



# NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

*"Our Heart is People, Our Message is Jesus"*

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

**Series: Words We Thought We Knew**

**Title: "Gospel"**

### **Icebreaker / Getting Started (10-15 minutes)**

1. What's a word or phrase that means something totally different depending on who says it or where you hear it? (Think slang, insider lingo, family words, etc.)
2. What's the best piece of news you've ever received — and how did it change what you did next?

### **Digging into the Scripture & Sermon (15-20 minutes)**

3. In Mark 1:1, Mark calls his whole account "the beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." Why do you think Mark opens that way instead of just starting the story? What does that framing do?
4. The sermon walked through three different "gospels" — Rome's, Isaiah's, and the early church's. How does knowing that backdrop change the way you read Mark 1:15 when Jesus says "repent and believe the good news"?
5. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 that the gospel is something he received and passed on. What does it mean to you that the gospel is a story handed down, not invented? How does that affect how you hold it?
6. The sermon made a distinction between gospel as good news vs. good advice, good insight, good opinion, or a sales pitch. Which of those substitutes are you most tempted to reduce the gospel to — and why do you think that is?

### **Personal Application & Reflection (15-20 minutes)**

7. Jesus summarized the proper response to the gospel as repent, believe, rejoice. Which of those three feels most alive in your life right now — and which feels most distant?
8. The sermon said: "Whether you realize it or not, you're all banking your life on something." What are the things competing for that place in your life right now?
9. John Bunyan's poem says the gospel "bids me fly and gives me wings" — not just tells you to try harder. Where in your life are you carrying something you were never meant to carry on your own?

## **Prayer & Action Steps (15-20 minutes)**

10. This week, take 10 minutes and write down your own answer to this question in your own words: "What is the gospel?" Don't look anything up. Then compare what you wrote to Matthew Bates's description from the sermon or Paul's summary in 1 Corinthians 15:3–5. What did you include? What did you miss?
11. Pick one of the three responses — repent, believe, rejoice — and make it intentional this week. What would it look like to practice that one movement every morning before you start your day?
12. Who in your life needs to hear good news right now — not good advice, not your opinion, but actual good news? Pray for one person by name this week and ask God for an opportunity.
13. Take a moment as a group to do what the sermon invited at the end — open your hands and walk through the three movements together:
  - Where do we need to repent?
  - Where is Jesus inviting us to deeper belief?
  - What can we rejoice over right now?

Close by reading Romans 1:16 aloud together as a declaration.