

# 7 Gospel Stories of Hope

## 1) Luke 7:36-50

When Jesus forgives a prostitute she responds with real worship.

I think this is a great "hook" story for the very first lesson because it gives the unchurched post-modern lost person some great things to wrestle with: Jesus forgiving and touching a prostitute (in contrast to how post-moderns think Jesus and Christians are judgmental and aloof), He forgives her SINS (we introduce the topic of sin right at the beginning and see that we need forgiveness).

## 2) Luke 18:9-17

The parable of the Pharisee & Tax Collector teaches the kingdom is for humble & repentant sinners, not the proud & self-righteous.

Jesus tells the story of the "good" Pharisee who doesn't need to repent vs. the very bad tax collector who begs for God's forgiveness.

## 3) Acts 17:16-34

The sovereign creator God will judge the world through Jesus.

Excellent presentation of God as creator, sovereign, and judge but not in a boring way ... there are interesting "people events" in the passage to catch the listener's attention.

## 4) Matthew 16:21-17:9

Jesus tells His gospel plan and displays His holiness as God's Son.

The transfiguration passage demonstrates His holiness and uniqueness as God's Son, but the preceding verses powerfully show that Jesus PLANNED to go to the cross, rise again, and rule the world.

## 5) Luke 22:66-23:25, 23:32-43

Jesus' death on the cross and a criminal is forgiven.

Even the Romans have to admit that Jesus had not sinned, yet Jesus refuses to avoid the cross which is presented in graphic, painful detail. Even on the cross, though, Jesus is loving the

people around Him and offering forgiveness to those who seem unforgivable.

## **6) Luke 18:18-30, 19:1-10**

The ruler, Peter, Zacchaeus weigh the cost of following Jesus.

A great message from Jesus that following Him should be more important to us than any cost.

## **7) Matthew 18:21-35**

The story of the merciful king shows how God's forgiveness should change our lives.

Following Jesus should transform us.