



Teaching Guide  
AND Essentials

- **FOR ADULTS** -



GROUP MEMBERS USE *THE BRINK*, *FUSION FAMILY*, OR *FUSION NEXT*  
DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDES



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### CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Katie Greenwood

### EDITORS

Randy Ledbetter  
randy.ledbetter@d6family.com  
David Jones  
david.jones@d6family.com

### DESIGN MANAGER

Andrea Young

### DESIGN TEAM

Angelia Duke  
Marianne Stewart

### Executive Director & CEO

Ron Hunter Jr., Ph.D.

A list of contributing writers is available at [D6EveryDay.com](http://D6EveryDay.com)

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Ryan Giles; Rick Taylor; Tim York, M.A.R., M.R.E.

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Send your correspondence to:  
Adult / D6 Family Ministry, 114 Bush Road, Nashville, TN 37217  
1-800-877-7030

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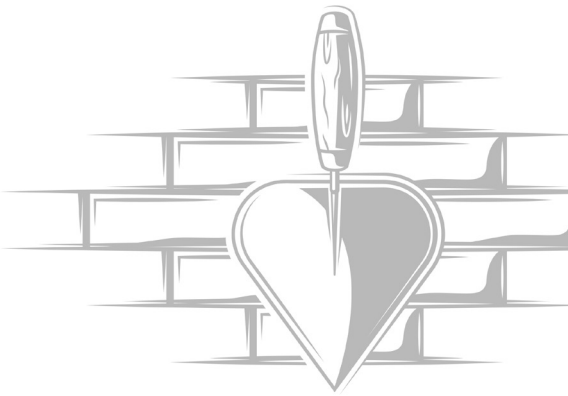


**FAMILY THEME**

# The Gospel Is for Everyone

**LESSON OBJECTIVE:** Learners value every human being and help get the gospel to them.

**STUDY TEXT:** Jonah 1:1–5; Acts 10:1–45; Matthew 5:13–16; 2 Corinthians 5:14–20



## CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 4-1 or AH 4-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 4* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 4-2), the *God Loves Us All* poster (AH 4-3), the *Engaging Those Who Are Different* Handout (AH 4-4), the *Dig Deeper Reference List* (AH 4-5), and *Parent Page* (PP-4) if necessary.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-4) to those who will benefit from it.

## Key Truths

- God Called Jonah and Peter to Take the Message of Salvation to People Who Were Different From Them (Jonah 1:1–5; Acts 10:1–45)
- God Calls Us to Engage and Take the Gospel to People Who Are Different From Us (Matthew 5:13–16; 2 Corinthians 5:14–20)

Verses of the  
Month

MARK 12:30–31

## CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

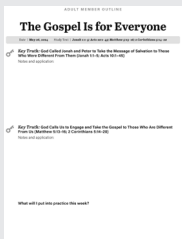
**OPTION 1:** Before this session, ask someone in your class to research the relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans in New Testament times. Who were the Samaritans and why did they and the Jews not get along? Ask your volunteer to briefly share this background material with the class. Then ask learners to share groups today who do not get along. After examples are given, say: *Certain groups of people find themselves at odds with other groups. Today we will see that God loves all people and wants them all to hear the gospel.*

**OPTION 2:** Begin by showing this video about the Bible and racism: [tinyurl.com/GotQRace](https://tinyurl.com/GotQRace). Discuss the video with your group. What causes some groups of people to hate other groups of people? Transition to the lesson by saying: *There is no room for hate in the hearts of Christians. Today we will see that the gospel is to be shared with everyone, and we are the ones called to share it.*

**OPTION 3:** Have you ever seen the movie or television show *Mission Impossible*? The main character receives a message that eventually self-destructs. At one point the message says, “Your mission, should you choose to accept it is . . .” Transition to the lesson by saying: *Today we will see that God has given us a mission. We are to set aside differences we might have and take the gospel to people from every tribe, language, people group, and nation.*



AH 4-1



AH 4-2

### TEACHING TIP

Break the lesson into manageable sections. This helps students follow and understand the truth presented.

## LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 4-2).

Those familiar with the Bible know that God loves all people. He wants every person to be saved and follow Him (2 Peter 3:9) regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, or background. This calls for His people to set aside negative feelings about certain people and to seek to reach all people with the message of salvation, even those who are very different from us. Jonah and Peter gave us examples of God’s desire for us to reach all people, even our enemies, with God’s Word.

**KEY TRUTH: God Called Jonah and Peter to Take the Message of Salvation to Those Who Were Different From Them (Jonah 1:1–5; Acts 10:1–45)**

In **Jonah 1:1–2**, God instructed Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and call out against it for its sin and announce God’s pending judgment. But this was a problem for Jonah. The Ninevites were enemies and a threat to Israel. They were violent (**Nahum 3:1**) and known for their unceasing evil (**Nahum 3:19**). Jonah knew God was gracious and merciful and would forgive the Ninevites if they repented (**Jonah 4:2**). Jonah did not want good to come to the people of Nineveh. He fled rather than take God’s message to *those* people (**Jonah 1:3**). God, however, had compassion on the Ninevites and wanted them to turn from sin and call out to Him for salvation (**Jonah 4:11**). God used a plant to drive this lesson home for Jonah (**Jonah 4:6–11**).

