

essentials

the heart of the Christian faith

6 studies based on the
essentials material

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Evangelism is tough, and it is easy to feel ill-prepared and disheartened. These studies use the new Essentials material to clarify our understanding of the gospel, increase our ability to share it with the people of our time, and give us fresh encouragement for the task.

Essentials is a collection of outreach resources. It includes short films that answer big questions, a book, a gospel diagram and a stunning animation.

Each study has **four** main parts:

- 🎧 **Discuss** – an opening question designed to introduce the main theme of the study.
- 🎧 **Watch** or **Read** – the group either watches one of the Essentials films or reads a section of the Bible.
- 🎧 **Explore** – a set of questions written to clarify the gospel and reveal some of the underlying viewpoints of unbelievers that we need to be aware of. This section also includes an opportunity to work together in pairs.
- 🎧 **Pray** – an opportunity to respond to God in thanksgiving and petition.

To use these studies you will need a copy of the Essentials DVD. This is on sale from www.10ofthose.com

As a result of these studies, your group will know how to communicate the gospel more effectively. They will also have more joy and delight in the gospel, and so will have more desire to see it spread.

Discuss

1. How would you try and persuade someone that God exists?

Watch

2. Watch the *Reveal* film.

Explore

3. According to the film, what's the best way of getting to know someone?
4. Why do you think the film introduces Jesus so early?
5. The film unashamedly introduces the Trinity. How often do you mention the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit when you speak about God?
6. What will motivate us to talk more about the Trinity?
7. In pairs, take turns to explain what it means for Jesus to be the Son of God.
8. What have you discovered in this study that has made you keener to share the gospel?

Pray

As a result of this study, what would you like to thank God for?

Which unbelievers would you like to pray for?

Pray that the Father would give them a desire to find out more about Jesus.

Discuss

1. How many of your non-Christian friends and family would consider themselves good people? Why is this such a problem when sharing the gospel?

Watch

2. Watch the *Reject* film.

Explore

3. Why do you think the doctor illustration is used in the film?
4. Why is the illustration about living in a country ruled by a generous king such a helpful way to convince 'good' people they are sinners?
5. Why do you think Jesus spoke about hell?
How can this help us speak about this aspect of the gospel?
6. Why do you think the film includes the illustration about killing things in the park?
7. What's the point of the *Strictly Come Dancing* example?
8. In pairs, take turns to explain why we deserve to be punished in hell.
9. What have you discovered in this study that has made you keener to share the gospel?
Are you more likely to speak about hell because of this study?

Pray

As a result of this study, what would you like to thank God for?

Which unbelievers would you like to pray for?

Pray that the Father would give them an understanding of the punishment they deserve.

Discuss

1. **Why won't it be immediately obvious to your friends, family, course mates and work colleagues that Jesus' death is good news for them?**

Watch

2. **Watch the *Rescue* film.**

Explore

3. **Why does the film start by reminding us of the punishment we deserve?**

4. **What's the point of the Elsa Delplace story?**

Luke's Gospel makes it clear that in order to save us, Jesus could not save himself. Punishment would either have to be experienced by him or us.

5. **In pairs, take turns to discuss why God can't simply forget about our rebellion.**

6. **How does the resurrection of Jesus show that he has fully paid the price of sin?**

7. **Why does the film end with the illustration of people paying for their own meals?**

8. **What have you discovered in this study that has made you keener to share the gospel?**

Pray

As a result of this study, what would you like to thank God for?

Which unbelievers would you like to pray for? Pray that the Father would help them to grasp the sacrificial love of Jesus.

Pray they would understand what Jesus achieved when he died on the cross.

Discuss

1. What are some of the great gifts that God gives to us? What do you think is the greatest gift?

Watch

2. Watch the *Relationship* film.

Explore

3. How much should we focus on forgiveness when we share the gospel?
4. Why do we need to persuade people that surrendering to the rule of King Jesus is good news? How can we do this?
5. In pairs, take turns to explain why following Jesus is worth it even though it is tough.
6. What do we discover in the film about being a child of God?
7. Why is it so important to speak about the Holy Spirit when we share the gospel?
8. What have you discovered in this study that has made you keener to share the gospel?

Pray

As a result of this study, what would you like to thank God for?

Which unbelievers would you like to pray for? Pray that the Father would help them grasp how good it is to embrace the rule of King Jesus.

