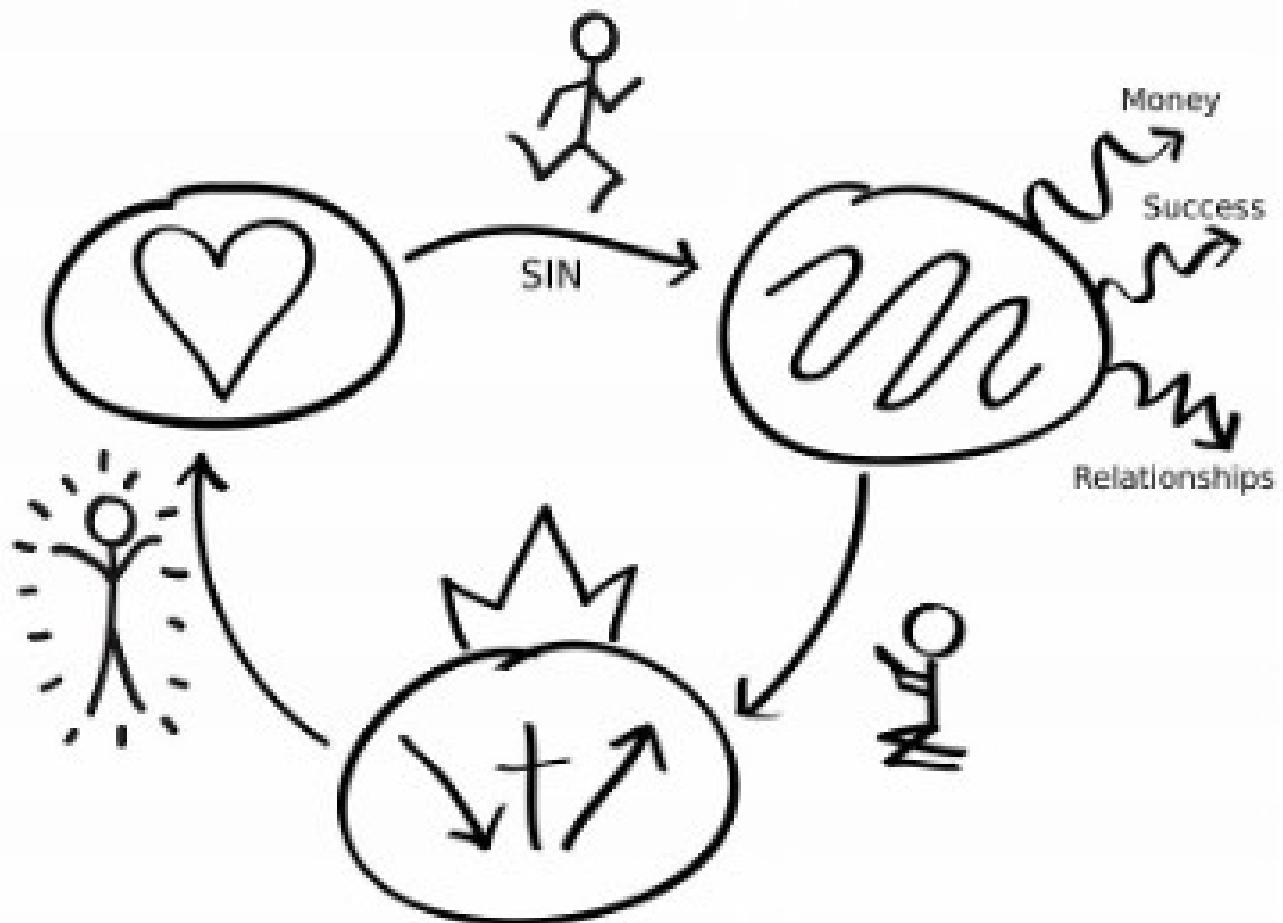


United City | Groups

Evangelism

Training

Presenting the Gospel



Schedule:

Week of October 21: Session 1 | My Story

Week of November 2: Session 2 | 3 Circles

Week of November 9: Session 3 | Expectations

Week 1: My Story

MAIN POINT: No one accidentally shares the Gospel. It is a prioritized commitment and focused endeavor.

INTRODUCTION

Stories are central to the human experience because they shape how we understand the world, ourselves, and others. They organize complex experiences, preserve culture and values, and pass down wisdom. Stories foster empathy by letting us see through others' eyes, shape our personal and collective identity, and inspire action and reflection. By engaging emotion and memory, stories make meaning stick in ways facts alone cannot.

Stories are more than entertainment—they are the scaffolding of human understanding, connection, and imagination. They are how we interpret our lives and the lives of others. Stories have the power to transform lives!

- What are some of your favorite stories (in film, literature, song, biographies, family members, etc)?
- What aspects of a story are you most drawn to?
- Is there a shared theme between the stories just listed by your group?
-

Stories also follow a natural rhythm—beginning, middle, and end—that mirrors our own experiences. Typically, the beginning introduces us to a world or problem. The middle shows the struggle or transformation. The end reveals resolution, meaning, or growth. In this way, stories not only reflect life but also guide us through it.

(If time permits, share the beginning, middle, and end components of some of your favorite or popular stories (Wizard of Oz, Lord of the Rings, etc)

- If you had to tell your life's story in three parts, how would you do so? (We will come back to this at the end when we teach and equip people to share their testimony.)

