

INTRO

- Is there some good news you've received recently? Share and celebrate it.

This series explores Jesus' inspirational and challenging call to be an influence for good within our world. Today, we look at what the gospel or good news means.

READ

1 Cor 15:1-4 (the gospel connected to salvation through the Cross)

Is 52:7-10 (the gospel connected to God as King reigning over his people)

Mk 1:1, 14-15 (the gospel connected to Jesus' arrival and the Kingdom)

REFLECT & RESPOND

Qu: If someone asked you to explain what the gospel means, what would you say?

For many, the gospel is the good news that I'm a sinner in danger of hell, but God loves me so he sent Jesus to die for me so that I can be forgiven and go to heaven when I die. Sound familiar? Now this is not entirely wrong, but it is woefully inadequate in describing the gospel.

“YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER GOSPEL”

In the 3 texts we've read, we get a much bigger idea of the gospel, certainly, the gospel Jesus and the early church understood and preached. We can summarize it like this:

The gospel is the good news of the King, Kingdom and Cross; that God in Jesus is:

- **Returning as King**
- **Reigning on earth through his Kingdom**
- **Redeeming humanity and creation through the Cross.**

So, salvation must be understood within the bigger context of cosmic salvation. In other words, it is as much (if not more) about being saved *for* God and his redemptive purposes on

earth, than it is about being saved *from* sin's consequences when I die.

Qu: how does this “bigger gospel” both encourage and challenge you?

BECOMING GOOD NEWS PEOPLE

The good news of Jesus reigning as King through his kingdom on earth also confronts and challenges us to respond (Mk 1:16-17):

- *Personally:* repent and believe the good news
- *Communally:* come and follow me together as my people
- *Missionally:* I will send you out to fish for people

This is why at ENGTA we describe being a disciple means *following Jesus together in community on his mission.*

Qu; why is it important we follow Jesus together? What makes church community vital in following Jesus?

Qu: To whom is Jesus sending you out? In what way/s can you build a relationship with them?

We need to ask God for renewed confidence in the gospel's truth, relevance and power in this world.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for the gospel to become good news again to your own heart.
- Pray for God to begin leading you towards specific people he may be sending you out to.
- Pray for a renewed confidence in the gospel's truth, uniqueness and power in this world!