Jonah might have been afraid of the Assyrians because of their cruelty or disliked them as enemies of God’s people. He had no interest in them being spared from judgment. Jonah tried to get as far away from Nineveh as he could by going in the opposite direction. But God would not relent from His mission. He sent a fierce storm that forced Jonah to interact with the sailors and stop running from God’s call (**Jonah 1:4**). Interestingly, these sailors worshiped false Gods just as the Ninevites did (**Jonah 1:5**).

**DISCUSS:**

- *When have you gone your own way rather than doing what God wanted you to do? How did that turn out?*
- *How should we respond when God asks us to do something that is extremely uncomfortable? What might make these uncomfortable tasks easier? (Remembering the Holy Spirit is with us; praying before doing; taking a friend with us; etc.)*

Jonah was thrown overboard and spent three days and three nights inside a great fish on a great misadventure (**Jonah 1:17**). It is almost like God said to Jonah, *We can do this the easy way or the hard way, but I will reach out to these people*. Jonah finally made his way to Nineveh and warned the people of God’s coming judgment. The Ninevites believed God, repented, and God spared them (**Jonah 3:1–5, 10**). This made Jonah very angry (**Jonah 4:1–3**). He would rather have died than to see the Ninevites spared. He complained about God’s mercy. God gave him a lesson with the plant (**Jonah 4:6–9**) and pointed out that it was right for Him to have compassion for Nineveh because there were 120,000 people who did not know their right hand from the left (**Jonah 4:11**). They were confused, entangled, and in need

**APPLY:**

God might ask us to do things we’d rather not do.



PowerPoint 4

The discussion questions can be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 4-1) and on *PowerPoint 4*, which is customizable. Files 4A and 4B are provided for customization.

of a Savior. Just like the Samaritan woman and her friends ([John 4](#)), and just like us.

In Acts 10 we are given another example of God sending His people to the lost world with the message of salvation. It is a story about overcoming prejudice for the sake of the gospel. God used visions to connect the apostle Peter with a Gentile Roman soldier named Cornelius. These two men could not have been more different; from different cultures, religions, ethnicities, and languages. They might as well have been from different planets. But one had a problem and the other had the solution. They never would have sought each other out under normal circumstances, so God brought them together.

**APPLY:**

Pray that God will connect you with people who need to hear the gospel.

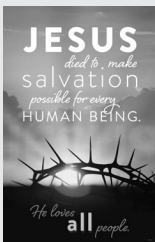
**DISCUSS:**

- *Have you ever prayed that God would give you the opportunity to share the gospel with someone? Why should evangelism be an active component of our faith and not simply a passive component?*

God directed Cornelius to send for Peter (**verses 1–8**) and directed Peter to set aside his negative feelings toward Gentiles and go to meet Cornelius. God showed Peter that the Gentiles were not unclean, second-class people (**verses 9–16**).

The Holy Spirit directed Peter to go to Cornelius' house (**verses 17–22**). There he would have an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with Cornelius, his relatives, and his close friends (**verse 24**). This was a huge step for Peter (**Acts 10:28–29**). Jews considered Gentiles to be “unclean” and would have nothing to do with them ([John 4:7–9](#)). They would not enter Gentile homes or drink from the same cup. Peter explained that Jesus is the Promised One that God sent to die on the cross to save people from their sins (**verses 34–43**). The Holy Spirit affirmed that the gospel is for all people by coming upon those Gentiles when they believed (**verses 44–45**).

So what can we learn from Jonah and Peter about God's love for the lost world? God loved the people of Nineveh despite their sin and desired for them to turn to Him. He went to great lengths to send Jonah to warn them to turn to God from their wicked ways. God sent Peter to take the gospel to the Gentiles—those who were not of Jewish descent. He connected Peter and Cornelius to open the door for the gospel to be taken to all people. God has given us the same mission. We are to take the gospel to all people, even those we do not care for and those who are different from us.



AH 4-3

Display the AH 4-3 *God Loves Us All* poster.

### **DISCUSS:**

- *What causes people to develop prejudices and unfavorable opinions about other groups of people?*
- *Who are like the Ninevites to us—people who are different and maybe even enemies?*
- *How might a heart of compassion change how we view those who are lost?*

### **EXPLORE:**

Groups that seem like Ninevites to us might be ISIS or ISIL who have persecuted Christians and engaged in many atrocities throughout the Middle East. Some of us might view the LGBT community as being like the Ninevites. Perhaps dechurched people (those who grew up in or formerly attended church but have left) would seem like Ninevites to us. 40 million people in America have stopped going to church over the past 25 years.<sup>1</sup> It is also possible that immigrants or people of a different political party or ethnic group feel like Ninevites to us. Or maybe it's a country like China, a nation that rivals and even threatens America. Incidentally, until recently China had the highest percentage of international students in the United States (30%).<sup>2</sup> This dislike of other groups has gone on since the Fall.

