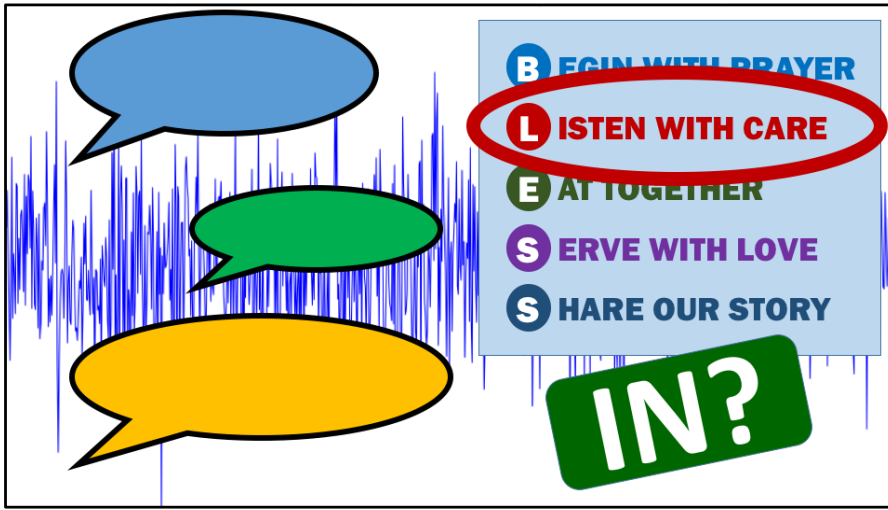


**Conversations require both speaking and listening.  
-- And as we seek to make the most of every opportunity in our communities, we need to do both.**

**TR: We need to . . .**



. . . listen with care.

-- As we are prayerfully intentional about being IN, we must seek to connect with folks by being great listeners.

—cf. questions of curiosity

TR: If we want to move from be IN to being an INfluence, we also need to . . .



. . . be willing to speak.

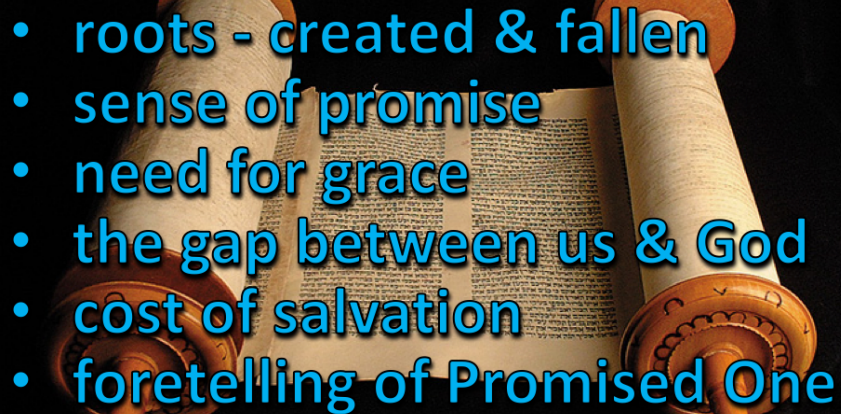
-- We have to be willing to share our story . . . esp. how our story intersects with God's good news story of the gospel.

TR: In the give and take of conversations, we will naturally uncover and listen to many . . .



**. . . questions that are floating around in people's minds.  
-- If you are like me, you want to have all the answers figured out.  
-- cf. my ordination council (yeah to PS for passing his licensing exam) . . . longest sustained adrenalin rush.**

**TR: Last week, Patrick helped us see that many of these questions will come from the OT.**

- 
- roots - created & fallen
  - sense of promise
  - need for grace
  - the gap between us & God
  - cost of salvation
  - foretelling of Promised One

**And if we understand the Hebrew Scriptures correctly, lots of those questions will be answered.**

**-- We not only have a sense of our roots, but also the sense of promise that pervades the entire OT, even as it foretells the coming of Messiah.**

**-- We see the need for grace because we can't keep the law perfectly.**

**-- The clean and unclean distinctions remind us of the gap between us and God.**

**-- And the blood . . . the everywhere blood . . . teaches us of the huge cost of salvation. All the sacrifices were pointing to something. They were so costly, how costly would the once for all sacrifice be?**

**TR: There are many other questions but I find that too many of**

**us get too wrapped up in these questions . . . we tend to go  
...**



## hopping down the bunny trail

### **READ SLIDE**

- If we are honest, many of us will not talk the walk because we are afraid that we'll get asked a question we cannot answer.
- We don't want to mess it up. To make it worse for the other person.
- But, let's be clear about this, gospel influence, being gospel fluent is **NOT** about having all the answers to all the questions.

