# Cursed to Bless

# God’s People Declare the Gospel of Jesus to the World

Episode: 10

Passage: Luke 24:36-53

Characters: - Host - Sam - Pastor - Ben - Pete - Ruth - Kate

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Language: en-AU

### Intro

**ATMOS**: Theme music 5 sec, Host background music below host’s volume

**HOST**: Hello, this is Mary, your host. Welcome to Cursed to Bless, the show that asks a big question: Why is life so hard, when God is so good? We hear God blesses us, but how? Money, health, happiness? The answers are found in *Jesus*, in who he is and what he’s done. We see this when we read the Bible as *one big story*, with Jesus as the hero from start to finish.

**HOST**: In this episode, we learn that the risen Lord Jesus confirms salvation has been achieved, and this gospel must be declared to the world.

**HOST**: Remember to pause, read the passage, and answer the questions when you hear the sound. Our first question is: Can you tell us of a time when you had great news that you wanted to tell all your friends? Discuss now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**HOST**: Thank you.

### Bible Study

**FX**: Flasback Outro

**ATMOS**: Host background

**HOST**: Listeners, let’s listen to the friends’ Bible study. They were all sitting at Pastor’s house…

**FX**: Flashback Intro.

**ATMOS**: House living room

**PASTOR**: Welcome everyone. Let’s pray first: “Dear Father please help us listen carefully to your Word now, and learn together. In Jesus name …”

**ALL**: Amen.

**PASTOR**: Let’s review our memory verse from last time: 1 Peter chapter 1, verse 3. I will read it out loud. When I pause, say the word that comes next, without looking at your Bible:

**FX**: In each ‘…’ gap below, Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**PASTOR**: (Leave a 2 second pause where you see ‘…’ and say the answer word with emphasis.)
“Praise be to the God and … *Father* of our Lord … *Jesus Christ*! In his great … *mercy* he has given us new … *birth* into a living … *hope* through the … *resurrection* of Jesus Christ from the … *dead*.”

**TRANSLATOR**: Replace this with text from the local Bible translation. Pick the same significant words for the gaps, as much as possible.

**PASTOR**: Thank you. Today, we’re going *back* a bit in the Bible, and reading from Luke.

**KATE**: Why are we going backwards?

**PASTOR**: Because I first wanted you to see how Jesus’ resurrection and the Holy Spirit changed the disciples in Acts chapter two. But what was that change for? That’s what Luke 24 tells us. So, let’s read Luke chapter 24, verses 36 to 53. Let’s read it together now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then page flicking for 3 seconds.

**PASTOR**: Thank you. Pete, what do you remember from this passage?

**PETE**: All the disciples are huddled in a locked house, and Jesus appears to them. They’re scared and don’t believe it’s him. He even has to eat in front of them to convince them! He tells them to go and tell everyone about him, but only when they’re ‘clothed in power’, whatever that means…

**SAM**: Why is Jesus so keen to prove that he’s not a ghost but has a body?

**PASTOR**: Because that proves that God made Jesus the king of the universe by raising him from the dead. Now, he’s not just a memory, a set of teachings, or even a ghost. He lives and reigns as a real, complete human being.

**PETE**: How could Jesus get inside a locked house if he had a real body?

**PASTOR**: It’s really Jesus, with a real body - the disciples can recognise him! But his body has been transformed by the resurrection – it will last forever!

**SAM**: Will we be given one of those bodies?

**PASTOR**: Yes! In heaven.

**PASTOR**: Did you notice it took the disciples some time to understand that Jesus’ death and resurrection wasn’t an accident? Yet it was always God’s plan.

**BEN**: Yes, in verse 44 Jesus reminds them he’d taught this before. And then verse 45 says he opened their minds so they could understand the Old Testament and how it all pointed to him.

