

Church Without Walls

Week 1: What is the Gospel?

August 2, 2026

Introduction

Aloha everyone! I'm Mark, if we haven't met, and I have the humble privilege of serving as Lead Pastor here at New Hope Central Oahu. I want to welcome you to service and we are so blessed that you're here as we kick off a brand new series.

Last month was a whirlwind month. I celebrated a significant personal milestone — I turned 40. And leading up to my birthday I was feeling really good. I thought, "I feel pretty good for my age." But the day before my birthday, the *day* before my birthday, I took my daughter Coco to volleyball practice. And usually my wife who takes her but this was one of the last practices and I wanted to see her play. And after practice she told me that one of her teammates, we'll call him 'Aiden' (because that's his real name — I will protect him no longer) asked her, "Hey Coco, was that your Grandpa?"

My Dad especially loves this story because, as some of you know, I have a much younger brother named Caleb. Caleb is 12 years younger than me. My parents had him a little later in life. And when Caleb was in high school my Dad was teaching him to drive and one of his classmates texted him, "Hey Caleb, so cute, I saw you driving with your Grandpa today." And we laughed and laughed. Well look who's laughing now. My Dad was also in his 50s when that happened. I'm getting 'Grandpa' at 40.

Church Without Walls

Today we're launching a brand new series to share with you one of our Church's most important values — to be a Church without Walls. And take it from Grandpa, this is *huge*.

From our website,

At New Hope Central Oahu [let's read it together] WE BELIEVE that every person is valuable to God, therefore Christians intentionally and boldly witness to the unchurched and disciple the nations.

³ *"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth," (1 Timothy 2:3-4).*

So is God's heart just for some? No, it is for all. We believe that God so loved the world. Not just Christians, not just those in Church, not just those who believe — the world. His heart is for all people to be saved. So if you're in Church today or listening to the sound of my voice and you don't know Jesus as your personal savior, if you're still on a journey of faith, if you still have questions and even doubts, God loves you the same. You are no less valuable than anyone else in His eyes.

And because God's heart is for the entire world, how we live as Christians cannot be confined to a service once a week, amen? We need to be a Church without walls.

The Great Commission

But the challenge is that, when I say, "Church" most people picture a place, a building, or a time or service. We think of Church as somewhere we go or something we do rather than who we are 24/7. And while weekly gatherings is part of our rhythm as believers, our call is so much greater.

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, one of the last things He told His disciples was,

18 “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age,”

(Matthew 28:18-20).

In our last series we talked about the value of *Doing Church as a Team*. We learned that every one of us is created for a unique God-given purpose and that we are ‘mo betta togeddah’. I love that we have so many people volunteering in Church. We celebrate all those who signed up for a ministry for the very first time. But our combined gifts and talents are to be used for far more than just hosting a weekly gathering. As wonderful as our Sunday services are with the worship and greeters and ambience, our mission must also go beyond these four walls to a lost and hurting world.

Jesus calls us to go into all nations and teach people to obey everything He has commanded us. We are commanded to continue the mission Jesus was sent for. Jesus told His followers, “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.” So we are sent to bring the same message of hope and peace that Jesus came to bring. This is the gospel. But if you’re not familiar with the gospel, gospel simply means “Good news”. So if you’ve ever heard the good news about Jesus and it didn’t sound like good news, either the person didn’t say it right or you didn’t hear it right because the gospel is good news.

Today I want to share with you the good news. If you have no idea what Christians believe, hopefully this will give you a better idea. If you are a Christian and have no idea how to share what you believe, hopefully this will give you a better idea. We will spend more weeks unpacking but in week one I want to give you the simple gospel.

1. GOD CREATED.

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created everything. Nothing is here by accident. Everything you see and know, including you, is here because God created it. The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:27 that you and I were created in God’s image. We were created to know God and to be known by God. And in the beginning everything was perfect. Sounds like a pretty magical story so far doesn’t it? So what happened?

2. SIN SEPARATED.

Even though mankind was created to live with God and for God, we chose to live our own way.

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23).

Sin is simply choosing to live apart from God. And the Bible says every one of us has done this. We have all chosen to live life our own way. But what makes sin so sinister is not that it’s naughty or wicked but that it causes separation. First and foremost, sin causes separation from God. Sin also causes separation between one another. Sin causes separation from ourselves. And sin causes separation from creation. Every evil thing in the world today exists because of our sin. Not because God isn’t all-loving and not because he isn’t all-powerful but because we choose sin. Every story has a problem, sin is the problem. We are disconnected and separated from everything including the source of life — God. “Pastor Mark, I thought you said this was good news.”

3. JESUS REINSTATED.

Yes! This is where the story gets good. Because even though we sin, God doesn't give up on us. He doesn't leave us to our own destruction. He sent His only Son Jesus into the world to live the perfect life we were unable to live and die the death that should have been ours so we can be reinstated with Him.

²¹ "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God," (2 Corinthians 5:21).

¹⁸ "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit," (1 Peter 3:18).

God did not leave us in our sin. He so loved the world that He send His One and only Son. That whoever believes in Him will not be separated but have everlasting life. This is the good news in three simple steps. God created, sin separated, Jesus reinstated. But this is just one of countless ways the gospel can be presented. In later weeks you will here other practical and effective ways to communicate the good news of Jesus.

[Testimony]

Group Discussion Questions

1. How would you articulate the gospel message if you were having a conversation with a friend or family member?
2. How has the gospel personally impacted your life?
3. Is there someone the Lord is putting on your heart to be more intentional about sharing the gospel with?