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NOW IS THE TIME TO DISCIPLE ONE MORE!

**A Four-Week Course on How to Naturally and Relationally  
Share the Gospel Using Three Simple**



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## Session 1

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***Luke 15:10 "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over ONE sinner who repents."***

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***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.***

***Many believers are afraid that gospel conversations will be confrontational or argumentative. We think we have to be trained for every possible theological perspective we may encounter before we can share the gospel. We're often overwhelmed by the need to memorize a dozen verses or anxious that someone might ask a question we can't answer. Sadly, sharing the gospel has lost its simplicity. It doesn't have to be this way. ~ Excerpt from Jimmy Scroggins***

This study is for those who would like to learn how to have gospel conversations but do it in a way that is natural, intentional, relational and not forced. They know the need for people to hear the Gospel, and they know the Gospel of Jesus is the world's only hope, but they are not sure how to go about talking with people about it, not sure they have all the "right" answers or not sure how to even begin a conversation.

This is not an apologetics course in the traditional sense of the word. We will not study opposing belief systems or opposing views or how to answer atheists. We are talking about

how to navigate a conversation with anyone of any belief system with the Gospel in a compelling, logical and simplistic way.

## 1. Why are You Here?

The bible teaches us that those who know Christ are to make disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2). To do this we must ***“honor Christ the Lord in our hearts as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”*** (1 Pet. 3:15).

For disciples to make disciples there are at least three realities:

- A. **Possession** - Disciples possess Christ Jesus as Lord through faith in Him, honor Christ as holy and live to make Him known.
- B. **Preparation** - Disciples prepare themselves to share the Gospel, knowing they live in a hostile world filled with unbelief. They want to be ready and they are ready!
- C. **Politeness** - Disciples make every effort to represent Christ well. Rude Christians seldom represent Christ well. The Gospel is too powerful to have to be forced. God uses a life that believes in the power of the Gospel and rests in the Holy Spirit's work to change the heart. The believer's conduct with unbelievers must be gentle and respectful.

## 2. Who Were Those Jesus Came to Save?

- A. **Spiritually Dead:** People who have not accepted Christ as Savior and Lord are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3) and are characterized by unbelief, rebellion and/or confusion.
- B. **Religiously Imprisoned:** Jesus said to the religious leaders of His day were confused that Jesus would eat with tax collectors, said, “those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” The religious leaders were so bound by their religion that they did not recognize their own sinful sickness.

- C. **Morally Elite:** There were many people whom Jesus confronted who trusted in their good works. They believed God would accept them based on how many good deeds they had done. Surely, they were better than most!! The story of the Rich Ruler in Luke 18:18-25 illustrates this well.
- D. **Personally Bankrupt:** Those who humbled themselves as a child and realized that they had nothing to offer of any worth for their salvation could be saved. They were the truly poor in spirit. Zacchaeus discovered this when confronted by Jesus. When a person gets to this place, they are ready to trust Christ. They finally see that He is the only door, the only hope, the only way-truth and life.

### **3. What are the Means by Which Jesus Calls Disciples to Make Disciples?**

God primarily uses the witness of His body, their lips and lives, to express the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the heart (1 Thess. 2:8). Relational, authentic investment is critical for them to see Christ in you. We can see three modes of witness Christ uses for disciples to make disciples:

- A. **Body Witness** - the church gathered together in worship or small group environment where unbelievers interact with the Bible and authentic community is modeled.
- B. **Natural/Personal Witness** - when people naturally run into people or have opportunities that randomly pop up and a conversation ensues.
- C. **Ministry Witness** - taking the initiative to minister to a person in need, showing them the love of Christ in a practical way.

### **4. What Should a Disciple Keep in Mind as They Look to Share Their Faith?**

- A. **Start with prayer** - doing anything in our own power gets human results, but doing anything in the power of the Holy Spirit gets God's results. Jesus calls His people to prayer as it concerns the lost (Matthew 9:37-38 "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").