**TR: Fluent doesn't mean you know all the meanings of all the vocabulary words. It means that you listen and speak, making sure that . . .**



- . . . you a prayerful and mindful of getting the conversation to get to Jesus.
- We cannot be influences if we don't get to Jesus.
  - There is only **ONE WAY** to get to heaven, to fulfill the forever relationship with God that we were created for.
  - That one way is **JESUS**.
  - EX: Losing the baby under the coats at the baby shower.

TR: Even the OT with its sense of promise and specifics of . . .





Matthew 11:2-3

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "**Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?**"

ESV

**John the Baptist understood the importance of this.  
-- READ SLIDE**

**TR: Jesus, Himself, points to this critical question in Matthew 16**

Matthew 16:13b-15

... (Jesus) asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

ESV

### READ SLIDE

- Christians are followers of the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One called Jesus of Nazareth.
- We are not primarily followers of doctrinal statements or even a particular worldview . . .
- We are followers of Jesus.

TR: That leads us to two simple but power questions of the day . . . .

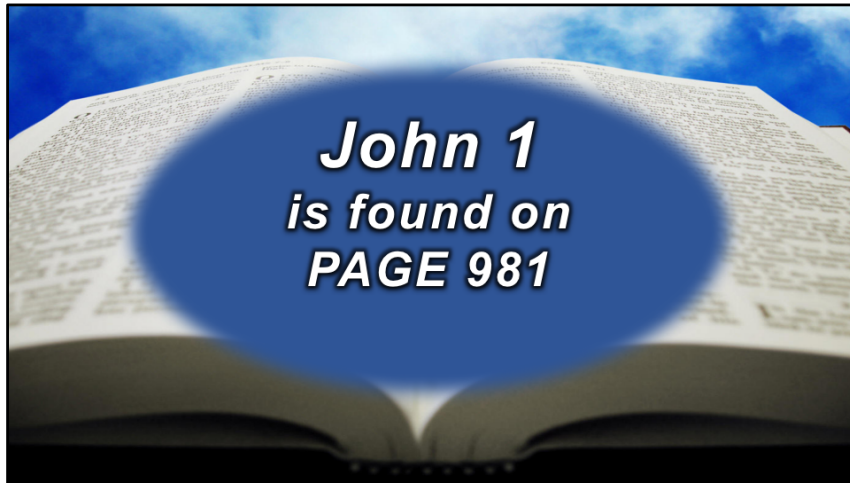
**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:**

**WHO IS JESUS?**

**WHAT DOES JESUS DO?**

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Let's turn to John 1**



**We'll park right here and in chapter 3 in a moment.**

**TR: As we think through the first of our two questions . . .**

**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:**

**WHO IS JESUS?**

**WHAT DOES JESUS DO?**

**. . . who is Jesus . . . we could go to many passages in the Bible.**

**TR: But, there's quite a lot right here in John 1, beginning in verse 9 . . .**

John 1:9-11

14

**The true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and **the world was made through him**, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 12**

John 1:12-13

15

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, **he gave the right to become children of God,**<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 14**



John 1:14

16

And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 15**

John 1:15-16

17

(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'" ) <sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 17**

John 1:17-18

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; **the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

—cf Heseb and Emet

**TR: This reference to Jesus being the only God and revealing the Father is how this chapter started . . .**

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>**All things were made through him,** and without him was not any thing made that was made.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

