

# Jesus is the satisfying answer

In the late 80s a song by the Gospel singer Andraé Crouch was very popular. The lyrics of the chorus were,

*Jesus is the answer for the world today  
Above Him there's no other - Jesus is the way*

Like much poetry, these very simple words carry a huge amount of truth. Let's explore this simple idea: Jesus is the satisfying answer to all of the needs, hungers, and aches in our hearts.



## Important foundational ideas.....

### The Problem = Separation from the Lord

This handout is based upon the biblical truth that all our problems are ultimately related to our spiritual separation from God. In the beginning we were designed to live and thrive on Earth in a relationship with God. Like water and oxygen are essential for our bodies, the blessings of God are essential for our souls. When disconnected from our Creator, we suffer a great many pains. Over our lives, we have developed a wide variety of ineffective methods for trying to satisfy these needs. When our worldly sources do not quench the longing, we go to great lengths to numb the pain. Unfortunately, the worldly idols only offer a temporary relief – not a solution. If separation is the source of our pain, the connection is the solution.

### Jesus = 3 Gifts of the Gospel

When people use the terms *Gospel* or *Grace*, they are essentially speaking about the multi-faceted work of Jesus on behalf of His people. These terms are used to convey the gifts of Jesus' death, Jesus' righteous life, and the Holy Spirit - all given freely to his people for their salvation when they have faith in Jesus. In many cases, the name *Jesus* refers not simply to the historical person but also His saving work.

### Faith

Because of the reconciliation we are given because of Jesus' life and death, He calls us and invites us to bring our unsatisfied needs to him and accept the solutions He provides. This is the essential activity of a life of faith. Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

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My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Eph 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence 2 Peter 1:3

Human Need/Problem	Jesus' Solution	Verses
<b>Forgiveness of Guilt</b> - <i>I have done very bad things. I have broken God's holy laws.</i>	Jesus' perfect death on the cross completely and perfectly erases our guilt. Because of Jesus substitutionary work on the cross (Rom 4:25), we can hear the Holy Judge of the universe declare us "NOT GUILTY! Your debts are paid in full."	Ps 32:5; Ps 103:12; Is 4:18; Is 43:25; Is 55:7 Mt 26:28; Lk 18:22-27; Acts 10:43; Rom 8:1; Eph 1:7; Col 1:13-14; 1 John 1:9; Heb 10:17
<b>Righteousness</b> <i>Shame - I am broken, damaged, wrong</i>	Each of us has a deep longing to be "right." Jesus satisfies that need. Because of His perfectly righteous life given to us, we are right before God and His Law - children in good standing! (Rom 4:25)	Is 61:10; Rom 3:21-23; Rom 5:17,19 2 Cor 5:17; Phil 3:9; 1 Thess 5:23
<b>Need for Justice</b>	Closely related to the need for righteousness is the need for justice. Even as children we hate when things aren't "fair." Jesus is the fair and just king of the world who deals with each sin appropriately. All of His commands to "do justly" reflect his love for justice.	Deut 27:19, 32:4; Ps 140:12 Eccl 3:17; Is 30:18, 61:8; Jer 23:5
<b>Need for Affirmation</b>	We need love. We need to be seen, known, appreciated, and valued for who we really are (not our masks or tasks). Repeatedly we are told that God knows us and loves us unconditionally.	Ps 103:11-13; Ps 139:13-14; Is 62:3-5b; Lam 3:22-23; Zeph 3:17; Mt 6:25-33; Jn 15:9,13; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 3:17; Eph 2:4-5; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:17-19; 1 Jn 3:1, 4:9-11
<b>Need for Security</b>	One of our basic needs is to be safe and secure. The Lord is a strong fortress, the defender, and the protector of His people.	Josh 1:9; Ps 40:2; Ps 46:1; Ps 55:22; Ps 91; Ps 138:7; Prov 18:10; Jn 10:10-16, 27-30
<b>Need for Identity</b> <i>Who am I?</i>	Identity is a foundational human need. Many have argued that we cannot know ourselves apart from knowing God. Our Creator, Father, King tells us who and whose we are. He defines us and our role in this world.	Ps 51:2, 7-10; Ps 103:10-13; Matt 5:13-16; Mt 8:34-36; Matt 16:25-26; Jn 1:12; Jn 15:15; 1 Cor 3:16; 1 Cor 12:27; 1 Cor 12:7, 11, 18; 2Cor 5:17-20; Eph 1:5; Eph 2:10; Eph 4:22-24; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 3:1
<b>The Problem of Loneliness – Need for Community</b>	Jesus promises to be with us at all times through the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. He also unites us in fellowship with other Christians in church communities commanding us to enjoy the many "one-anothering" commands.	Deut 31:8; Ps 25:16; Prov 27:17; Mk 10:29-30; Jn 14:18 Rom 8:14-15; Rom 12:4+; 1 Cor 12:12; Heb 10:24-25;