Pray that they would ask you about why you are different.

Discuss

1. Have you ever used a diagram to share the gospel? What are the benefits of using a gospel diagram? What are the dangers?

Advantages	Disadvantages

Watch

2. Watch the Essentials diagram.

Explore

3. Discuss what you found helpful about the way this diagram communicates the gospel.
4. In pairs, take turns to use the Essentials diagram to explain the gospel. The pictures should remind you of the words. You don't have to be word perfect 😊 Feel free to use your own words based on this gospel framework.
[The full script can be found in appendix 1 and the diagram can be found in appendix 2]
5. In what situations could it be helpful to draw this diagram?
6. What have you discovered in this study that has made you keener to share the gospel?

Pray

As a result of this study, what would you like to thank God for?

Which unbelievers would you like to pray for?

Pray that you would have an opportunity to practice this diagram with them.

Pray for your courage and clarity.

Discuss

1. **How can Christians let people hear the word of God?**
Share examples of how we can spread the gospel.

Read

2. **Read Luke 5:1-11**

Explore

3. **What was Jesus doing in the boat? (Vs 1-3)**
[Hint: what kind of boat was it?]
4. **What is strange about Jesus' command to Peter in verse 4?**
5. **What can we learn about obeying Jesus from Peter's response in verse 5?**
6. **Why does it make sense for Peter to listen to Jesus' fishing advice? (Vs 6-10a)**
7. **What does Jesus expect his followers to do? What does this mean? (Vs 10b-11)**
[Hint: remember what Jesus was doing in the boat]
8. **What have you discovered in this study that has made you keener to share the gospel?**

Pray

Our desire as Christians is to help unbelievers hear about Jesus. We want them to encounter the word of God.

If we want to engage in lots of evangelism then we need three crucial things.

- **Confidence.** We need to have confidence that the gospel is the power of God to save people.
- **Creativity.** Since the power is in the message we will want people to encounter the message as often as they can. Our challenge is to think of creative ways of getting people to hear the message.
- **Courage.** We need courage to actually get on and use the ways available to us to get the gospel out. We need God to empower us for mission. Let's make sure we are praying for this.

The Essentials material exists in multiple formats so that it can be used in many different evangelistic settings. The films are available on DVD and can be purchased very cheaply from www.10ofthose.com. They also sell the short Essentials book at giveaway prices. The videos can also be watched or downloaded on the Essentials website (www.lifeessentials.org.uk).

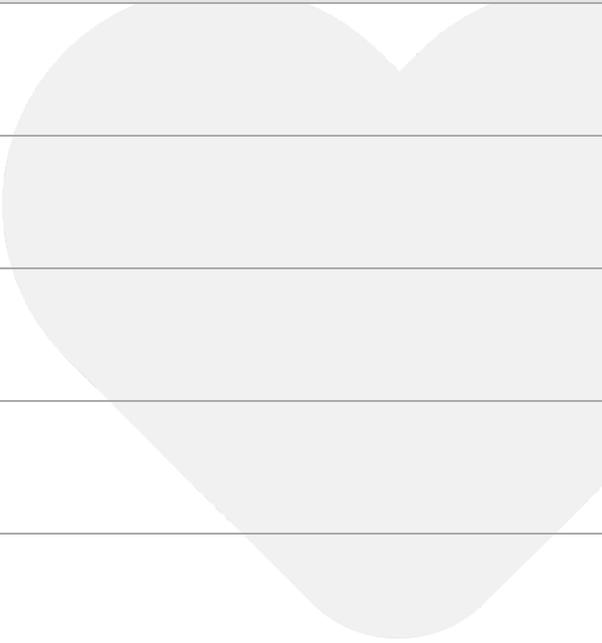
We want to share this gospel in a way that is appropriate for us and that is appropriate for our non-Christian contacts.

Here are some ideas of what you could do.