Today's lesson is the first of three in an evangelism series. Lesson one looks at three stories from the New Testament involving individuals sharing their story (and the story of the Gospel).

Example 1: The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40)

Sub Point: Evangelism is an intentional commitment.

Verses 26–27: Choose to become active in sharing your faith.

Philip has just come out of a revival in Samaria where he preached and saw many repent, believe, and be baptized. He is on his way back home to Jerusalem when the Lord prompts him to head south toward Gaza on a less-traveled road to a place that was mostly desert. Philip doesn't "stumble upon" this opportunity to speak the soul-saving, life-changing truth of the Gospel; instead, he heard and heeded the Lord's voice to "go" and he made an intentional commitment to do so.

No one accidentally shares his or her faith and articulates the Gospel; it is a commitment to obey Christ's command and actively seek opportunity by the Spirit's prompting. When Jesus calls His first disciples, He says that He will make them (and us) "fishers of men." Have you ever heard of anyone waking up, getting dressed, preparing for the day, and accidentally catching a fish on the way to work? In order to catch a fish, you have to find a body of water with fish, take the necessary tools, and commit to fishing. A believer's commitment to share his faith must be equally as intentional. The fisherman who does not frequent the lake will not taste the sweet satisfaction of the harvest.

- Why do you think God sent Philip away from a thriving revival in Samaria to a deserted road with only one man? What does that teach us about intentional evangelism?
- What are some practical ways to create space and opportunity for evangelistic conversations?
- How does someone become more attuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit?
- What might keep believers from making an intentional commitment to evangelism, and how can those obstacles be overcome?

Verses 29–40: Earn the right to invite.

Philip was an apostle. The eunuch was a high-ranking official for the Ethiopian queen. Only the economically elite of their day had the financial means to enjoy the luxury of a chariot as the eunuch did. Philip saw his God-given opportunity when he heard the man reading the Scriptures aloud. He ran over, engaged in conversation, and helped the eunuch understand what he was reading.

We live in a time and place where most of our neighbors, coworkers and classmates have enough knowledge about Jesus and His Church to make them disinterested. Our daily lives are filled with people who have grown up in or around a church, know the stories of the Bible, and can recite John 3:16 on the spot. However, their issue isn't knowledge as much as it is trust. They're scared of or scarred by the Church in some capacity that has created a gulf of distrust. This eunuch was a religious man who longed to understand the things of God and the truths of His Word. Many of our neighbors and coworkers think they don't want anything to do with Jesus and the Church because they have never truly understood the Gospel of Jesus and the eternal kind of life that He promises.

Let us learn from Philip: earn the right to say "come" by first taking the intentional step to "go" into the chariots of the doubting, confused, frustrated, lonely world of the one who knows a lot about Jesus, but has never trusted Him personally. Heed God's call to go, seek God's opportunity to speak, and maximize God's divine doors to invest in those whom God has placed in your circle so that they can taste the sweet satisfaction and experientially know/trust the tangible goodness of God.

- What principles can we learn and imitate from Philip's engagement with the eunuch?
- What are some practical things a Christian can do to gain trust and "earn the right" to say "come"?
- Philip began with a simple question: "Do you understand what you are reading?" What does this teach us about listening first and earning trust before inviting someone to faith?
- The eunuch had knowledge of Scripture but not understanding of the Gospel. How do we discern when people around us need clarity rather than more information?
- Many people today distrust the church because of past wounds or negative experiences. What practical steps can we take to rebuild trust and credibility in those relationships?
- Philip "ran" to the eunuch's chariot. How might urgency and eagerness play a role in sharing the Gospel while still being respectful and relational?

Example 2: The Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:25–34)

Sub Point: Evangelism is about people, not tasks.

Verse 25: Be mindful of the impressions you make.

Acts 16 finds Paul and Silas being imprisoned for doing the work of the ministry. The men were serving in Philippi and came across a slave girl who was possessed; due to her possession, she was able to foretell the future, bringing wealth to her owners. Paul exorcised the demon, infuriating the owners, and landed himself and Silas in jail. The charges levied were disturbing the city and advocating customs that were not lawful for Romans to practice. Roman colonies (like Philippi) allowed their inhabitants to practice their own religions; however, proselytizing was against the law. Further damaging to the case of Paul and Silas was an attitude of anti- Semitism, a result of Emperor Claudius' decree that all Jews must leave Rome (Acts 18:2).

Jailing, as a result of bigotry and freeing a young woman from spiritual bondage, would most certainly take an emotional toll. However, the passage indicates that instead of furiously pleading their case or expressing displeasure, the men were singing and praying in their cell. Their joyful praise caught the attention of the other inmates who were listening attentively to the bizarre sounds coming from Peter and Silas's cell.

Before any Gospel-centered conversation was initiated, the captive disciples had already made a significant impression on anyone within earshot. The way in which the men responded to their poor and unmerited circumstances would either help or harm their case when the time came to share the hope they possessed.

Attitude gives insight to the health of one's heart.

