



Welcome to Session Three

OVERCOMER

What stood out to you in last week's personal study? What truths or answers did God reveal?

Describe a time when someone chose you. Maybe it was a fourth-grade pickup game, when you were the new kid in town and terrified of being picked last. Maybe it was a special prom invitation. Perhaps it was something life-altering like a scholarship or a marriage proposal. How did it feel to be wanted and chosen? The degree of excitement increases with the seriousness of the purpose for which a person is chosen. Neighborhood kickball may be a big deal at the moment, but it hardly compares to being chosen to deliver the keynote address at your college commencement. The significance of being chosen also increases with the importance of the person making the selection. When that person is the holy Creator God of the universe, the significance of being chosen is unfathomable.

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MOVIE CLIP

SUMMARY

The backstory of principal Olivia Brooks and young Hannah runs deeper than this brief clip can convey. Seizing a moment to check in on Hannah and everything spinning in her life gives Olivia an open door to present the gospel. As Hannah wrestles with feelings of abandonment toward her earthly father, Olivia explains the great lengths that her Heavenly Father went to in redeeming her.

Miraculously Hannah receives Jesus.

What part of Olivia's gospel presentation stands out most to you?

How confident do you feel about conversationally presenting Christ to someone?

Give yourself a score from 1 to 10, with 1 being completely paralyzed and 10 being completely prepared.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Not at all prepared

Sort of prepared

Can't wait to share

1. What part of Olivia's gospel presentation stands out most to you?

2. How confident do you feel about conversationally presenting Christ to someone?

Give yourself a score from 1 to 10, with 1 being completely paralyzed and 10 being completely prepared.

Read aloud 2 Chronicles 3:1-4,8-9,14-17.

CHAPTER 3

14 He made the veil of violet, purple, crimson and fine linen, and he worked cherubim on it.
15 He also made two pillars for the front of the house, thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each was five cubits. 16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary and placed them on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates and placed them on the chains. 17 He erected the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and the other on the left, and named the one on the right Jachin and the one on the left Boaz.

Solomon followed through with God's call and his father David's instructions to construct the temple in Jerusalem. It would replace the tabernacle where the ark of God's covenant promise was housed and where the people engaged in sacrificial worship. The temple would give God's place in the community a sense of permanence and priority. Many people might skim or avoid the passages that provide detailed descriptions of that work, but many of those details point to Jesus. For example, the exterior columns were given names. The name Jachin means "He will establish." The name Boaz means "Strength is within Him." The pillars served as a physical reminder that it was God who established Israel in strength. It's God who chooses, saves, and strengthens. He does that through salvation.

Christ's birth brought God's full presence to reside with us. That's why Jesus is called Immanuel, "God is with us" (Matt. 1:23). Christ's death tore the curtain of the holy of holies in the temple, giving us full access to God, inviting us to be established as God's people, clothed in His strength (see 27:51).

Q. What does it mean to you that the God who created you wants to be right here with you?

Q. How does God's choosing you and desiring to be with you give you strength?

Q. How does God's choosing you change the way you see yourself and others?

What does it mean to you that the God who created you wants to be right here with you?

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How does God's choosing you change the way you see yourself and others?

Read aloud John 3:16-17.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him

Read aloud John 3:16-17.

What word or phrase resonates most with you?

What **Read aloud Ephesians 2:1-10** you?

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Read aloud Ephesians 2:1-10.

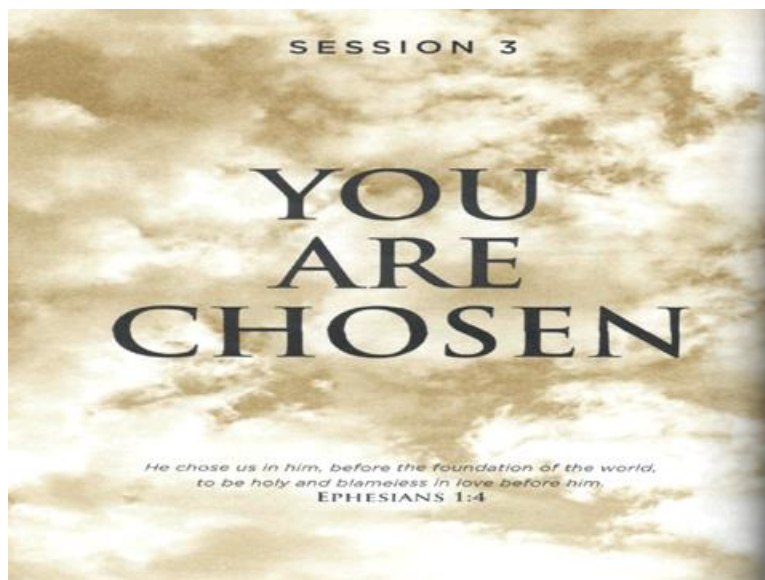
Ephesians 2:1-3 describes identities rooted in sin instead of the Lord. Verses 4-10 describe what it means to be chosen by God.

