LIFE ON MISSION
SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELISM TRAINING
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
If someone were to ask you to explain your faith, could you do it briefly, concisely, and in a compelling way? Nothing can replace the confidence of knowing you can turn any conversation into a Gospel conversation.

Evangelism trends come and go. If you have been a part of church life for any period of time then you realize this. However, we are confident that Life on Mission will be a strategy we can stick with and promote through our many evangelistic outlets. These lessons are an evangelistic training, which is different than a typical Sunday School lesson. Together we will become equipped to turn everyday conversations into Gospel conversations.

With our strategic GO ministry, our growing interest in reaching the community around us, and for the simple reason that all people need to be equipped to share their faith, there is no better time for the whole church to be trained to share our faith. It’s our church on mission; it’s our life on mission.

I’m looking forward to studying this together!

Blessings,

Steven Smith
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*This material was compiled from the North American Mission Board’s 3 Circles Evangelism Kit
OUTLINE

I. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES.

II. EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES MUST BE GOSPEL CENTERED AND LIVE WITH URGENCY
   a. Gospel Centered
   b. Urgency

III. INTRODUCE 3 CIRCLES EVANGELISM
I. WE ARE CALLED TO BE EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES:

The heartbeat of God is that He would be worshiped among all peoples. The writer of the Psalms conveys this sentiment when he said of God, “I will be exalted in the earth!” God desires that all people worship Him and give Him the glory that is due His name. For this to happen, our lives must be lived and leveraged for His glory.

Psalm 46:10, “...I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The Great Commission is not for a select few; it is for the entire church and is as relevant today as when Christ spoke it to the disciples before ascending to Heaven. Everyday missionaries are those who practice a life on mission where God has placed them. When we choose to join God on His mission through His church, we dare to be the everyday missionaries He has called us to be.

*If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, your life has a mission.*

God has a purpose and plan for you. In fact, He wants to do more “in” you and “through” you than you can even imagine. But it is not about us—it’s about Him. Everything we do—our jobs, our parenting, our life’s mission—should be done with the intention of bringing glory to His name.

Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Corinthians 10:31, “...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Living for God’s glory and joining God in His mission is not about adding activities to your already chaotic life. Life on mission is about intersecting Gospel intentionally into our everyday routines. Of course, if God calls accordingly, that might result in adding new elements into your schedule. God drives the mission.
A weak Gospel foundation can lead to fragile mission practices. It is important to remember these three things:

1. Ministry was never just meant for “paid professionals”— every Christian is called to make disciples.
2. Growing in knowledge about God through books, seminars and studying theology doesn’t equate to actual ministry and living on mission with God unless we are using what we learn in conversations with non-believers.
3. Understanding the biblical foundation of missions and ministry is essential. Too often, people understand the “why” because of familiarity with all things “church,” but don’t understand the biblical foundations. They dig deep into the Gospel but never apply it. Or, they eagerly engage in ministry and missions without knowing why it matters.

Our role as everyday missionaries is to introduce people to Jesus, disciple them to become like Christ, and teach them to repeat the process with others. Our individual mission is to take what is broken and redeem it by making it new. God invites us to follow Him into a broken world!

How do you see your everyday life as a part of God's mission to bless the world? In what ways can this truth be something you are constantly aware of?

Do you struggle with seeing mission as a “have to” rather than a “get to?” If so, what is off in your perspective?

II. EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES MUST BE GOSPEL CENTERED AND LIVE WITH URGENCY.

a. GOSPEL CENTERED

The Gospel is the announcement of good news that transforms a life! It is the starting point, the sustaining point and the finishing point to living a life on mission. An everyday missionary who is not grounded in the Gospel is no missionary at all because he or she does not have good news to proclaim.
Being an everyday missionary is impossible without a solid Gospel foundation. The Gospel is like a bungee cord that keeps the jumper connected to life. Just as a jumper cannot leap off the platform without being securely fastened to the bungee cord, a follower of Christ cannot spring into missions without a Gospel foundation. Without a Gospel “cord,” our mission efforts will be in vain.

The Gospel is not something we simply “get,” it is something we grow deeper in throughout our lives. If the Gospel is not genuinely the foundation and motivation of our mission, we will likely falter and fall astray.

Everyday missionaries with a solid Gospel foundation understand that missions is not a periodic mission service project or a task to be taken care of by a professional church staff, it’s living intentionally on mission every single day of the week. When taking on the risk of living selflessly and intentionally each day, it is the Gospel truth and understanding that Jesus is already our great reward that serves as motivation.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

**The Gospel must include: Christ died for our sins, he was buried and He rose again.**

- God created us to be with Him (Genesis 1-2)
- Our sins separate us from God (Genesis 3)
- Sins cannot be removed by good deeds (Genesis 4 – Malachi 4)
- Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again (Matthew – Luke)
- Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life (John)
- Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever (Acts – Revelation)
b. URGENCY: Know your neighbor and live intentionally

Everyday missionaries don’t just sit around reflecting on the Gospel in a quiet room all day. They live with an urgency to live out their faith in real life. They know it is not enough to have a biblical foundation; they must also have strong mission practices.

