

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 4

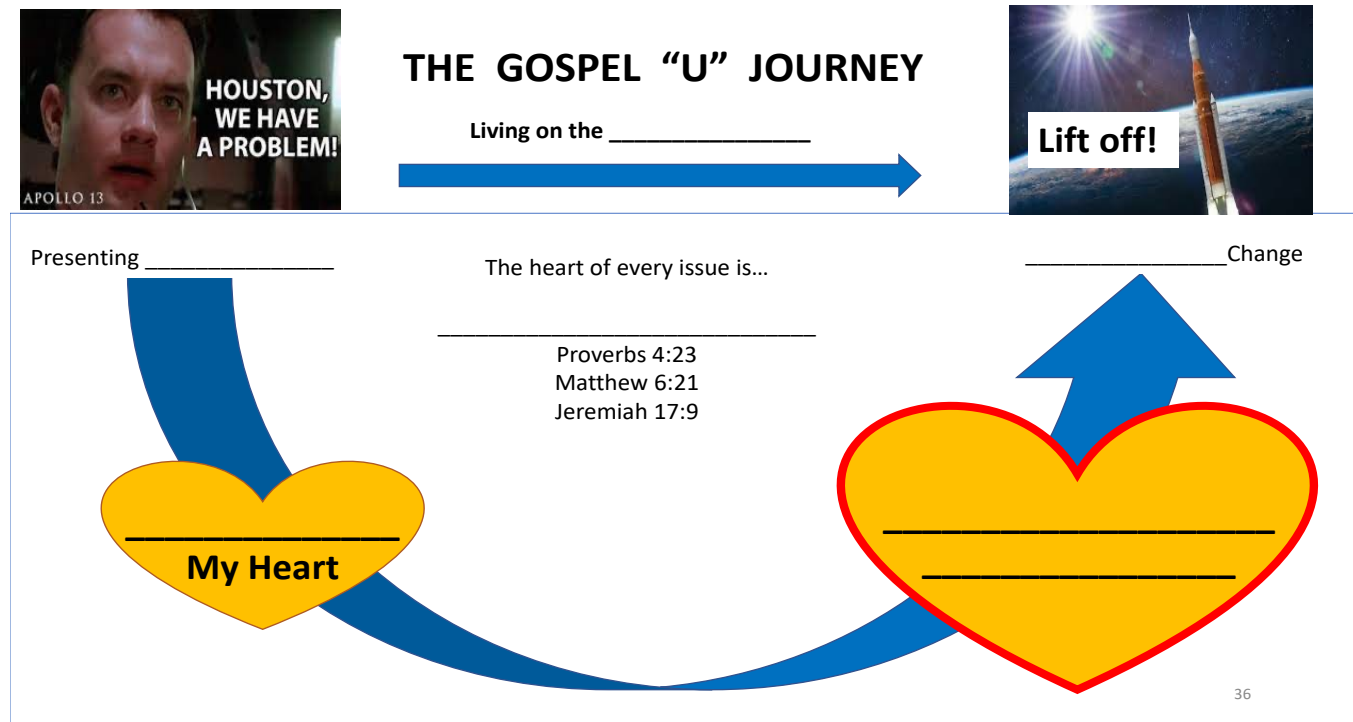
The Adventure of Finding Your True Treasure

Discover...

- (1) The necessity of facing the truth about yourself
- (2) The benefits of bringing your heart to the heart of Jesus
- (3) The power of replacement thinking

*“...[W]here your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Mt. 6:21*

The Gospel U is a tool that will enable you to understand, apply, and communicate how God transforms us at the heart level by consistently applying the gospel to every area of our lives. The transformation is a “progression not perfection” journey. The Gospel U journey leads us away FROM a frustrating surface change in behavior, sustained by willpower, TO a satisfying transformation of our Core identity, heart motivation, and behavior through trust in Jesus Christ.



EXERCISE 1 “Houston, we’ve got a problem!”

A presenting issue I am facing that needs attention:

Consequences of ignoring _____

1.

2.

EXERCISE 2 “Living on the Surface”

Place an X where you usually land.

DESPAIR		PRIDE
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Younger Bro? _____ Older Bro? _____ Both? _____ Verdict of others? _____

Heart Confrontation---Examples of some self-worth/security confrontations:

- 1.
- 2.

EXERCISE 3 "Confronting Our Hearts"

Probe: Mentally process the "Thought Questions" on the screen.

Identify: My heart's treasure(s) which can become a "_____ thing":

Confront: Do a "quick write" response to the following question:
How has the idol factory in my heart harmed myself and others?

Jesus describes his own heart: _____

When we bring our heart to the heart of Jesus, he gives us a NEW

(1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____, (4) _____

Examine the "Jesus' Heart Is..." Sampler—Page 4

Thinking---A practice/process of...

- Putting off and putting _____
- Saying "no" and saying _____
- Observing daily "Good Friday" and _____
- It's like walking where you say " _____ / _____ "

Jesus' Heart Is... (a sampler for ready reference)

LIFE-GIVING—His life overcomes our dark, dead places. (John 1:4 and 8:12; John 11:25)

The abundant life we chase after on our own terms is supplied by Jesus when we accept it on his terms. (John 10:10)

COMPASSIONATE—He responds to our distress. (Mt. 9:36; Matt 14:14; John 11:33-36)

His response is patient—In an impatient world, Jesus is patient with us. (I Tim. 1:16)

His response is empathetic—He “gets us.” (Heb. 4:15)

His response is gentle—He is our good shepherd, and...

