



The Sweet Gospel Message Bible Study

[Please provide: a copy of this study for each participant, Bibles, and pen/pencil.]

Opening Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You are our Maker and Creator. We are sorry for our sins and for the times that we have rebelled against You. In Your great love for mankind, You planned our salvation by sending Your Son to be born, live a perfect life, suffer, die, and rise to life again. Because of the merits of our Savior, Jesus, and with faith generated by the Holy Spirit, we are saved and have faith in Christ. Please help us to tell the Good News of salvation in Jesus to those around us who need to hear His story – to tell what we have “heard and seen.” Be with us as we study Your Word. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them (Luke 2:20).

Christmas is a time when our senses are on high alert. The sweet tastes of candy canes, chocolates, cookies, and other baked goods are readily available for our enjoyment. In addition, the special music and sounds of the season are sweet and melodious to the ear, and the sights and brilliant lights are pleasing and seem to dance before our eyes. Share with your group a particular sweet memory from a past Christmas. _____

We hear the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2 every Christmas. Many of us might even have memorized all of it or part of it as a child in the children’s Christmas service. Read Luke 2:1–21 and as you read, listen for one new thing that you might not have heard before.

Faith Talk: Share with your group something new that you heard in Luke 2 and/or your favorite passage from this biblical account. _____

As a group, compile a list of possible sensory stimulants that might have accompanied the Christmas Gospel account.

Sounds: _____

Sights: _____

Sounds of glorifying and praise were to be heard from the shepherds in verse 20. What specifically had they *heard and seen*? _____

What?

Read the following Bible passages and determine **what** the message is that we have to tell.

Romans 3:23: _____

Philippians 2:1–11: _____

John 10:14–15 (Psalm 23): _____

John 14:6: _____

Acts 4:12: _____

Who?

Read the following Bible passages and determine **who** needs to hear the sweet message of the Gospel.

Mark 16:15: _____

John 3:16–17: _____

Acts 16:31–34: _____

1 Corinthians 1:23–24: _____

Ephesians 3:6: _____

How?

Read the following Bible passages and determine **how** we as believers can share the sweet message of the Gospel.

Acts 1:8: _____

John 1:41: _____

John 13:34–35: _____

Romans 10:13–15 (3 John 5–8): _____

1 Corinthians 1:1–9: _____

Ephesians 4:1–4: _____

Faith Talk: Read the Parable of the Lost Sheep recorded in Luke 15:4–7. Discuss with your group this statement: “He [Jesus] left the 99 to find me!” _____

Take a moment right now to write a sweet Gospel message that you have *heard and seen*, then share it with your group. _____

Outcomes

The Gospel message we have to share is indeed sweet. The Gospel message is not just “Good News,” it is the best news ever. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16).

Read Acts 14:1–6. As Paul and Barnabas shared the sweet Gospel message, what outcomes did they experience? _____

What outcomes have you experienced after sharing the truth of Jesus with others? _____

Jesus’ apostles experienced both positive and negative outcomes when they shared Jesus with people. As we share the sweet Gospel message, we will also experience these same outcomes. Read Isaiah 55:10–11. What assurance does God give us in these verses concerning the outcomes of our witnessing? _____

Closing Prayer: Please close by singing or praying the words to “I Love to Tell the Story:”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
‘Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, ‘tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
“Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain* (Public Domain)

The Sweet Gospel Message
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