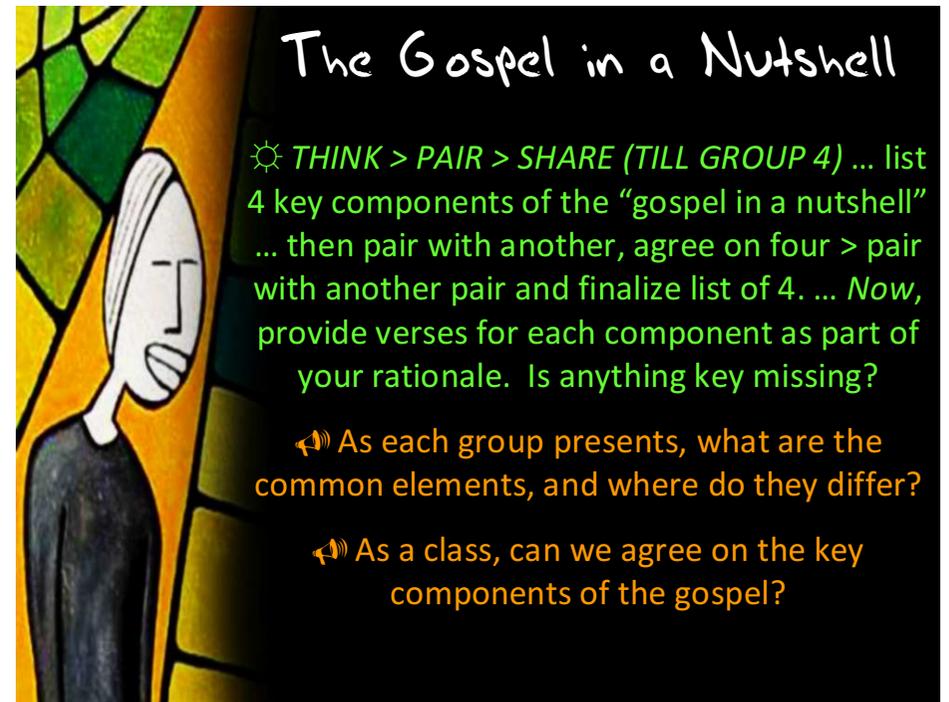
Critique of Tracts/Gospel Presentations

The Big Story—another model



What is the 'Gospel'?

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The Gospel in a Nutshell

☀ *THINK > PAIR > SHARE (TILL GROUP 4)* ... list 4 key components of the "gospel in a nutshell" ... then pair with another, agree on four > pair with another pair and finalize list of 4. ... *Now*, provide verses for each component as part of your rationale. Is anything key missing?

🔊 As each group presents, what are the common elements, and where do they differ?

🔊 As a class, can we agree on the key components of the gospel?



## OT & NT Gospel

☀ Read your assigned passages

> jot what it says about *gospel* and *evangelism*

> share insights with another

> read Dave's notes p4 & reflect as a class

🔊 What changes and what stays the same from OT to NT evangelism?

🔊 Based on this activity, what is the *gospel*? Write a few sentences in plain English to share this with a new disciple who is confused about the gospel.



## Testimony/Tips/ Prayer /Challenge



## Discussion of Readings

**-question**—something you don't get, or want to clarify

**-challenge**—something you disagree with, or want to nuance

**-implication**—“so what” for your evangelistic approach

**-application**—something useful right now in your context



## Evangelism: Theological Currents (4-17)

🔊 In what ways are evangelism (**E**) and mission related, and distinct?

🔊 If Bosch's definition was applied by your church, how would things change?

- 1) **E** is the centre of our mission
- 2) **E** Brings others into community with believers
- 3) **E** is what God *has* done ... we *embody* this
- 4) **E** is invitation, never coercive or manipulative
- 5) **E** is only possible when the church walks the talk
- 6) **E** is a risk: how the gospel is received, and how we may be changed as a result
- 7) **E** is not a consumer product: receive *and* give life
- 8) **E** is calling people to follow Jesus (making true disciples not just converts), enlisted for mission.



## Evangelism: Gospel of Salvation (33-45)

🔊 What does it mean to bring the good news of 'salvation'?