**B. Deepen your own faith** - you will not be able to draw deeply from the well of your faith if you are not continuing to deepen your faith. This takes abiding in Christ (John 15:1-8), pursuing holiness in your conduct (2 Tim. 2:22-26) and learning how to handle the Word of God as good as you can (2 Tim. 2:15). In this, you will learn how to defend your faith without having to be a scholar (1 Pet. 3:15).

**C. Ask questions and let spiritual conversations flow from there**

Some good questions to start with are:

- **What is the single greatest thing to ever happen in your life?** (Most people will mention their family, but the question gets to the heart of what they most cherish. You can respond with: "That would be really close to the top of my list too, but there is one thing that is the single greatest thing to ever happen in my life." Then, you proceed to share your testimony.
- **What is your spiritual background?**
- **Can I ask you an interesting question?** Then ask one...research this one. After that, ask, "What do you think happens after a person dies?" Or, "What do you think is out there when you walk out of here?" -Credit to Mark Cahill
- **Do you believe in God?** People may answer this question with a 'yes' or I'm not sure. However, their life and loyalties will reflect their level of belief. Many people are confused or simply do not know what to believe about God. To them, He is unknowable or so mysterious that they plead ignorance, hoping that God will look past their ignorance and inability to truly know Him that He simply lets them slide "if there is a judgment" at the end of life.
- **Why do you believe (or not believe) in God?** This question gets discussion flowing and could give insight into why a person does not believe or struggles with their belief. You can also determine in whom or what they place their faith.
- **How do you feel about that?** Emotion is huge. People are not saved by emotion, but you cannot factor emotion out. People get emotional about their faith. You can gain helpful insight when you explore their emotions because it could indicate why they are resistant to the God.

Ask what matters most to people and try to see how God fits into that situation in their lives. "How do they see God? Or do they even see Him at all?"

These questions get people thinking about what they believe and why, and often lead to interesting spiritual conversations.

#### **D. Don't Overpower the Discussion, Learn to Listen and Observe (Luke 9:36-38)**

Listen more than you talk. Allow the other person freedom to express their feelings, even if it's anger at God. The moment you begin to tell them how they should feel is the moment the conversation will die.

#### **E. Be confident...in Christ and his Word!**

You have to remember that you are God's ambassador with His message. Your confidence is not in your own ability or verbal expertise but in the power of the Gospel itself.

***"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:1-5).***

#### **F. End the conversation well**

There is no reason to end the conversation with an argument or a down note. Remember that the Gospel is Good News. Leave the conversation with hope and prayer. Leave them with something to think about if they are resistant to the Gospel or want to think about it further. There were people who heard Jesus who turned away and those who heard Paul who wanted to hear him further at another time.

## **5. How Do You Bridge from the Ordinary to the Supernatural in a Conversation?**

We've looked at questions you can ask to get into the Gospel, but what about ordinary conversations. How do you go from the ordinary to the supernatural?

- A. **Pray for God to give you an opening while you are listening** - If you know you are heading into a conversation with an unbeliever, ask one or more believers to pray for God to give you an open door to the Gospel.

*"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison - that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak...Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person"*  
(Col. 4:2-4).

**B. Listen for cues about what they might be struggling with or situations in their life where God would make a major impact.**

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*"Today I stopped to get coffee, and the guy at the table next to me started a conversation with me, and it happened just like you said. He shared a problem, I asked if I could share something with him, and he said yes. He was so moved by our conversation that he took the napkin I shared the gospel on and went straight home to share it with his wife. AMAZING."*

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**C. Identify with them on some level - find common ground.** The more a person knows that you are interested in their life, the more they will open up. Remember: Authenticity is Key! Going into your day or a conversation, keep it real and don't focus just on "winning" them to Jesus. While you're talking with them, pray for them and then listen to what they have to say. Bridge the conversation through offering to pray for them and then ask if you could share how you have been able to deal with tough times in life, Or, where you found your purpose for life.

## **6. How Can You Effectively Share Your Testimony?**

Your testimony is unique to you, but has as its basis the power of the Gospel. If your testimony is about how church changed your life or someone in your family changed your life, then you really do not have a Gospel testimony. The Church and people may have influenced your decision to follow Christ, but they are not going to change the person's life - only Jesus can. Your testimony is about how Jesus changed your life, your direction, your future, your purpose....everything about you! How can you make your testimony, your STORY effective in a conversation?