The disciples' response to God's character, and not their circumstances, reflected their trust and commitment to the Lord. Their choice to rejoice in the Lord painted a clear picture to the inmates and the jailer of the genuine nature of the Christ-followers' faith. The inmates were listening attentively, no doubt awestruck by such unique behavior. This time of singing and prayer would later earn Paul and Silas the opportunity to speak truth into the life of the jailer. Many believers cause harm to their potential to share the Gospel because of their dispositions. Does your attitude reflect your hope? You cannot control the circumstances around you, but you can control the way in which you respond.

- Paul and Silas chose to sing and pray in prison instead of complaining or defending themselves. How might our responses to unfair treatment influence the way others view our faith?
- The inmates listened attentively to Paul and Silas. What does this suggest about how attitudes and actions can sometimes prepare the way for evangelism?
- How can joy in suffering serve as both a testimony and an open door for Gospel conversations in our relationships?
- In what ways can a negative or bitter attitude harm our witness, even if we later try to share the Gospel with someone?
- How does a believer rise above responding in sheer emotion to circumstances?
- How are attitudes and actions connected?

Acts 16:26–27: Prioritize others first.

This section of the story parallels the plight of Peter in Acts 12. Peter, a disciple, was locked away in prison and facing death. An angel appeared to Peter, released him from his shackles and ushered him out of the jail. When Herod learned of the event, the sentries responsible for Peter's detention were put to death.

Unlike the story in Acts 12, there are no specific directions from an angel for Silas and Paul to leave their captivity. Instead, the disciples have a choice: their preference (freedom) or the well-being of another (the life of the jailer). The miracle on that day in the Philippian jail was not meant to be an escape from captivity for the disciples, but an escape from the captivity of sin for the jailer. Effectively sharing the Gospel often means putting yourself last. Your desires, comfort, finances and your schedule must play a secondary role when you encounter the lost. Believers are often confronted with divine appointments, seemingly accidental introductions that have been orchestrated by God so that the Gospel might be shared.

The question is not whether or not you will have the opportunity to be used to evangelize, but instead what you will do with that opportunity. Your decision-making process is informed by your values. The lost were close to the heart of Paul; his priorities were informed by that value.

- Paul and Silas had the opportunity for freedom but stayed, prioritizing the jailer's well-being. How can we discern when God is calling us to put others before ourselves in sharing the Gospel?
- Describe a time in which you experienced a divine appointment. How can we be intentional in recognizing and acting on them?
- Compare the circumstances of the imprisonments of Peter and Paul. When presented with an opportunity, how does a believer make the best choice?
- Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23. Based on these verses, how would you describe Paul's priorities? How does Paul view his freedom in Christ compared to the opportunity to effectively evangelize?

Verses 27–34: Be sensitive to others' needs.

Understanding the consequences for the escape of prisoners, the jailer prepared to take his life. As he clutched his sword, seconds from committing the act, Paul screamed for him to cease—no one had fled. His shout did not concern the man's sin nor the horrible fate the jailer would have been ushered into upon his death, or the hope of heaven. Paul gauged the situation and addressed the man's perceived need first: The inmates were accounted for; no harm would befall the jailer.

Perceived needs are those which are understood and therefore believed to be real. Actual needs are those which are real needs but perhaps not yet understood. Effectively communicating the Good News of Jesus requires the believer to acknowledge the perceived needs of the lost. These perceived needs include the need to receive love from others, to be recognized at work, to engage in a romantic relationship, and a litany of other possibilities; but their actual need is Jesus. The evangelist begins where the lost are and walks them toward the truth.

The jailer must have heard the disciples worshipping through the night and now he discovered that these men stayed when most others would have run. The result of what he had heard and his interaction with Paul led him to seek salvation. Not only the jailer, but his family, too, were released from the captivity of sin.

- Think about your conversion experience. What were your perceived needs at the time? How did the Lord reveal your actual need to you?
- How does the evangelist help someone move from the perceived to the actual need?
- The jailer's salvation impacted his entire household. How can our sensitivity to others' needs have ripple effects in our families, workplaces, or communities?

Example 3: Matthew, the Tax Collector (Luke 5:27–29)

Sub Point: The Gospel is for everyone.

Verses 27–28: Decide to be impartial.

Matthew was a tax collector in the ancient world. Tax collectors were hated because they were often dishonest, disrespected and disgusting to those around them. However, Jesus, showing perfect impartiality, approaches Matthew while he is sitting at his tax booth and calls him from a profession of dishonesty to a life of following the Truth. Verse 28 tells us that Levi (Matthew) “left everything and followed him.” The very next verse begins, “And Levi made Him (Jesus) a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them.”

- Why do you think Jesus chose to approach Matthew, a despised tax collector? What does this teach us about impartiality in sharing the Gospel?
- The tax collectors were seen as pariahs by their culture. Whom would you identify as the “tax collectors” of our culture?
- How can believers best reach these “tax collectors”?
- How does someone fight his or her own partiality?
- Matthew “left everything and followed Him.” How does responding to Jesus’ call require us to leave certain things behind in our own lives?
- How did Matthew immediately use his circle of influence to introduce others to Jesus, and what lessons can we learn from his example?

Verse 29: Recognize that God has given you a story and people with whom to share it.

Matthew wasted no time inviting his friends to Jesus. There were no magic words to memorize, no formal training to accomplish, and no prerequisite for evangelism other than knowing and enjoying Jesus. Matthew jumped up from the tax booth where his sin was king and brought Jesus to his house for the purpose of throwing a party to introduce Him to his sinful, tax- collecting friends.

