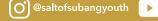
TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL









First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mission Week: The Gospel Changes Everything 01 **Easter Special:** The Gospel in 4 Points 04 **Personal Sharing:** Tan Lay Siew 05 Pulpit Program 06 Prayer Spotlight 06 06 **Upcoming Events**



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Changes Everything



The word gospel means 'good news'. The gospel is not advice, nor a recommendation, nor some suggestions to consider. It is not a set of rules to keep, a philosophy to envision, a virtuous way to live, nor pillars to uphold.

The gospel is the good news of Jesus and what He has done for us. That is the reason why the gospels of Matthew and Luke provide genealogies of Jesus, placing him in a time and place, within a community, in history.

Scripture reveals that God created man to live in harmony with one

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another and to love, trust, and obey Him for His glory. Ignoring God, mankind failed miserably, becoming lovers of self, seeking to do things their own way, resulting in separation from God and, finally, eternal death. This is the bad news!

The good news is that Jesus came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. Jesus healed, taught, comforted, and performed many miracles to demonstrate his merciful divinity. However, his primary purpose, that of first importance, was the divine substitutionary act of bearing our punishment by laying down his life for us.

The language of substitution is expressed in various forms in the New Testament. In market-place language, Jesus bore the debt we owe God for our sins by paying the ransom price on our behalf. In legal language, Jesus took the penalty, on our behalf, as retribution for our transgressions against God's law.

Sin is not only a transgression and a debt owed but also an evil force that weakens and controls us. Military language is used to proclaim the victory that Jesus secured on our behalf. Ironically, Jesus did not overpower evil with force but disarmed

rulers and authorities through the weakness of death. He then triumphed in his resurrection.

The gospel story climaxes in the historical event of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. This event was prophesied in the Old Testament, witnessed by many, and written in the New Testament for us to receive, accept, repent, believe, and proclaim. God, in His divine mercy and grace, offers this gift freely at all times, to all peoples, in all places. It is a message of grace because it is an unconditional gift. This wonderful, good news must surely be proclaimed to everyone from every race, status, culture, and nationality.

Amazingly, the gospel is not just good news for the non-Christian but the Christian as well. It is not just a milestone that you achieve. It is an epicenter that you need to constantly stand in, stand on, and stand for.

J.D. Greear said: "The gospel is not merely the diving board off which we jump into the pool of Christianity, it's also the pool itself."

The gospel is how you come to faith, stay in faith, and grow in faith. It's a continuous action, a

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process. We grasp, hold fast, and cling to the gospel because it is of first importance in every aspect of life. It is the epicenter from which life emanates, the lens through which we see, and the nucleus of our personal, relational, social, corporate, and spiritual life. The gospel shapes our lives as it is applied to our thoughts, feelings, and behavior, leading to radical transformation. **The gospel changes** everything.

The implication of the gospel as the epicenter that changes everything is that it overflows out of our mouths with passion.

There are about 10 million people in the Klang Valley. If 3% are Christians, this means about 9.7 million people will face the wrath of God. Sin is a deadly reality.

Thabiti Anyabwile said: "The wrath of God will cost everyone their lives, the unreached people, their lives in eternity, or the Christians, their lives in missionary service. The gospel is only good news if it gets there on time."

If the people in the Klang Valley do not hear it during their lifetime, the gospel will be the bad news of God's judgment upon them.

Proclaiming the gospel is difficult because we must deal with sinful people who will often reject and judge us. It is hard because, at the same time, we are to be patient, gracious, and loving. In time, we will surely run dry and tend to give up. Only if the gospel is our epicenter will we instinctively look to the cross and remember how Jesus took our place, how he was beaten, mocked, and scorned on our behalf. He

was rejected by his friends and family to ultimately give his life for us. As we refresh ourselves with this good news, the gospel will be precious to us once more.

Charles Spurgeon said: "If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself; you will be whispering it into your child's ear; you will be telling it to your husband; you will be earnestly imparting it to your friend; without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent; your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of his sweet love."

The gospel changes everything; it is changing you.

Conversation Catalyst:

- How has the gospel been changing you? Share this with your Life Group, your family, or friends.
- Thabiti Anyabwile said that "the gospel is only good news if it gets there on time." What are the things that hinder you from sharing the gospel with other people?
- Think about the persons God used to bring the gospel to you. Take time this week to call them or send them a note of gratitude and encouragement.



By Pastor Massimo Gei

Pastor Massimo is the Executive Director of Gospel City Network and is an elder at Gospel City Church. Together with his wife, Gloria, they are passionate about ministering to young professionals to help them find and live out their faith in Jesus.

Easter Special



The Gospel in 4 Points

The gospel is good news, and as with most good news, it shouldn't be too difficult to tell others about it! Perhaps you are unsure about how to share the gospel, or you have experienced some difficulty in communicating the gospel effectively. Or maybe what you need is a refresher.

To help you along, here's how you can share the gospel in 4 simple points, courtesy of the international ministry **THE4POINTS**. The symbols are simple and easy to remember, and you can teach this to your children too!