According to this passage, how does God save people? By grace

Read aloud again verses 5-10 one at a time and identify specific reasons God saves people.

The gospel is the good news that God chooses to love and save people. How overwhelming to know that the great God of all has chosen broken people to receive His love and purpose! Being chosen and defined by God changes everything.

Now let's look at your homework



DAY1

THE GOSPEL CHANGES YOUR IDENTITY AND GIVES YOU A PURPOSE

In the film *OVERCOMER* the gospel of Jesus gave John Harrison a purpose beyond who or what he thought he was. When the foundation on which he had built his identity was ripped away and replaced by something less than ideal, the gospel entered and gave him more than he ever knew he wanted. The gospel pulled Hannah out of the shadows and gave her a purpose far beyond what her physical limitations prescribed. The gospel of Jesus has the power to change a person's identity and to give purpose in life beyond all limitations and expectations.

Solomon was one of Israel's most famous kings, second only to his father, David.

Read 1 Chronicles 22:7-10.

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Read 1 Chronicles 22:7-10.

7 David said to Solomon, "My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. 8 "But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. 9 'Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. 10 'He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.

What does this passage say about Solomon's true identity?

What does this passage identify as God's purpose for Solomon?

How clearly do you understand God's purpose for your life?
Use the spectrum provided to pinpoint your current level of awareness and plot an X on that spot

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Your identity in Christ makes you God's child, enjoying all of the rights and blessings of sonship. Your purpose in life makes you God's servant, dedicating your life to following His will.

According to God's words to David, Solomon wasn't just the king of Israel's son. Solomon was a child of God with a clearly defined purpose. This isn't true just for homegrown kids like Solomon who were born into the right religious family. It's true for the very enemies of God, like Saul in the Book of Acts, who was dramatically changed by an encounter with Jesus to become a Christ follower. That's good news for us.

Read Paul's testimony in Acts 22:3-16. Where did Paul place his identity before meeting Christ?

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Read Paul's testimony in Acts 22:3-16. Where did Paul place his identity before meeting Christ?

3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. 4 "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, 5 as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. 6 "But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, 7 and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' 8 "And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'

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9 "And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. 10 "And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.' 11 "But since I could not

see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

12 "A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. 14 "And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. 15 'For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

For some people, a life-changing experience on their own Damascus road will be exactly how God reaches them. For others, life before Christ wasn't as dramatically distant and didn't require that level of encounter. No matter what type of testimony you have, change is part of it. Paul himself wrote:

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Record some before-and-after changes the gospel has made and is continuing to make in your identity and your purpose.

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Record some before-and-after changes the gospel has made and is continuing to make in your identity and your purpose.

Post and reread 2 Corinthians 5:17 several times throughout the week. Use it as a reminder of the power of the gospel to change your life. Pray that God will keep your newness in Christ fresh this week. Pray that God will plant this verse in your life and that He will shape your identity to reflect its truth.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
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DAY 2

THE GOSPEL CHANGES YOUR COMMUNITY

An online search for the definition of *community* offers these ideas:

- A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common (for example, the scientific community)
- A feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitude interests, and goals (for example, the sense of community that organized religion can provide)

Those two definitions sum up community pretty well. People likely have a variety of different pockets of community, some that overlap and others don't seem to intersect.

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Those two definitions sum up community pretty well. People likely have a variety of different pockets of community, some that overlap and others don't seem to intersect.

List your personal pockets of community. Be as inclusive as possible. Give a name or label to every type of community you feel a part of.

For believers, it's ultimately the gospel that connects us, gives us a family, and defines what it means to be a family. The gospel gave Hannah a coach who was far more than a coach and a principal who was far more than a principal. It ultimately reconnected her with an earthly father whom she could love and be loved by. It gave her a community and a place to belong.

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When Christ died, He didn't just give us salvation, though that was more than enough. He also gave us the Holy Spirit and much more. He gave us the church.

