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What was your favorite fairytale, nursery rhyme, or bedtime story when you were a kid? Why did you love it?

Some of the stories we know and love are culturally specific or even unique to our own families or communities. There is one true story, however, which is universally relevant and applicable to every single human being ever created: the story of God folding Himself into a woman's womb, being born as a baby, living a sinless life, dying a sinner's death, being raised to life, and conquering death for all eternity. In the first session of the series, Kwasi Amofo reminds us of the reality that many haven't yet heard the astonishing story of the gospel, and that we have every reason to make sharing that story our life's work.

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VIEW

As you watch, write down how Kwasi answers these questions.

What two instructions did Jesus give His disciples just before His ascension?

Are any people, tribes, or nations immune to the gospel's saving power?

What reason did the disciples have for stepping out of their comfort zone and telling others (even Gentiles) about Jesus?

Why did Jesus' followers in Antioch stand out from the locals?

Show SESSION #1: *The Gospel for Every Person* (18 minutes)

REVIEW

Kwasi opens the session by drawing our attention to Acts 11:19–20, which depicts the scattered and persecuted believers traveling far and wide to share the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. They knew the *reality* that the gospel is for every person. They understood the *reason* why everyone needs this good news. Their *response* was to tell others everything they knew about Jesus. **Do you find it easier to talk about your faith with your own family members or with total strangers? Why? Do you think some people need the gospel more than others? When**

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This image shows a vertical page from a notebook or ledger. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced, thin grey horizontal lines across its entire height. The background is a solid off-white color. There are no margins, text, or other markings present on the page.

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explain to a colleague at the office watercooler, or to one of your kids, that it was God's love that brought Jesus into the world and it's God's love that compels us to continue to take Jesus into the world?

Kwasi explains that the believers in Antioch "could personally affirm that it is only as we place our faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross... that we personalize the gospel to receive God's forgiveness of our sins, the indwelling of His Holy Spirit, God's eternal life, and our adoption into God's family to become His spiritual sons and daughters." **Are you longing for someone close to you to believe this truth? Is someone praying with you and for you as you look for opportunities to communicate Christ to this person?**

Aware of the eternity-altering reasons behind the Great Commission, the Antioch believers didn't just share the news of God's saving grace. They also taught the new converts everything they'd learned from Jesus. They planted a church and disciplined others the way Jesus had disciplined them (Acts 11:26). **Who disciplined you when you first became a Christian? Who are you discipling or mentoring in this season?**

The believers' proactive response to the Great Commission in Antioch was remarkable: Antioch was a big, bustling, cosmopolitan Roman city, particularly liberal and licentious because of the nearby temple of Artemis,

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Read Romans 10:14–15, 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, Galatians 3:28, and Colossians 3:11. **Who falls outside of the lifechanging power of the gospel?**

When Jesus spoke of His death and resurrection, and when He gave instructions to His disciples before His ascension, He used the imperative (command) tense. For example, in Luke 24:7, Jesus said, "'The Son of Man *must* be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" **Why is it important for us, living our twenty-first century stories, to know that Jesus isn't offering us the *option* of going and making disciples of all nations? Discuss how the Great Commission is particularly counter-cultural, in this you-do-you cultural moment.**

Peter writes, "The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent." (2 Peter 3:9) **Does it seem to you as if God isn't working quickly enough to sort out the mess we've made of the world? When last did you thank God for His patience with you? Is there something you can do this week to fulfil God's desire for no one to be destroyed and for everyone to repent?**

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What was true for the Antioch church we read about in the book of Acts is just as true for us today in our increasingly post-Christian world. Billions of people live in depravity and despair. But God! He has given us the only truly lifegiving message to deliver to a dying world. May we remember the remarkable reasons we have to share the gospel, and may we respond with energy and enthusiasm, knowing God is with us.

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read 1 Timothy 2:4 in a few different translations of the Bible. Memorize your favorite version of the verse and repeat it in your mind before every conversation or interaction, with every person you meet, every day this week.

Write: At the top of a page of your journal, write: *The gospel is for* – then write down the names or nations that come to mind. Write down the reasons why the people you’ve listed need the gospel. What is your response to this reality?

Pray: If you made the list above, put a reminder on your phone to pray for a different person or group of people, every day this week.

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