



### God's Design

The Bible tells us that God has a design for our lives, and that He cares for every aspect of our lives. That includes our choices, our finances, our relationships—everything. If we live according to God's design, then we can live under God's blessing. The problem is that all of us tend to depart from God's design.

### Sin

The Bible has a word for when we depart from God's design—that word is "sin." And when we sin—when we leave His design—we land in a place of brokenness.

### Brokenness

We see brokenness all around us—just read today's headlines. If we're honest, we also see it in our own lives. Emptiness, guilt, shame, regret. And we always try to fix it, don't we? We try a different relationship, a different job, or maybe we try to be more religious. Whatever we do, we are trying to fix or escape the brokenness. But brokenness is not a bad thing. In fact, it helps us understand that we need change in our lives.

The bad news is that the change we need cannot come from within ourselves. The good news is that the Bible tells us where the change we need comes from.

### **The Gospel**

The change we need comes from what the Bible calls the gospel, which means “good news.” The gospel is the story of Jesus. Jesus is the son of God, who came to earth and never departed from God’s design. The Bible says He lived a perfect life. But Jesus was crucified on the cross. The Bible says Jesus died on the cross “for the sins of the world.” That includes mine and yours. When Jesus was on the cross, God put the sins of the world—mine, yours, everyone who has ever lived or will ever live—on Jesus. And Jesus received the punishment for those sins, which the Bible says is death. After He died, He was buried but rose from the dead three days later. The Bible says Jesus was raised from the dead to prove that He was who He said He was—the son of God who can forgive our sins because He paid the price for them. When He forgives sin, He heals the broken places in our lives.

### **Repent and Believe**

But just hearing it is not enough. We must act on it by admitting our sinful brokenness. We must ask God to forgive us. We do this by turning away from sin and trusting in Jesus. This is what it means to repent and believe. Repent means to change our mind; change our direction. By believing in the gospel story that Jesus was crucified for our sins and was raised from the dead. When we believe, we receive new life through Jesus. The Bible says that when we repent and believe, God will come into our lives, forgive our sins, and begin to heal our inner brokenness.

### **Recover and Pursue**

When we repent and believe, God gives us opportunity to recover and pursue His design for our lives. The best part is that He lets us do that from wherever we are. There’s no need to go back and fix anything. It’s not necessary to “get better first.” We can start recovering and pursuing that perfect design from we are right now.

