



Share with your partner or the small group some good news that has happened in your life or your family's lives during the last year.

What feelings did you experience as you shared your good news? Now, share those specific feelings with your partner or small group.

A phrase from an old African American spiritual, written during a bleak time of slavery and oppression in American history, includes the encouraging and hopeful words, "I got news to tell you, I got good news." Isaiah, following a bleak time of Judah's slavery and oppression to Assyria, prophesies encouraging and hopeful words in Isaiah 52:7: *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."* During this study we will look at the Good News about Jesus, and how we can proclaim the Light of salvation to a sinful and darkened world.

Opening Prayer: Dear Lord, You are our awesome Creator. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus into this sin-darkened world to live a perfect life, suffer, and die for our sins and to rise to life again. We look forward to the eternal glories of heaven with You. We praise You for the gift of Your Spirit, Who enables us to speak the Good News about Jesus with our families, our friends, and into all the world. Remind us of Jesus' words that *it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit* (Mark 13:11), so we don't fret about what we say and do as we proclaim boldly the Good News about salvation in Jesus that we have to tell. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

What's the Good News?

Read **Luke 2:10**. What was the Good News that the angel shared with the shepherds? _____

Why was this Good News? _____

What is the Good News? _____

What is it that is shared in **John 3:16-17** and **1 John 1:8-9, 4:9-10**? Why did the world need salvation? _____

Discuss the meaning of the term, "made manifest" (**1 John 4:9**) in connection to Jesus. See **John 1:14**. _____

Read **Isaiah 61:1-3** and **Luke 4:16-21**. In Nazareth's synagogue, Jesus says He is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy about the Lord's Servant. What will this Servant specifically do? _____

Recite together the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed ("And in Jesus Christ ..."). Compare with **Philippians 2:5-11**. What do they tell us about Jesus? _____

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group your answer to the question, "What's the Good News?" How does this Good News make you feel? _____

If time permits: See how many synonyms for the phrase "good news" you can come up with as a group.

If time permits: Read Isaiah's beautiful account of the suffering servant, Savior Jesus, in **Isaiah 52:13-53:12**.

Tell the Good News – Who Me?

Read or sing together verse one from "Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying" (*LSB* #826; *THL* #496; *LW* #318).

Why tell the Good News about Jesus? What guidance in answering this question is found in the following Bible passages?

Isaiah 6:8 _____

Matthew 9:37-38 _____

Mark 1:14-15 _____

Luke 4:43 _____

Luke 7:21-22 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

Acts 4:18-20 _____

Read **Ephesians 1:13-14**. We cannot tell the Good News about Jesus without the help, power, and boldness of the Holy Spirit. How does the Spirit work in our lives to instill and sustain faith in our Savior Jesus? See **Mark 14:22-24**; **Romans 10:14-15, 17**; and **Titus 3:4-7**. _____

Faith Talk: Take a moment to jot down some key components of your Good News message about Jesus. If you are comfortable, share with a partner or the small group.

Where? Where can I tell the Good News about Jesus? To answer this question, look at the following Bible passages. In **Isaiah 49:6**, where will the Servant of the Lord's light of salvation shine? _____

In **Mark 13:10-11**, where does Jesus tell us the Gospel will be proclaimed before the end times? _____

We are to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus with everyone, everywhere! According to **2 Timothy 1:5**, where is perhaps the most important, but often overlooked place to share the Good News about Jesus? _____

Faith Talk: Why is it so difficult to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus with a family member? Discuss with a partner or the small group. _____

Read again **Romans 10:17**. How important is the spoken Word of salvation? _____

A story is told of a young boy who had a nightmare and ran to his mother for comfort. She reminded her child that Jesus was with him, guarding and protecting him. He replied as he hugged her even tighter, "I know, Mama, but sometimes I just need 'Jesus with skin on.'" How can we be "Jesus with skin on" in our world, while proclaiming the Good News of salvation? _____

Faith Talk: As a group, come up with five specific, active ways to share the Good News in words and deeds.

Faith Walk:

1. Praise the Lord for the gift of Jesus, your Savior and King, and the Good News about Jesus that you have to share.
2. Identify someone in your life who needs to hear about Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the boldness and words of witness to proclaim the Gospel message.
3. Read the book of Isaiah in the next weeks, several chapters at a time. Memorize Isaiah 52:7.
4. Thank God for His Word and Sacraments, and the hope of eternal life in heaven.

Closing: Read or sing together verse four from "Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying" (*LSB* #826; *THL* #496; *LW* #318).

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