People who live on mission are always on the move toward others. The life of Jesus and the ministry of Paul are good examples of this. They didn’t wait for the world to come to them; like them, we must seek and find people who have needs.

Luke 19:1-9, “He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.’ So he hurried and came down and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, ‘He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.’ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.’”

Jesus intentionally went to this man who was an outcast from his community. He had compassion on a man that society had written off and ultimately transformed his life.

Living our lives on mission requires us to be willing to follow Jesus’s example and go seek the people who need Him. The people who need our help are not just going to show up on our doorstep; we have to identify where they are and start moving toward them. We have to invest in the lives of others as we intentionally join God where He is at work. We must also invite people into disciple-making relationships and then actively participate in equipping and developing believers to increase disciple making.

As our church makes plans for the Ministry Center, what can we do to prepare ourselves to reach those that are different than we are?
1. Know Your Neighbor

By nature, we are all self-absorbed. It’s easy to become consumed with ourselves, thinking only about how situations will affect us and choosing friends and pursuing relationships based on what they can do for us. What if we began to look at people differently? What if we joined God where He is already at work in the lives of friends, neighbors and work colleagues?

Everyday missionaries understand the need to identify people who need the Gospel. As followers of Jesus, it is our job to identify the people in our sphere of influence and share the Gospel with them. We begin by “knowing” our neighbors—their names, their stories, their backgrounds and their spiritual beliefs.

Knowing our neighbors is important when it comes to sharing the Gospel. Understanding their cultural context allows us to establish common ground so the Gospel message will be clear.

Though the Gospel has to be foundational in the way we connect with those around us, if we don’t think about how we communicate then we run the risk of people not hearing the message.

1 Corinthians 9:22, “To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.”

This Scripture doesn’t mean that the apostle Paul became a cultural chameleon, just blending in to his surroundings. It means he found ways to communicate the central truth of the Gospel in different ways to different audiences.

Identifying the person God is leading you to may be as simple as taking a walk with your eyes open. What are the glaring needs of those around you? Their needs may be physical or relational.

Also, a central part of identifying people and their needs is through prayers. If you want to know whom God is specifically calling you to love and care for, ask Him.

Of course, it may involve much more than that and God could lead you to a place farther from home, physically or culturally. No matter where He leads, it all begins with prayer and opening your eyes.
2. Living an Intentional Life

After identifying where God is at work around you, the next step is to take action and invest your life to those whom God has led you. Paul made this part of the process clear when he wrote to the church at Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 2:8, “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

Yes, we must declare the Gospel, but we must also invest our lives – time, resources and gifts.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus sacrificed everything for us. Jesus not only modeled sacrifice through His death, but also through His life. Over and over throughout the Gospels, Jesus consistently poured His life into the people closest to Him. He sacrificially served all those whom His life intersected.

Being on mission is not always about going to a specific place—it’s about being intentional right where you are. Investment is always intentional. It’s a lifestyle choice and it’s rooted in the knowledge that God is already on mission around you and has placed you in your environment because He wants to use you to reach the people around you.

Living intentionally starts right where you are. It’s not about moving to another location; it is a way of life that goes wherever you go.

It is much more powerful when we share the Gospel with people with whom we also share our lives. The act of investing in relationships to spread the Gospel is called relational evangelism. The reason it works so well is because we are more likely to listen to and trust something a friend tells us than something a complete stranger communicates to us.

Seriously investing in the lives of others takes a lot of time and energy. But, the Great Commission calls us to not simply make converts but also disciples. So, as we invest in people’s lives and lead them to a relationship with Jesus Christ, we also invite them into a disciple-making relationship.

Investing our lives this way isn’t easy and we may not see a return on our investment. Give it time. Be patient. And, remember...we are moved toward compassion because we have been shown much compassion. Pray and allow God to work in His timing. Ultimately our mission is to display the Gospel while offering the opportunity to be saved by Jesus, but God is the only one who can transform a heart.
ACTION STEP: LIST WHO YOU ARE INVESTING IN AND PRAY!

Who has God put in your life that you can intentionally help take next steps toward Jesus? List the people you are already investing in and those who you will make an intentional effort to pray for and invest in.

III. INTRODUCE 3 CIRCLE EVANGELISM

We will take the next 3 weeks to learn how to share our faith using the 3 Circles diagram. Everyone download the app: Life Conversation Guide (refer to page 18).

You can refer to 3 Circle: Life Conversation Guide (one will be provided for each class member) or show the brief video from the app. As a class, be prepared to simply talk/read through the 3 Circle Conversation Guide next week with a partner. Following is an example script.

