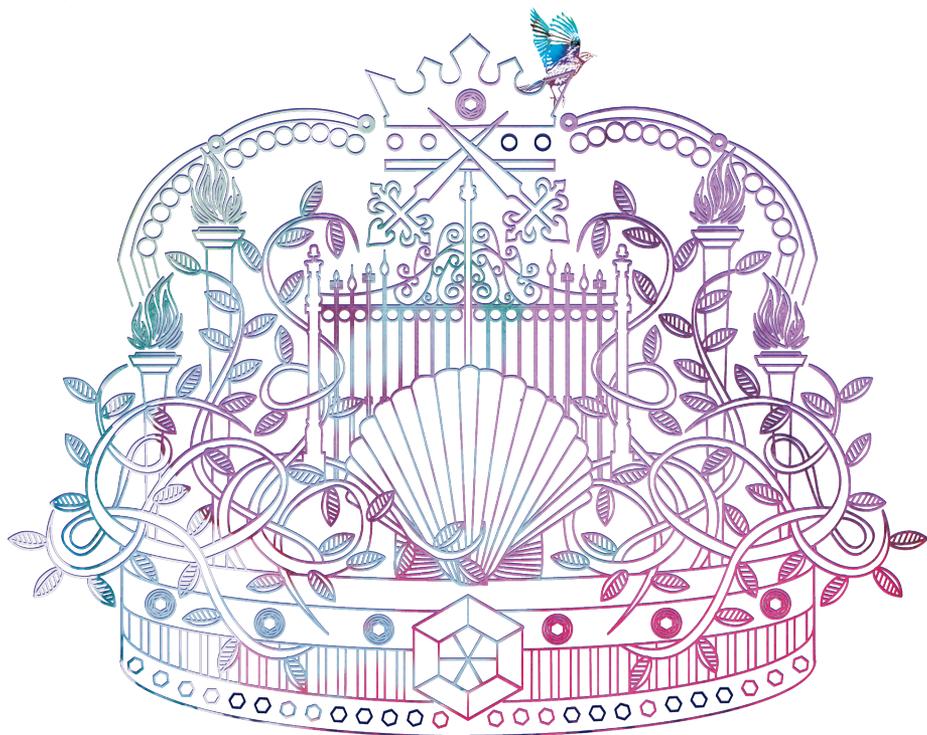


• CONNIE JAKAB •



WHEN THE DEAD LIVE

A CROWN OF BEAUTY FOR ASHES

DISCUSSION BOOKLET

W E L C O M E to the study of *When The Dead Live*.
My name is Connie Jakab and I am an urban missionary living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For the past 10 years, I have been dwelling among urban artists in my city; eating with them, creating theatre with them, jamming with them, and doing life with them. When I first stepped out from the safety of the four walls of my church to live among such as these, to say it was a shock is an understatement. I knew everything I needed to know about the theology of the gospel but I had a very hard time translating it to my new mission field. This study is to help you, and those in your church know the gospel of Jesus that is still very much relevant to the people in your world today.



Connie Jakab
Mission Canada Worker PAOC

SESSION ONE:

WHICH JESUS ARE YOU SHARING?

THIS IS BASED ON THE CHAPTER "WHICH JESUS?"

What picture comes to mind when you think of Jesus? Our culture has many various pictures of Jesus they are listening to without defence. What picture comes to mind when you think of Jesus? We only pass on what we know. Are we passing on who Jesus really is and the true gospel? Let's discover together.



Watch the video "*Which Jesus Are You Sharing?*" and discuss the following:



1. What picture comes to mind when you think of Jesus?

2. What about those around you? Have you ever had a conversation around their thoughts on Jesus?

3. Have you experienced a God of relentless love or a God you never felt you could live up to?

4. Do you see any distorted views you've had of Jesus?

5. What do you tell someone who has no concept of Jesus or has been hurt by Christianity?

6. If I asked you what the gospel is, would you know how to answer?

7. Is there anything more to the gospel than just being saved from hell and getting into heaven? What would it entail?



Pray as a group that God would help you as you encounter people that are far from God. Think about a name that you will be praying for daily for the next five weeks.

