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Week 1 >> God's Heart for the Lost

Week 1 – Day 1: The Father's Gift (God's Mission I)

Read: John 3:16-18; Colossians 1:13-14

Key Scripture: Colossians 1:13-14

“He [the Father] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Question 1.1: What does the Father's gift of Jesus mean to you personally? What does it mean to be delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of God? What effect has this “Kingdom transfer” had in your own life?

◀◀ **Recapping:** Your Sign Post can literally spell the difference between the way that leads to life, and the way that leads to death. *Read over pp. 12-13 “Setting the Scene.”*

Week 1 – Day 2: Jesus' Kingdom Assignment (God's Mission II)

Read: Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:16-21; John 16:33

Key Scripture: Luke 4:18-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

Question 1.2: When you read Jesus' own mission statement, what stands out to you? What hope does it produce? How does this impact a broken world? How does this impact *your* broken world?

◀◀ **Recapping:** Evangelists come in all shapes and sizes (even yours!)—but each evangelist is entrusted as God's messenger, Sign Posting Christ's Kingdom in word and deed. *Read over pp. 13-14 “The Gospel of the Kingdom.”*

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Week 1 – Day 3: The Holy Spirit's Witness (God's Mission III)

Read: John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8-9; Romans 14:17

Key Scripture: John 15:26; 16:8

"But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. ... And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."

Question 1.3: Who has the responsibility of convincing someone of their need for Jesus? How has the Holy Spirit guided you as you've reached out to others?

◀◀ **Recapping:** The "church" (all of us commissioned as agents of God's Kingdom) is sent through the scars in Christ's hands, overcoming evil by absorbing it in love. Your particular style of Sign Posting the Kingdom will be natural to you. Read over p. 15 "Church as Evangelists," and p.10 (optional activity) to identify your primary style of evangelism (e.g. intellectual, serving, etc.).

Week 1 – Day 4: Our Mission

Read: Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:8; 4:31

Key Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in Heaven and on Earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Question 1.4: Describe in your own words what it means to be a witness for Jesus. What are we to proclaim? What might "power" from the Holy Spirit look like in evangelism and reaching out? How are you going in the "disciple-making" business?

◀◀ **Recapping:** As we point people to Jesus, the story we tell should offer good news that is individual, corporate, and cosmic. *The Big Story* is a tool to share the Gospel, worth memorizing as the basic pattern for all evangelism. Read over pp. 15-16 "Sign Posting the Gospel" and watch "The Big Story" video online: <http://pathways.kbc.org.au/passing-it-on/>.

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Week 1 – Day 5: Our Need

Read: Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 7:36-50

Key Scripture: Luke 7:47

Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”

Question 1.5: How have you experienced Jesus’ forgiveness in your own life? How freely does Jesus’ love flow through you to others? Why is Jesus “good news” to you?



Recapping: As we point people to Jesus, the story we tell should centre around five key scenes: designed for good, damaged by evil, restored for better, sent together to heal, and set everything right. Read over pp. 16-17 “The Big Story” and search through some of the key passages to see this drama play out across the Bible. Practise the drawings while explaining the Gospel, and get ready to give it a go in the next small group session.

