

Who is This Programme For?

This programme presents some of the basic Christian beliefs and principles for people who are learning to be followers of Jesus Christ. This Gospel Life Programme adopts a New Testament focus to helping people learn about Christianity.

This programme has been designed to be very flexible, so that it can be used in many different situations and environments. It has been especially designed to be used with newly baptised believers, although it can be used to teach people before baptism.

It is not intended that this programme should include all the teachings of the Bible. This is part of its flexibility, so that local pastors, leaders, and lay people can use it as a basis and add to it as necessary.

This Gospel Life programme has been designed to be used in any country of the world. For that reason no reading or writing is required by participants. It has been especially designed to be used with small groups, although it can also be used with larger groups or with individuals.

The way that this programme has been designed allows rapid dissemination and ease of use around the world.

What is Required to Use this Programme?

The programme is designed to be delivered orally and visually. It requires a leader who is a mature Christian and who is familiar with Scripture.

Each lesson is designed to be photocopied in black and white on a single A4 sheet of paper. On the front side, the lesson will be written in the participants' own language. On the back side, especially for those people who cannot read well, there will be a picture representing the key message of the lesson.

The leader should prepare some questions and perhaps a story to illustrate key teachings in this programme. These are not included in this material.

How Do You Use This Programme?

This programme can be used by itself and as a stand-alone programme. However, it has been designed so that the leader can add to it if required. Different churches and ministries may have additional teachings, or culturally-specific issues that they may need to include with this programme.

These can be included by either the leader developing additional lessons using this same format, or simply by including the additional material in the oral presentations and group discussions. The leader may choose to read additional Bible passages other than those given here.

This programme is intended to be delivered by a leader to a group of people. Ideally, the leader can use the group discussion method, although this will depend on the local culture.

The Gospel Life Programme consists of eight (8) lessons. A suggested format for a lesson is as follows:

1. The leader welcomes the people.
2. The leader hands out the sheet for the lesson.
3. The leader introduces the topic of the lesson.
4. The leader asks some introductory questions, and listens to, and responds to the answers.
5. The leader tells a story or an experience (if available) that is relevant to the lesson.
6. The leader asks the questions and reads the Bible verses as outlined in the lesson. Some suggested comments are shown next to each verse. The leader should discuss each Bible verse with the people to make sure that they understand. Using questions is important here. The leader can also introduce additional teachings in relation to each question, as appropriate for the local context.
7. As may be relevant, the leader should point out features of the picture on the back of each sheet that illustrate the lesson.
8. The leader should allow the people to pray for each other, and conclude by blessing the people in prayer.

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1. Who is Jesus?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-4,14

Jesus is the true God who loves us so much that He came down to this earth to live with us as a human being among us.

2. What has Jesus Done?

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:14,15

Jesus has established His kingdom on this earth.

3. How has Jesus Done This?

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15

Jesus has done this by overcoming evil by his death and resurrection.