Matthew responded to Jesus’ call by immediately going home and hosting a party for his and Jesus’ and tax-collecting friends. He took the circle of influence and relationships that God had given him in his sin and used it for Gospel opportunity. In our response to go, chances are that you don’t have to go very far to find people in your circle who don’t know Christ. Our minds are so programmed to think of “missions” or “mission trips” as “some place that we go.” In reality, life is a mission trip. God has placed you where you are for a purpose. God has placed you among the people in your office, your classroom, your house, your grocery store and your neighborhood as a missionary. Prepare a meal, invite your circles, and bring them to the table with Jesus.

- How does recognizing the story God has given us empower us to share the Gospel in ordinary, practical ways?
- Describe the last time God used your faith story to influence a lost person.
- What are some creative ways in which you have introduced the Gospel to your circle of influence?

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Takeaway

No one accidentally shares the Gospel. It is a prioritized commitment and focused endeavor.

Group Activity

Leaders, model to your group how to share your story.

Then, break your large group up into smaller groups of 2-3 people. Ask them to share their story of how they encountered Jesus and were transformed by the Gospel.

Encourage them to structure their story in three parts. Ask them to devote no more than three sentences to each of these sections to formulate their faith story.

At the end ask for 1-3 people to share their story in front of the whole group. Look for ways to coach your group members while they are practicing in small groups. As a leader, give suggestions of how to refine, strengthen, or adjust their story to be more effective.

The Structure of Your Story

(1) “Before I knew Jesus”

Questions to consider: Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ? How did that affect your feelings, attitudes, actions and relationships? What caused you to begin considering Jesus as a solution to your needs?

(2) “How I came to know Jesus”

Questions to consider: What aspects of the gospel touched you? What did you realize that finally motivated you to follow Christ? Specifically, how did you come to know Christ?

(3) “Now that I know Jesus”

Questions to consider: How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ? What benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian? What is an area in life that Jesus is still refining you? How has the local church (United City) impacted you? Why do you attend church (United City)?

(4) After sharing your story ask, “Has anything like this ever happened to you?”

Tips for Sharing your Story

- Your Testimony Is relevant and unique.
- Never substitute your testimony for the gospel – The gospel is the power of God to salvation (Rom. 1:16), not your testimony. Your testimony is an on ramp to the Gospel.
- Seek the Holy Spirit –
- Be brief – try to keep each section to three sentences.
- Know your audience – share your story in a relevant way to your audience. That may mean you adapt your story (not lie, but focus on some areas over others) based on who your talking to.
- Give precise details
- Don’t lie – your story is unique and yours. You don’t have to compare yours to other people.
- Conversion over circumstances – the point is Jesus interrupting and changing your life, not your life.

- Exalt Christ over experiences
- Use non-religious language – average person likely won't know words like atonement, salvation, justified, etc.
- Use Scripture
- Avoid distracting mannerisms
- Share regularly
- Don't be ashamed of your story
- Have confidence – the Holy Spirit goes with you (Matt 28:18-20)

Conclusion

The Good News of Jesus is a message for everyone. The Lord will place the lost in your path; you must make the decision to prayerfully and lovingly engage.

Challenge your group members to prayerfully share their faith story with at least ONE person this week.

Week 2: The Gospel

MAIN POINT: Any believer can share the Gospel with simplicity and clarity.

Game: An obstacle for some in sharing their faith is developing a method of presenting the Gospel. Today's lesson will illustrate a method called "3 Circles"; its goal is to help you explain the Gospel story effectively and efficiently in just a few minutes. To practice being concise, challenge your group to consider the movies listed below and explain their plots in the number of words allotted. Each movie is permitted one word for every 30 minutes of running time. (Feel free to change some of the titles to make the game most effective for your class.)

Gone with the Wind	238 minutes – 8 words
Toy Story	81 minutes – 3 words
ET: The Extra-Terrestrial	114 minutes – 4 words
The Hunger Games	142 minutes – 5 words
Frozen	102 minutes – 3 words

THE 3 CIRCLES

The Three Circles is a great way to explain the Gospel effectively in just a few minutes with a simple illustration. We'll spend our time today learning this method and then practicing with each other so we can learn how to share the Gospel in a simple, understandable way.

How to use the Three Circles:

When spending time with a friend or when you find an opportunity you can begin by asking a couple of questions:

"Have you ever noticed how broken the world is? Have you ever wondered how it got like this? Could I show you something a friend showed me that helped me understand that? It will only take a few minutes. "

You can also try bridging the conversation with something from your own life like a broken relationship or a sin struggle you are facing to set the tone before asking the introducing question.

Grab a napkin, a piece of paper, or even the FreeForm app on an iPhone, and draw.

1st Circle: Brokenness

To start, draw a circle on the right-hand side of a piece of paper.