SESSION TWO:

THE MOST POWERFUL WAY TO SHARE CHRIST

THIS IS BASED ON THE CHAPTER "HEALED"

There is no shortage of pain in the world. We often don't know what to do with pain, or where our faith fits with it. Do we know what to say to people who have experienced great tragedy and loss? Why do bad things happen to good people? Is this the gospel? Let's learn together.



Watch the video *"The Most Powerful Way to Share Christ"* and discuss the following:



1. Have you ever wrestled with God through a painful experience? What did it look like? Or have you buried your grief deep down covering your pain with the right Christian answers?

2. What did God do in your life through it?

3. Have you ever found yourself in conversations where you felt you needed to defend God or justify why bad things happen?

4. What do you want people around you to do when you're going through a hard time?

5. Have you considered the power of your story being a testimony for God?



Share a story from your life where God has been there in the midst of your pain. Take time to pray for one another.

SESSION THREE:

HOW TO TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF SIN

THIS IS BASED ON THE CHAPTER "FREED AND ROOTS"

We often don't like to discuss sin among Christians, let alone non-believers, but maybe we have the idea of sin all wrong? In this video, we will discuss what it really is and how important it is to talk about it.



Watch the video *"How To Talk About The Problem of Sin"* and discuss the following:



1. How do you feel about the word "sin"?

2. Do you know how to describe what the word "sin" means?

3. Have you allowed God to know you? Every part of you? What holds us back from that?

4. How does allowing God to know us relate to us sharing the gospel?

5. Are we passing on a gospel of grace? Or do we find it too hard to believe?



Take time to pray publicly for the person you've been praying for these past few weeks. Ask God to reveal Himself to them. Pray for boldness in your own life to share Jesus with them.

SESSION FOUR:

ARE WE SHARING THE GOSPEL OF SELF IMPROVEMENT?

THIS IS BASED ON THE CHAPTER "SELF IMPROVED"

Many of us have bought into a gospel more about self-improvement than about God's plan. What does a gospel of self-improvement look like? Find out more in this video.



Watch the video *"Are We Sharing the Gospel of Self Improvement?"* and discuss the following:



1. What's finished?

2. Do you feel our Christian world has bought into a gospel of self-improvement?

3. In what ways do you find yourself attempting to "fix" yourself or redeem yourself?

4. Is there any particular group of people you find hard to believe Jesus invites to His table? Muslims? LGBTQ2? Transgender? Metaphysicals, racists, Buddhists? Do you see any unwanted prejudice there?

5. An angel had to show up to Peter to let him know that what Cornelius's family ate really wasn't an issue to God. What about today? What are some issues we may find ourselves in Peter's place - it's a big deal to us but not to God?

6. Have you been living like God is a God of grace or a God of Karma (payback for good or bad).



Take time to think about a group of people that you don't normally interact with. What could you pray for about them? Ask the Holy Spirit for insight. What could you do this week to interact with that group of people? Pray for boldness.

SESSION FIVE:
**DO THIS AND
REMEMBER ME**

FROM THE CHAPTERS "RELEASED, FAVOURED,
REBUILT AND RENAMED".

What are some practical things you can do to share the gospel with your world around you? In this video find out some practical tools you can use.



Watch the video "*Do This and Remember Me*" and discuss the following:



1. You can only give away what you have. Which Jesus are you revealing to the world around you? A Churchianity or Christ?

2. How can you "take off the death clothes" of those around you?

3. What would it look like to "break" for others? Does that mean laying down stereotypes, prejudices? Does it mean being willing to go to places you would never be willing to before? Are we really willing to walk in the steps of our Saviour who broke for us?

4. What is in your hand? What natural skills and interests do you have? What do you see around you as for needs and opportunities? Can you see your world through missionary eyes?

5. Do you see how your regular life or job can be used for the gospel as well? What about your employment? Business? Where you live? When you can't "preach the gospel" how are you sharing it?



You've come to the end of the study. What has God been challenging you with? Share this and pray together.