3 Circles Script: God has a design for every area of our lives—our families, marriages, money, sex life, work life and just plain life. God designed us to be in relationship with Him, but we have all departed from that design. The Bible calls this sin. We’re born with a sinful nature so sin comes naturally to us. There is no one who gets it right all of the time. We all sin and fall short of God’s perfect design (Rom. 3:23). This sin leaves us in brokenness. Brokenness is easy for most of us to understand. It feels like broken relationships, addiction, depression, discouragement, guilt and shame. We all want out of brokenness, so we try to fix it (squiggly lines out of brokenness - refer to guide). We medicate it with drugs or numb it with alcohol. We strive to be better people hoping that somehow, someway, our good will outweigh our bad. We look for ways to alleviate our pain. When we do that, we just get more and more broken. This feels like a bad thing, but in many ways brokenness is a good thing because it’s the way God gets our attention. When we feel broken on the inside and everything’s all messed up, we know something needs to change. The Bible’s word for change is repent. Brokenness is what gets us ready to try God’s solution, which is to repent and believe the Gospel. The change we really need comes from Jesus. God sent Jesus to live a perfect life, die the death we deserve, and be raised to life again, proving He is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do. Jesus came to forgive our sins. When we repent and believe in Him, He gives us His Spirit who helps us recover and pursue God’s design. Then Jesus sends us right back out into a broken world to tell others how to find their way out of brokenness.

Conclusion and application: Where do you see yourself in this diagram? If you’re in brokenness is there anything that would keep you from repenting and believing the Gospel right now? Lead in a salvation prayer. For those who believe, what would prevent you from being trained to share the good news with others who are still in brokenness?
OUTLINE

I. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD AND GOD HAS AN ANSWER FOR THAT BROKENNESS

II. EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS BECOME GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

III. 3-CIRCLE EVANGELISM TRAINING (TRANSITION)
   a. Pray
   b. Listen
   c. Wait For It
   d. Transition
I. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD AND GOD HAS AN ANSWER FOR THAT BROKENNESS

Romans 5:12, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

a. We live in a broken world. You don’t have to look far to realize it. In the United States, about 40% of children live in single parent homes, 40% of those have no contact with their fathers, 33% of all Americans carry credit card debt, and an estimated 20 million people are ensnared in some kind of addiction. Brokenness is a reality in this life. War. Natural disaster. Persecution. Violence. Hatred. Abuse. Deception. Corruption. Crime. Physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual exhaustion. Disease and death.

b. God’s answer to brokenness is this...repent and believe in Jesus. This Gospel is how God puts broken people back together again. Once we repent and believe, God’s Spirit helps us recover and pursue His design.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

What are some of the situations that you hear at work, in your neighborhood, or with friends that have led to brokenness?

If we believe Christ is the answer to recover from this brokenness, why is it so hard to share this hope?
II. EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES HAVE EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS THAT BECOME GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS.

John 4:4-13, “And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ (For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?’ (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again.’"

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, He engaged her in conversation by asking...“will you give me a drink?” (John 4:7) He then turned the conversation to the Gospel, revealing that He is the source of an eternal life.

Just as Jesus turned everyday conversations into Gospel conversations, we need to be able to clearly articulate the Gospel. Imagine if we truly embrace the Great Commission and train believers to take the Gospel to a broken world in spite of our limitations and inadequacies. Imagine what it would look like if those who sit in the pews on Sunday were intentionally sowing Gospel seeds all week. The average person has 27 conversations per day. A recent study revealed that both men and women utter an average of about 16,000 words each day. We can talk about sports, weather, clothes, shoes, movies, and TV shows. We’re even willing to debate the nuances of politics, the intricacies of health issues, or the complexities of national economic matters. However, when it comes to bringing up the simple Gospel, we shy away. We break out in hives, our palms sweat, our tongues are tied, and we find ourselves talking about everything but the Gospel. The idea of injecting Jesus into our conversations causes great anxiety and fear for ordinary believers and pastors alike.

Consider the natural flow of everyday conversations. Our conversations include laughter, introspection, empathy, and body language. We speak and we listen. Ultimately, our conversations have an introduction, a general direction, and a conclusion. Our conversations are never completely random or altogether open ended. People are often looking to us to offer meaningful responses.
When was the last time you had a conversation and the person with whom you were talking shared a problem, issue, or concern? It happens a lot. These interactions are Gospel opportunities, and we train people to recognize and seize them.