GOD LOVES ME

God is love. He loves you and me with a love that will last forever. God created us in His own image and we are His. Nothing can change God's love for you and me, and it is His desire that we seek Him, know Him, and love Him. (1 John 4:16, Psalm 139:13, Romans 8:38-39)



I HAVE SINNED

You and I have sinned. We sin when we insist on doing things our way instead of God's way. There are many consequences of sin, but the most serious consequence is that it separates us from God. The penalty of sin is death and eternal separation from God. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves and make us right with God. (Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23)



JESUS DIED FOR ME

Because of God's great love for us, He had a plan to save us. God sent Jesus, His only beloved Son, to live a sinless life among us and die on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Three days later, Jesus conquered death and rose from the dead, giving us a living hope. (John 3:16-18, 1 Peter 1:3)

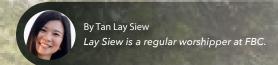


I NEED TO DECIDE TO LIVE FOR GOD

God has freely given us the gift of forgiveness through Jesus and today, He invites us to turn from our sins and follow Him. You and I have to decide if we want to accept God's gift of forgiveness and promise of eternal life, turn away from our life of sin, and choose to live for Him. (Romans 10:9-10)

That's the gospel in 4 simple points! You can easily share it with anyone, young and old alike, using the symbols as a guide. If the person you shared with has difficult questions or expresses an interest to know more, invite them to <u>Alpha</u> and remember to pray for them!

MY JOURNEY WITH GOD



I grew up in a Taoist family, and came to know about God when I married a Christian. By God's grace, I did not face opposition from my parents regarding my newfound faith, and I decided to be baptized.

As a young believer, I was a regular worshipper at Full Gospel Church when I was working down south in Johor Bahru. In 2003, my husband and I moved to the Klang Valley. As we settled down in Putra Heights, we started attending FBC and the Subang Jaya Methodist Church at SS15 every once in a while.

In 2007, we were blessed with our first child, a daughter. Life was rather routine until late-2008, when my husband had to work abroad to help cover for my late-mother-in-law's medical fees. She battled gallbladder cancer, and went to be with the Lord in September of the same year.

At the time, I was working, and my weekdays were occupied with work and being caught in traffic. My daughter was taken care of by my parents in Melaka, and my weekends were spent traveling between KL and Melaka to visit her. As a result, I was unable to attend church regularly.

Things started returning back to normal towards the end of 2012, when we were blessed with our second child. My husband also returned from working abroad for good. Our family was reunited. Through the recommendation of a fellow colleague, my children also started attending Children's Church at DUMC in 2015.

We started worshipping at FBC in 2018 as a family. Our children attended Sunday school while my husband and I were at the main service.

Life was as usual until the year 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world. Around about the time our country came under lockdown in March 2020, I had a continuous cough that lasted for a month before it subsided. This caused me to experience pain in my abdomen, chest, and ribs. I visited a doctor at a nearby clinic and lab tests showed that there was nothing unusual. However, the pain in my chest and ribs gradually returned in May 2020. I thought I had sprained myself, but things took a turn for the worse. By August 2020, I started experiencing severe pains, backaches, and nausea.

A visit to SJMC showed that I had minor cracks along my rib bones. Further tests revealed that I had high-risk multiple myeloma cancer. The diagnosis was like a great thunder that cracked above me in broad daylight. So much flashed through my mind.

I was hospitalized at SJMC for about 4 weeks. While I was there, Dr Peter, Pastor Joash, Pastor Ling, and the late-Pastor Rama visited and prayed for me. I am also thankful that my name was added to FBC's Sunday service prayer list.

I was later transferred to Ampang Hospital for further treatment and follow-ups due to insurance coverage issues. By God's grace, I felt His presence and peace which lead and guided me. The Lord was my faithful companion as I journeyed along.

I thank God for the support and prayers of the church, pastors, elders, and family members. I know that our almighty God is not only listening but also answering prayers. Let me quote James 5:14-15, which says: "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up."

Praise our sovereign God! I thank God for His grace, His Word, His promises, and the peace and comfort that He provides. May we all put our faith in Him and submit unto Him.

I will be admitted into Ampang Hospital on Wednesday, 31 March 2021, for stem cell transplant treatment, and will be admitted in the transplant ward for 4 to 6 weeks. Please pray for me and the others who are also on FBC's prayer list. We are all in need of His grace and His mighty healing hand.

May God bless us all.

| Pulpit Program

April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday)

Resurrection Power

(1 Corinthians 15)

PREACHER Arnold Lim

April 11, 2021

Dealing with Anger

(Matthew 5:21-26)



PREACHERPastor Leon Lim

April 18, 2021

The Christian & Relationships

(Matthew 5:27-32; Matthew 19:1-11)



PREACHERDr Peter Ng

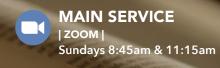
April 25, 2021

Integrity & Transforming Love (Matthew 5:33-48)



PREACHER Alex Tan

| Worship with Us





Sundays 9:00am





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- 1. Thank God for revealing Himself to you, and for the persons He sent to bring the gospel to you.
- 2. Pray for boldness to live out the gospel. Pray that the gospel will not just be your "diving board" into Christianity, but that the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal the truths of the gospel and transform your life.
- **3.** Pray that you will reflect God's light and love as you strive to be more like Christ.

4. Think of someone in your life that needs to hear the gospel. Pray that God will use you and that the Holy Spirit will empower and help you share the good news to them.

Condolences

We would like to extend our condolences to our sister **Cynthia Lim** and brother **Yew Lum** on the passing of Cynthia's beloved father, Dato' Seri Lim Bock Seng, on 28 March 2021.

Let us pray for God's peace and comfort to be with the Lim family during this difficult time of loss.



| Upcoming Events



What is the Gospel? With Dr. Kyle Essary

11 April (Sunday) 2:00pm to 3:30pm Zoom ID: 953 4151 3914 Password: FBCMission



Is There More to Life Than This?

22 July to 7 October 2021 (Every Thursday) 8:00pm to 9:30pm

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Insights For The Persevering Disciple Study on The Book of Revelation

Gamma 16 has ended View past lessons here:

Link: https://fbc.com.my/gamma Password: fbcgamma

Stay tuned for more information on Gamma 17



Daily Prayer Meeting Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm Zoom ID: 929 735 694 Password: pray

More Information on Upcoming Events