- A. Relate your story to something the person said before hand.
- B. Keep your story simple.
- C. Write it down in story form now so that you have it for when you need it.
- D. Practice on your family or a close friend.
- E. Whet the person's appetite to know more - to know how the "aha" moment changed your life. You don't have to tell them Jesus did it right away. Make them want to ask you, "How did that happen?"
- F. End your testimony so that you build a natural bridge to the Gospel - the solution, the climax, the pinnacle, linchpin, the hinge...You get the picture.

## 7. Facilitating a Discovery Bible Study

### Discovery Bible Study 7-Step Method

#### **What Are You Thankful for This Week?**

(5 mins) Here is an easy way to get started. Call on someone, "Jenny, what are you thankful for today?" This question gets you ready for prayer as you begin with worship, expressing your gratitude to God. Everyone will have something to say. If you have more than five, try forming multiple groups (steps 1-4)

#### **What is the Biggest Challenge You are Facing Today?**

**(5 mins)** Authenticity is critical for any group. Some people will not want to share, but in time they will see the value and how much people truly care. This question helps people learn to relate deeper and gives the group specific ways to pray and serve. Remember that a question like this requires time management. Using a word like "Today" or "one thing" helps to focus the group.

#### **How Can We Help? Or Who Could You Serve This Week?**

**(5 mins)** This could be a group member who is facing a major challenge (childcare, parent in the hospital, note or call of encouragement). It doesn't have to be a "huge" event or a "huge" act of service. Lead your life group to a spirit of active compassion. Loving one another will be a hallmark, a contagion for your group and for those your group might reach.

#### **How Did You Do Last Week?**

**(10 mins)** How did you do with last week's "I Will"? How did that go? With whom did you share last week's lesson? How did you put into practice what you learned last week? We do not do this enough. Bible truth is meant to be applied. Applying truth solidifies it in our hearts and minds. To be held accountable means that others care about my spiritual growth and are there to help me stick to it. The enemy wants to distract you, but together we grow to see transformation in each other's lives. This is CRITICAL.



### **What is God Saying?**

**(35 mins)** Don't teach or explain. Read the Word together in several different translations. Have one person re-tell the passage in their own words as if talking with a friend. Ask them to do this before group time. Ask: What does this story teach us about God? (Stick to the passage only without cross-referencing). Ask: What does this story teach us about how people live? (a contrast between God's character and people's conduct develops). Ask: In what ways would we need to change if we lived this out daily?

### **If this is God Speaking, What Will You Do About It?**

**(5 mins)** Develop a SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic & time bound) statement that will put the truth to work in your life. Ask everyone to write an "I Will" statement. For example: "I will spend 10 mins each day this week reflecting on God's goodness to my family." "I will prayer walk at least 1 day through my neighborhood this week."

### **Who Will You Share What You Learned this Week?**

**(5 mins)** Share with at least one person this week what you have learned. Preferably, share this with someone who is not in a relationship with Jesus Christ and whom God has placed in your network of relationships. This helps your group get outside of themselves. Great stories come this time!

## **Discovery Bible Study Passage List**

1. God Creates - Genesis 1:1-25
2. God Creates Man and Woman - Genesis 2:4-24
3. Man and Woman Eat the Fruit - Genesis 3:1-13
4. God's Curses - Genesis 3:14-24
5. God Regrets His Creation - Genesis 6:5-8
6. God Saves Noah and His Family - Genesis 6:9-8:14
7. God's Covenant with Noah - Genesis 8:15-9:17
8. God's Covenant with Abram - Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
9. Abraham Gives His Son as an Offering - Genesis 22:1-19
10. God Spares His People - Exodus 12:1-28
11. The Commands of God - Exodus 20:1-21
12. The Sin Offering - Leviticus 4:1-35
13. God's Righteous Servant - Isaiah 53
14. Jesus is Born - Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
15. Jesus is Baptized - Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
16. Jesus is Tested - Matthew 4:1-11
17. Jesus and the Religious Leader - John 3:1-21
18. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman - John 4:1-26, 39-42
19. Jesus and the Paralyzed Man - Luke 5:17-26
20. Jesus Calms the Storm - Mark 4:35-41
21. Jesus and the Man with Evil Spirits - Mark 5:1-20

