



## Paradigm Discipleship Lesson

*The purpose of this resource is to provide some guidance for you as you encourage your disciple to develop a strong devotional relationship with God.*

*The following resource is part 3 of 6 resources designed to help your disciple gain a better understanding of the Gospel. We encourage you to use this resource in your own study as you prepare to meet with your disciple.*

### **The GOSPEL PART 3 - Humanity**

**GOAL:** The goal is to come away with the understanding that we as people are created and loved by God, but have rebelled against Him to serve and love ourselves. We are all trying to fix or restore ourselves through worldly means, apart from God.

#### **OPENING QUESTION: How would you describe what it means to be human?**

- The answer could be numerous. Affirm all correct answers and then transition into focusing on the understanding of humanity being sinful/broken image bearers.

#### **Humans are Image-Bearers: What is the history of humankind?**

- Created in God's image - Genesis 1:26-28
- Created for a purpose - Isaiah 43:21 & 43:7
- Rebelled and turned away from God - Romans 5:12-14, Psalm 14.1-3

#### **Humans are Broken and Rebellious: What is the unnatural state of fallen humanity?**

- Read Genesis 2-3 - What happens to Adam and Eve? How was their relationship with God before and after they rebelled?
  - They do not immediately die, but are immediately separated from God.
  - This new state is unnatural and fallen. This is not the way God created them to be.
- How does scripture describe fallen humanity?
  - Evil - Genesis 6:5
  - Rebellious - Romans 3:12
  - Broken - Romans 7:13-20
  - Far from God - Isaiah 59:2
- Brokenness and rebellion are helpful ways of understanding the effects of sin.

#### **Question: What is the consequence of this rebellion?**

Read Romans 3:10-20, 3:23, 6:23, James 1:13-15, Ephesians 2:1-3

- Sickness, suffering, death, broken relationships with others, nature, and God.

#### **Humans are Dead in Sin: How would you define sin?**

Read 1 John 3:4

- Breaking God's law, whether through action, word, or thought. Our relationship with God has been broken because we have rebelled and disobeyed his law.

Read Matthew 15:10-20

- We cannot think of sin as individual actions or only breaking God's rules, but the nature of people that is expressed in the way we choose to rebel against God. Our actions are a "fruit" or buy-product of what is going on at our core.
- **IMPORTANT: We are not defined by our sin, but we are sinful because of our fallen nature.**

**Question:** How can we be fixed? Saved? Restored?

Read Ezekiel 36:22-32

- We need a new heart. A renewed nature. We are helpless to save ourselves.
- All people in the world are seeking restoration, peace, renewal, purpose because we are sinful image-bearers.
- How do people today in our culture try to fix themselves?
  - Self-help, money, happiness, drugs, people, etc.
  - They may not have much to say here, but all of us are trying to find restoration in our lives.

**Question:** How does God respond to sin being perfectly loving and perfectly just?

- John 3:16-21
  - What does this passage teach us about humanity and God?
    - God hates sin, and will judge all who have sinned.
    - God loves people, and has made a way for them to be restored, fixed, redeemed.

**Reflection Question:** Which of these descriptions of humanity do you think of the least?

**HOMEWORK:** Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 5:12-21