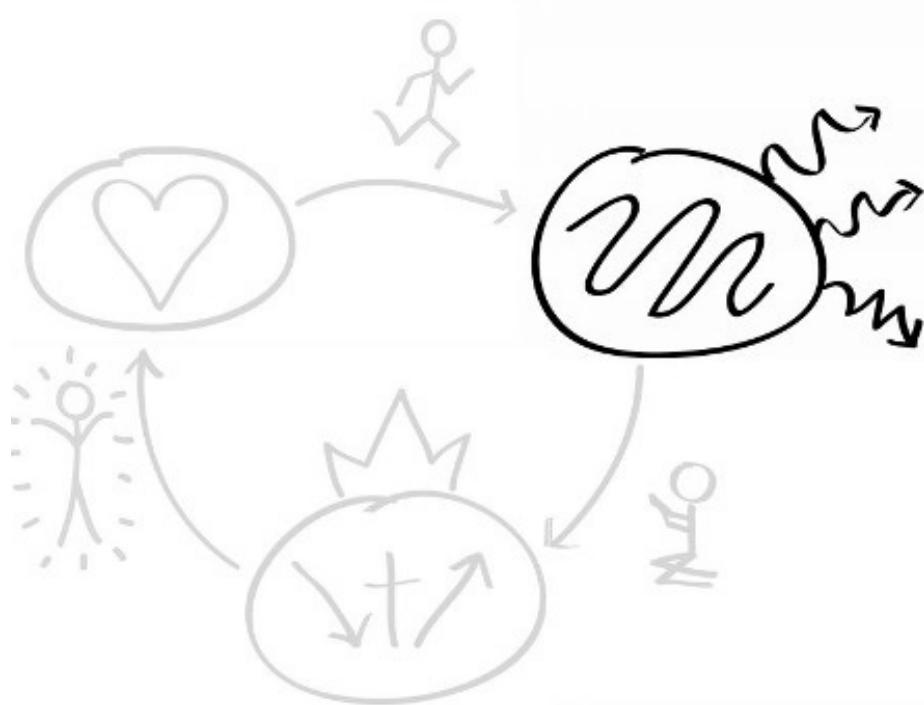
Draw a jagged line through the circle and say something like this:

“Have you noticed how broken the world is? ”

Mention a few relevant examples depending on what you have learned about the person: anxiety, stress, family breakdown, pain, economic problems, broken systems, etc...

Then say:

“This circle represents the fact that we live in a BROKEN world. In fact, we were born into brokenness. Nothing is the way it ought to be. ”



2nd Circle: God's Original Design

Next, draw a second circle to the left of the first one.

“But it wasn’t always this way. When God first made the world, He made it beautiful and perfect and man had a close relationship with God.”

In this circle, draw a heart, representing “God’s original design.”

“Adam and Eve, the first man and woman lived this way for a short time. Through one act of disobedience, they broke their connection to God.”

Draw a line and an arrow from the Circle representing God’s Design to the Broken Circle. Label it “SIN”.

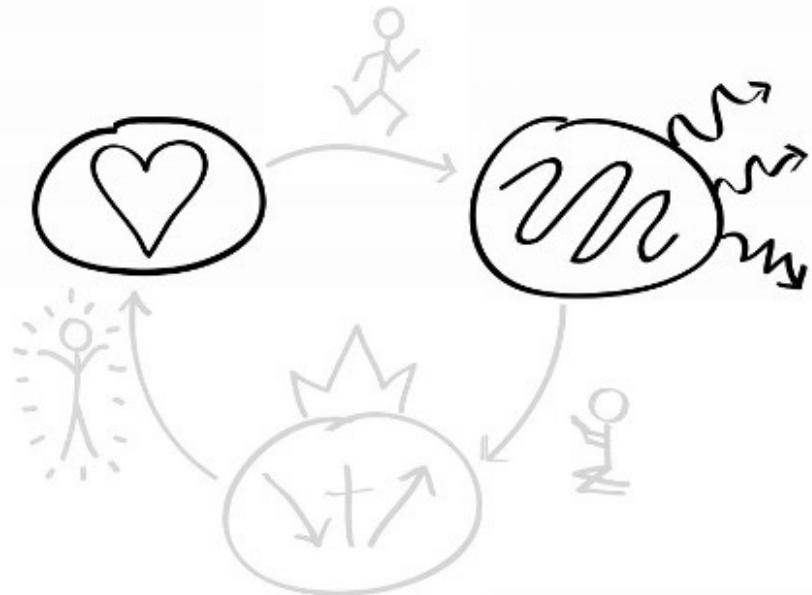
Basically, what sin is, is the choice to leave God out, to do things our own way, and not respect God’s Word.

You might like to elaborate on this very briefly, depending on the amount of time you feel is right to use. But don’t go on and on because if a person is interested, there will be opportunities to explain it more later.

“Through one act of disobedience, they broke their connection to God.”

“People don’t like living in brokenness, so they try various things to get out of it like earning lots of money, or success, or achievement, or relationships, or philosophy, or good works, or religious activity.

The problem is, none of these things get people out of brokenness. They might seem to help for a short time, but then people find themselves back in brokenness.”



3rd Circle: The Good News of Jesus

Finally, draw a third circle below the two circles already drawn. In the circle, draw a cross, a crown, and two arrows you will use to share the Gospel.

“God had a plan and sent his Son Jesus to the earth. Fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead three days later.”