Human Need/Problem	Jesus' Solution	Verses
<b>Need for a Worldview</b>	A worldview is a set of ideas and beliefs that help make sense of our complicated world. Our beliefs help us know what is good, bad, right, and wrong. It Helps us answer the big questions of life.	Ps 19:7-11; Ps 25:5; Ps 119:18, 66; Jn 8:31-32; Jn 16:13; 2 Tim 3:16-17
<b>The Problem of Boredom – Need for Adventure</b>	Need excitement and adventure? We are invited daily to explore the infinite riches of God's nature as well as the endless blessings of salvation (which even angels don't fully understand). Jesus has given us a great adventure of personal growth and kingdom work. Each day Jesus' Spirit leads us on a journey of progressive healing of personal brokenness and calls us to partner with other disciples to be the <i>light of the world, fishers of men, and kingdom ambassadors</i> .	Is 6:8; Mt 5:16, 9:35-36, 28:19-20; Lk 10:2; Jn 20:21; Acts 13:47; Gal 5:25; Eph 2:10, 5:16; Col 4:5;  Also see verses about Meaning and Significance below.
<b>Need for Meaning &amp; Significance</b>	Individually, and in partnership with God's people, we are called to impact the eternal lives of family, friends, culture, and history - all to the Glory of God.	Mt 28:19-20; Eph 2:10 2 Cor 5:18-6:1 1 Peter 2:9
<b>The Problem of Emotional Pain - Need for Comfort</b>	We were designed for a life without pain. We long for Heaven where there are no tears. In the meantime the God of all comfort offers us comforting words, calming presence, and peaceful emotions.	Ps 23:4; Ps 34:17-19; Ps 71:21; Ps 73:26; Ps 86:17; Ps 119:50, 76; Ps 147:3; Is 40:1-2, 409:13; Mt 5:4; Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 1:3-5; 1 Pet 5:10; Rev 21:4
<b>The Need for Joy &amp; Celebration</b>	Celebrations around the world and through history remind us that we all need something to celebrate! Our hearts long for joy.	Ps 4:7; Ps 5:11; Ps 16:11; Ps 51:12; John 16:24; Acts 16:25; Rom 15:13; 2 Cor 6:10; Gal 5:22; Phil 4:4; 1 Thess 5:16-18;
<b>Need for Hope</b>	In this lifetime, though we face many trials, Jesus promises progressive growth and continual blessing. We are encouraged to hope in a blessed future – both on this earth and in heaven.	Ps 23:6; Ps 30:5; Ps 42:11; Prov 13:12; Is 40:31; Jer 29:11 Romans 12:12, 15:13 2 Thess 2:16-17
<b>The Problem of Worry and Anxiety - Need for Peace</b>	This world is saturated with stressors and unknown outcomes. Children of God can enjoy peace, security, and rest knowing our Lord has a good plan for each of us.	Jos 1:9; Ps 56:3; Ps 131; Is 26:3; Mt 6:25-34; John 14:1, 27; 1 Cor 14:33; Gal 5:22; Phil 4:6-7; Col 3:15; 1 Pet 5:7

Human Need/Problem	Jesus' Solution	Verses
<b>The Need for Rest</b>	We are physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual beings. Just as our bodies tire, our minds, emotions and souls grow weary. The Lord offers us true and deep rest.	Ex 23:12; Ex 33:14; Ps 4:8; Ps 23:1-2; Ps 116:7; Jer 6:16; Jer 31:25; Mt 11:28-30; Mk 6:31
<b>The Need for Transcendence</b>	Similar to angels, we are spiritual beings. We will live forever. Every religion throughout history reminds us that human souls long for connection to a spiritual world beyond this physical world. Jesus reconnects us to the God spiritually.	Gen 2:7; Eccl 3:11, 12:7; Luke 16:22; Rom 8:16; 1 Cor 6:19; Col 3:1-2