Here's our simple, reproducible method for turning everyday conversations into Gospel conversations:

- **EVERYDAY CONVERSATION** (problems, issues, or concern)
- **TRANSITION**
- **3 CIRCLES GOSPEL TOOL**
- **INVITATION IN RESPONSE**
- **TRAIN NEW DISCIPLES** (rapid obedience)

### III. 3 CIRCLE EVANGELISM TRAINING - TRANSITION TO THE GOSPEL

(PRAY, LISTEN, WAIT FOR IT, AND TRANSITION STATEMENT)

Think back over your last five or six face to face conversations. In any of these conversations, did someone share a problem, issue, or concern with you? Chances are they did. So, the real question is, how do we transition these everyday conversations to Gospel conversations?

Transitioning conversations is actually something we do every day. We often change the course of conversation with a question or a statement. Yet, when it comes to transitioning to the Gospel, we can think of 1 million reasons why we shouldn't do it. It will be awkward. The person may be offended. We might not be able to answer all of his or her questions. These doubts and fears seem small in comparison with those of people who literally put their lives on the line when they talk about Jesus. Nonetheless, they are still real fears to be conquered. This is why it’s important to practice transitioning our conversations to the Gospel.
PRAY
This is one of our markers. We have to mention it again because sharing the Gospel always starts with prayer. In the Old Testament book of Nehemiah, Nehemiah is an exile living in the Persian king’s palace. He is a Jew who has been elevated to the most trusted and dangerous position. He is the cupbearer to the king, which means he drinks from the king’s cup to make sure it’s not poisoned. When Nehemiah hears that his people and his city are in a state of brokenness he is deeply troubled. Nehemiah 1:4–11 tells us that he fasts, mourns, and fervently prays for four months. Then when the opportunity arises, He shoots up a quick prayer and asks the king for permission and provision for God’s rebuilding work (Neh. 2:4). The circumstance is unique, but the prayer principles are clear. We need to pray fervently for opportunities to address brokenness. Then when they come, we shoot off a quick prayer and seize the moment, trusting God to give us the words to say.

How much of your prayer time is spent voicing your needs compared to asking the Lord to bring/reveal people that you can invest in?

Last week you wrote down some names of people to intentionally pray for. Spend time now to pray over those names. Are there any names to add to your list:

LISTEN
Jesus was sensitive to His surroundings. We know this by the incredible ways Jesus responded in each situation. He also used questions to transition the situation to the Gospel.

When Jesus encountered a rich, young ruler, He asked him...“why do you ask me about what is good?” (Matthew 19:17) He knew the man was rich in good deeds but unwilling to accept the free gift of salvation. Jesus’s question got to the heart of the matter.

When Jesus met an invalid lying by a healing pool, He engaged him with a question...“Do you want to be healed?” (John 5:6) He then worked two miracles – He healed him physically and then forgave all his sins.
When the prostitute fell on Jesus’s feet at the house of a religious leader named Simon, Jesus once again turned the conversation towards the Gospel. As Simon doubted that Jesus really was a prophet, Jesus told him a story about two men who owed debts. One man owed a very large debt and the other a relatively small debt. And then asked a question about a man who forgave the debt. Jesus asked Simon, “Now which of them will love him more?” (Luke 7:42) This drove the conversation to the heart of the Gospel. Jesus ultimately said to Simon, “Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much.” (Luke 7:47)

Jesus didn’t respond to every situation in exactly the same way. Of course, He did have the benefit of being God. But we know that the Spirit of Jesus lives in believers, and this same Spirit helps us discern what to say and how to say it in every given situation.

What steps do you need to take to grow as an everyday missionary? What has the Holy Spirit prompted you to do? An everyday missionary has a plan of action—what’s yours?

WAIT FOR IT

We want to be people who are genuine, empathetic, and winsome. These characteristics come easily to some more than others. As we pray and ask God to give us opportunities, He will continually transform us. We also need to be open with others. We need to share with them our problems, issues, and concerns so that they will be comfortable sharing theirs with us. We do this because we really care about them.

Refer to the Personal Exercise on page 39.

Believers need to wait for that moment in the conversation when someone shares a problem, issue, or concern. This gives them an opening to tell that person the best news they will ever hear. Problems, issues, or concerns include disease, divorce, disappointment, death, etc. They involve parenting, marriage, work, money, cancer, etc. These topics drive our conversation almost daily, and a good transition can turn them from everyday conversations into God’s Gospel conversations.

How does Jesus’s promise in the Great Commission that “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20) encourage your disciple-making efforts?
TRANSITION STATEMENTS

A good transition statement is key. We’re going to give you an example, but remember that you have to develop a transition statement that works for you. We want you to develop and practice your transition. Again, if you’re willing to practice the piano, your golf swing, or getting better at video games, why shouldn’t we practice transitioning to the Gospel? We encourage people to practice transitioning a lot.

Here’s our example, “I haven’t been through that exact situation that you just mentioned, but I have had similar problems. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?”

What are some transition statements that have worked for you?