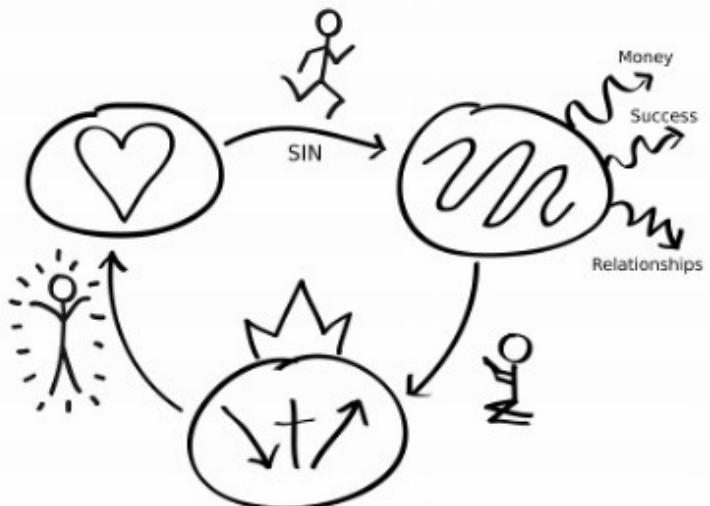
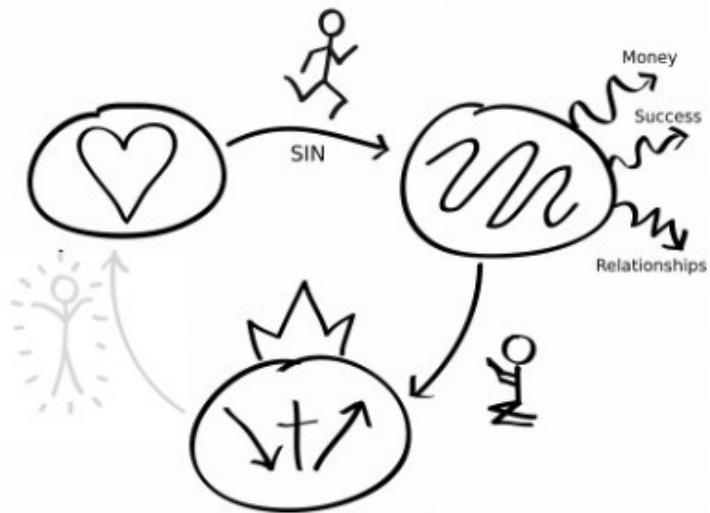
The Bible says “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3: 16

“When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment we deserved for our sin. When He rose from the dead, He defeated sin and made a way for us to experience salvation.

Our response to what Jesus did is to repent (turn from our sin) and believe that Jesus is who He says He is.”

Now explain what happened as a result of the good news of what Jesus did.

“Now we have been made new and reconnected to God’s original design. Once we repent and believe in Jesus, He helps us to recover from the effects of our sin and we begin to pursue a close relationship with God through talking to Him, reading the Bible and spending time with others who love Him.”



NEXT STEPS IN 4 QUESTIONS

What happens next will depend on their response. Ask them 4 main questions:

1. Where do you see yourself on this drawing...living in brokenness or in God's design?

Ask them to point to the circle where they see themselves.

2. What circle do you want to be in?

Wait for a response

3. (If they said they want to be in God's design): what is keeping you from following Jesus?

If they are interested in giving their lives to Jesus, let them know this:

“Jesus wants to forgive your sins and restore your relationship with God, but that means He gets to be Lord and call the shots in your life.” (That’s that the crown over Jesus’s circle represents.)

The Bible also says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10: 9

4. Are you ready to follow Jesus and make Him the boss of your life?

If they are, lead them in a prayer something like this:

- A – Admit to God that you are a sinner
- B – Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and He can forgive you
- C – Confess to others that He is now Your Lord (boss).

Trust the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation. Some people may not be ready to turn and believe, but that’s okay. We can invite them to pray and be open to talking again in the future.

For those who do want to go forward, it’s important to lead them to immediate obedience to the Gospel through baptism, regular discipleship, and participation in a church.

Allow the Gospel to be the filter for the God-prepared people and lead those that respond in next steps of obedient repentance and baptism.

Why the Three Circles Works

The Three Circles is an effective tool for sharing the gospel because it is simple, engaging, and easy to remember.

It doesn’t require any special training or equipment, and anyone can use it. By using the Three Circles, you can help others understand the basic concepts of sin, brokenness, and salvation in a way that is easy to understand.

CONCLUSION

If you're looking for a simple and effective way to share the gospel, the Three Circles tool is an excellent option. Here are other ways to practice or use 3 Circles:

- Step by Step Google Slide deck on 3 Circles:
<https://multiplyingdisciples.us/3-circles/>
- Download the **Life on Mission App** for your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) for an easy-to-use app that draws it all out for you.

With just a piece of paper and a pen, you can help others understand the fundamental concepts of sin, brokenness, and salvation. By sharing your own personal testimony and using the Three Circles, you can help others find the salvation Jesus alone offers us

CLOSING ACTIVITY:

Provide your class with pens and paper (OR USE THE APP!). Ask them to divide into pairs and practice the 3 Circles method of evangelism.

Lesson Conclusion: The Gospel is the good news of salvation and is intended to be shared.

CHALLENGE

When confronted with a broken world, choose compassion. When we turn on the news and see violence, hatred, injustice, strife and all sorts of other sins, we shouldn't be surprised because all humans are broken. As we go out into the world and engage people, we need to realize they are far from perfect and need the Gospel in order to restore them to God's design. When you see an angry customer in line waiting for her coffee, or encounter a person who admits to enjoying his sin, choose to react as Jesus would; reject the tendency to become bitter, instead choose compassion. Don't barricade yourself in judgment but choose to introduce light to a broken world.