🔊 Why did OT believers conceive of 'salvation' in primarily physical terms, whereas most Christians today perceive of 'salvation' as a spiritual event, drawing us away from this world?

🔊 "To bring good news of salvation is to interpret Christ's saving work in the light of the struggles of mankind ... interpreting the comprehensiveness of God's salvation to all the peoples of the earth" (p39). What does this mean, and look like in practice?



## Evangelism: Gospel of Salvation (33-45)

🔊 "The church is faithful to her witnessing vocation when she becomes a catalyst for God's liberating action in the world of poverty, exploitation, hunger, guilt, and despair by *standing in solidarity* with people, by *showing them with concrete actions* that God cares and wills to save them and by *helping them to understand* the material and moral roots of their situation" (p41). Do you agree? If so, again, what could this look like in your context?

🔊 "To bring good news of salvation is to call for a commitment to Jesus Christ" (p42). Can Jesus be your Saviour if He is not your Lord? What are the implications for our gospel appeals?



## Comprehensive Evangelization (313-327)

🔊 "The evangelizing mission of the church is at the heart of the Christian community's saving identity and purpose in the world. The church exists to evangelize" (313). Do you agree? If so, is this the conclusion an outsider would come to by looking at your church's life together, and its expenditure of time, money, and energy. Why, or why not? Where is the break down? Also, what is the Spirit's role in this?

🔊 How does the "good news" relate to the Kingdom or Reign of God? ... How does the Reign of God relate to "Jesus is Lord"? ... Why did the church shift from Jesus' primary evangelistic message to the latter confession?

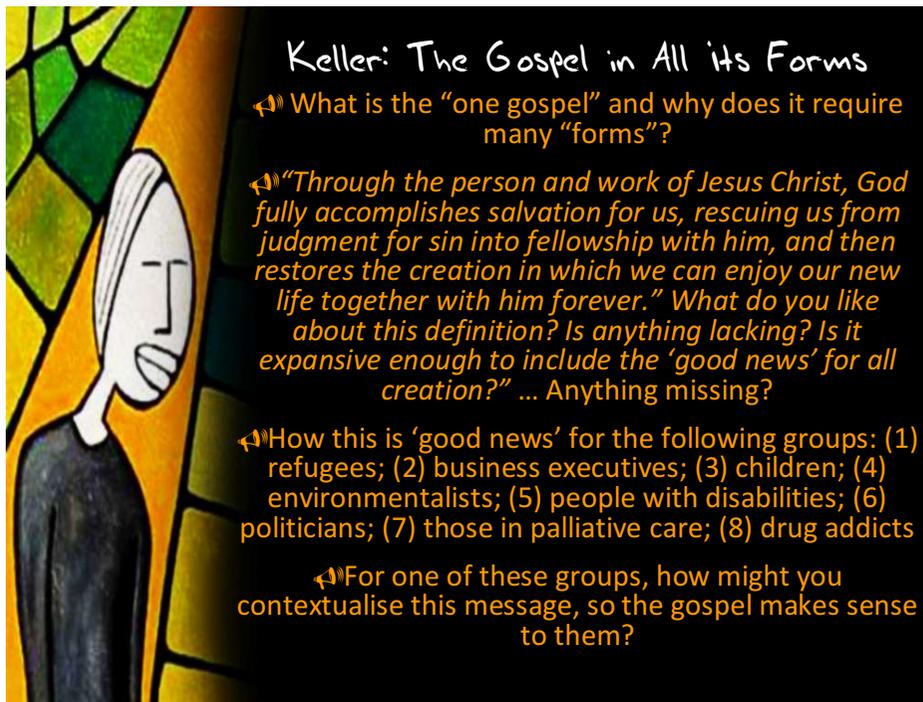


## Comprehensive Evangelization (313-327)

🔊 What does "prophetic" and "paschal" evangelism look like?