REVIEW: Take a few moments and go over the 3 Circle Evangelism Conversation Guide. As a class, simply get with a partner(s) and talk/read through the Guide as we begin to learn how to present the Gospel with this tool.
ACTION PLAN FOR A BROKEN WORLD

Everyday missionaries don’t just study, learn, and sit around all day reflecting on the Gospel in a quiet room. They have an urgency to act by living out their faith in real life. Now we’ll transition from solid Gospel foundations to strong mission practices.

In studying Scripture – in particular the life of Jesus and the ministry of Paul – we’ve discerned four clear-cut practices that will help you live on mission:

1. **Identify people who need the Gospel.** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

2. **Invest in others as you share the Gospel.** Mark 12:29-31, “Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’” 1 Thessalonians 2:8, “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

3. **Invite people into disciple-making relationships.** Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

4. **Increase disciple making by sending people to make more disciples.** Luke 10:2-3, “And He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.’”

As you study these practices, ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and insight into how you can pursue them as you join God’s mission.

LESSON 3

OUTLINE

I. IT’S SIMPLE

II. SCRIPT
   a. Problem, Issue, or Concern
   b. Transition
   c. Gospel
   d. Invitation

III. THINGS TO REMEMBER
I. IT'S SIMPLE

The 3 Circles is really simple. It involves three circles connected by three arrows.

It begins with God’s design. It follows an easy relational script of every man, woman, and child that has departed from God’s design as sinful people that leads us all to brokenness. When something is broken, we try to fix it. Everyone wants out of brokenness. Ultimately our relief from brokenness is found in repentance and faith. We must repent and believe the Gospel in order to be rescued from brokenness. The Gospel is Christ dying in our place on the cross and taking the penalty that we deserve for our sins. He was resurrected, and in turn we are resurrected into a new life when we believe the Gospel. Through God’s grace we are able to recover and pursue His design for our lives - from whatever place of brokenness we find ourselves in.

The concept of recovering and pursuing God’s design is crucial. Becoming a Christian doesn’t get rid of our past mistakes or automatically fix the pain and consequences that resulted. The 3 Circles help us understand God’s saving and sanctifying work. New disciples understand that Christ followers are lifelong repenters who need to rehearse the Gospel daily. As believers, we continually depart from God’s design. Every time we sin and find ourselves in brokenness, we should repent and remind ourselves of the power of the Gospel. The 3 Circles allow those who are far from God to see the beauty of the Gospel and equips believers to share it with others daily.
How grateful are you for the grace of Christ?

Are there things that need to change in your life to restore an abiding relationship with Christ?

II. 3 CIRCLES SAMPLE “SCRIPT”

Here is a sample script illustrating how the 3 Circles can center a conversation on the Gospel. Imagine that two coworkers go to lunch – one is a disciple of Jesus, and one is far from God. The disciple knows that she has been given the ministry of reconciliation and that God is making His appeal to her coworker through her. She has built a relationship with this work friend. She has been praying for her and asking God to give her the right opportunity to share the Gospel as well as the boldness to seize that opportunity. The scene may play out like this:

   a. Problem, Issue, or Concern

   **Work Friend:** I’m just struggling right now. Things aren’t that great at home. My husband and I have totally different philosophies about how to raise our kids, and it’s causing a lot of arguments and frustration. I don’t feel loved or supported by my husband, and sometimes I wonder if it’s even worth it.

   b. Transition

   **Christian:** Thank you so much for sharing your parenting/marriage issues. I haven’t had the exact same problem, but I’ve definitely experienced similar problems. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?
c. Gospel

She takes out a pen, grabs a napkin, draws a circle, and writes “God’s design” in it.

Christian: I believe God has a design for our lives. We see God’s design all around us...in the beauty of creation, a golden sunrise, a pink sunset, and in our own amazing bodies. The Bible says God knit us together in our mothers’ wombs (Psalm 139). Knitting is delicate and intimate work, so we know that God personally designed us and has a purpose for our lives.

Now, I have to tell you that although I knew of God’s wonderful design early in life, I didn’t always accept it or appreciate it. Honestly, I rebelled against it. I didn’t want to be under anyone’s design or rule. I wanted to go my own way, be my own boss, make my own decisions, and do everything the way I wanted things done. I basically decided to depart from God’s design.

She draws an arrow leading away from God's design.
**Christian:** The Bible has a word for this departure from God’s design – the word is sin. The Bible actually says that all have sinned and departed from God’s design.

She writes the word “sin” next to the line/arrow.

She then draws another circle and writes the word “brokenness” in it and draws some squiggly lines leading away from it.

**Christian:** Unfortunately, our sin takes us all to a place of brokenness. Brokenness could look like struggling relationships, addiction, isolation, or despair. It’s guilty feelings, shame, and emptiness. It’s how we feel when we realize we’ve been used or that we have used someone else. In fact, our whole world is broken. We see evidence of this everywhere – in every crime, in sickness, and even in death. These are all results of sin.