### **KEY TRUTH: God Calls Us to Engage and Take the Gospel to Those Who are Different From Us (Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-20)**

We are called to share the gospel wherever God sends us. That means living among and engaging the lost world. Like Jonah and Peter, we must overcome our negative feelings and engage those who are different from us. Let us intentionally reach out to them. Let us welcome them and be kind when people who are different from us move into our community. Let us develop relationships with them so we can serve them and find opportunities to share the truth. Let us respectfully engage rather than try to win arguments on social media or other venues with people who have different political or social views. We are called to respectfully share God's truth about issues such as gender, marriage, purity, etc.

The first step is to engage lost people and live a godly life before them, which could create opportunities to share a reason for our faith. We are to be salt and light to them. We are to be a positive influence in the culture around us and preserve what is good and right. We are

### **APPLY:**

God loves all people and wants to save them, including our enemies.

**APPLY:**

Interact with people who are lost and live a godly life before them.

**APPLY:**

Like an ambassador, represent Christ to the people around you.

**APPLY:**

Build relationships with people around you and watch and pray for opportunities to respectfully share God's truth.

to openly live godly lives so those around us can see the difference knowing God makes (**Matthew 5:13-16**).

**DISCUSS:**

- *How might we damage our witness if we spend our time engaged in petty arguments and social media controversies?*
- *How can we set a biblical example in our interactions with people who are different from us? (View all people as created in God's image and equally valuable to God; treat all people with love and respect; etc.)*

**Second Corinthians 5:14-20** tells us that love should compel us to open our hearts to the lost world and seek to share the gospel with them. We live for Christ because of what He has done for us. Since He has reconciled us to Himself, we live as ambassadors for Christ. We share with others how He took our sins on Himself and gave us His righteousness. We call people to be reconciled to God just as we have been.

**DISCUSS:**

- *What are some of the first things you notice about a person when meeting him or her for the first time? What things would you want someone to notice about you?*
- *What does it mean to live as an ambassador for Christ?*

As we go where God sends us, we must take the time to get to know the people around us. We ask what kind of work they do, what they are majoring in, how long they have lived here, where they came from, what their family is like, etc. This shows the person that we have an interest in him or her. In short, we might say, "Tell us about yourself."

**DISCUSS:**

- *With what lost person could you begin to build a relationship?*

This is similar to what Jesus did in **John 4**. He went to Samaria and interacted with the Samaritan woman. He approached someone from a different culture, who was lost and entangled in sexual sin, and asked her to give Him a drink. Her response indicated that it was unusual for a Jew to talk to someone like her. Jesus modeled what Jonah, Peter, and we have been asked to do.

On an average day in the United States, 132 people take their lives.<sup>3</sup> Another 100 die each day from drug overdoses.<sup>4</sup> Sadly, many of these people believe they are alone and do not know there is a God who



cares about them. Many non-Christians believe it is the church's role to address issues like these. So let's engage the lost people around us and share how much God loves them.

### DISCUSS:

- *What opportunities do you have to build relationships with lost people around you? How can you be more intentional in building these relationships?*

## RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

**OPTION 1:** When it comes to dealing with people who are different from us, sometimes repentance is necessary. Perhaps we've misjudged a group of people, had negative feelings toward someone because of ethnicity, or mistakenly believed individuals were too far gone for God's grace. Spend a few minutes in silence and ask group members to consider if they are holding on to any prejudices that are preventing them from sharing the gospel with others. If so, encourage them to confess that to the Lord and repent. The gospel is for everyone!

**OPTION 2:** Discuss ways we can engage or reach out to a person or group that is different from us. Consider writing the suggestions on the board. Encourage learners to carry out one of these suggestions in the next couple of weeks. *Engaging Those Who Are Different* (AH 4-4) has a few suggestions and gives room for learners to write more.

**OPTION 3:** Lead your group to evaluate how they view people who are different from them by asking them to do the following:

- Ask the Lord to bring to your attention any individual or group of people you have negative feelings toward because they are different from you (skin color, cultural traditions, religious background, socio-economic status, etc.)
- Ask the Lord to help you value that person or group as He does.
- Make an effort this week to get to know someone better who is different from you. Spend time with them over coffee, dinner, etc.

### APPLY:

Seek to lovingly and respectfully engage the lost around you.



AH 4-4



AH 4-5

Give learners a copy of the AH 4-5 *Dig Deeper Reference List* and encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 devotional magazines this week.



PP-4

Give copies of the *Parent Page* (PP-4) to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at [D6home.com](http://D6home.com). (No password required.)

# Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The gospel is for all people.

# Pray!

# Notes