**—God's self expression, the Logos**

**TR: So, Who is Jesus?**

## **WHO IS JESUS?**

**The true light**

**The Creator**

**The One Who gives the right to  
become a child of God**

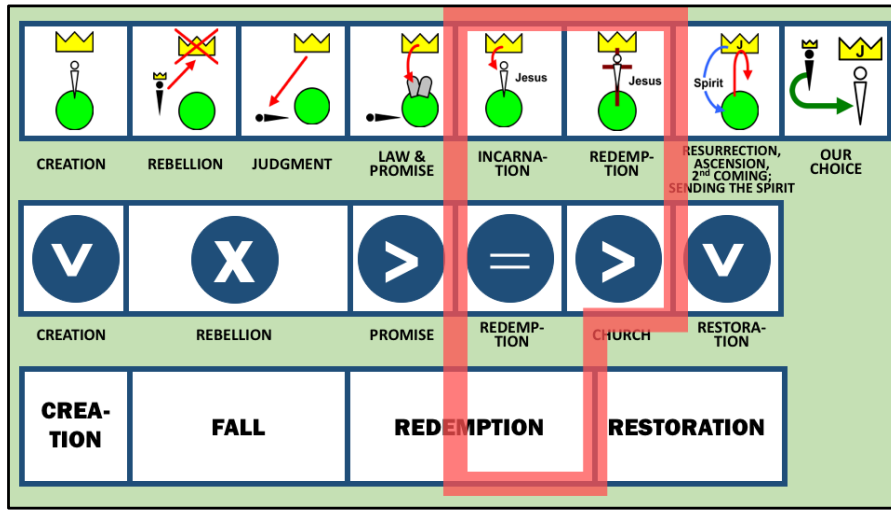
**The Word made flesh**

**The only God, Who makes the  
Father known**

**He is . . . READ SLIDE**

**—Jesus speaks to us in the dialect of humanity, not of deity.**

**TR: Who is Jesus is answered in the 5<sup>th</sup> drawing of the 8 Simple drawings.**



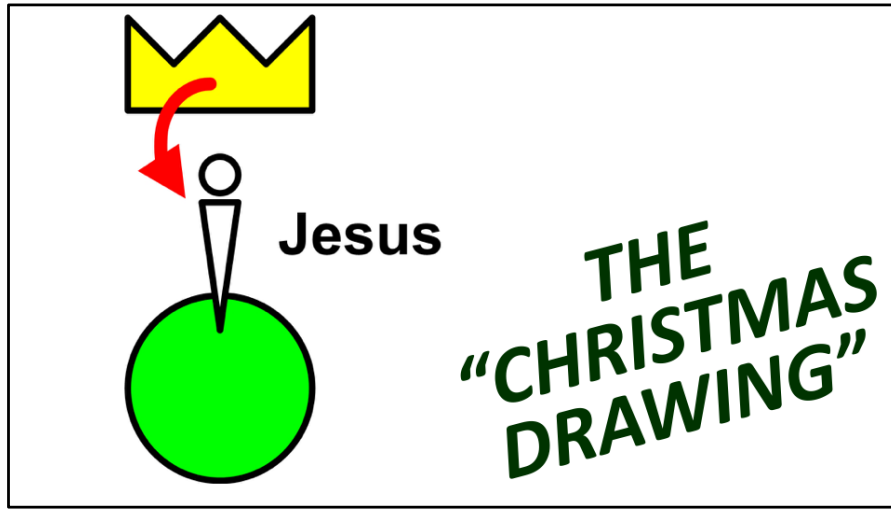
On the back of the worship flier you see three models for sharing the good news story.

-- Not three stories.

-- In our small groups we have or will learn about the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> acts of redemption and the church.

-- In our 4 movement outline of the story, we continue to ponder the redemption that was promised in the OT and is now fulfilled in the NT.

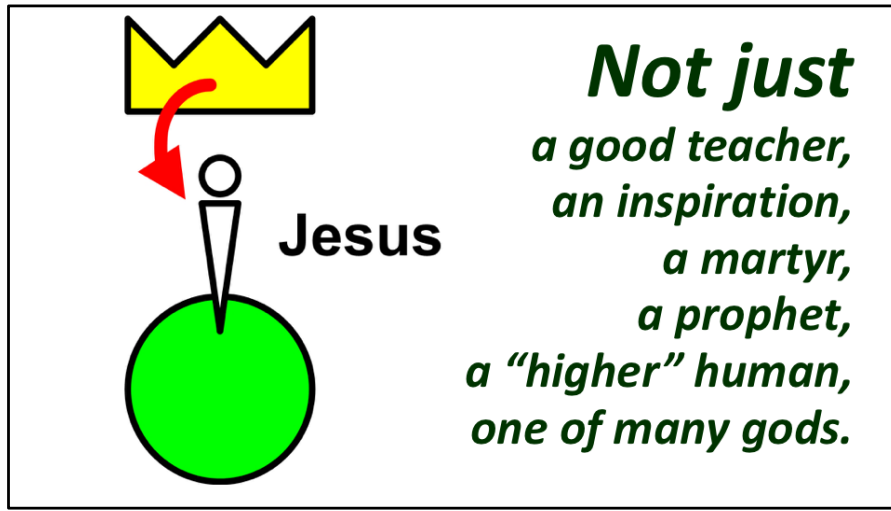
TR: When I added the fifth drawing . . .