Preach hope. Many people look to the wrong sources for hope. Ask God to give you attentive eyes to those who are searching for a solution to their brokenness. Never allow an opportunity to pass to preach the hope you have found.

Share the Gospel. As God's redeemed people, we have an obligation to take this message to all of our lost friends, neighbors and coworkers. Before Christ departed, He gave the Great Commission to His Church. They were to take the Gospel to all nations, making disciples of everyone who believes. We are a part of God's Church and must see this as our task for the time we have left on this earth. The burden is on us to share the Gospel with the neighbor across the hall, the coworker who sits next to us at work, or the barista we see everyday at the coffee shop.

Week 3: Expectations

RECAP

Recap Week 2 and the 3 Circles. Practice 3 Circles Again!

Leader Note: Remember that the goal is not that their gospel presentation is the perfect version with no mistakes before they can share it, we want to make sure their 3 circles presentation is Biblically and theologically accurate of course but remember we are equipping people to do things that are difficult and can be intimidating. Encourage them to get more reps and experience sharing it and support them through it.

MAIN IDEA: Be obedient to share the Gospel; leave the results to God.

INTRODUCTION

When you were in school, what was your experience with group projects? Did you love them, hate them, or didn't care at all?

Some of us might love group projects because we enjoy collaborating with friends on work, which can turn something boring into a fun experience. Others of us might prefer to do the work alone because we feel like we work better or faster that way. Maybe you don't like group projects because somehow, it always ends up being just you doing all the work alone anyway. Maybe that's the exact reason why you like them, because someone else did the work and you got to put your name on the final product. Regardless of how you feel about them, working together is an essential part of our faith, and no one is expected or encouraged to try to work on everything alone, because we desperately need each other.

Outside of fellowship with other believers, there's an incredible opportunity that we have been given to be a part of one of the coolest and most fulfilling group projects there is, and that is the work of evangelism. We've talked about it for a few weeks now, but I want us to dive deeper into our expectations and what we believe about the work of evangelism, and in particular, what our role is in the work of people coming to Christ.

You might have heard it said already, but it is critical to understand that we do not possess the ability to save someone else; in fact, we couldn't even save ourselves. Only God has the power to bring someone from death to life, and no matter what we say or do, we can't make someone else decide to follow Jesus. So why spend any time at all on evangelism as believers? Does that mean that we have no role to play, and our efforts don't achieve anything? Or that we should just sit back and let God do His work and stay out of the way?

Of course not.

Romans 10:14-15 puts it this way:

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Clearly God has intended for us to be a beautiful and critical part of this process. The passage shows us that He delights in us doing the work that those who go have “beautiful” feet but also explains how people cannot respond to something that they have never been told. Although God could show up in a dream or vision anytime He wanted, most often He allows and commands us to participate by taking the Gospel to those around us which is a wonderful and sobering reality.

So, if God wants us to participate in the work of evangelism what does that mean for us practically? How can we know what our job is in someone’s salvation vs what God is responsible for? These are great and important questions which, depending on the answers, should directly impact how we act, pray, and seek for opportunities to share the hope that we have in Jesus.

Today we’re going to look at God’s role and Man’s role in people coming to faith to make sure that we have realistic and Biblical expectations so we can faithfully play our part in the redemptive work of Christ.

First, let’s take a look at GOD’S ROLE IN EVANGELISM:

1. God Desires That None Should Perish

Read: 1 Timothy 2:4

“[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

The first thing you should know when preparing to share your faith is that God is actively desiring and wanting all people to be saved. That might seem like an obvious thing, but really sit on that for a second.

There will never be a time when you are sharing your faith that God is not actively wanting, working, and longing for them to respond with a decision that will reunite them to Himself.

Know that every time you step out boldly to evangelize, God is fully supporting you in the work and wants them to accept the Gospel even more than you do. Hopefully, this reminds you of the wonderful support we have in God and keeps the joy of God about people coming to know Him at the forefront of your mind.

- *How does knowing that God wants everyone to be saved encourage you to share your faith?*
- *Do you get excited to see people accept Jesus, or does it feel more like work to evangelize?*

2. The Holy Spirit Convicts and Draws Non-Believers to God

It is really easy to stress and overthink every word that we say when it comes to sharing the Gospel. Of course, we want to ensure that we accurately communicate the main points through Scripture, because believing in the wrong thing does not actually help. However, it is essential to remember that people do not come to faith in Christ because we are so convincing in our presentation.

- *Think of the greatest message or preacher you have ever heard. What made it so great?*
- *Was it the passion, the straightforward truth being presented, or how it made you feel?*

Great communicators are a gift from God to build up the church and help us understand God's truth deeper, but make no mistake. No preacher is able to convince someone to put their faith in trust or convict them of their sins; only the Holy Spirit can do that. At best, we are pointing individuals to the person of Jesus and trusting and praying that the Holy Spirit will do the necessary work to reveal to them the reality of their sin and the unbelievable gift of Jesus Christ.