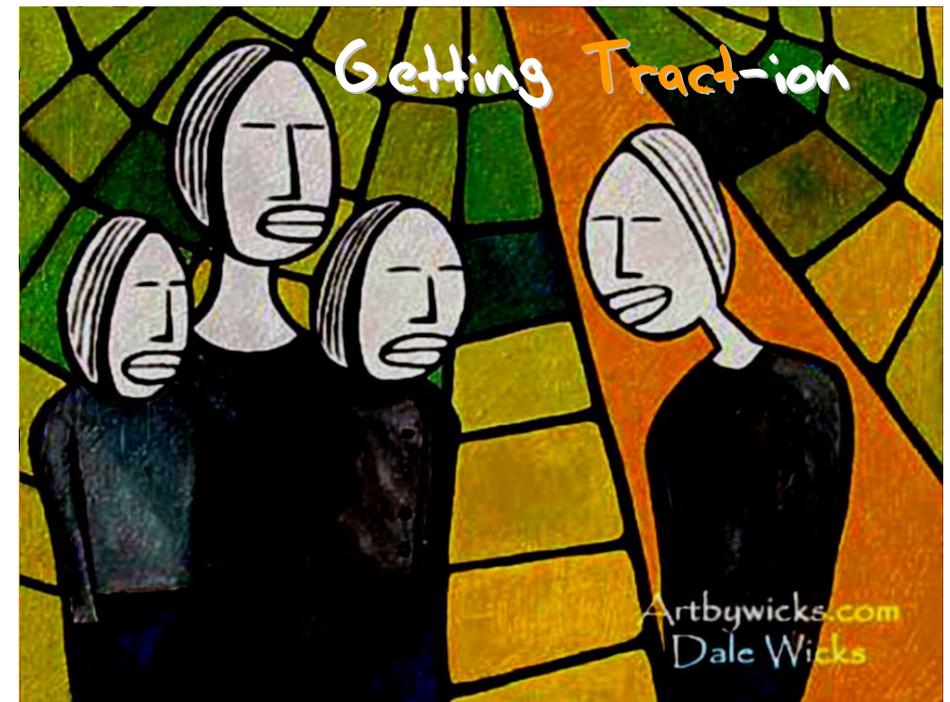
🔊 "Witness and word of dialogue are the two indispensable ways in which the content of the good news is communicated. Both are necessary in the invitation to others to consider the meaning of Jesus Christ. Witness without interpretation, unaccompanied by word of dialogue, can remain ambiguous or unclear for the other. But equally so, word of dialogue without witness is empty. Both must complement one another." ...

Where have you seen this done well?