We live in a broken world, and no one in this world is untouched by brokenness, but no one likes brokenness or wants to stay in it. If it’s broken, we want to fix it. There are entire industries built around getting people out of brokenness. There are counseling centers, self-help books, afternoon TV shows, treatment centers, and many more. We do our best to fix our brokenness.

Some people try to numb their pain with drugs or alcohol. Others think the cure is another relationship. Some try to ramp up their personal discipline and dedication. Knowing they got themselves into brokenness, they think they can get themselves out. Some even turn to church or religion. We realize that something needs to change. But often when we try to change ourselves, we realize that the change we need has to come from somewhere else. Our attempts to fix our brokenness usually only result in more brokenness.
She draws the third Circle and writes the word “Gospel” in it along with a down arrow, a cross, and an up arrow.

**Christian:** The word Gospel means good news. The good news is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life (down arrow), die the death we deserve because of our sin (cross), and then rise from the dead (up arrow).

The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross, God did a miracle. He took all of our sin and put it on Jesus, and then He took all of Jesus’s righteousness and put it on anyone who believes in Jesus. This means that we are no longer broken in God's eyes. We are made right with Him. All we have to do to get in right standing with God is repent and believe in Jesus.

*She draws a second arrow away from brokenness pointing towards the Gospel circle and writes, “repent and believe.”*
Christian: The change we really need comes through the Gospel. The word repent means a change of mind that is followed by a change in direction. It means we were headed one way, trying to fix our own brokenness, and now we have turned from that to Jesus. “Believe” means that we trust that Jesus’s death, burial, and resurrection are what make us right with God. We believe it as much as we believe that the chairs we sit in are going to hold us up. Jesus Himself told people to “repent and believe in the good news!” - The Gospel (Mark 1:15).

She draws the last arrow from Gospel back towards God’s design and writes the words “recover and pursue.”

Once we repent and believe, we can begin to recover and pursue God’s design. We get a do-over. Everybody loves a do-over. If we don’t get it right the first time, we get to try again. God gives us unlimited do-overs. No one is perfect. Even if we believe in Jesus and have been made whole in God’s eyes, we will still mess up. Repenting and believing doesn’t fix everything, but it does forgive everything. Plus, we have Jesus helping us and walking with us. He changes our hearts and motivates us to recover and pursue God’s design.

d. Invitation

Christian: Does this diagram make any sense to you? As you look at it, where do you see yourself?

Work friend: She points to “brokenness” and explains that she sees her marriage, and therefore, her life, as broken right now.

Christian: Is there anything that would prevent you from repenting and believing the Gospel today?
III. THINGS TO REMEMBER

We will deal with responses to this invitation in the next lesson, but first let’s cover a few important points about the 3 Circles.

1. The 3 Circles is simply a tool. We love and are committed to Christ, not tools. We always have to remember that this is God’s work, and He’s doing it. He is the one reconciling the world to Him, and He just uses us as His mouthpieces.

2. Make it your own. Each person can customize the 3 Circles to his or her own style. You can use more verses or less. You can use different verses. You can explain God’s design in a different way. This is an open resource tool - make it your own. Refer to the Personal Exercise on page 39

3. Practice is key. We take every opportunity to get people to practice the 3 Circles. When we have a meeting, a lunch, or a class, we take a few minutes to let people pair off and practice the 3 Circles.

4. Testimonies are essential. The 3 Circles is a great training tool for helping believers articulate their testimony and their ability to share it with others.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Each one of us has been entrusted with a very brief period of time to do God’s reconciling work. The Bible uses words like “mist” (James 4:14) to describe the length of our days on earth. If God has rescued and redeemed us out of our brokenness, then He has left us here to show others the way. This is our time – let’s seize our moment and make it count for all of eternity. Let’s turn everyday conversations into conversations about Jesus. He was crucified for our sins and raised from the dead so that we could be rescued out of brokenness and live according to His design.

Note to Teachers: Please ask two people in your class to prepare to demonstrate the 3 Circles in class next week.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE SUPPORT FOR:

God’s Design:

- CREATION:
  
  » Genesis 1:31, “And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”
  
  » Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.”
• **FOR BELIEVERS:**
  » John 13:35, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
  » Colossians 3:12-14, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”
  » Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

**Brokenness:**

• Jesus promised His disciples that the world would become a lot worse.
  » Matthew 24:6-14, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. ‘Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

• **Generational Brokenness:**
  » Numbers 14:18, “The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.”
Gospel:

- Salvation is a free gift.
  » Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- Jesus is God’s redemptive plan.
  » John 14:6-7, “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.’”
  » John 10:9-10, “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

- Repent and Believe.
  » Mark 1:14-15, “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the Gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.’”
  » Romans 10:9-10, “Because, 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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”
  » John 1:12, “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”
LESSON 4

OUTLINE
I. “PARABLE OF GREAT BANQUET”
II. THREE GOSPEL HINGES
   a. Transition questions
   b. Gospeling Tool
   c. Invitation
III. THREE RESPONSES
   a. Red light
   b. Yellow light
   c. Green light
IV. PRACTICE 3 CIRCLE TOOL
Note to Teachers: Begin class with the 3 Circles demonstration that you asked two class members to prepare for last week.

I. PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET

Luke 14:15–24, “When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, ‘Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!’ But he said to him, ‘A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Everyone likes to be invited. Even if we can’t go, it’s always nice to be asked. As children, we love being invited to birthday parties. As we get a little older, it is an honor to be invited to special events. Great attention and expense go into every wedding invitation. In the Gospels we see God, through Jesus, give the most amazing invitation of all. God invites us to be reconciled to Him and spend eternity celebrating His goodness.
Jesus told a story about a man who decided to throw an extravagant party for all of his closest friends. He wanted them to enjoy the best he had to offer. He sent the invitations and made all the preparations. He imported the finest foods and hired the best private chefs. He laid out a lavish table complete with china and fresh flowers. When it was time for the party to start, he sent private messages to gather the guests. One by one they sent their regrets. Some were too busy conducting business. One said he couldn’t come because he had just gotten married.

This made the man angry, so he sent his messengers back out to invite broken people – beggars, the homeless, addicts, and the poor. All of these people were thrilled to accept, and many came. The man then sent his messengers out again, urging them to go further from his home and compel more to come. He wanted his house filled with any who wanted to come and share in his elaborate feast.

Jesus told this “Parable of the Great Banquet” (Luke 14:15–24) to illustrate how God is extending His invitation to all. God is inviting everyone – the businessperson, homemaker, newlywed, poor, crippled, blind, lame, and outcast - to His eternal party. God Himself is on a rescue mission as He invites people into right relationships with Him. Joining God in His mission will require that we become willing to extend the invitation to others. God has chosen us to share His love with others. Often times we celebrate Romans 10:10, which we should, but the verses following should speak clearly to us as believers. God uses us to invite others to trust the Gospel.

“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Romans 10:10

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ 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? 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!’ But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:13-17

Our God is in a constant conversation with every person. The Holy Spirit prompts hearts and God uses circumstances to invite people to come to know Him. As His children, we should be everyday missionaries who are on mission with God. Often times our intentions do not measure up to our actions. We are willing to share Christ while sitting in the pew at church, but our intentions fall short when it comes to our daily walk and interactions with people.
The Parable of the Two Sons

“‘What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.’” Matthew 21:28-31

James on Hearing and Doing the Word

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” James 1:22-25

Our intention to share and invite others to accept Christ is not obedience. Trusting the Lord and stepping out in faith to speak truth to someone is obedience. Not only do we need to share the Gospel, but we also need to give people an opportunity to accept the Gospel with an invitation. They may or may not accept, but you have done what God asks you to do...offered the invitation. In whatever way you can, be intentional about helping people take steps towards Jesus.

II. THREE GOSPEL HINGES

We have spent time talking about Transition Questions, the 3 Circle Gospel tool, and now the Invitation, which is the third of three primary Gospel conversation hinges.

1. Transition questions – we gave an example, and you have developed and practiced your own.

2. Gospeling Tool – evangelists around the world have found our 3 Circles to be reproducible and reproducing. The key is training with a lot of repetition.

3. Invitation – we end our 3 Circle conversation by asking the person with whom we are sharing where he or she sees him or herself within the 3 Circles. Many will identify with the place of brokenness, but regardless of where they see themselves, we issue an invitation. We ask, “Is there anything that would keep you from repenting and believing the Gospel right now?”
It is human nature to be hesitant anytime we are not sure what might happen next. Very few of us would even contemplate putting on a wetsuit, getting a few air tanks, and making a go at deep sea diving. Even fewer would rent a plane and a parachute to give skydiving a whirl. If we want to attempt activities that have life-or-death consequences, we are probably going to sign up for lessons. We are going to practice on the shore or on the ground. We’re going to try it first with someone who is a skilled diver or parachutist. Then, after a good bit of training and practice, we will go for it.

We live in a diverse and complex society, which is why many of us are hesitant to engage in Gospel conversations. We wonder what we will say if the person is an atheist or a Shiite Muslim, or grew up as a Mormon. What if he or she is a physicist and asks us our views on the theory of quantum entanglement? We may be tempted to spend years training and preparing for every possible argument and objection.

The truth is there are really only three responses to the Gospel. If we can train people how to deal with these three responses, then we can give them the confidence needed to engage in Gospel conversations.

If you don’t reach the point of introducing Jesus’s death and resurrection to other people, what is keeping you from reaching that point?

**Three Responses**

The three responses are red light, yellow light, and green light. Acts 17:32–34 says, “Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.”

