

# Kings Core Values

## 1. The Core Message: Holistic Gospel & Wholehearted Faith

People from many different backgrounds attend Kings, so there are lots of areas in which we differ. However, we hold certain core values. Different denominations tend to emphasise different aspects of the gospel message, (e.g. personal conversion, physical well being & prosperity, social action, understanding of doctrine, emotional & spiritual wholeness etc.) Even definitions of 'evangelism' differ from church to church. This study looks at how Luke presents the core message - the gospel of Jesus.

- How would you describe your 'spiritual background' (what types of church have you attended?) Which aspects of the gospel would you say were emphasised?

*'Sometimes, in evangelical Christianity, the death of Christ is emphasised to such an extent that what he did during his life's ministry is ignored.'*

*'We believe in Life before death' (Vision statement of Tearfund)*

- How far do you agree with these statements? What do you think are the consequences (positive and negative) of each?

Jesus began his ministry of proclaiming God's good news after returning from his encounter with Satan in the wilderness.

*Read Luke 4.14-30*

This is often called Jesus' 'Mission Statement' in Luke's Gospel, setting out what Jesus' ministry will be about. It culminates in a focus on his death and resurrection.

Some believe that this 'good news' (=gospel) is just a message of personal spiritual transformation or that it is about eternal salvation when you die, or just physical (healing and well being now), or even political (justice for the oppressed).

1. What do you think the crowds in Nazareth thought it meant initially?

2. Why do you think their reaction underwent such a dramatic change in verses 28-29?
3. From the illustrations he uses in verses 23-27, what do you think Jesus understood this prophecy from Isaiah to mean and his ministry to be?

*Read Luke 4.31-44*

4. From the activities Jesus undertakes as his ministry begins, which aspects of people's lives does he appear to be concerned with?

The core message of the Bible is that the gospel is holistic, concerned with people's 'Body, Mind & Spirit'.

5. From this chapter, and other accounts from Jesus' ministry, what examples can you think of for each?
6. How far do you agree with this model of the gospel influencing all aspects of a person's life? How far does it challenge your understanding of what the 'good news' is?

Communicating the gospel is also holistic, through 'Words, Works & Wonders'.

7. From Luke 4 how would you say Jesus actually demonstrates the good news here?
8. How far do you think 'works', (acts of practical service reflecting God's justice, help individual and community transformation) fit with Jesus' emphasis and teaching?
9. Why do you think both 'Works' and 'Wonders' are controversial in some churches and an emphasis on 'Words only' exists? What are the consequences of not communicating the gospel in these ways?

*Reflect and Pray*

- Personally, which of these three ways of demonstrating the gospel are most and least comfortable for you? Why? How might we grow in them as individuals and as a church?