22. Jesus Raises a Man from the Dead - John 11:1-44
23. Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant - Matthew 26:17-30
24. Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial - John 18:1-19:16
25. Jesus is Crucified - Luke 23:32-56
26. Jesus is Resurrected - Luke 24:1-35
27. Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Ascends to Heaven - Luke 24:36-53
28. Enter into the Kingdom God - John 3:1-21



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## SESSION 2

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***"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." ~ Genesis 1:1, 31***

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The Gospel begins, not with the story of Jesus' death on the cross or His resurrection from the dead. The Gospel begins long before this in an environment that you would not think could produce the type of world and humanity in which we live today. To understand the Gospel, you have to go back to the beginning, because the beginning explains how God created everything in an original and purpose-filled design.



# 1. Beauty in Creation

## A. God created everything, and it was good- Genesis 1

The word "GOOD" is subjective in most cases, because what one what say is good, another might call evil. Hitler ordered the murder of six million Jews and believed it to be good. However, most human beings look at Hitler's action and call them evil. Good has to do with morality, and while morality may be debated on its merits or standards, morality is not subjective. For morality to be anything, it must be defined by something or someone greater than itself. Therefore, morality cannot be defined by man (more on this to come). This is why Christians believe that morality is defined by God. The reasons Christians say this is because God declared all things to be good before He created man. Morality and goodness were not invented by man but superseded him.

Francis Shaeffer said, "This means that a tree is not good only because we can cut it down and make a house of it or because we can burn it in order to get heat. It is good because God made it and has pronounced it good. It is good because, like everything in creation, it conforms to God's nature. This is not a relative judgment, but a judgment of the holy God who has a character and whose character is the law of the universe. His conclusion: Every step and every sphere of creation, and the whole thing put together - man himself and his total environment, the heavens and the earth- conforms to Myself."

## B. God created everything, and there was harmony

When God created the universe, everything was in harmony with all the rest. His creation was exactly what it was designed to be. During this time things worked perfectly in rhythm. There was perfect and complete unity in all things.

## C. God created everything, and there was peace

From the beginning of time, God established peace on the earth. Everyone has a sense that peace is good. The world longs for peace, works for peace, signs treatise for peace, and sings about peace.

## **D. God created everything, and His creation proclaimed His glory**

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above  
proclaims His handiwork."*

*Psalm 19:1*

*"Who then is this, that He commands even winds and water, and they obey Him?"*

*Luke 8:25*

## **2. Beauty in Humanity**

### **A. God created man and woman in His own image**

*"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*

The nature and character of God is wrapped up in the image of God. For God to create man and woman in His image is to give them His characteristics. There are some ways that man could never be like, such as His Omnipresence (everywhere at all times present) or Omniscience (All-Knowing) or Omnipotence (All-Powerful). However, there are many ways man can be like God.

So, what is God is like?

**(1) God is always and in every situation loving** - Jeremiah 31:3 "The Lord said, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you'."

**(2) God is always and in every situation faithful** - 2 Tim. 2:13 "if we are faithless, He remains faithful."

**(3) God is always and in every situation consistent and just** - Num. 23:19 "God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind." - Malachi 3:6 "For I the Lord do not change...". James 1:17 "Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there no variation or shadow due to change." (Immutability of God)

**(4) God is always and in every situation unified** - Deut. 6:4 "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Jesus spoke of unity in the Trinity in John 17.

**(5) God is always and in every situation at peace** - John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

**(6) God is always and in every situation kind** - Ps. 117: 2 "*For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!*"

**(7) God is always and in every situation filled with joy** - Nehemiah 8:10 "And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

**(8) God is always and in every situation patient** - Num. 14:18 *'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, 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 generations.'* - 2 Pet. 3:9 "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, but is patient toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all would come to repentance.*"

**(9) God is always and in every situation good** - Ps. 106:1 "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"

**(10) God is always and in every situation in control** - Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

## **B. God created man and woman for harmony and peace as one**

*"Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

*Genesis 2:23-24*

In the beginning, God made man and woman in perfect relational harmony. Their roles, while different, never resulted in envy or jealousy or separation. They had peace in community with one another and with God. Though different in personality they remained unified, working together in living their lives.