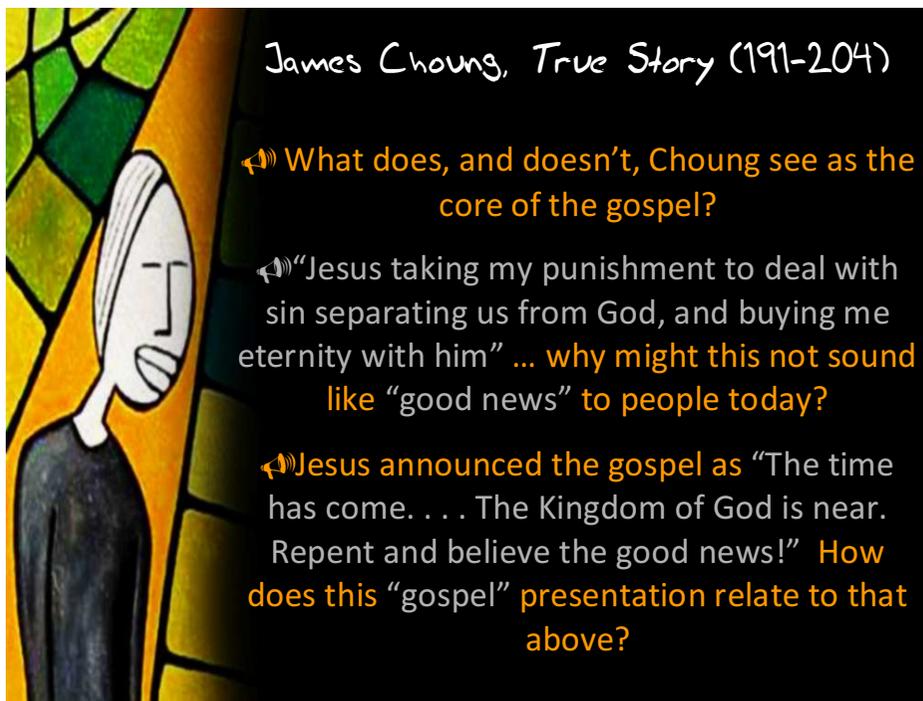
## Keller: The Gospel in All its Forms

- ⌚ What is the “one gospel” and why does it require many “forms”?
- ⌚ “Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, God fully accomplishes salvation for us, rescuing us from judgment for sin into fellowship with him, and then restores the creation in which we can enjoy our new life together with him forever.” What do you like about this definition? Is anything lacking? Is it expansive enough to include the ‘good news’ for all creation?” ... Anything missing?
- ⌚ How this is ‘good news’ for the following groups: (1) refugees; (2) business executives; (3) children; (4) environmentalists; (5) people with disabilities; (6) politicians; (7) those in palliative care; (8) drug addicts
  - ⌚ For one of these groups, how might you contextualise this message, so the gospel makes sense to them?



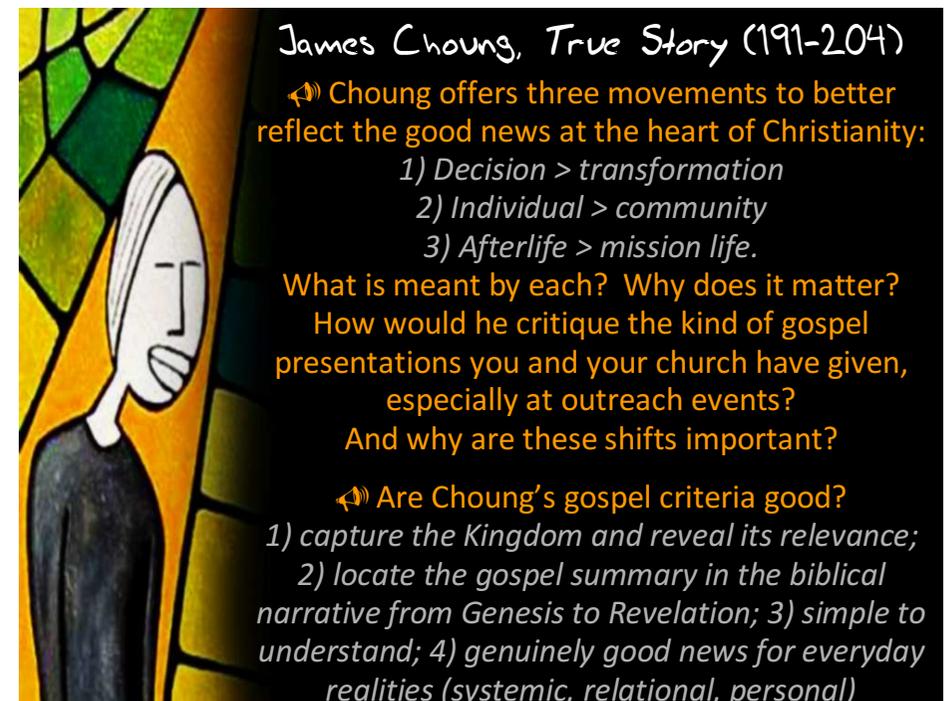
## Getting Traction

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## James Choung, True Story (191-204)

- ⌚ What does, and doesn’t, Choung see as the core of the gospel?
- ⌚ “Jesus taking my punishment to deal with sin separating us from God, and buying me eternity with him” ... why might this not sound like “good news” to people today?
- ⌚ Jesus announced the gospel as “The time has come. . . . The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” How does this “gospel” presentation relate to that above?



## James Choung, True Story (191-204)

- ⌚ Choung offers three movements to better reflect the good news at the heart of Christianity:
  - 1) Decision > transformation
  - 2) Individual > community
  - 3) Afterlife > mission life.
 What is meant by each? Why does it matter? How would he critique the kind of gospel presentations you and your church have given, especially at outreach events? And why are these shifts important?
- ⌚ Are Choung’s gospel criteria good?
  - 1) capture the Kingdom and reveal its relevance;
  - 2) locate the gospel summary in the biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation;
  - 3) simple to understand;
  - 4) genuinely good news for everyday realities (systemic, relational, personal)



## Gospel Tracts & Presentations

☀ In pairs, consider one or two gospel tracts or presentations, prepared to critique each.