He tailors his care to us individually. (John 10: 3-4; Is. 40:11; Ps. 23; Mt. 11: 29)

His compassion is merciful—His mercy never fails. (Heb. 4:16) The bruised reed he will not break. (Mt. 12:20)

LOVING—Jesus does not show us love based on our behavior; perfect love is who he is. (I John:4:7-21)

His love for us is active & personal. (Eph. 5:2) He refuses to stop seeking and saving. (Lk. 19:10)

His perfect love casts out fear. (I John 4:8) Nothing can separate us from his love. (Rom. 8:35a)

He's the greatest love we'll ever have. (John 15:13; I John 4:10)

FAITHFUL—He is faithful even when we are faithless. (II Tim. 2:13)

He will never forsake us. (Heb. 13: 5; Phil. 1:6) He is trustworthy. (I Thess. 5:24)

He is always interceding for us. (Heb. 7:25b)

FORGIVING—His forgiveness (I John 1:9) isn't just to be “nice” but to set us free. (Rom.8:1)

His forgiveness of our huge debt enables us to forgive others. (Lk. 23:34; Eph. 4:32)

GRACE-GIVING—He gives us the desire & power to do what we should do but cannot do on our own.

(II Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 4:16; II Tim. 1:9)

ALL WISE—He is always doing the wisest thing for our lives.

None of our finite schemes can be better than his infinite plan. (Col. 2:3; 1 Cor. 2:9)

His truth is absolute, the only “truth” that will always set us free. (John 8:31-32; 14:6)

He has the wisdom to not erase the struggle until we have grown rich from it in whatever way he has intended.

(Heb. 12:11) His goal is for us to be like him. (Rom. 8:29; Eph. 2:10).

ALL POWERFUL—All things are held together by him.

He upholds our universe. (Heb. 1:3; Col.1:17)

His resurrection demonstrates that all things are under his feet. (Eph. 1: 19-23; Mt. 28:18)

He is able to do far more than we could ever conceive of even asking. (Eph. 3:20-21)

He is always working even when we cannot see it. (John 5:17)

He is able to work everything together for good according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28-29)

We have hope b/c nothing is impossible with him. (Lk. 18:1 and 27)

JUST—He is perfectly right in his treatment of his creatures.

He is a warrior for the oppressed; he defends the poor and marginalized. (Luke 4:18-19)

He is a boundary breaker—He invites *everyone* to sit at his table. (Mk. 2:13-17; Luke 14:12-14)

One day he will finish righting all wrongs. (Rev.19:11-21; 20:11-15; 22: 3-5)

PURE and HOLY—His perfection (I John 3:3, I Pet 1: 15-16) reminds us that his cleansing of us is needed.

He is zealous—He is committed to cleansing us, his “temple.” (John 2:17; I Cor. 6:19-20)

Jesus will not bully us, but he will not back down.

EXERCISE 4 "Jesus heart is.."

- Picture in your mind your issue, the one you identified earlier.
- With that in mind, carefully read through "Jesus' Heart Is..." Sampler
- Then put a check by any attributes or insights that resonate with your heart needs.
- Choose truths that you will
 - "put on"
 - say "yes" to
 - and trust that He can guide you through a Good Friday into an Easter Sunday new way of living. Remember: "I can't/ He can."
- Later, take a photo on your phone of the "Jesus Heart Is..." sheet so you can have a handy reference for focusing on His heart.



REFRESHMENT—THE HEART OF JESUS

Come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden,
and I will give you **rest**.

Take my yoke upon you and **learn** from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find **rest** for your souls.

For my yoke is **easy** and my burden is **light**.

Adventure Workouts for Lesson 4

1. **Memorize** Matthew 6:21 “...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
2. **Work through** the Gospel U and then **share the process** with someone.

As you go through the following steps, sketch out the Gospel-U diagram.

(After class, you will receive 2 slides that you could print out or pull up on a screen to help you share the “Gospel U” process.)

- Pick a presenting issue and also identify your desired behavior.
 - Reflect on how you may have been like a “yo yo” between pride & despair as you’ve tried to just change your behavior to the desired performance.
 - Confront your heart: Explore what heart issues might be below the surface.
 What do I tend to be most defensive about?
 What do I tend to be overly protective of?
 What is my greatest fear?
 What are heart treasures that can become “god things”?
 - Bring your heart to the heart of Jesus as seen in all the truths of Scripture.
 ⇒ Prayerfully draw on specific truth that will set you free.
 ⇒ Practice “replacement thinking.”
 ⇒ Adopt the spiritual rhythm of “I can’t”/ “He can.”
 - Remind yourself of your ultimate goal:
 When Scripture changes the way you think about Jesus, you begin the process of becoming different as you focus on Him. Your *heart is being shaped by His heart for you*. Your ultimate aim becomes not just a change in behavior but a heart change “lift off” into Christ likeness.
3. **Listen** to the following message:
<https://www.cherrydale.org/grow/sermons/always-start-here/> - This message, *Always Start Here*, makes clear from Scripture that the starting place for lasting change is not resolutions fueled by willpower but our union with Jesus Christ fueled by faith.
 4. If you have the book, *Beware the Slow Leaks – eight ways ministry leaders can thrive and finish strong*, read Chapter Two: *Be Shaped by the Gospel* (23-46).