

INTERVARSITY



THE BIG STORY

NEED FOR CHANGE



When you turn on the news, what do you see? Racism, terrorism, global warming... the list goes on and on.

It's obvious our world is messed up.

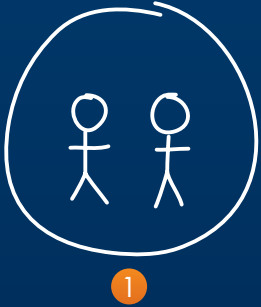
But what's more revealing is the human response: How do you feel about this kind of world?

None of us think that suffering, violence, and oppression are good things. **We all ache for a better world.**

So what does this mean?

Just like hunger points to the existence of food, and thirst highlights the reality of water, our ache for a better world seems to point to the possibility that either a better world did exist or that it will one day.

1 DESIGNED FOR GOOD



In the Christian worldview, a better world did exist.

God created a good world and it worked beautifully. All creation was under his leadership and enjoyed him as the source of life.¹

Us and the world. God designed the world to take care of us and we were designed to flourish in human communities as we cared for the world.²

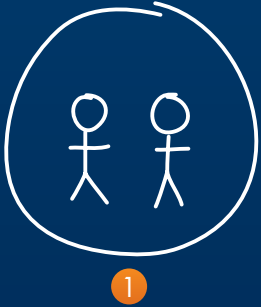
Us and each other. People were designed to love and serve one another.³

Us and God. We were each designed to live in a trusting and intimate relationship with God as our just and loving leader.⁴

The world and all that's in it was designed for good.

¹Genesis 1:31 / ²Genesis 1:28 / ³Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18 / ⁴Genesis 1:26

2 DAMAGED BY EVIL



Clearly, the world isn't living according to its design.

We rejected God's leadership, took charge, and essentially became our own god. By doing so, we broke our relationship with God, and left ourselves and our world in a state of death.⁵ On every level, we have become corrupt. We see evidence of this corruption all around us.

Us and the world. We destructively use the world and the people in it for our own benefit instead of serving them. We see this in sex trafficking, domestic slavery, injustice, oppression, genocide, etc.

Us and each other. We harmfully use people instead of serving them. We see this in conflicts, objectification of people and groups, alienation, bitterness, abuse, lust, anger, etc.⁶

Us and God. We damage ourselves and our relationship with God. We refuse to come under his leadership.⁷

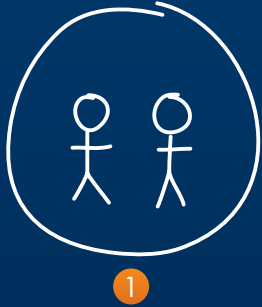
We all suffer under these realities. We all contribute to the problem.⁸

Our corruption compels us toward evil even as we try to do good. Education, technology, and government never get to the root of the problem. The Bible says that God "has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right."⁹ Not only will he judge the evil people out there, God has seen our own corrupt sides and will hold us accountable.

We—and the world—are damaged by evil.

⁵Isaiah 53:6, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2 / ⁶Galatians 5:19-20 / ⁷Romans 1:21-22 / ⁸Romans 3:23 / ⁹Acts 17:31

3 RESTORED FOR BETTER



But God loves the world too much to leave it this way.

Because he loves us, God responds to the injustice and corruption. He came as Jesus over 2,000 years ago.¹⁰

By doing that, God started teaching us a better way to live, a way in which all the good things that are supposed to happen actually do.

Jesus did three things:

Identified: Jesus became one of us, identifying with us by living in a damaged world (though he never contributed to the damage).¹¹

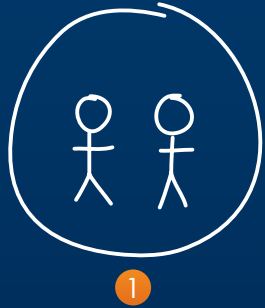
Owned: Jesus died on the cross, owning the judgment we deserve for the corruption of the world and the corruption in our hearts.¹²

Overcame: Jesus rose from the dead, overcoming death, and unleashing power to restore our damaged world.

Through Jesus, everything is being restored for better.

¹⁰John 3:16 / ¹¹Philippians 2:6-7, 2 Corinthians 5:21 / ¹²Philippians 2:8, Romans 3:25-26

4 SENT TO HEAL



Jesus calls us to follow him as he heals the damage in the world.¹³ By following him, we become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.¹⁴

Us and the world. Jesus has the power to restore our damaged world. He invites us to follow him together into his world to expose corruption, bring justice, and love joyfully.¹⁵

Us and each other. Jesus has the power to restore our relationships. He invites us to follow him by serving, loving, and forgiving each other.¹⁶

Us and God. Jesus has the power to restore our relationship with God. He invites us to follow him by coming under his leadership.¹⁷

We follow him by:

Identifying: We identify with Jesus' work by believing his death and resurrection broke the cycle of corruption in us and in the world.¹⁸