Four Spiritual Laws/Knowing God Personally

“Eternity” tract

Million Dollar Bill

“Are you a good person?” test

“What you see is not all you get” tract

Two Ways to Live (2wtl)

Four Circles (James Choung)

The Big Story

*Other?*

*(see class notes for related web-addresses)*



## Critique of Gospel Tracts & Presentations

☀ Each group is to briefly review their tract, aligned with the following 2 sets of criteria:

CRITERIA SET 1:

- ◆ Biblical faithfulness
- ◆ Cultural relevance
- ◆ Usability

CRITERIA SET 2:

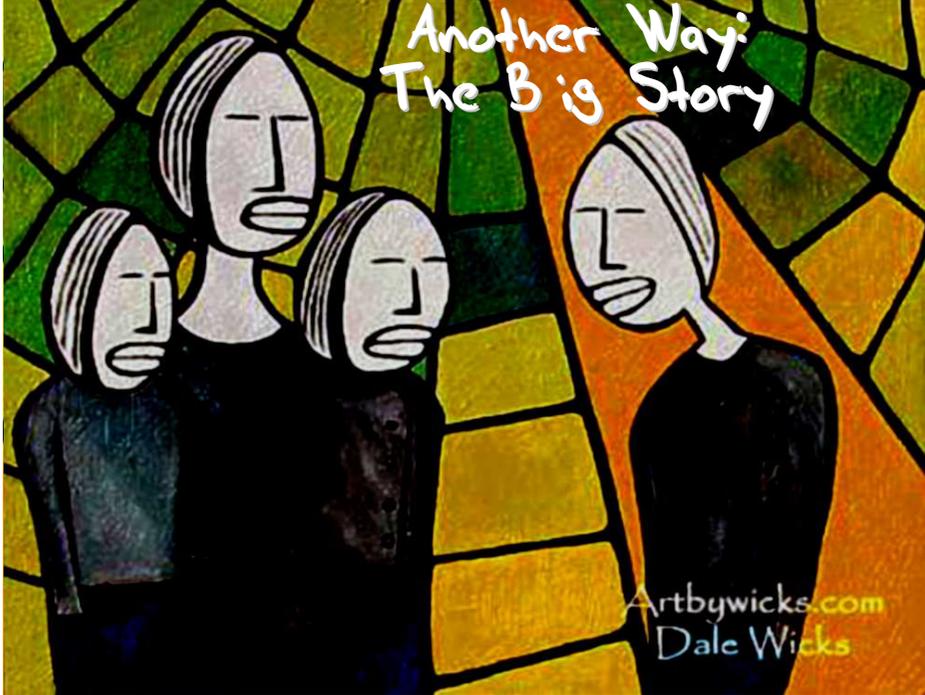
- ◆ Kingdom-centred, revealing its relevance
- ◆ Located in the biblical narrative
- ◆ Simple to understand, attractive to read
- ◆ Genuinely good news for everyday realities (systemic, relational, personal)



## Gospel Principles

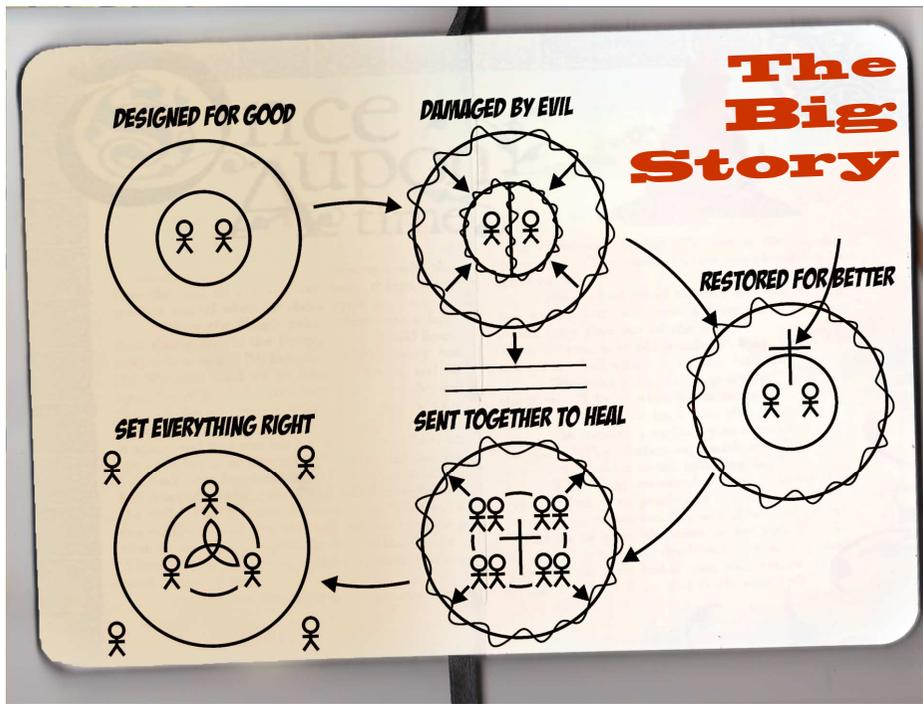
*“The Gospel is that the crucified and risen Jesus is the Lord [master, or boss] of the world. And that His death and resurrection transform the world, and that transformation can happen to you. You, in turn, can be part of the transforming work.” (N. T. Wright)*