4. How can we be part of the Kingdom of Jesus?

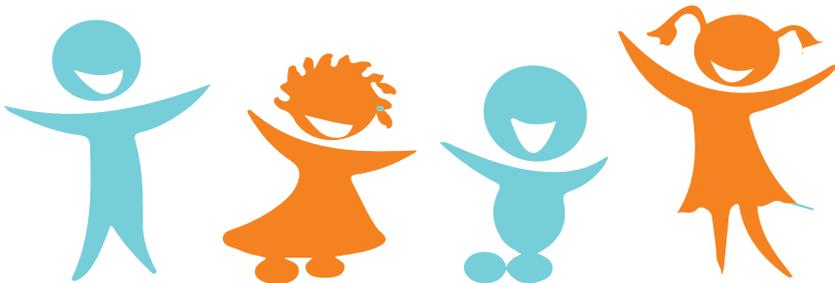
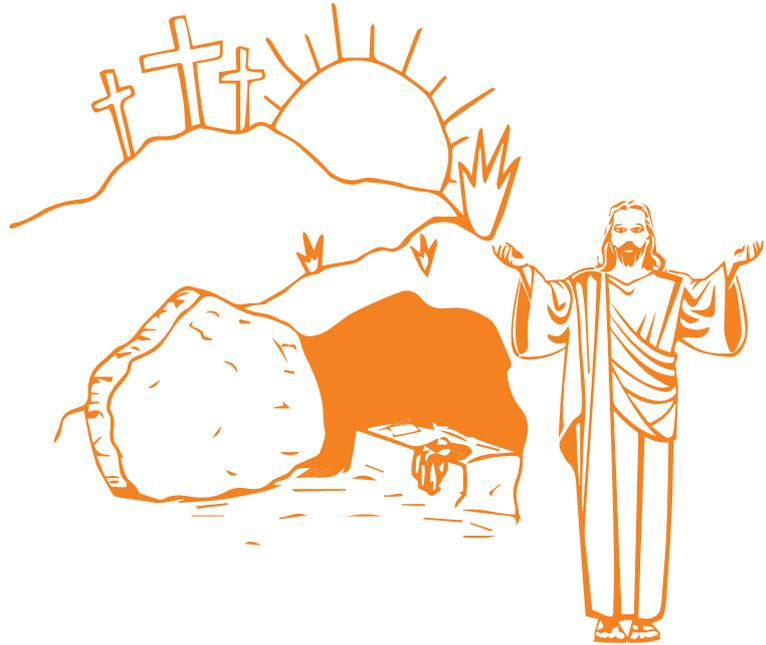
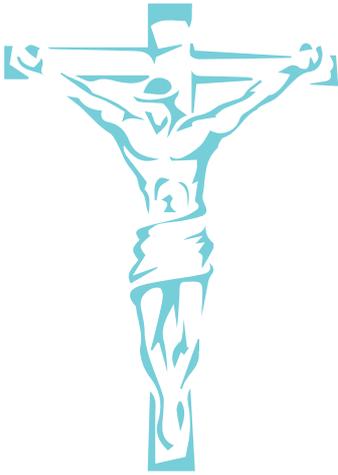
Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

We can be part of his kingdom by believing that Jesus died in our place and rose from the dead so that we might have true life.

5. What is the message of Jesus?

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

The message of Jesus is called the Gospel. It invites everyone to come into his kingdom by accepting his free gift of salvation, without works, without merits, and without righteousness on our behalf. This is the most important message in the world. It is the responsibility of every follower of Christ to tell this message to others.



1. How can we know what God is like?

All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Matthew 11:27

We can know what God is like through Jesus Christ. He revealed what God was like in His teachings and in his life, death, and resurrection. His revelation of God is found in the Bible.

2. What are the key qualities of God?

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. Psalm 33:5

The key qualities of God are righteousness and love. God is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and eternal. There are three persons who are the one God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is fully God; and each is eternally united with the others as part of the one God.

3. Why is the true God better than all other gods?

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8

The true God is the only God. All other gods are false. The true God is love and has shown his personal love for you by sacrificing Himself in your place so that you might be saved.

4. How big is God's kingdom?

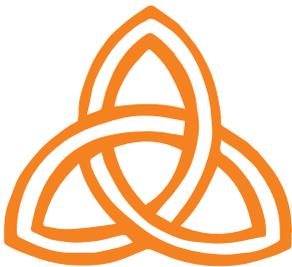
For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16–17

God's kingdom is so big that it extends across the entire universe.

5. What are the characteristics of God's kingdom?

the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22–23

God's kingdom is perfect. Only what is good and perfect can enter into it. These are the characteristics of God's kingdom.



1. What was this world like in the beginning?

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

When God created this world it was part of God's kingdom. Everyone lived in love and peace with one another and with God.

2. What happened?

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. Romans 5:12–14

Jesus has established His kingdom on this earth.

