**The Perfect Plan**

**Purpose**: To understand Jesus’ perfect plan to save our lost world. Religion (practice of The Law) can’t save anybody. Only through Jesus sacrifice for our sins can we be reconciled to God.

Recap of our first study…

*“For* ***the law*** *was given through Moses;* ***grace and truth*** *came through Jesus Christ.”* John 1:17

**Hebrews 2: 9-11** *“by the grace of God Jesus suffered death for everyone”*

* Through his death for our sins Jesus gave us his glory and righteousness
* He made us holy (perfect in God’s eyes) and of the same family as Jesus

Can we hope for a greater gift from God? Now let’s learn how we get this beautiful gift…

Through “God’s Perfect Plan” of salvation.

*“For I know the* ***plans*** *I have for you,” declares the Lord, “****plans*** *to prosper you and not to harm you,* ***plans*** *to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29:11

**Step 1: Hear the Message of Truth**

Context of Acts 2: This is the first message preached after the death of Jesus. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus and the Old Testament prophecies.

**Acts 2:22** – **Came from God:** Jesus’ life and miracles proved that he came from God.

* Do you believe that Jesus was sent by God to deliver a message for humanity?

**Acts 2:24-32** – **Raised from the Dead**: Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled this prophecy.

* Jesus’ resurrection proved to the apostles (witnesses) that he was the promised Saviour.
* Imagine if Jesus did not rise from the dead… What would Christianity be today?

**Acts 2:23** – **God Planned His Death and we are all Responsible**!

* How do you think the people reacted when they understood who Jesus was and why he died this way on the cross?

**Isaiah 53:3-6** Prophecy of the Suffering Servant, about 800 BC

* Isaiah explains why the Saviour had to suffer: he paid the punishment for our sins
* Make it personal: replace “our”, “we” and “us” by your name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
* Do you understand that Jesus’ death was not an accident? How do you feel about it?

**Conclusion**: Peter preached three points – 1) Jesus Came from God, 2) Jesus Raised from the Dead, and 3) God Planned His Death and we are all responsible

* Are you willing to face the message of truth?
* Are you willing to accept the light in your life?

**Step 2: Understand God’s Perfect Plan of Salvation (Forgiveness)**

**Acts 2:36-37 – Looking for Direction**

* When people heard the message of truth they were cut to the heart! Why?
* They asked Peter, “What shall we do?” They were humble and eager to know what to do next.

**Acts 2:38-39 – Peter’s Simple Instructions**

* Repent – What does this really mean? *Metanoia* (Greek) = “change of mind”
* Be Baptized – Why? Forgiveness of sins and receive the Holy Spirit!

What does this look like?

**Romans 6:1-14** **– Our Participation**

* We participate in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ
* Repentance: We are no longer slaves to sin; our old self was crucified so that we are now dead to sin; we offer every part of ourselves to him as instruments of righteousness
* Baptism: We are immersed into his death and raised with him to a new life
* We are no longer “under the law, but under grace”

**Conclusion:** God’s plan is simple to understand but requires action.

**Step 3: Accept and Respond to God’s Grace**

**Acts 2:41-47** – **The Example Response**

* Why were these people so **urgent** to accept this message? What did they do?
* These obvious **external changes** were the fruit of an intense **internal change**…

**2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2 – The Motivation of New Creation**

* Right Motivation: we respond to God’s grace because “Christ’s love compels us”
* New Creation: we view things from a spiritual, not a worldly point of view
* Now is the Day of Salvation: we urgently accept salvation and share the good news

**Conclusion:** After hearing the message of truth and understanding God’s Perfect Plan of salvation

* What is YOUR PERSONAL response (decision)?
* Considering everything Jesus did for you, what are you ready to do for him?

**Assignment:**

1. Read a version of Jesus’ sacrifice in the Gospels (e.g., Matthew 26-27) and the medical account of Jesus’s death
2. Write down your own sins that led Jesus to the cross. Specify how the sins hurt you, others and God. (Share personally and provide guidance with Scriptures)

*Examples: Mark 7:20-23, Galatians 5:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, James 4:17 (sins of omission)*

As we close, let’s read and pray with this passage in mind:

*“3This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4who wants all people to be saved and to come to acknowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6who gave himself as a ransom for all people.”* 1 Timothy 2:3-6a