The gospel changes who we are and whom we're connected with. The gospel gives us a community of faith that supports us in Christ, encourages our growth in Christlikeness, and holds us accountable to Christ's call in our lives. People who are united by the gospel need one another.

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Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and record everything the writer declares believers to be.

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Notice that every declaration is plural. Peter didn't declare a Christian to be a royal person or a holy individual. Each layer of his promise-filled declaration is applied to the body of Christ, the church.

Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

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Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

The first part of this passage discusses our nearness to God through Christ. Then the writer highlighted the necessity of our nearness to one another because of Christ.

In your own words, how does the gospel give you community and encourage you to be part of a community?

In what ways does community help you live out the gospel?

Praise God for expressions of the gospel in community. Thank Him for people who've represented the gospel well to clearly show you Jesus, both recently and throughout your life.

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Show you Jesus, both recently and throughout your life.

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DAY 3

THE GOSPEL CHANGES YOUR OUTLOOK

Recall the most extravagant gift you've ever given someone. What was it, and to whom did you give it?

In all likelihood the gift you described was temporary. Unless you thought of a time when you shared the plan of salvation, anything you exchange in life has an expiration date. Nothing surpasses what Christ accomplished on the cross. On the cross He took on all our sin and brokenness and gave us a new identity that's secured by His sacrifice on our behalf. Nothing is better than that.

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God gave His absolute best when He offered Christ as the payment for our sin. Paul gave his absolute all in communicating that message of hope to whole world.

The gospel isn't just for eternity, though. It's for everyday living. The gospel doesn't just alter a person's forever. The true gospel shapes a person's outlook every day.

Peter is a prime example of a transformed outlook. His encounter with Jesus caused him to recognize his own tragic sin.

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Read Luke 5:1-11. How did Peter respond to Jesus' net-casting instructions?

1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. 4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break;

(2 slides)

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How did Peter react to the crazy boat-breaking catch? Why do you think that miracle prompted Peter to respond the way he did?

Peter did what Jesus asked in that moment. He followed Jesus. So much water went under the bridge in Peter's ministry with Jesus following that initial call. So much living. So many stories. So many great miracles and challenging teachings. Peter would later fail miserably, but the gospel restored him and empowered him to faithfully carry out his calling in the early church

Read Acts 10:8-16,33-35.

“Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; 9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God is near.’ 10 But if they do not receive you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that city, saying, ‘The kingdom of God is near.’ 11 ‘Even though you do not know what I am saying, the kingdom of God is near.’ 12 ‘Woe to you who are laughing now, but will mourn and weep when you see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of the throne of power.’ 13 ‘Woe to you who are saying, ‘We are well and prospering,’ but will be in mourning and weeping when you see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of the throne of power.’ 14 ‘But woe to you who are weeping and mourning now, for you will be laughing and rejoicing when you see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of the throne of power.’ 15 ‘The Son of Man will come in the clouds of heaven, and will see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of the throne of power.’ 16 ‘The one who rejects you rejects Me, and the one who rejects Me rejects the Father who sent Me.’”

But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 “On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’”

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Read Acts 10:8-16, Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; 9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' 12 "I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.

13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you. 15 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades!

16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

33-35. But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'

An angel visited a faithful Gentile named Cornelius and instructed him to reach out to Peter, whose vision prepared him for the encounter.

Following Peter's vision described in verses 9-16, servants arrived and took Peter to Cornelius, who told Peter about the angel's visit. Peter's response was to present the gospel.

Prior to that encounter, like the other Jewish Christians, Peter believed the gospel was strictly intended for Israel. Not only was Peter's life changed by the gospel, but his everyday outlook was also influenced by following Jesus.

In the movie OVERCOMER what felt like the worst thing to happen in the town, particularly to the school and the Harrison family, was the best thing to advance God's purposes in the gospel. Sometimes when we face difficulty, the outcome reveals that a better, more gospel-centered purpose was at play.

Read the following verses.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. You rejoice in this, even though

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In a letter to dispersed and discouraged believers, Peter offered words of encouragement. Their disaster was an opportunity for the gospel to spread to places and to people Peter would have previously counted unworthy. That change in Peter's outlook and in early church history is one only the gospel could have fostered.

Describe something about your life that has changed or is changing because of the gospel.

Pray, identifying the parts of your outlook that need to be touched by the gospel. **Ask God to change your perspective so that you see the world and even yourself as He does.**

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Study Session 4
ASSIGNMENT
YOU SURRENDER

