It all starts with God. **“God created us to be with him.”**

From Genesis 3, after the Fall of humanity into depravity and sin, that blood-stained thread of Christ’s coming death is seen. God made the first sacrifice when he covered Adam & Eve's nakedness with animal skins. Jesus was the last sacrifice that covered us in his grace.

That blood-stained thread is seen when Abraham goes to offer his son Isaac on the altar and finds a ram caught in the bushes to be offered instead.

That blood-stained thread is seen when the Israelites are being killed by poisonous snakes and God commands Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole so that everyone who looks at it will live.

That blood-stained thread is seen in the story of Rahab, who ties a scarlet ribbon in her window as the sign of her deliverance in Joshua 2:18. The spies tell her,

*“Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household.”* Joshua 2:18

That blood-stained thread is seen throughout the Old Testament- from the blood on the doorposts on the night of the Passover in Egypt, to David’s detailed description of a crucifixion in Psalm 22, to Isaiah’s crystal clear message that the coming Messiah would die a gruesome death for the sins of humanity.

The Old Testament, like the movie *Braveheart*, seems brutal and violent, but beneath the violence and brutality is a love story that we see in graphic detail in the New Testament.

**The GOSPEL is the ultimate love story!**

*“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8

**G**od created us to be with him. (Genesis 1-2)

**O**ur sin separates us from God. (Genesis 3)

**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds. (Genesis 4-Malachi 4)

**P**aying the price for sin Jesus died and rose again. (Matt.-Luke)

**E**veryone who trusts in him alone has eternal life. (John)

**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever. (Acts-Revelation)

The GOSPEL encapsulates the whole story of the Bible from Genesis through Revelation.

From the beginning of time, God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

It is a message instead of a method. Memorize it word for word. Teenagers and adults memorize it. Think of each sentence as a chord on a guitar. Think of it as a love story.

*(“Once upon a time…”)* **God created us to be with him.**

**Biblical Reality #1: We are a special creation, handcrafted by God Himself.**

*“Then the LORD God formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature (being).”* Genesis 2:6

God is down in the mud…**sculpting a mud man**…Breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. The first thing that Adam saw when he opened his eyes was the smiling muddy face of his Creator.

*“So, the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man; and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”* Genesis 2:21,22

God spoke creation into existence, until he created man. He got muddy (Adam) and bloody (Eve) when He created the first humans. Very personal (“hands on”) when He crafted His most precious creation…US.

**Biblical Reality #2: We were made in the image of God.**

*“Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”* Genesis 1:26

Often we struggle with knowing WHO we are…we have an identity crisis. We have the world telling us who we should be, we’re telling ourselves who we could never be, and we have an enemy telling us lies about who we never WILL be!

WHO do you *think* you are? Some of us allow our mistakes or our choices become the answer to that question. And maybe it’s not something we can laugh about right now either…something serious.

The bible says that you are shaped by your thoughts (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV). The enemy attacks your identity by deceiving you into believing lies about yourself to the point that you “become” those lies.

But God is the one who gives us true purpose. He is our Creator, and for believers in Jesus, He is our Savior. Our identity is found in Him. He is the ONE…the ONLY ONE…who can truly determine WHO you are.

If you read the creation story… it is so amazing. It is miraculous!

God says “LET THERE BE LIGHT…”

“LET THERE BE SPACE BETWEEN WATERS”

“LET THERE BE DRY GROUND”

“LET THE LAND PRODUCE VEGETATION”

“LET THE LAND PRODUCE LIVING CREATURES (ANIMALS, LIVESTOCK)”

ALL of creation…LET THERE BE...”, and there it was! But when He created US…MANKIND…it was different.

With all creation God said, “Let there be.” With humanity he said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...” (Gen. 1:26)

Illustration: R100 note: The value of the R100 note is NOT determined by what it’s been used for...its value was determined on the day it was printed and will not change. Just like us – no matter what we have done, or been used for, we are still valuable. God is the one who made us, and He is the

one who determines our value!

We are created in God’s image. God has certain attributes that we reflect as human beings, But God also has attributes that we do not reflect as humans.

As human beings we can reflect attributes as justice, mercy, reason, speech, love.

But then there are attributes that only God can reflect, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, immutability (ability not to change), sovereignty (absolutely in control), holiness.

**Biblical Reality #3: We were created to connect with God on the deepest, most intimate level.**

*“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day….”* Genesis 3:8

Yes, hand in hand is how it was meant to be. But then came No. Next week we will look at NO, what went wrong.

But what do you sense God is saying to you today? Has He reminded you today that you are valuable because you are made in His image, that you don’t need to listen to the lies of the enemy, the world, or the flesh?

Are you realizing for the first time how much God really loves you, and that He created you for a purpose and a personal relationship with Him? But our sins separates us from God.

**The GOSPEL:**
God created us to be in an awesome love relationship with Himself. But our sins separate us from Him, and we cannot fix what has been broken. No amount of good deeds can remove our sins, and we cannot save ourselves.

But paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. And everyone, yes even you, who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. And that life starts with Jesus starts at the very moment you trust Him, and it lasts forever!

If you believe this, would you call on the name of Jesus and trust Him to save you today?

If you are ready to do that right now, here’s simple prayer you can pray as you place your faith in Christ alone to save you. Now this prayer can’t save you...there’s no magic words that can get you into heaven.

But a prayer is a way for you to express the faith that is in your heart to God, in words. It is a way to thank God for this amazing, free gift of eternal life.

If you are ready to put your faith and trust in Christ alone to save you right now, you can repeat this prayer in your heart, or out loud:

*“Dear God, I know that my sins have broken my relationship with you and that nothing I could do could ever change that. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place and rose again from the dead. I trust in Him to forgive me for my sins. Through faith in Him, I am entering an eternal relationship with you. Thank for this free gift! Amen.”*

Call to Action: Download the free “Life in 6 Words” app to use as a tool to learn and memorize the G.O.S.P.E.L. and being the journey of sharing the Good News with others.