**SAM**: Yes, like the whole Bible is really about Jesus – there’s one big rescue story, and he’s the hero!

**BEN**: Yes! All the other Bible heroes were teaching us about Jesus, so we could see him when he came.

**PASTOR**: Who can remember some of these stories that point us to Jesus?

**RUTH**: God promised Eve that one of her children will crush the serpent…

**SAM**: God provided a ram for Abraham so Isaac didn’t have to die…

**BEN**: God promised David one of his children will be a king forever…

**PETE**: Ok, but what do the Old Testament sacrifices and rituals have to do with Jesus?

**SAM**: I see it now Pete! *Jesus* is the final sacrifice. The lamb God provides. His blood really takes away our sin - forever! His sacrifice brings us blessing. He was cursed so we could be blessed!

**PETE**: That sounds crazy.

**SAM**: (Excited)
And the new contract that was promised in Jeremiah 31…is established at the cross…

**BEN**: And now that Jesus is king, the gospel will be declared to all nations.

**SAM**: Wait – isn’t that what God promised Abraham? That God would bless *all nations* through him?

**PASTOR**: Yes!

**SAM**: So God is using us to keep his promise to Abraham! That’s amazing!

**PASTOR**: Yes, we must tell others – just like the disciples did. Can you think of a bigger blessing than salvation from the curse of death and gaining eternal life with God?

**PETE**: But how could a bunch of scared and confused disciples tell this message to the world?

**PASTOR**: God ‘clothed them with power’.

**PETE**: You mean like a superhero’s special suit?

**PASTOR**: Ha! Even better. Have you noticed how the disciples change so much between this passage and last lesson’s passage in Acts?

**BEN**: Yes! Before, they were scared and confused. Now, they are full of courage.

**PASTOR**: God gives them the Holy Spirit, living *within* them, giving them God’s power.

**SAM**: Power to declare the gospel to the world!

**PASTOR**: And power for us too!

**PETE**: But we’re just a bunch of kids!

**PASTOR**: Ahhh. God can do anything! He can even use you Pete!

**SAM**: Pastor, I confess when I first met you, I didn’t think you were very impressive or special…

**PASTOR**: I’m not surprised!

**SAM**: But God has worked in me through your teaching. And now I *want* to tell others the gospel…

**PASTOR**: That’s God’s power working in you.

**SAM**: … but I don’t feel I know enough. I want to learn more deeply. How can I do that?

**PASTOR**: There are many ways of learning. These studies were just a start. Now you understand God’s big story of salvation and want to learn more, we can go deeper into God’s word…

**SAM**: Thank you!

### Questions to Pastor and Application

**PASTOR**: Thank you everyone. What questions would *you* like to ask?

**FX**: 3-5 sec of silence, some background shuffling of feet or ’uhmm’s

**PASTOR:** Wow, no questions! Well, that’s OK. But let me say… today’s passage is really important. It brings together many ideas we’ve been talking about. It also introduces us to how we must think about our lives today. So please listen carefully as I try to summarise it all.

**PASTOR:** Because Adam and Eve sinned, as well as everyone ever since, everyone needs to be forgiven by God. We need saving, rescuing, from the curse of death and hell! The Bible is all about this. As we learned in Genesis 12 God planned that through Abraham he would create a new people, give them a new land and bless them abundantly. He did this with Israel. But God also needed to show us just how sinful we are. And that’s what the Israelites showed us. Despite all God did for them, they were still stubbornly sinful. But God didn’t give up! Through the prophets he said he would still forgive and save people and remove the curse. And this is what Jesus did. Jesus died to pay for our sins, he rose again to conquer death, he has given us the Holy Spirit to change our hearts, and he will take us into heaven where the curse has been removed. It will be like we are back in the garden, only better! We will be God’s *people* in God’s *place* and enjoying the *blessings* of God’s *rule*.

**SAM**: But we’re still living under a curse, and life is so hard!

**PASTOR**: Yes … we must remember that God is with us. We have his Holy Spirit. He is looking after us. And we have a purpose in life – declaring this great news about Jesus to the world and to make more disciples. That is why we are still here on earth!

**PASTOR**: OK, let’s talk about our own lives now. When do you find it hard to tell others about Jesus?

**RUTH**: When I’m chatting with my girlfriends about our problems and how we feel. I think God could help them, but I’m not sure what to say.

**BEN**: For me, it’s when I talk to my parents. I want to respect them, but I wish I could explain about Jesus. But they don’t want to listen. It makes me feel frustrated and sad.