- ... also called the Christmas drawing ...
- ... I did so to address Hindus in South America.
  - They would accept Jesus as another of the millions of gods . . . but that is not the biblical story.
  - The critical question is, "Who is Jesus?"

TR: The flip side of that question is another way to look at it . .

.



**Jesus is not just . . . READ SLIDE**

-- The true light, The Creator, The One Who gives the right to become a child of God, The Word made flesh, The only God, Who makes the Father known

-- Jesus is the divine self-expression, the Word

-- Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

**TR: The second question of the day . . .**



**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:**

**WHO IS JESUS?**

**WHAT DOES JESUS DO?**

**READ SLIDE**

**-- Jesus could do what He did if He wasn't who He was.**

**TR: Turn to John 3:14**

John 3:14-15

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.



ESV

**In Numbers 21 we read of the poisonous snakes and God's provision of a cure . . . faith in Him expressed in looking up to the snake on a pole.**

**-- We still today use the symbol for the medical arts.**

**-- READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 16**

John 3:16-17

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Verse 18**

John 1:18

27

**“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”**

*ESV*

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: According to these verses, what does Jesus do?**

**WHAT DOES JESUS DO?**

given/sent by the God the  
Father  
the measure of God's love  
provides the only means to  
eternal life/salvation

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Paul, in his theology taught to the Romans, writes of Jesus' work . . .**

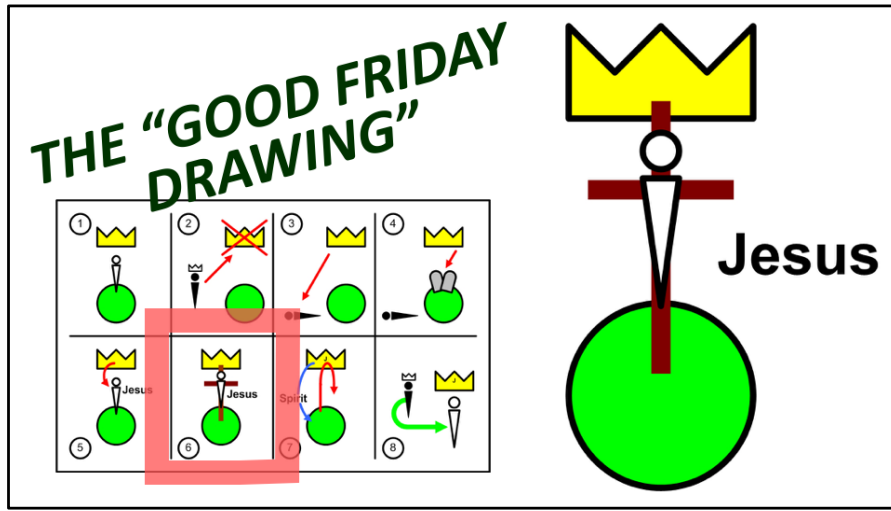
Romans 3:22b-25a

For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** <sup>25</sup>**whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood,** to be received by faith.

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: This takes us to the 6<sup>th</sup> drawing, also called . . .**

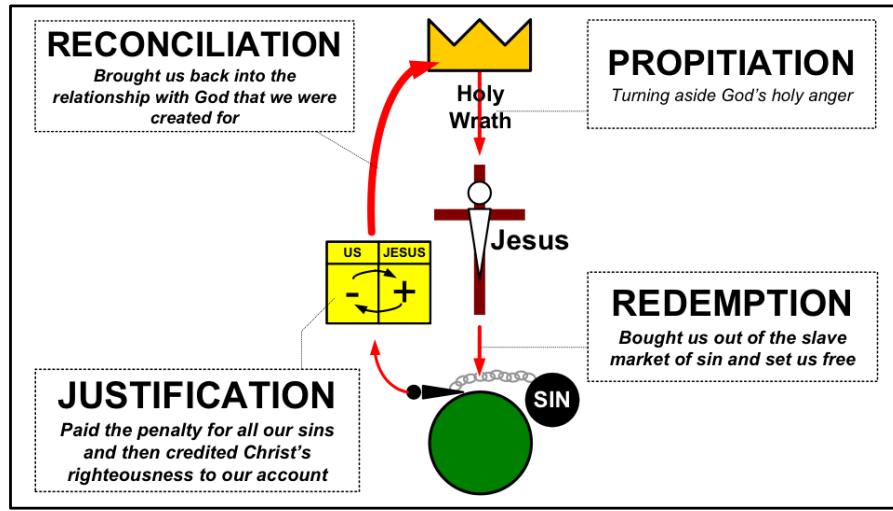


**READ SLIDE**

-- (Review of 6<sup>th</sup> drawing)

