

Track 1: God's Story

Understanding and communicating the mission of God

1.1 – Track Introduction: Truth to Make Your Heart Sing

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The Bible is an invitation to worship

The ultimate goal of human existence

1 Thess 4:15-17

Rev 22:3-5

Psa 27:4

John 17:1-4

2 Cor 4:5-6

The ultimate joy of the one God in three persons

Matt 3:16-17

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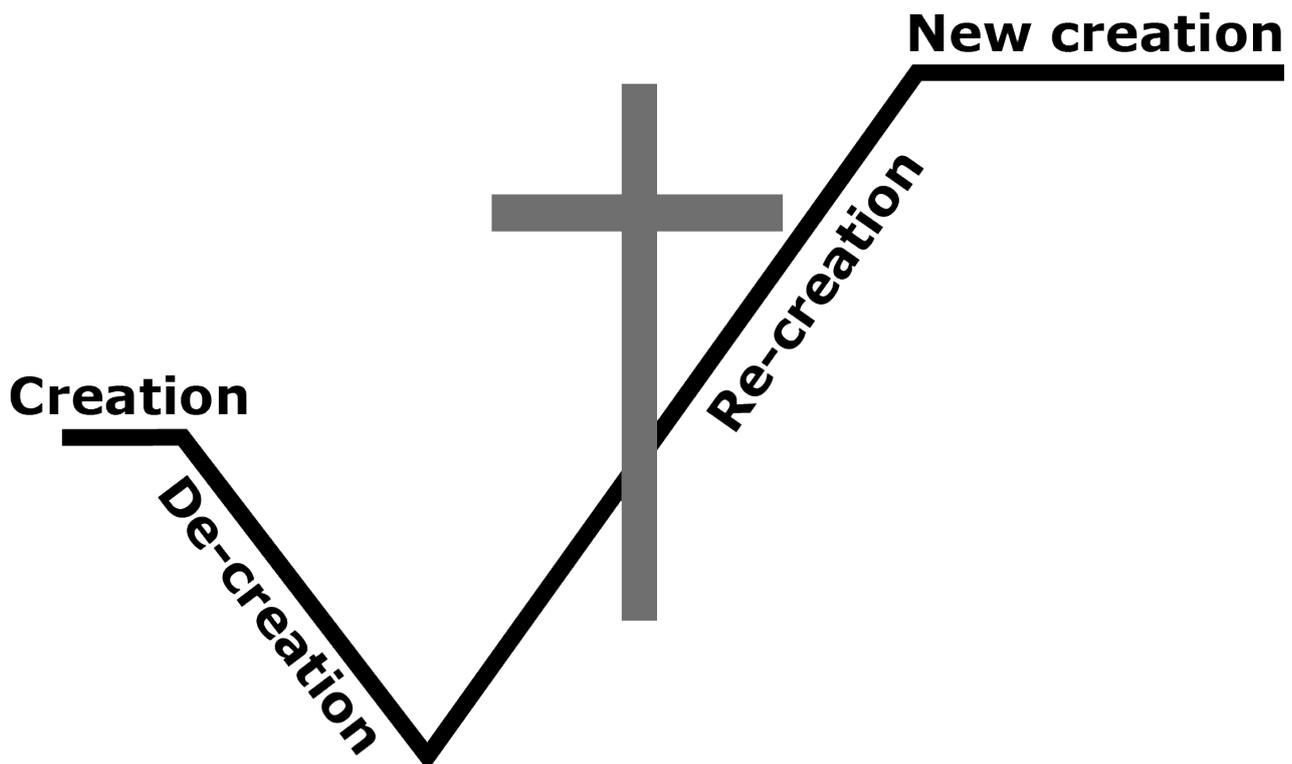
1. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Model one: the tick and the cross

(Creation, de-creation, re-creation, new creation) – Hebrews 2

Everything we understand about ourselves and everything we choose to do as human beings is conditioned by our understanding of the 'story' which provides the context for our existence. The starting point for Christian living (and therefore Christian leadership) is to look to the Bible itself to define that 'story' within which our lives make sense and from which they find their direction and priorities.

