

## Introduction Activity:

1. If you could have any exotic animal as a pet, which would it be, and why?
2. What do you remember most about your first job?
3. What's the worst job you've ever had?

## Worship Song:



Phil Wickham - Battle Belongs

\*If you are viewing this digitally, you can click  
in this box to open the video link\*

## Sermon Overview:

Most of us know that the word Gospel means “good news.” When we think of the term “gospel,” we may think of a simple statement about Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead so that we can go to Heaven. Even though that concise sentiment is true, and very good news, it’s not quite the whole story. The good news about Jesus isn’t just that we have our golden ticket into heaven, where someday we will be with God; the good news of Jesus is that He gives us our new life now -- today -- and invites us into the work of growing His upside-down Kingdom.

Since the very beginning, God has promised humanity that a descendent from the first woman would destroy the evil in the world -- the evil that tempted our first parents in Eden and the evil that came into human hearts in the fall. Through prophecy and prayers, the Bible brings us through the lineage of Adam to Abram to Judah to David to Jesus, leading us to the events in Jesus’ life that harken back to the Garden. Jesus sees the evil in the wilderness and does not fall to it; He casts out demons and heals people’s bodies, showing them a shadow of His eventual triumph over the evil. That triumph was realized in His crucifixion and completed with His resurrection.

Jesus’ triumph over the evil of humanity’s sinful nature means He now lives in us -- the Holy Spirit has made His home in our hearts and rescued us from the power of sin and death. The good news isn’t just some holy boarding pass that lets us through heavenly security. The Good News is that we are being renewed and made whole and holy through the Messiah’s great love for us. Our purpose as new creations is to share this Good News by living as though we have been and are being made new -- and to invite those still trapped in the old ways to be made new as well.

Thoughts? Comments? Anything that comes to mind?

## Read:

John 20: 11-31

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## Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus mean when he says "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed?"
4. Do you think the disciples understood what Jesus meant when he said "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you?"
2. Why is the Gospel for believers as well as those who don't know Jesus?
3. How does knowing that Jesus is the Messiah change your life? What does messiah mean to you?

## Prayer:

Dear God,  
I know that you delight in us and desire to fellowship with us daily. As pinnacles of your creation, you honored us with the responsibility of caring for all you have made. Yet, you knew from the beginning, that we would be deceived by the evil one and would forfeit that intimacy with you. How great your love is for us that it was always your plan to rescue us and restore our relationship. Your son, our Messiah, made reparation for us through his atoning sacrifice. He is the embodiment of perfect love. Help us, as His followers, to return to our responsibility, allowing your blessings to flow through us to pour your love and compassion into the world. May your light shine forth that others will desire kinship with you.  
We love you, Lord!  
Amen

