



Life Group Questions
midlandevangelicalfreechurch
midlandfree.org/lifegroups



Date: January 21, 2022

Vision

We aspire to be a **Gospel-centered** family where everyone we encounter moves closer to Jesus every day.

The Gospel

Sometimes it serves best to go back to the basics. So today, we go back to the core elements of Christianity – the Good News of Jesus' Victory.

- What does the Bible tell us is of "First Importance?"

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.



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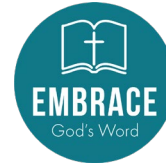
Evangelical = Good News = Gospelⁱ (εὐαγγέλιον)

We call ourselves Midland Evangelical Free Church. The term “evangelical” has come to be associated with particular cultural baggage, but in its purest form, it means Good News.

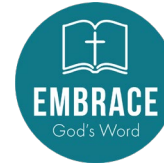
- What is the Good News that we’re all about?
- What concepts would you consider necessary to include to share the Good News with someone?ⁱⁱ
- Can you remember a time in your life when you first understood and believed in this message? Then, consider sharing it with the group. What happened?
- What does it mean to “do evangelism?”
- What’s the difference between evangelism and an Evangelical?
- All Christians are called to share Jesus with others,ⁱⁱⁱ but are all Christians called to be evangelists? Why or why not? (Hint see Ephesians 4:11-16)^{iv}



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- How does Ephesians 4:8 connect to today's sermon and the imagery of a conquering Savior who distributes gifts?
- What type of gifts did our Savior distribute (Ephesians 4:11-16)?
- What Bible verse or verses would you use to share the Good News with someone?^v
- For whom in your life are you praying right now to receive the Good News of Jesus' victory?
- What characteristics would you say should describe a church centered upon Good News?
- What would a church full of Good-News people look like?



ⁱ εὐαγγέλιον

euaggelion

77 occurrences;

AV translates as

- "gospel" 46 times,
- "gospel of Christ" 11 times,
- "gospel of God" seven times,
- "gospel of the Kingdom" three times, and translated miscellaneously 10 times.

1 a reward for good tidings.

2 good tidings.

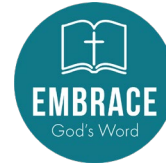
2A the glad tidings of the kingdom of God soon to be set up, and subsequently also of Jesus the Messiah, the founder of this kingdom. After the death of Christ, the term comprises also the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for the men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God. 2B the glad tidings of salvation through Christ. 2C the proclamation of the grace of God manifest and pledged in Christ. 2D the gospel. 2E as the messianic rank of Jesus was proved by his words, his deeds, and his death, the narrative of the sayings, deeds, and death of Jesus Christ came to be called the gospel or glad tidings.

James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

ⁱⁱ I think for something to be consider the Gospel it must include the concepts of **Sin, Substitution**, and **Faith**.

The Good News is:

We all have sinned and can not approach a Holy God (*sin*). But God, in His great love for us, sent His Son Jesus to die on the Cross to pay the penalty for all of our sins (*substitution*). Therefore, by believing in - or trusting in Jesus as your Savior, you can have eternal forgiveness of your sins (*faith*).



iii

Good News - εὐαγγελίζομαι

- εὐαγγελίζομαι - "I Evangelize You" = I bring you good news.
- The Angel evangelized the Shepherds... (Luke 2:10)

^{iv} Ephesians 4:7-16 (ESV)

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men."

⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



v

1. Sin

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV)

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,
(NIV)

2. Substitution

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

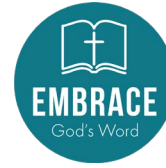
3. Faith

John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (NIV)



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Assurance -

The above information is all that one needs to become a Christian (also referred to as being "saved" or "born again"). The following verses give assurance of the completeness of our salvation.

Romans 5:1 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

John 10:27-30 (NIV)

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

Romans 8:39 (NIV)

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.