1. Red light – some mocked
2. Yellow light – some said, “We will hear you again.”
3. Green light – some joined and believed

We can be prepared for each of these responses. We will give you examples of how to handle each of them. But, again, we encourage you to personalize them. After you feel comfortable with your responses to each response, practice them! You may want to have people pair off and create scenarios with each other. They practice sharing the 3 Circles, the invitation, and how to handle each of the three responses. This may seem too scripted or even silly. You may be thinking that the Holy Spirit will just give
you the words to say when you need them. Often, He will. But it’s also the Holy Spirit’s job to remind us of what we know. If our golf swing is worth practicing, then certainly our Gospel sharing is as well!

**Green Light: “Yes” Response**

This is the response we are always hoping and praying to get. When someone says he or she is ready to repent and believe, we simply lead that person in a verbal expression of his or her inward heart change. There is no magical prayer that seals the deal on a person’s eternal destiny. The Bible says if we believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess with our mouths that He is Lord, we will be saved (Romans 10:9). It says all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13). We want to help people confess with their mouths and call on the Lord.

We can model for them a short prayer: “God, I know I am a sinner and I am broken. Please forgive me of my sins and make me whole. I believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. I am asking Him to come into my life right now to help me recover and pursue God’s design for my life.” We always ask them to pray after us or with us.

Example of Jesus receiving a “Green light” response: Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael John 1:43-51, “The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael said to him, ‘How do you know me?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’ Nathanael answered Him, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered him, ‘Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.’”

**Yellow Light: “I need to think about it” Response**

Many times the people with whom we are sharing are enticed by the Gospel, but they are hesitant to accept. They are open to what they have heard, but they are not ready to repent and believe. We take this at face value. However, we also realize that it may be a long time before these people are in another Gospel conversation. We may want to challenge their thinking by asking them when they last had a conversation about Jesus or eternity. This helps them to realize how the opportunities are few and far between. It may serve to draw them in and motivate them to take action.
Example of Jesus receiving a “Yellow light” response: Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3:1-15, “Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.’”

John 7:32-52, “The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him. Jesus then said, ‘I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to Him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.’ The Jews said to one another, ‘Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does He mean by saying, ‘You will seek me and you will not find me;’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come?’ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of His heart will flow rivers of living water.’ Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, ‘This really is the Prophet.’ Others said, ‘This is the Christ.’ But some said, ‘Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?’ So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, ‘Why did you not bring Him?’ The officers answered, ‘No one ever spoke like this man!’ The Pharisees answered them, ‘Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.’ Nicodemus, who had
Life on Mission

John 19:38-41, “After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.”

We could also say something like this: “You mentioned you need to think about this some more, and I think that’s a great idea. I get together with some friends each Sunday morning before or after our worship service to talk about life and God. I would love to have you join us.”

Ed Stetzer has found that 42-61% of non-Christians would be willing to study the Bible with a friend. He also posted that 75-89% would listen to someone share his or her faith. People are more open than we might think. God is working on their hearts and drawing them to His Son, Jesus.

As a class, discuss what are some responses that you could give to a yellow light response:

Red Light: “No” Response
That is right. Some people will respond negatively to the message that God loves them and has made a way out of their brokenness. We believe we should respond graciously to a “no.” There should be no arguing, debating, or celestial moves in Christian apologetics as if we are involved in a cosmic chess match. You might say something like this: “Thank you for listening to me. If you ever find yourself in a place of brokenness, please remember our conversation and that God has made a way out through His Son, Jesus.” This is a great red light response. Often people ask to keep the napkin or piece of paper with the 3 Circles on it, so who knows how God may use it.
Example of Jesus receiving a “Red light” response: The Rich Young Man

Matthew 19:16-22, “And behold, a man came up to Him, saying, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?’ And He said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.’ He said to Him, ‘Which ones?’ And Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The young man said to him, ‘All these I have kept. What do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

Mark 10:17-22, “And as He was setting out on His journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’ And he said to Him, ‘Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.’ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ‘You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

As a class, discuss what are some responses that you could give to a red light response:

III. PRACTICE

Take time to practice the 3 Circle Tool and pray over people that the Lord has burdened your heart with. Pray for opportunities to share.
PERSONAL EXERCISE
Your life has been radically changed by the Gospel:

"Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:10

There’s no point in dwelling on your old, broken life of sin, but it’s this part of your story that makes the Gospel such good news. Remembering what life without Christ was like or acknowledging where it was ultimately leading can motivate you to share the good news with others.

Using Three Circles as your guide, describe the way you’ve personally experienced or come to understand each of the following elements.

God’s design:

Sin:
Lesson 4

Brokenness:

Repent and believe:

The Gospel:

Recover and pursue (your life with Christ now):

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ 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? 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!’” Romans 10:13-15

Boldly proclaim the good news of salvation through word and deed and watch God work in and through you as you live your life on mission.