

REVERB::CRUX::Something For Everyone::lesson one

FAMILY DEVOTION

The H1N1 virus, better known as the “Swine Flu” epidemic of 2009, left a lot of people wondering about the truth and seriousness of the fast-traveling virus. Was this flu bug really as bad as was said? Was it the killer that everyone had been built up to believe that it would be? Was the vaccine really worth taking, or was it more risky than the actual virus itself? While the National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta worked hard to dispel rumors and encourage people to get vaccinated, people were still left wondering about what was truth and what was rumor or myth.

The word gospel has everything to do with Good News—news that is truth. The gospel is all about the story of God’s salvation coming down to humanity. It’s all about God’s love in the form of His Son Jesus.

As a family, read Romans 1:14–17. The man must have been crazy. Paul was traveling all over the Mediterranean, Asia Minor, and Europe spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ—something that people had never seen with their own eyes. But what they were to believe? The fact is that Paul was unrelenting. He wasn’t going to let up. The need to tell everyone about Jesus Christ and His salvation drove him forward, helping him to endure imprisonment, beatings, angry mobs, stones thrown at him, and all kinds of death threats. Even so, his love of Christ and the truth of the gospel pushed him forward. Paul had come face-to-face with the truth of Christ and believed it, and his faith convinced him that he had nothing to be ashamed of—except for failure to share the gospel.

Maybe you’ve heard this illustration before, but imagine having a cure for cancer, HIV/AIDS, or some other devastating disease—but you are unwilling to share the cure. Who would do that? The truth is that we have the cure for the sin which separates us from God and can send us to an eternity of suffering and death. Why would we ever choose to hold that truth to ourselves and not share it with a world that needs to know? If we believe the truth of the gospel, we have nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, we have everything to hope for. Do you know the truth of the gospel? Are you sitting on it, or are you wearing it so that others see and know that it defines who you are in Christ? You hold the truth. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. Let’s be honest with ourselves: Are we ashamed of the gospel? Is this not the reason for why we refuse to share it? If not, then what is the reason?
2. If you were to relay the gospel message to someone and you had just five minutes to do so, what would you want him or her to know about God’s love, Christ, salvation, and eternal life?
3. Ask yourself: What was so compelling to Paul about the gospel? What would it take for me to have his drive in sharing the gospel?
4. When you think of the gospel as the prescribed cure for sin, how does this change your perspective on sharing it?
5. How would you explain faith to someone else? How would you describe your own faith that accepts the gospel?