**C. God created man and woman to dwell with them in complete wholeness**

*“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

*Revelation 21:3-4*



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## Session 3

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***"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 6:23***

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All of time opens with these powerful words: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The first two chapters of man's story are filled with creativity, wonder, life and harmony. Creation is growing stronger. Animals are feeding off the abundance of the land with the lion and lamb playing right next to one another. God's two special creations, made in His own image are enjoying the fruits of God's creation in perfect peace and unity. But then, in one fell swoop, the peace, harmony and joy of creation's bliss is unraveled by man's God-given ability to choose. From their choice, everything in all of God's creation changed! Everything went from Beauty to...

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**Brokenness**



## **2. The Choice that Led to Brokenness - Genesis 3:1-24**

The story of brokenness begins in Genesis 3, but does not end until much later. In fact, we continue to deal with the consequences of that one choice to this day. As we looked at last week, God created everything good and perfect with harmony and peace dominating both the universe and the ones He created in His own image. However, making man in His own image, God had to give Him what He gives to all creation: the ability to choose. Choosing is a fundamental part of human experience. We even see this in the animal kingdom. Animals choose to eat or not eat, to run or walk, to sit in your lap or claw your eyes out (speaking of cats, of course). For people, choosing is a part of their everyday life. In reality, the ability to choose makes the human experience interesting and exciting. How boring would it be if we never had choices, if everything was determined for us? The growth of humanity is based on the ability to choose this path or the other. The most powerful choice we make as human beings is the choice to love or hate. In fact, for us to know what love is there must be a comparative to it which is its opposite.

We see this played out in life everyday and in the news. What makes a person love one person but hate another? That basic question takes us back to the beginning, back to the story of God's creation to a time when God gave Adam And Eve a choice: obey Him or disobey Him, in essence, to love Him or hate Him.

In only two short chapters, Adam And Eve go from being in a perfect environment, intimate fellowship with God and intimate relationship with one another, and chooses to take the path that leads them to a corrupting, decaying environment and a broken relationship with God and one another. Ultimately, their choice would impact every single person ever born throughout time, mar God's creation and put enmity between man and God, between man and woman and between every other person.

### **A. Brokenness is the Result of Sin**

*"Adam And Eve were far from being equal to God, yet He lovingly placed them in charge of all He created in Eden. He gave them the freedom to make decisions and govern the earth with one rule: not to eat fruit from a specific tree. One day, God's enemy, a fallen angel named Satan, wanted to overthrow God so he took the form of a servant and lied to Adam And Eve. He deceived them into thinking God was not good*

*and did not have their best interest in mind. As a result, they knowingly disobeyed God. In rebellion, Adam And Eve ate the fruit, deceasing that they, not God, would determine right and wrong" (excerpt from The Story).*

The bible teaches us that everyone has sinned and with that sin a massive penalty:

- **Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."**
- **Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."**

### **What is sin?**

*"Sin is any human behavior, word, or thought that is contrary to the perfection of God."*

- William Lane Craig

*"Whatever weakens your reasoning, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes away your relish for spiritual things. In short, if anything increases the authority and power of the flesh over the Spirit that to you becomes sin, however good it is in itself."*

- Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley

*"Sin, that which we choose over God, is the violation of the Person of God."*

- Ravi Zacharias

*"A sin is any thought or action that falls short of God's will. God is perfect, and anything we do that falls short of His perfection is sin."*