- ❑ Give away the DVD to a friend or family member or course mate or work colleague or neighbour. You can tell them it's a brand new resource that helps explain what you believe as a Christian, and you'd love them to watch it. Why not ask them what they thought about it a few weeks later? You could do a similar thing with the Essentials book.
- ❑ Post the DVD or book to someone, either geographically close or far away. This may be a better way to engage with someone than a face-to-face conversation. Perhaps you could write a letter to an old friend whom you have never really had a chance to explain the gospel to.
- ❑ Perhaps you know people who aren't really into books or DVDs but are keen internet users. Could you write/email/text/Facebook messenger/WhatsApp them the Essentials website address and ask them to watch the films or even the animation?
- ❑ What about including a book or DVD with a birthday or Christmas present?
- ❑ Or what about having several books and DVDs at home, ready to give out to delivery drivers who come to your home? You don't have to be friends with someone to share a gospel resource. You can purchase quantities of books and DVDs from www.10ofthose.com at very cheap prices. Better in their hands than in our house. Let's scatter widely.
- ❑ The Essentials book can be used in an evangelistic 121 setting. The chapters are short, easy to read, and full of engaging illustrations. There are also four discussion questions for each chapter that can be used to help get a conversation started and keep it on track.
- ❑ The DVD is also ideal to use in a 121 scenario. Either give it away and your friend can watch it first, or watch one of the films together when you meet. It would also be sensible to give someone a copy of the Essentials book if you intend to watch the videos with them. The questions in the book were also written to be used with the films.
- ❑ What about sharing the website link for the films with a friend? This is a great way to engage with the gospel for those who are more likely to watch things on their phone or tablet. Again, your friend can watch it before you meet them, or with you, or even both.
- ❑ Share on social media. The films are all under 10 minutes, and so are ideal to be shared on social media. Likewise, the animation and the diagram are perfect for this environment. You could post links on Facebook or Twitter or whatever other means is most used by you and your friends.
- ❑ And...the list can go on!

9. Write down the names of the five unbelievers and how you will try and share the Essentials material with them.

Name	How will you try and share Essentials with them?



10. Pray that God will give you the courage to do this and open up the opportunities for it to happen.

If we want to know if there is a God and what he is like then the best place to start is with Jesus.

And when I say Jesus, I mean the real Jesus. The captivating, beautiful and relevant person who made footprints on this earth, and who we hear about in the Bible. The person who said he was the Son of God.

The God who has always existed is a united family of three divine persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It's what Christians call the Trinity. It's the delightful conviction that for all eternity, at the very heart of the universe, is a relationship of perfect **love**.

And the amazing news is that 2000 years ago, the Son of God, was born.

This happened so that Jesus could rescue us from the greatest danger we face.

What do we need rescuing from?

We have been created by God. This means he has the right to tell us how to live. Now this isn't a bad thing. God doesn't want to spoil our fun. No, he wants to maximize our joy.

The way he does this is by giving us **loving** boundaries.

Like a **loving** father who adores his children and wants them to thrive, God tells us what to do and what to avoid. However, instead of listening to God, we all reject him. We all decide to live our lives our way. Now we usually call this personal freedom or self-expression but its true name is sin or cosmic treason.

We deserve to be punished for this. And the punishment that fits the crime is for us to experience the full force of God's anger forever in a place called Hell.

But the great news is that Jesus came to rescue us from this terrifying future. Jesus came to save us from eternal punishment.

How did he do it?

When his hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross, and he was lifted up to suffer in our place.

Motivated by **love**, Jesus sacrificed himself to pay for our sin. The punishment we deserve to experience in hell was suffered by Jesus on the cross.

But Jesus' death was not the end of the story. He was raised to enjoy new physical life. And this was God the Father's way of demonstrating that Jesus' suffering had fully paid the price of our sins.

But are we rescued for?

The answer is breathtaking. An eternal relationship with each member of the Trinity. We are saved for **love**.

Jesus wants us to surrender to him as our King, which is a great way to live. With Jesus in charge, every part of us will gradually be made more beautiful.

When anyone decides to live like this, they are united to Jesus. And so, Jesus' Father becomes their Father. This means a Christian instantly becomes a child in the Father's family, which results in lots of new brothers and sisters.

Now you may fear that you could never change to be the way Jesus expects. But if you choose to follow Jesus as your King, the Holy Spirit will live within you and he will help you to do what Jesus commands.

A Christian is someone who has decided to stop committing cosmic treason. Instead of rejecting God's loving boundaries, they have embraced Jesus as their King. And, as a result, they have benefitted from his death on the cross. They have been rescued from the punishment they deserve and now enjoy a **loving** relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. A relationship that will last forever.