3. How has Jesus Done This?

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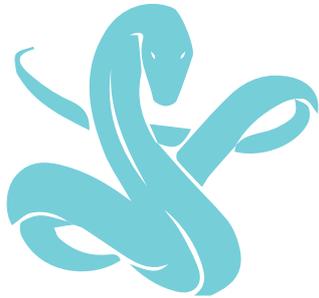
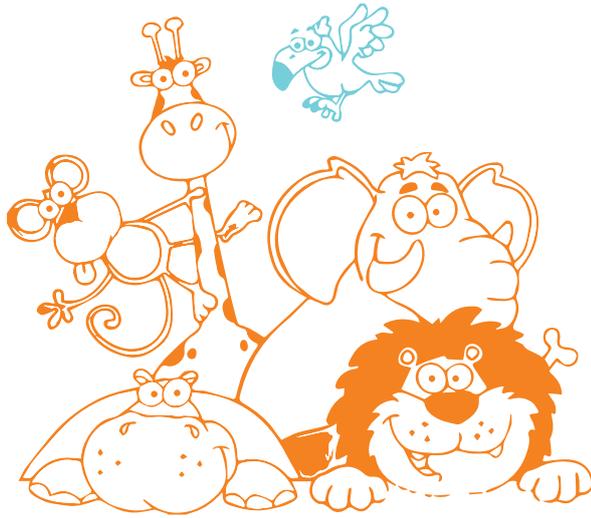
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1. What is the only way to salvation?

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Wrong paths include salvation by doing good deeds, salvation by knowledge, salvation by virtue of belonging to a church, and salvation by rituals.

2. What is the only way to be saved?

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household. Acts 16:31

In order to be saved we must believe in Jesus by putting our trust in Him alone.

3. Do I need to be saved?

all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

We are all sinners, and we are unable to reach the standard that God requires.

4. Why should we believe in Jesus Christ?

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

We should believe in Jesus Christ because He was a perfect sacrifice for our sins. He lived a perfect life, died to pay the penalty for our sins, and then conquered death by rising from the grave.

5. What happens when we believe in Jesus?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

When we believe in Jesus, our sins are forgiven and His perfect life is credited to our account.

6. If we believe in Jesus, can anything separate us from Him?

For I am convinced that [nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35,38–39

Nothing can separate us from Jesus as long as we believe in Him.

7. How does your life change when you believe in Jesus?

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13

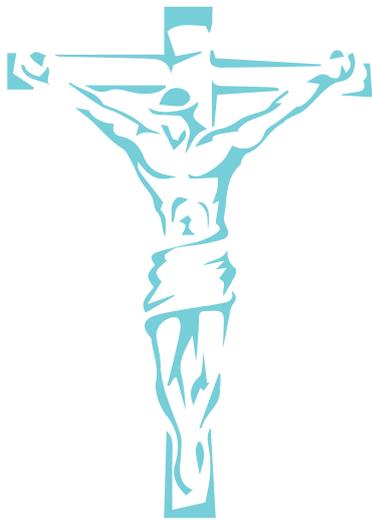
The Holy Spirit will come into your life and you will be energised by the Spirit to seek to do God's will.

8. ON NEXT PAGE

8. What is the relationship of works to our salvation?

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8–10

We are not saved by our works. Our salvation is not influenced by our works. Salvation is by believing (by faith) alone. Good works are the natural result of the fact that we have been saved by faith.



1. Who receives spiritual gifts?

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7,11

Every believer in Jesus has been given one or more spiritual gift.

2. What are some examples of spiritual gifts?

wisdom... knowledge... faith... gifts of healing... miraculous powers... prophecy... distinguishing between spirits... speaking in different kinds of tongues... interpretation of tongues... apostles... prophets... teachers... miracles... gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance... 1 Cor 12:9,10

Jesus gives us talents and abilities through the Holy Spirit to enable us to share the news about his kingdom and to live as his representatives in the world. These gifts can be either existing abilities and talents that are used by God, or they are new abilities and talents, that He gives us.

3. Which spiritual gifts are worthy of the greatest honour?

God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 1 Corinthians 12:24–25

All spiritual gifts are worthy of equal honour.

4. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12–13

The purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is for the work of the ministry and for the building up of the church. In this way the message of the gospel of the kingdom of Jesus can be shared with everyone.

