

START HERE

Week One • Start With The Gospel • Message Notes

Introduction: Hello my name is.... Welcome to church. I want to welcome everyone today as we begin a new message series called Start here where together over the next few weeks, we are going to be talking about three essentials to the Christian Life: The Gospel, The Holy Spirit and The Local Church.

PLUG – Get your devotional and on this bookmark, there is a password for the digital companion resources at starthere.church or we have copies at Energy Bar available for purchase for \$5?

TRANSITION: I'm not sure what you're personality is but me personally I like control. I like to know what's coming, I'm a planner and when I don't know, I get insecure, anxious. I learned something that really helped me years ago. A friend saw this cycle, something would be disrupted in my life and it's like my whole life would shake, he pulled me aside and gave me some of the best advice ever!:

When you don't know what you don't know, go back to what you do know.

Wow! How tempting is it for us to forget in moments where we lose control. It is actually in those moments it is most important to go back to our foundation, what we do know... why?

Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways... ⁹ As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways **higher** than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Focus on higher, when you're higher your perspective changes. **How do we get God's Perspective: The Bible.** This week you're going to learn about the Gospel "The Good News" about Jesus... Where do we learn about Jesus? God's Word.

As we start our journey together, I want to encourage you to:
Start with the Bible

1. The Bible can be trusted.

Written by nearly 40 authors (kings, priests, farmers, lawyers, tax collectors, fisherman, etc) over 1500 years, in three languages on three continents. The entire Bible has been translated into **531 different languages** – portions of it in **3,000 different languages**.

Not only is the Bible the best-selling book every year, it's the best-selling book of all-time. Nothing else is even close. But that's not all – the printing press was created to make the Bible. The Bible isn't a great book – modern forms of books exist only because of the Bible. It's living and active.

The Bible changes our perspective – worldview – unchallenged assumptions about life.

Two Big Excuses for Not Reading The Bible:

- **I don't understand.** Understand – the Bible is one big story that shows us who God is. That's why we're here to understand. God gave the Bible to ordinary people. It is simple.
- **I don't have time.** Time – we all have the same time and we make time for what matters most. Church and small group.

The Bible is "God-breathed" – that means He speaks it. Who wouldn't want a red phone, direct line to God? If we really believe this is what the Bible is, why don't we value it more?

2. The Bible Teaches Us God's Perspective

Everyone has an opinion about what you should do. Everyone wants to tell you how to live but only God's way works... why? Because He created you.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

You will never be fulfilled apart from a relationship with God. We want God to orbit us but it isn't how he made us.

Isaiah 45:9

“What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’”

You don't read the Bible. It reads you. Teaches you. Our heart should be not just teach me...but change me!

James 1:25

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives **freedom**, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Not just propositional truth – relational truth. **Not just, “That’s true!” but “That’s true FOR me!”**

3. The Bible is the story of Jesus.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created,^[a] and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.^[b]

Here's what everyone in here knows: There's darkness. In the world, in others and yes, even in us. We only overcome darkness with light. No other way...

What's the light? Jesus. As we close, I want to encourage you to:

Start with Jesus – This week diving into Gospel, good news!

Ecclesiastes 3:11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. **He has planted eternity in the human heart**, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

We all have a deep need to be right with God. You can't skip God and live the life you were destined to.

DRILL DOWN: We need to belong, to be accepted. To know and be known. It isn't just a nice thing to want, it is essential to us like oxygen, food and clothing, shelter. Many of us don't think about belonging this way. We think we can do without it, and the results are toxic.

- 1. God created you to belong.** We are created to belong... the desire to be known by others and to know others...for relationship. To know that our lives matter, that we are worthy, we are good enough, we are loved and acceptance.

Question: **Do you ever feel like you don't belong?**

What if I told you that God made you to belong—to him and to others. When you look around our world, it seems like we are more connected than ever before and yet more isolated and alone at the same time.

To move forward sometimes we have to go back... in this case back to the beginning. Why? because this desire to belong comes from our creator, it comes from God. What do we learn when we go back?

2. Sin separates us from God.

Romans 5:12 ¹²When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

- And now we see the story of our world unfold. How we can be so connected with technology but so isolated.
- The consequences of this decision has reeked havoc in our worlds and in our lives personally. Fundamentally changing how we relate to God and to others.

The truth is, we can't get back without God's help and his plan

Romans 5:17

¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

3. Jesus brings us back to God.

Jesus who would be stripped of his own clothes, humiliated on another tree, cut off and isolated from everyone, abandoned even by his closest friends.

One who, as the very embodiment of grace and truth, who went the distance to find us all in our place of hiding, take our shame upon himself, so that by his wounds we might be healed.

Jesus Restored our relationship with God. For the those who believe in His name he covers us with his very garments of righteousness, clothes us with himself—his very life and love—and makes us new.

Romans 10:9

⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 1:12

¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

4. Jesus brings us back to each other.

And Jesus wasn't just talking about his disciples then, he's talking about us now! **John 1:12-13** But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

John 3:3 says you are born again, born into a new family, a redeemed relationships with God and with each other.

This Week we are focusing on The Gospel. I want to encourage you to go with us. Don't miss a day, if you miss one catch up. I'm praying that as a church family, we will live our lives the way God intended and lean into the power of The Gospel, the good news about Jesus.

LET'S PRAY