🔊 How is this message the same, and importantly different from common gospel presentations?



## Another Way: The Big Story

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“The big story is that God **designed us all for good**, but through our bad choices we’ve been **damaged by evil**. But, through Jesus’ life, death on the cross, and resurrection, we’ve been **restored for better**. If you’re humble enough to admit to God that you fall short, and ask Him to forgive you for the wrong you’ve done, putting God first, then you can connect with life to the full—what God always intended for you. Then you can join other followers of Jesus, empowered by God’s Spirit, **sent together to heal** a hurting world, waiting for the day when **God will set everything right** by judging all the evil and restoring the whole universe.”

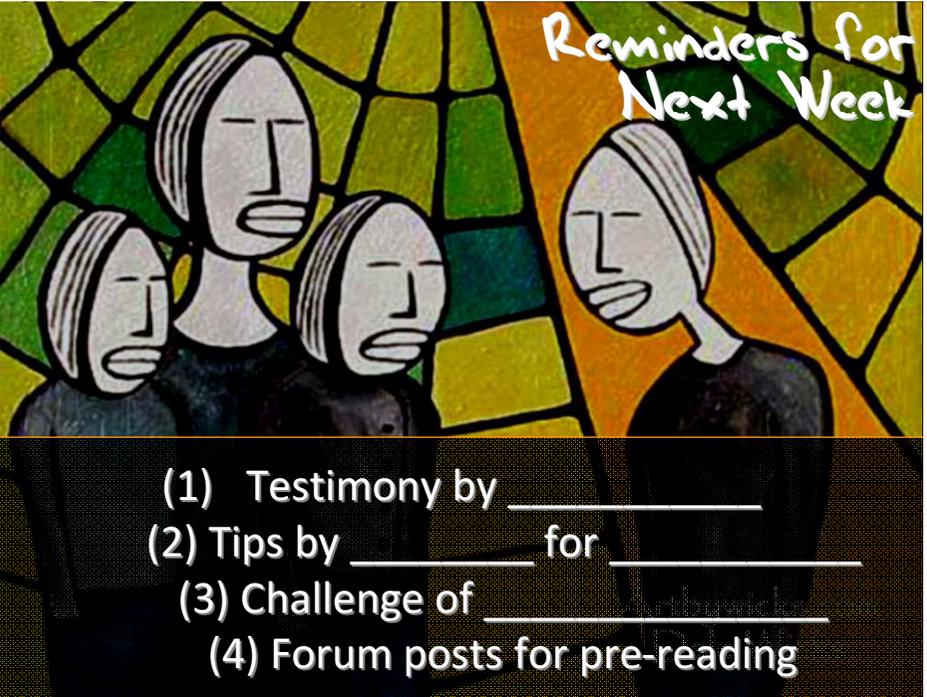
## Remembering Who We Are

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He arose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Remembering Who We Are

*Our Father who is in Heaven,  
Holy is Your Name.  
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the Kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
For ever and ever,  
Amen.*



Reminders for  
Next Week

- (1) Testimony by \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Tips by \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Challenge of \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Forum posts for pre-reading