Read: John 16:7-9

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me”

Pay attention to the clear language of these verses, Jesus is telling us what an incredible gift and help the Holy Spirit is to us by explaining some of the things He does. Notice the verses do not say that the Holy Spirit will help US convict the world of their sin. It also does not say He will convict the world of their sin only when we communicate in such a way that allows Him to do so.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit alone that can convict someone of sin so we should focus on clearly communicating the truth of the Gospel, but we should never feel the burden to win someone over to God. When we present the Gospel and the person and work of Jesus Christ as they are, the Holy Spirit does the work that we could not do and draws them to God.

Think about Jesus's words in **John 12:32**:

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

The Holy Spirit will convict and draw people to God; we serve to point to the lifted up Jesus and watch God draw them in.

- *How confident are you to be able to present the Gospel clearly right now?*
- *Do you worry about “messing it up” or saying the wrong words?*

3.The Holy Spirit Regenerates and Seals the Believer

One of the other functions of the Holy Spirit is that when someone accepts Christ as their Lord and Savior, He regenerates and seals them.

What does that mean?

When we talk about someone coming from death to life, those are not just words that sound cool, we are referring to someone's spiritual condition because before they believed they were spiritually dead and now through faith are alive which is the act of Regeneration.

John 3:6

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

It is a supernatural work that can only be done by the Holy Spirit and occurs when someone puts their faith in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit also seals us in Christ.

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

God's role in salvation also includes the guarantee of salvation, think of it as a mark that signifies that we now belong in God's family. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life gives us confidence and assurance that we are in God's possession and that is irrevocable.

As you share the Gospel with those around you, remember that you are not responsible for transforming someone's life nor are you responsible for securing their faith in God, those are all works of the Holy Spirit.

- *After hearing about what the Holy Spirit does in Salvation do you feel more or less pressure when you think about sharing your faith?*

God desires all to be saved and sent His son to make a way, Jesus has lived the life that you and I never could have to make salvation possible in the first place, and the Holy Spirit works to draw non-believers to faith in Christ.

- *God is clearly doing the heavy lifting here so what is our role?*
- *How do we contribute in meaningful ways?*

Now let's take a look at MAN'S ROLE IN EVANGELISM:

1. Every Believer Has a Testimony to Share

We do not have to make the Gospel sound more appealing than it is; it is not our job to “sell” Jesus to others. However, what we do get to share is how the Gospel has uniquely and intimately changed our lives.

People might be unsure about the truth of the Bible and whether they can believe in Jesus or not. You do not need to have all the answers to every theological question, and sometimes people need to hear your personal story of how Jesus changed your life.

We've spent some time the past couple of weeks on how to communicate the Gospel and your story, so we will not rehash too much of that here. Remember, though, when sharing your testimony that we have a story of who we were before Christ, how we came to faith, and who we are now in light of Christ. People need to see the life change and hear how God loved a broken and dead-in-sin version of themselves to encourage them to believe God can do it for them, too.

John 9:25b:

“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

This is our story; we might not have every answer there is to have or fully understand the depths of who Jesus is because we never will, but we were dead in our sins, and now we have been changed and will never be the same again. Do not hide from your own past because through that, the power and glory of God's strong hand to save is emphasized.

Are you comfortable sharing the way you used to be, or do you try to hide or run from it? Why does sharing our testimony help in sharing the Gospel? How has your testimony helped someone understand the Good News?

2. Christ-followers are Called to Share the Gospel

Ultimately, whether you are the most outgoing evangelist that has ever lived or you are more introverted and terrified of sharing your faith, we all have common ground.

We're called to share regardless of how we feel.

Some people are uniquely gifted in this, which is awesome, and we are so thankful for that, but all of us are commanded to take the Gospel to others. If that feels unfair, just keep in mind, we all have different spiritual gifts; we might find other aspects of faith to be more enjoyable or in our lanes, but we all must be obedient to what God is calling us to do, regardless of our giftings.

Read Matthew 28:16-20:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

It does not get any clearer than that. Jesus has all authority and uses that authority to tell us to go out and share the Gospel with the whole world; is that a massive task? For sure!

But do not miss the end. We have incredible support because Jesus goes with us. This is the work that God has entrusted with us in sharing the Gospel and it is no small part.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

We have inherited the ministry of reconciliation, and now, as ambassadors of Christ, we get to present this wonderful gift to the world, in the hope that they, too, will partake in what we have experienced ourselves.

God did the work and will be faithful to carry out His role; we get to join alongside Him in doing the job. As followers of Jesus, we are tasked to be actively involved in what God is doing on the earth, not just passive spectators.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:7-9

“7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.”

We participate in growth by spreading the Good News; maybe it takes root in someone's heart, and maybe it does not. That is up to God, not us. Our job is to be faithful to what we have been tasked with, to share the hope we have in Jesus with a broken world that desperately needs a Savior.

It is part of the mystery of faith that we are not a part of God's plan to redeem the world and bring people back into a relationship with Him. We may not always understand it or catch every opportunity, but hopefully we feel the weight of what God is asking us to do and an excitement to watch those around us encounter the same God, the same love, and the same grace we did.

- *Are you more likely to share the Gospel with others after this series or not?*
- *What are you still potentially nervous about in sharing it?*

Prayer Prompts

Pray for opportunities to partner with God as one of His “fellow workers”

Pray that you would be bold and faithful to share your story and the Gospel

Pray that people would respond and be forever changed