You may find it helpful to visualise the story by thinking of a 'tick' and a 'cross'



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1. Which section of scripture does each part of the story relate to?
 - Creation
 - De-creation
 - Re-creation
 - New creation

2. Read Hebrews 2:5-18. Which verses in the passage relate to which parts of the story?
 - Creation
 - De-creation
 - Re-creation
 - New creation

3. How does the passage emphasise the centrality of Jesus and the cross?

4. How does this passage make you feel about being a human being?

5. How does this passage shape the way we should respond to other human beings?

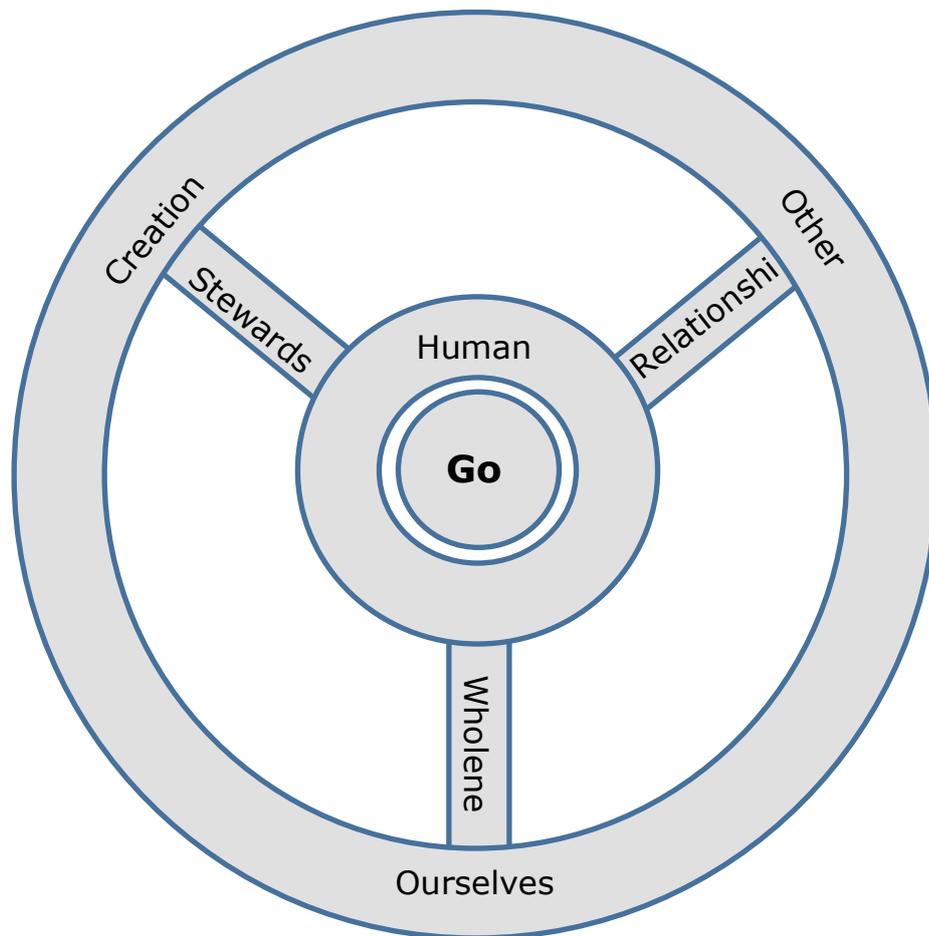
6. How does this passage make you want to worship Jesus?

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2. MODEL TWO: THE STEERING WHEEL

Gospel faith – Romans 8



1. Identify verses in Genesis 1 & 2 which show God's vision for human beings in creation:
 - Our relationship with God (spiritual integrity)
 - Our relationship with each other (social integrity)
 - Our 'relationship' with ourselves (psychological integrity – belonging, value, meaning)
 - Our relationship to the planet (ecological integrity)

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2. Identify verses in Genesis 3 which show how God's pattern for human beings was damaged by the fall:
 - Our relationship with God (spiritual alienation)
 - Our relationship with each other (social alienation)
 - Our 'relationship' with ourselves (psychological alienation)
 - Our relationship to the planet (ecological alienation)

3. How, according to Romans 8, does the gospel restore our humanity?
 - Our relationship with God (spiritual integrity)
 - Our relationship with each other (social integrity)
 - Our 'relationship' with ourselves (psychological integrity – belonging, value, meaning)
 - Our relationship to the planet (ecological integrity)

4. How does this view of the gospel challenge your existing assumptions?

5. How does this view of the gospel shape what we mean by 'gospel ministry', 'explaining the gospel' and 'gospel living'?

6. Reflect personally on which of these areas you feel is best and least evident in your life. Discuss in your small group how you can grow a more gospel-shaped life.