

# SO GOOD!

## Good Lord | Discussion Notes

This week we're thinking about the Gospel and asking whether we really understand how big the Gospel really is.

You may want to start with a big piece of paper and ask everyone to share what they think 'the Gospel' means. Or you could get people to write down a few ideas on Post-It Notes and then look through the answers.

- Do you feel like you could give a definition of the Gospel if someone asked you?
- Do you think we really understand the Gospel fully? If not, what impact does that have on our life and how we share our faith?

Read Matthew 4:23, Luke 4:14-21 and Mark 1:14-15. These are just a few of the passages where we see Jesus sharing 'the good news'. Sam shared that Romans listening to Jesus would've heard 'good news' and immediately thought about the Emperor Augustus who once ruled them, whilst the Israelites would have been reminded of their long history of kings and the desperate wait for one to lead them to freedom.

- Have you ever thought about how the context that Jesus is speaking to is so different from ours? Knowing this, should it change how we think about the Good News?
- If Jesus is speaking to his audience in terms that speak about Kings and Empires, should we think about what the Gospel actually is in a different way?

Sam said that the context we hear Jesus' words today are different from the Israelites and Romans. Not only do we not think about kings much, we actively push against the idea of being ruled by someone else. That is because our culture is **self-deterministic** and **individualistic**.

- Sam said that our self-deterministic view (that we should get to rule ourselves) means that we aren't as comfortable with Jesus' Good News that he is king and he wants to be king of our lives. Do you agree? Where in your life do you see yourself pushing against the call to make Jesus king in your life?
- Sam also said that our individualistic view of world means we think 'I can believe what I believe, and you believe what you believe and the two don't have to impact one another'. So our faith becomes personal and private. Do you agree? What is the problem with this?

Throughout the Bible we see how the world is ruled by forces of Evil. When Jesus arrives his message of Good News is that God's Kingdom has come.

- Where do you see the most clear evidence of the world being ruled by forces of evil?
- What do you think it looks like for God's Kingdom to come into our world?
- What can we do to help build God's Kingdom in our work, our friendships or our prayer lives?

A specific area where we need to see God's Kingdom at work is in Ukraine. You may want to consider giving some more time to focus on praying for this situation. Alternatively, pray for one another that we can help build God's Kingdom in Bristol and share the Good News that Jesus is King.