



Scriptures: Romans 11:33-36, 1 Samuel 2:2

Main Idea: God is holy.

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Intro:

Hello students, I want to welcome you all to youth group tonight. I am excited to have you here because we want to take the next four weeks to discuss with you one of the most important topics that I can think of. Can any of you guess what that is?

[Allow students to make guesses.]

I want to talk to you about THE GOSPEL. And before we begin our series, I want to see what you already know about the Gospel.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

[Depending on the maturity of your group, you can choose to have students' "Pre-test" by breaking them into groups to explain the gospel to each other, as if they've never heard about Jesus before. You could set a timer for each member of the group as time allows.]

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Ask Students the Question: *"What is the gospel?"*

[Depending on students' answers, you could choose here to make a distinction between "the gospel" and the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). The word gospel = good news. The Gospels = stories that contain the good news of Jesus.]

Those are some great answers. I think it is essential to be on the same page when we talk about the gospel because it is so important. Sometimes I think we can overcomplicate things. Do you ever do that?

[Teacher's Note: Tell a story here about a time that you or someone else overcomplicated something simple and made problems for themselves.]

It is important not to overcomplicate things, and I believe the same goes for our understanding of the gospel. For the next four weeks I want to provide

a solid, yet simple definition of the gospel for us to use as a tool to share the good news with others. Let's get started!

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We are beginning our series called "The Simple Gospel" by talking about God, who is the first of four parts. Let me explain:

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Our four parts are as follows: God, Us, Jesus, Response

Part one is God. God is holy.

Part two is Us. We are not holy.

Part three is Jesus. Jesus died for us.

Part four is Response. You need to respond.

[You can have the students repeat these out loud a few times to get the words committed to memory.]

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Part one is God.

Here is what you need to know about God: "God is holy." Can you remember that? Let's say it together, "God is holy." Good!

Let's find out why God is holy together by looking up Romans 11:33-36.

Turn in your Bibles to **Romans 11:33-36 (NIV)**

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

This means that God's ways are above our ways, His thoughts are above our thoughts, and everything that exists comes from Him. God is on another level, or as the kids say, He's "built different."

In **1 Samuel 2:2 (NIV)** Hannah, the mother of Samuel the prophet said this about God:

"There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God."



- How would you describe who Jesus is?
- How would you describe Jesus to others?
- Why do you feel Jesus is important?
- C.S. Lewis believed that Jesus is either exactly who He said he is, or a crazy person. Jesus could not be simply a moral teacher.
What does this mean to you?

Have you heard this before?

- Who do you say that Jesus is?

Read **Luke 9:18-20 (NIV)** and discuss:

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

¹⁹ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

²⁰ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

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