
Sharing the Gospel – Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” -Matthew 28:18-20

Go Make Disciples Check-in: In your small groups (no more than three), practice sharing your personal testimony with others. You will have five minutes + one bonus minute to share your testimony, allowing another 4-5 minutes for feedback from group members. More so than responding to the work of God in your life, group members should use this time to offer feedback on what you did well and ways you can improve as you share your testimony with others. A few questions for them to consider are below:

1. **Before Christ:** Did I communicate clearly my need for Jesus to save me by discussing ways in which I had sinned?
2. **How I Came to Christ:** Did I communicate clearly the gospel message, including that Jesus died for my sins and that I _____ (believed in Him, trusted in Him, committed to Him, put my faith in Him, etc.)?
3. **Life After Christ:** Did I share how my life is different after trusting in Christ in regards to what I live for or my character? Did I paint a picture of my life being perfect now, or did I share that I still need Jesus to work in me and forgive me?
4. **Invitation to Others:** Did I practice inviting my listener to also believe in Jesus and follow Him?
5. **Miscellaneous:** Was any part of my testimony confusing? Would an unbeliever understand the language that I used (If we use words such as faith, sin, righteousness, etc. we should also explain exactly what those words mean)? Was it too long, and if so what parts could be left out?

This week we are going to be learning a second strategy on how to share the gospel with others: **Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe**. This different aspects of this gospel strategy can carry different names. For instance, some evangelists refer to Creation as “The Beginning” or “God Loves.” Some refer to Fall as “Sin.” Some refer to Cross as “Jesus” or “Salvation.” And finally some refer to Believe as “Trust,” “Faith,” or “Follow.” In the end, the title you ascribe to these sections does not matter as much as the Gospel content you share.

This strategy involves briefly describing each of these aspects of the gospel story with a Scripture verse or a 2-3 sentence explanation. Examples from the evangelists personal life can be used to help illustrate, such as what you used in your personal testimony. However, most of the time a general explanation is used (i.e. Examples of sin can include lying to your parents, cheating on a test, being jealous of others and their lives, etc.).

1. **Have you ever used the gospel-sharing method of “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe,” or a similar format such as gospel tracts? If so, when?**

My guess is that you have either shared the gospel in this way, or you have the gospel presented in this way. Most gospel tracts, including Romans Road and those produced by the Billy Graham Association follow similar formats, and evangelistic organizations like Dare2Share also follow a similar format with their gospel-training strategies. Below is a snapshot of each aspect of the gospel story:

Creation

Key Verse: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” –Genesis 1:27

Many explanations of the gospel start out with our sin and what we have done to separate ourselves from God. However, this section starts from the true beginning, that we were created by God to be with Him, to live at peace with Him, to serve Him, and to enjoy His love. It is this truth that makes sin that much more horrible, because our world is not as it should be. God’s creation was good and He has a good purpose for us...sin keeps us from what is good and living life in fellowship with God as He intended.

Fall

Key Verses: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” –Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” –Romans 6:23

In this part of the gospel story we aim to communicate two truths. First, that every single one of us has sinned against God in some way, falling short of His perfect standard. It does not matter if believe we have sinned a little (not true) or sinned a lot (true). Even one sin in our life leaves us short of what is needed to be right with God.

(Tip: You will make a lot more headway on explaining this aspect by giving examples of sin that the unbeliever is more willing to agree are sin. In other words, if the person is having pre-marital sex or struggling with an alcohol addiction, it is probably wise to talk about sin from the angle of lying to others or being jealous of what others have.)

Secondly, we see in the Fall that the penalty for our sin is death and eternal separation from God. In other words, our sin is a serious offense to a just and holy God. More so than what we often believe it is.

(Tip: If you are having challenges convincing an unbeliever that eternal death is an unfair punishment for “a few sins”, try approaching sin from the perspective of rejection. In other words, the punishment for those who reject God for their entire life is that they will also spend eternity apart from Him. Thus, since God is heaven with those who accept Him, those who rejected Him for their entire lives will spend eternity in Hell.

Cross

Key Verse: “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” –Romans 5:8

Lest our unbelieving friend is beginning to believe God is unjust, or unfair, or barbaric for sending people to Hell, here is where we want to emphasize God’s great love for us. That while we were still His enemies, while we had still not done anything right, while we were still rejecting Him and living our lives for ourselves, He sent His own Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Yes, the wages of sin is death, but God was willing to endure that death Himself, in our place.

Believe

Key Verse: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” –John 3:16

In this final aspect of the gospel story we want to make clear how someone can receive the gift of salvation that God offers us. It is not by good works, baptism, communion, or by simply continuing to live the life they have been. It is by believing that we needed someone to save us from our sin and death, and that Jesus Christ did that work for us on the cross. Therefore, we put our trust, not in ourselves, but in Jesus, giving our lives over to Him. **We want to then conclude by inviting the unbeliever to believe in what Jesus has done for them.**

- 2. What might be some situations in which sharing the gospel using the “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe” strategy would be better than sharing our personal testimonies?**

Go Make Disciples

Take time this week to practice sharing the gospel using the “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe” format. You can use the descriptions above, our Worship Card, or your favorite Gospel Tract to do this. Again, try to keep your presentation less than five minutes. Next week, we will take the beginning part of the session to practice sharing the gospel using this strategy, allowing others to give feedback on what we did well and how we can improve them.

Praying This Week

- Thank God for the gospel story and what He has done for us through Jesus
- Ask God to give us opportunities to share the gospel with others
- Ask the Spirit to help us to grow in our ability to share the gospel via the “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe” method.