
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 the gospel using the “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe” strategy, or a similar format you prefer such as a gospel tract. You will have three minutes + one bonus minute to share the gospel, allowing three more minutes for feedback from other group members. Once again, group members should use this time to offer feedback on what you did well and ways you can improve as you share the gospel with others using this strategy. A few questions for them to consider are below:

1. **Creation:** Did I communicate clearly that in beginning God created us to be with Him and that creation was good? Did I use a reference verse (memorized or read from the Bible) to illustrate this point?
2. **Fall:** Did I communicate clearly that all of us have fallen short of God’s perfect standard in some way, using specific examples of sin, as well as teaching that the cost of our sin is death? Did I use a reference verse (memorized or read from the Bible) to illustrate this point?
3. **Cross:** Did I communicate clearly that God loved us and sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins? Did I use a reference verse (memorized or read from the Bible) to illustrate this point?
4. **Believe:** Did I communicate clearly that the way to receive salvation is by believing in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, as opposed to good works? Did I use a reference verse (memorized or read from the Bible) to illustrate this point?
5. **Invitation to Others:** Did I practice inviting my listener to also believe in what Jesus has done for them?

This week we are going to be learning a third strategy on how to share the gospel with others: **3 Circles**. This gospel-sharing strategy can either be downloaded on a smart phone (“Life Conversation Guide” App), viewed on YouTube (“The 3 Circles”) or drawn out on a piece of paper. My encouragement to you is to view the digital versions of this strategy sometime this week, but for class time we will draw it out on paper (marker board) and go through each step more slowly.

While personal testimonies tend to be based on our own personal salvation story, and the “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe” strategy is based mostly on the Bible storyline, the 3 Circles strategy is based on what we observe in the world. We see evidence of brokenness in the world, we see evidence of God’s good and perfect and beautiful design, and we see a desire in people to escape that brokenness and get back to what is good. Thus, enters the gospel and what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Here is a step-by-step process on how to draw out the 3 Circles strategy.

Step 1: Brokenness – *Draw a circle on the right side of the page with the word “Brokenness” in it.* Then share ways we observe brokenness in the world (suffering, violence, pain, death, disease broken relationships, etc.).

Step 2: God’s Design – *Draw a circle on the left side of the page with the words “God’s Design” in it.* Then share with your listener how we all see evidence of beauty: sunrises and sunsets, love between people, the laughter of a baby, etc. The Bible tells us that God’s originally planned a world that worked perfectly, where there was no death, or broken relationships, or suffering (whatever you shared in the brokenness step) and everyone had a purpose to worship Him and walk with Him.

Step 3: Sin – *Draw an arrow from the “God’s Design” box to the “Brokenness Box” and label it “Sin.” You can also add in a stick figure running away from the God Design Box towards the Brokenness box if you want.* Share with your listener that we have often chose to go our own way and ignore the purpose God has for us, and the Bible calls that “Sin.” And sin separates us from God and it’s what led to brokenness in our world and in us.

Step 4: A Way Out of Brokenness – *Draw several arrows coming out of the brokenness circle and heading to the right.* As you are doing this, explain that we don’t like to live in brokenness and so we try to find ways out. We try success, being religious, or drowning out our brokenness with drugs, alcohol, or relationships. But none of these things truly help us get out of brokenness.

Step 5: Jesus – *Draw a third circle in the bottom middle of the page and write the word “Jesus” in it. You can also draw an arrow pointing up, a cross, and an arrow pointing down.* Share with your listener that God loves us and doesn’t want us to stay in our brokenness. So He send Jesus to live according to God’s good design and rescue us from our brokenness. He took our sin to the cross and paid the penalty by his death. Jesus was then raised from the dead three days later.

Step 6: Repent and Believe – Draw an arrow from the “Brokenness” circle to the “Jesus” Circle and label it “Repent and Believe.” Then share with your listener that just hearing what Jesus has done is not enough. We must admit our sin and brokenness and ask God to forgive us, turning from our sin and trusting only in what Jesus has done for us. The Bible calls this repenting and believing.

Step 7: Restore and Pursue – Draw an arrow from the “Jesus” circle to the “God’s Design” circle and label it “Restore and Pursue.” Then explain that when we believe in Jesus we are forgiven and made new. God restores our relationship with Him for all of eternity, and we can pursue God’s design in our lives.

Step 8: Invite to Believe – At this time, ask the person which of the first two circles they would put themselves in: living in brokenness or living in God’s design. If they say the first one, then ask if they would like to stay in their brokenness. If not, invite them to repent and believe in Jesus.

- 1. What might be some situations in which sharing the gospel using the “3 Circles” strategy would be better than sharing our personal testimonies or the “Creation, Fall, Cross, Believe” strategy?**

Group Discussion: If there is enough class time, have each small group practice as a team sharing the gospel with this format on a sheet of paper. If there is still class time, encourage them to come up to the whiteboard and practice sharing with the group.

Go Make Disciples

Take time this week to practice sharing the gospel using the “3 Circles” strategy. While in the future you can simply pull up the video on the app or on YouTube, we are going to learn how to draw this out. 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.

Praying This Week

- Thank God for rescuing us from the brokenness of our sin 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 using the 3 Circles strategy.