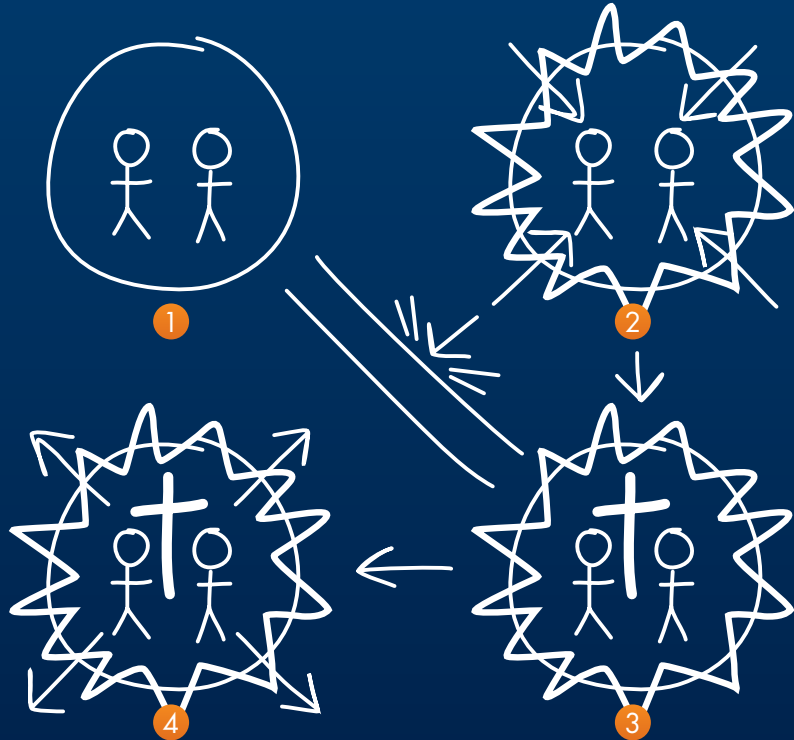
Owning: We own our individual responsibility for the damaged world and receive his forgiveness.¹⁹

Overcoming: We overcome the damage in our world by committing to follow Jesus into his mission to the world. God gives us the power to follow Jesus by giving us his Spirit and a community of people who also follow Jesus.²⁰

With Jesus, our mission is to be sent to heal.

¹³Acts 3:6-7 / ¹⁴Matthew 5:14-16, John 20:21-22 / ¹⁵Micah 6:8, Luke 4:18-19 / ¹⁶Philippians 2:3-4, 1 John 4:10-11 / ¹⁷Romans 5:10-11, Mark 1:17, Mark 2:14 / ¹⁸John 3:17-18, Galatians 2:20-21, Romans 10:9 / ¹⁹1 John 1:9, Acts 10:43 / ²⁰Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:14-16

ONLY THROUGH JESUS



But why can't we just jump from world 2 to world 4?

We might like the mission Jesus is talking about, but we want to do it without faith or spirituality.

Even if we could do this—which we can't—we'd be missing out.

The world's problems are infinite. We are bound to get overwhelmed if we try to take care of it all on our own. Plus, our anger, prejudices, and self-righteousness will compete with our service, limiting the amount of healing we can offer.

We need resources like Christian community and God's presence, the Holy Spirit, which we can get only through Jesus.

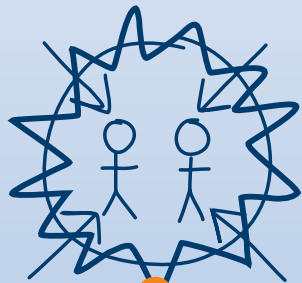
WHERE ARE YOU?

WHICH ONE OF THESE FOUR WORLDS WOULD YOU PLACE YOURSELF IN?



1

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 1, you think the world is fine. But we have seen that it is hard to reconcile this with the suffering in the world. How do you reconcile these things?



2

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 2, you're overwhelmed by the evil in the world, and even the evil in your own heart. Jesus is calling you to follow him.

Would you like to become a follower of Jesus today?

You can begin by telling Jesus you would like to become a follower. You can pray using "A Prayer Response to Jesus" on the back cover.

WHERE ARE YOU?



3

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 3, you have some understanding of what Jesus did and he is calling you to follow him.

Would you like to become a follower of Jesus and engage in his mission to heal the world with his community and with the help of his Spirit today?

You can begin by telling Jesus you would like to become a follower. You can pray using "A Prayer Response to Jesus" on the back cover.



4

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 4, you are doing good in the world. **Are you following Jesus and engaging in his mission to heal the world with his community?**

IF YES: Are you involved in Jesus' community and would you like to receive information about fellowship?

IF NO: **Would you like to become a follower of Jesus and engage in his mission to heal the world with his community and with the help of his Spirit today?**

You can begin by telling Jesus you would like to become a follower. You can pray using "A Prayer Response to Jesus" on the back cover.

A PRAYER RESPONSE TO JESUS

Jesus, I believe that your death and resurrection broke the cycle of corruption in the world and in me. I acknowledge my responsibility in contributing to the damage in the world. I receive your forgiveness. I choose to follow you and let you be my leader. I receive your Spirit.

The Big Story Gospel Presentation has been adapted from James Choung's *True Story*, published by InterVarsity Press, 2008.

It is also available as a free mobile app from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA. Available on iTunes and Google Play, the app allows users to present the gospel by drawing a diagram on screen, accompanied by a suggested script and Bible references.

For more information about The Big Story Gospel Presentation, visit <http://evangelism.intervarsity.org>

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