5. How can spiritual gifts be misused?

Let all things be done for edification. 1 Cor 14:26

though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2

The gifts of the Spirit can be misused when they are not used for preaching the gospel and building up the church. They can be misused by people to draw attention to themselves rather than to Jesus and His gospel. They can also be misused when they are used without love.

6. ON NEXT PAGE

6. Should we accept all apparent manifestations of spiritual gifts?

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

We must test every spirit. All manifestations of spiritual gifts must be tested according to the Bible, the Word of God.



1. How do we relate to other Christians once we have been saved?

so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:5

When Jesus saves us he calls us into community with other believers.

2. Why should we participate in a church?

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

All of God's people should encourage each other, so that the gospel of the kingdom may be proclaimed to the world.

3. Which is the true church?

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." John 14:23

The true church is made up of people everywhere who believe and love Jesus and His good news.

4. What rituals should Christians practice?

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22:19–20

Jesus left only two rituals: baptism and the Lord's supper. These do not save you; instead, they are symbols that help our faith to be strong, and that witness to our belief in the gospel.

5. Is the church perfect?

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25–27

The church is not perfect until the kingdom of Jesus is fully restored on this earth at his second coming. The church is composed of sinners who have come to Jesus for salvation; these are people who are striving to be faithful to Jesus and to his kingdom.

6. & 7. ON NEXT PAGE

6. What is the Purpose of the Church?

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ... to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church. Ephesians 3:8–10

The purpose of the church is to preach the gospel throughout all the world.

7. How should Christians support the church?

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

We should support the church with our gifts, time, energy, and money. We support the church with everything we have because we recognise that everything belongs to Jesus, and He has appointed the church to do his work on earth.



1. Should Christians associate with non-believers?

The Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Luke 5:30,31

Christians should actively seek out and establish friendships with non-believers, following the example of Jesus. Wherever they are Christians should represent the principles of the gospel of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

2. How should Christians be peacemakers in the world?

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:17-19

All followers of Jesus are called to be peacemakers in every aspect of our lives. This applies to marital relationships, in families, in our circles of friends, in our work, in our towns and cities, and in our nations.

3. How should Christians relate to injustice and oppression?

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Christians should speak up against injustice and oppression. They should do this in peaceful ways, with love and kindness in all things.

4. How should Christians determine right and wrong?

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment... when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. John 16:8,13

The Holy Spirit will show you God's will through the teachings of the Bible and through the believer's conscience. Although believers should also listen carefully to the teachings of mature Christians; there is ultimate safety only in the Word of God and in the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

5. How can Christians know the will of God?

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way. Psalm 37:23

Seek guidance from the Bible, pray, and seek guidance from spiritual people.

6. ON NEXT PAGE

6. How should Christians use their possessions and wealth?

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

After the needs of their family have been met, a follower of Jesus should use their money to preach the gospel and to bless others.



1. What is a principal blessing of belonging to the kingdom of Jesus?

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

One of the greatest blessings of belonging to the kingdom of Jesus is the gift of eternal life.

2. When does eternal life start?

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25

Eternal life starts the moment when a believer accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. They may pass away and wait in sleep for a time, but they will not lose their eternal life.

3. What kind of life does Jesus want us to have right now?

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10

The kind of life that Jesus gives us is abundant life.

4. When will Jesus restore His kingdom completely?

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11–13

Jesus will completely restore His kingdom at His second coming.

5. As those who trust in Christ, how should we consider suffering in this world?

our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. 2 Corinthians 4:17

As terrible as our suffering may be, it does not compare with the reward that Christ has prepared for us.

6. What is death like?

These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps" John 11:11

Jesus calls death a sleep. Death does not take away your eternal life if you have believed in Jesus.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Revelation 14:13

7. & 8. ON NEXT PAGE

7. What hope do believers have after death?

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Cor 15:52–53

At His second coming, Jesus will resurrect from the dead all those who have believed in Him.

8. How should believers in Jesus live right now?

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

We should live joyfully, as ambassadors of Jesus Christ and his gospel.

