



the mystagogue



Kerygma

...is essentially a message proclaimed. In an ancient context, it was the message of the herald. In a Christian context it is the gospel—the good news.

In the Bible, *kerygma* takes on the form of a story—the big story of God’s creative and redemptive purpose for the world. *Kerygma* is the story that has at its center Jesus Christ and the glorious mystery of who he is, what he has done, and what he is doing.

Creation

Background

Genesis 1.1-2.3

Explore

Genesis 2.4-25

Reflect

- What does it mean to be human as we were created to be?

- What are we created for? How do we bear the image of God? How are we meant to be happy and fulfilled? What are we meant to do?

- How did God intend to relate to us?

- What is the rest of the world, even the cosmos, created for?

- How do we see the goodness of God in the created order and the image of God in humankind, in ourselves?

Pray

Thank God for creating the world, humankind, and you. Thank him for creating you with dignity, goodness, and purpose. Ask him to help you come to understand what you are made to be and do and to see the world as he sees and loves it.

Fall

Background

Genesis 3

Explore

Romans 1.18-32

Reflect

- How was humankind enslaved? To whom and to what?

- Who is responsible for this enslavement? Why?

- What are the effects of this enslavement?

Pray

Talk to God about the things that enslave you and about the things you understand as sin in your life. Ask him to show you things that are not right and good in your life and relationships. Express what you desire him to do to help you be free and to make the changes you need to make in life.

Redemption

Background

Redemption leading to Jesus Christ

Cleansing –Genesis 6.5-8, 11-13; 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-9.7

Covenant–Genesis 9.8-17; 15.1-21

Exodus and promised land–Deut. 28.1-29;29.10-30.10

Conquest–Deut. 7.1-6; 28.9-10

Failure and hope–Judges 2.11-23; Ezekiel 36.16-36; Jeremiah 6.1-12; 31.31-34

A new thing: Isaiah 43.1-21

Redemption's completion in Jesus Christ

Jesus as fulfillment God's promise to his people: Luke 4.14-21

Jesus as the very revelation of God: John 1.1-18

Jesus as the crucified God and victorious risen Lord: Acts 2.22-36, Colossians 1.15-20

Jesus as conqueror of the kingdom of chaos and darkness: Mark 4.35-5.13

In Jesus' own words

"...those who drink of the water I will give them will never be thirsty." John 4.14

"...anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life." John 5.24

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6.35

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8.12

"I am the gate for the sheep. ...Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10.7, 9, 10

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11.25-26

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14.6

Explore

John 3.1-21

Reflect

- Under what conditions does Jesus say one can see the kingdom of God?

- What does Jesus mean by "born of water and Spirit?"

- Why does Jesus refer to Moses and the serpent (Numbers 21.4-9)?

- Why did God send his Son, Jesus? If he does not condemn those who do not believe, who does?

- What does it mean to love darkness? What does it mean to love the light? Which do you love?

Pray

Ask Jesus that he would speak to you as he did to Nicodemus.

In solitude, read John 3.1-21 again. Identify any words or phrases that “jump out” to you.

Meditate on those words and phrases, listening to what Jesus is telling you through them.

Talk to Jesus about what you are thinking and feeling as you read the passage—especially those phrases.

What is he asking you to do? How will you respond?

New creation

Background

Isaiah 35

Romans 8.19-25

2 Peter 3.3-13

Colossians 1.15-20

Explore

Revelation 21.1-7, 22-22.5

Reflect

- The new Jerusalem comes down from heaven to be where? Where does God intend to dwell?

- What does Jesus mean when he says, "It is done!" In Revelation 21.6? What is done? For whom?

- Where is the temple, that which represented God's dwelling place? What about the sun? Why are these important details in John's description of the new creation?

- Think about the images offered—the gates, the nations, the river, the throne, the Lamb, the tree of life and its 12-month fruit, seeing God's face, the name of God on the forehead? What do these images imply about the new creation and what it represents?

- What is the new creation as this vision of John's implies? Why is God's goal a new heaven and new earth, made new and one, like this?

- Do you want to be a part of this new creation? What will it take?

Pray

Thank God for his big plan to rescue all the world from sin its effects. Talk to him about the new creation and what it would mean to you to be a part of it. Ask him to help you understand what it means to be a part of his big plan to make all things new even now.