**TR: I include in your notes an expansion of this simple drawing .**

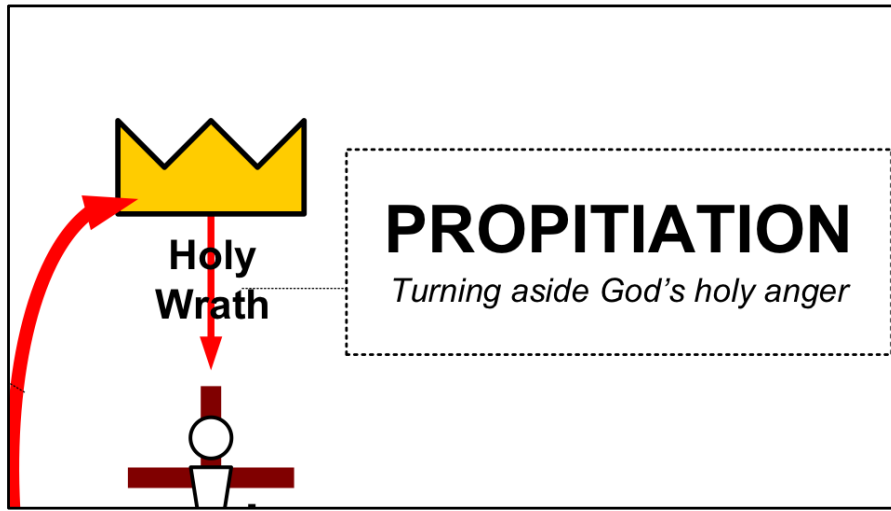
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. . . that helps us marvel at what Jesus did for us through His death on the cross.

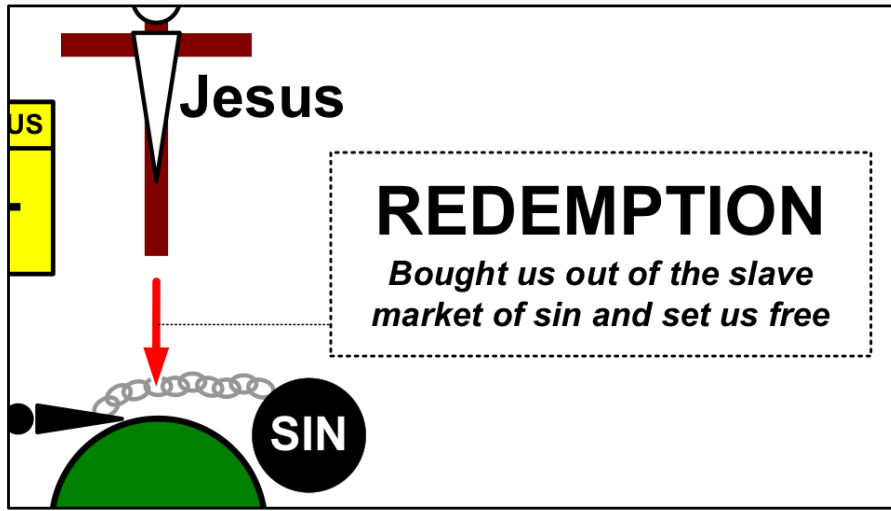
TR: He was put forward as a propitiation . . .