**KATE**: I hate it when people mock me because of my faith. I’m afraid they’ll just push me away.

**BEN**: Often I just don’t know what to say. The conversation moves too quickly, and words don’t come to me. I feel stupid when that happens.

**PETE**: I never think of talking about Jesus when I’m with other friends. They seem happy enough, and some have more money and friends than me.

**SAM**: Pastor, there’s someone that I know, and he needs to hear the gospel. I’ve felt too scared to bring it up last time I talked to him. But after this study, I’m more convinced that Jesus is really the king of the world. I’m going to text him after this study, so we can find a time to talk.

**PASTOR**: I’m glad to hear that Sam. We’ll make sure to pray for that at the end.

**SAM**: Thank you, I need God’s help, because I still feel anxious.

**PASTOR**: I understand, Sam. Thank you everyone. Let’s read our memory verse on the whiteboard: Matthew chapter 28, verses 18 to 20. Let’s read it together now.

**ALL**: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**PASTOR**: Let’s memorise that for our next lesson. Ben, would you pray for us please?

**BEN**: Yes Pastor. Good Father, you know we feel so small and powerless to declare your gospel to the world. Please help us tell this great news to all our friends and family. Please strengthen every believer that leaves their family, village, and country to tell others your gospel. We especially pray for Sam now. Please help him have the courage and the love to tell his friend the gospel, so he might also follow Jesus. In Jesus’ name…

**ALL**: Amen.

**PASTOR**: Thank you everyone, see you next time.

**ALL**: Goodbye pastor.

### Interactive Questions

**FX**: Flashback outro

**HOST**: Listeners, let’s answer some questions now. Say your answer aloud. **HOST**: How can we be sure that Jesus is God’s king of the universe? Is it because he *rose from the dead*, or his *great miracles*, or his *amazing teaching*?

**FX**: Response prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**HOST**: Because he rose from the dead. Jesus is not just a memory, a set of teachings, or even a ghost. He lives and reigns as a real, complete human being.

**HOST**: I will say some sentences. For each sentence, say ‘True’ if you agree, or ‘False’ if you disagree.

**HOST**: True or False: Although Jesus had a physical body while he lived on earth, he rose from death to heaven in a spiritual sense.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: False. Jesus rose from death in a transformed but physical body.

**HOST**: True or False: Jesus introduced a revolutionary new idea to the world: that salvation was for all peoples, not just Israel.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: False. This was not a new idea, but was taught in the Old Testament.

**HOST**: True or False: We don’t need to tell people in other countries about Jesus, because God will tell them himself somehow.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: False. God has decided to use *us* as the way he’d save people by declaring the gospel.

**HOST**: Here’s another question. How does God help Christians declare the gospel to the world? Is it with the *Holy Spirit* or with *talented evangelists*?

**FX**: Response prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**HOST**: With the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to empower Christians to declare the gospel to the world. Talented evangelists are also empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**HOST**: Discuss this question: Can you think of some examples of the disciples proclaiming the gospel powerfully?

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

### Outro

**FX**: Flashback outro

**HOST**: Listeners, now we’ve heard about Sam’s day, listen to what he prayed before going to sleep…

**ATMOS**: Soft prayer background effect (e.g. chimes) fade in

**SAM**: Dear God, I can think of so many people back in my village that need to hear your gospel. Without your forgiveness, they’re still under sin’s curse. And there’s Pete… I don’t think he really trusts you yet. Please help him. Help me speak your gospel to him. Father, I don’t know what I can do - I’m just a teenage boy. But I want them to know, so please use me to tell them. Amen. ::: {custom-style=“Instruction”} **ATMOS**: Prayer background fade out :::

**HOST**: Thank you for completing this lesson. We learnt that the risen Lord Jesus confirms salvation has been achieved and this gospel must be declared to the world. Will you join me for our next lesson? We will learn that we must live good lives and be prepared to suffer, just like Jesus did. Please read 1 Peter chapter 2, verses 9-25 before then. Now you can discuss how this lesson matters in your life: When do you find it hard to tell others about Jesus? Goodbye.

**FX**: Theme music fade out.