

## #2: THE GOSPEL<sup>1</sup>

### **EXPLORATION:**

1. When and how have you experienced the Good News of the Kingdom of God?
2. When you think of the Gospel, what area(s) of your life have you most often connected it to? Is your view of the Gospel missing anything?
3. How would you describe it to someone if they asked you, "So what is the Gospel?"?

### **MEDITATION:**

Imagine what could change if we allowed the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection to shape and inform all the areas of our lives.

4. List some of the key aspects of the Gospel illustrated in the given Scriptures (Is 61.1-4, Luke 4.16-22, Matt 11.2-6).
5. What did the Good News Jesus proclaimed seem to focus on? How does this impact your life today?
6. To what area(s) of your life today do you need to apply (either for the first time or at a deeper level) the Gospel?

### **CHANGE:**

7. When you think about letting the Gospel impact your whole life, what emotions arise (fear, excitement, etc)? What might change/shift in your life?
8. Consider a situation/struggle in your daily life. Practice seeing it with a Gospel framework (Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration). How might it fit into God's bigger story?
9. Consider the four tangible changes the Gospel makes in our lives: Posture, Community, Mission, Impact on those around us. In what ways do you see these in your life? What changes do you desire to see?

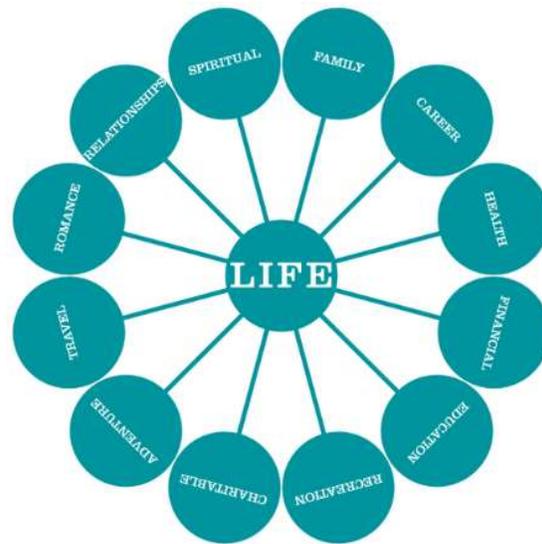
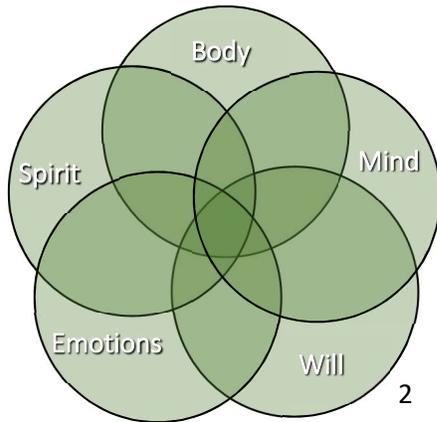
### **ACTION:**

10. What might God be inviting you to do/think differently in light of your answers in questions #7-9? How might you cooperate with God as He writes His story in your life?
11. Where is God already writing His story in your neighborhood? In Your city?
12. Where might your life/story intersect with people/organizations from the above list? How can you be "good news" to some of those people this week?

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from The Tangible Kingdom Primer by Hugh Halter & Matt Smay, Missio Publishing, 2009.

Consider the following as you seek to discover and experience the story of the Gospel in all aspects of your everyday life:



### ISAIAH 61.1-4

*Descriptions come from Strong and other lexicon definitions of the original Hebrew words*

People and everyday problems	Tangible Kingdom
<b>Poor:</b> afflicted, weak, needy, oppressed	<b>Preach good news:</b> bring glad tidings, display and declare the gospel
<b>Brokenhearted:</b> inner man (mind, will, heart) broken in pieces, destroyed, torn, maimed	<b>Bind up:</b> bandage, give relief, heal, wrap a wound, comfort the distressed
<b>Captives:</b> those captured, taken, led or carried away	<b>Proclaim freedom:</b> shout out for release or liberty, causing to run or flow freely
<b>Prisoners:</b> those who are bound, tied with cords, imprisoned, taken captive	<b>Release from darkness:</b> opening of prison, freedom, creating a wide or complete opening
	<b>Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,</b> acceptance, delight, goodwill, justice
<b>All who mourn, grieve:</b> those who sorrow	<b>Comfort:</b> console, have compassion, change the mind
<b>Ashes:</b> dust; on the head is a sign of humiliation, contrition or mourning	<b>Provide, bestow a crown of beauty:</b> set an ornament on the head, a fancy headdress; usually placed on those wealthy or of high position
<b>Mourning</b>	<b>Oil of gladness:</b> oil for medication, anointing or sign of luxury; exultation, rejoicing, mirth, joy, cheerfulness
<b>Spirit of despair:</b> feeble, obscure, dark, dim, heaviness	<b>Garment of praise:</b> wrapped in or wearing a song of praise, adoration and thanksgiving
<b>Ancient ruins, former devastations, ruined cities:</b> Waste places, ruined homes; decayed, desolate, destroyed, deflowered, deserted places	<b>Build up, raise up, repair:</b> construct, rebuild, restore, strengthen, confirm, establish, renew

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2 Adapted from The Five Circles in Designed for Relationship by TJ MacLeslie, Peregrini Press, 2018.