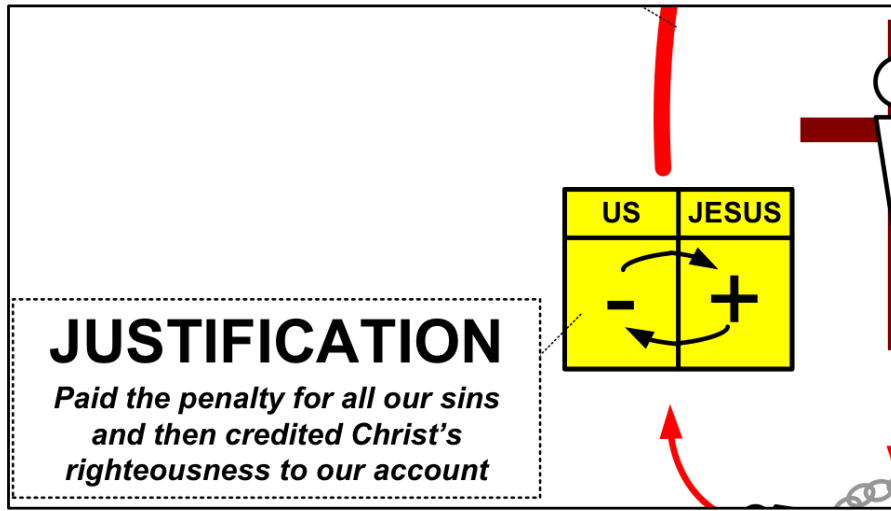
**Zooming in we see that . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: Jesus' death provides for us . . .**



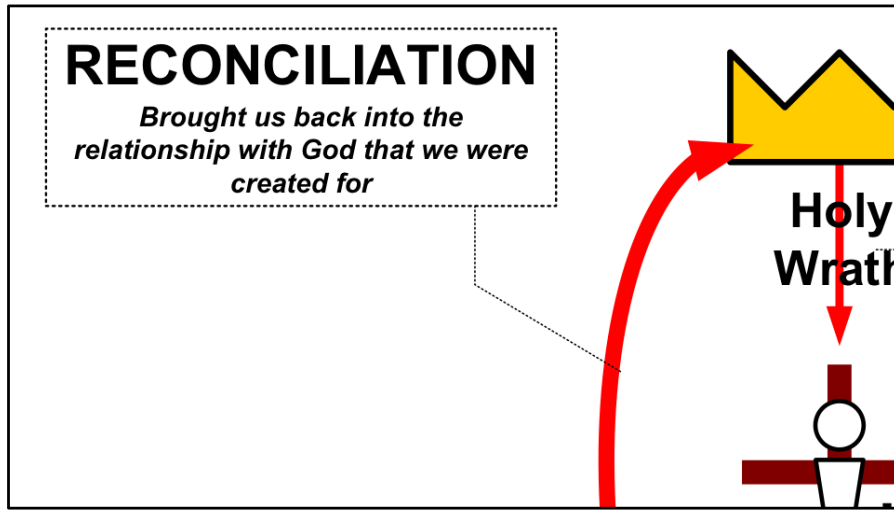
**READ SLIDE**

**TR: His substitutionary death provided for our . . .**



## READ SLIDE

TR: Jesus' death made a way, a bridge, for us to experience . . .



**READ SLIDE**

**TR: I suggested that there were two questions of the day, but really there are three . . .**

**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:**

**WHO IS JESUS?**

**WHAT DOES JESUS DO?**

**WHAT WILL I DO  
WITH JESUS?**

**Because if we answer the first two biblically, then we cannot avoid the third . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: In John 1 we see those who had only the OT as their Scriptures express their joy in the promise fulfilled.**

John 1:40-41

One of the two who heard John (the Baptist) speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which means Christ).

ESV

### READ SLIDE

-- Is this not what Gospel fluency really is . . . listening to others and then sharing "we have found the Messiah!"

TR: A few verses later, we find the same thing . . .

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

ESV

**READ SLIDE**

**TR: Today, I come to you and say, I have found him. I have found the Messiah. He is Jesus.**

**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:****WHO IS JESUS?****WHAT DOES JESUS DO?****WHAT WILL I DO  
WITH JESUS?**

**He is the hinge of history, the hero of the story, the crux of understanding, the fulcrum of decision.**

- Jesus came as teacher – to instruct us with truth**
- as role model – to show us how; as inspiration – to spur us on; as prophet – to call us back; as king – to lead us out . .**
- and as our substitutionary sacrifice – to save us from our sin.**
- The good news in one word is this . . . JESUS!**

**TR: SAME SLIDE**



**QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:****WHO IS JESUS?****WHAT DOES JESUS DO?****WHAT WILL I DO  
WITH JESUS?**

- God so loved YOU that He gave His Son . . . Jesus so loved you that He took on humanity for all of eternity, not just 33 years.
- Jesus loved you so much that He was willing to pay the price to redeem you so you could enjoy the forever relationship with Him you were created for.
- But, Jesus respects your choices enough to let you face the consequences of them.
  
- Won't you today make the choice to receive Christ as Savior?
- And if you are not sure, like John the Baptist, won't you humbly and honest seek the truth?