

## 2. What is the gospel?

### Thirty-minute discussion



#### HOOK

- Have you ever been given an important message to pass on, but then forgot what it was? Share with the group.
- Why is it important that we, as Christians, know the substance of the core message God has given us to pass on?

#### BOOK: Ephesians 5:15-17 - Make the most of every opportunity

- Do you think you are ready to make the most of every opportunity that presents itself to encourage others toward faith in Christ? Or, to what extent are you ready?
- If you are not ready, what things might you need to learn, do or change so as to become ready?
- How important is it that we are ready? I mean – don't we sometimes get second and third opportunities in life? [See footnote]

#### LOOK

- Revise the four points given in the video, to summarise the whole gospel message.
  - o In your own words, what would you say is the core message of the gospel?
  - o Which of these 4 points could be said to be the context?
  - o Why are all four points important?
- Practice: Break into pairs and each communicate the core 'content' of gospel with the other *in less than one minute*. (Note: While different opportunities suit different things, being able to share a one-minute summary of the core Christian message is a good skill, and not one that we should over-complicate)

#### TOOK:

- Discuss how much you think our general failure to share the gospel is a heart issue - as compared to a skill or perspective issue. Which do you think it is for you, and why?
- Where and when might you revise these four points so that they stay in your long-term memory? What could you do that might help you to retain this ability to communicate the gospel in under one-minute?

#### Pray

- Pray for those you would like to see come to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for God to stir His love in your heart for others.

**Footnote:** For reflection, while we might sometimes get a second chance to share with someone if we failed to utilise a previous opportunity, it remains that most people need to take a number of steps toward faith before they are ready to embrace faith in Christ. So – when an opportunity is missed, it can leave a person a step 'further back' than they might have been otherwise.

Every opportunity actually only comes once – which is why we are exhorted in Ephesians to make the most of every opportunity. It is important that we really to try in this area!