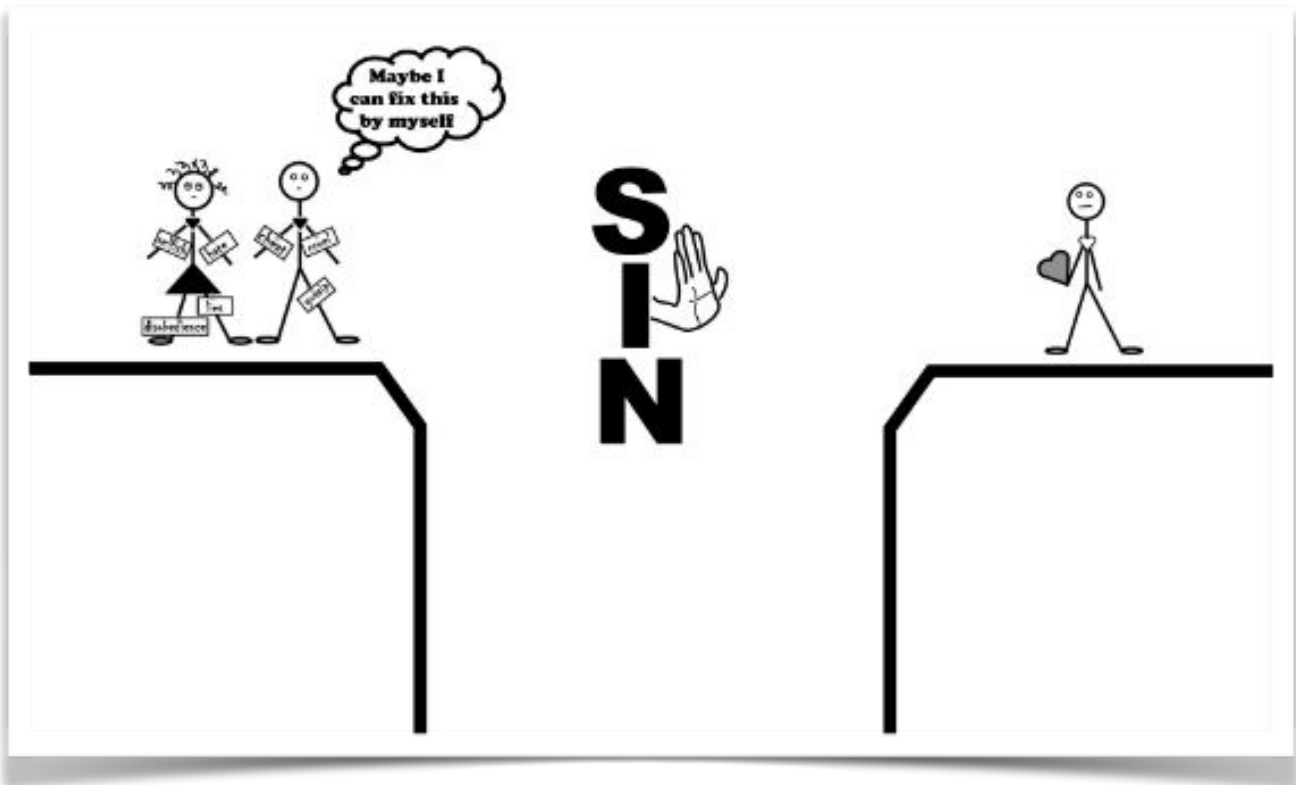
- Billy Graham

*"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."*

- Timothy Keller

## B. Sin separates us from God

We live in a world that is suffering under the penalty of man's choice to go his own way. The most glaring and most dangerous of all of the ramifications of sin is separation from God. That broken relationship is between a perfect, holy and righteous God and creation who is now imperfect, unholy and unrighteous.



## 2. The Consequences that Magnify our Brokenness

In this simple illustration, the greatest of all consequences are visually seen. We are separated from God by a gulf too great to cross. We know this. We see this. We experience this. However, we try to cope with the situation and try to get peace with God in many different ways, but the impact of sin has been and remains too great. Just consider the consequences...

## **A. To Creation**

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God...For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now" (Rom. 8:18, 22).*

From the moment sin entered the world, the world underwent the pains of sin. No longer was their peace and harmony, but disaster and calamity. The whole of the environment was caught up in sin's grasp. Throughout history, we have lived with a world longing to be free, devastated by floods, famines, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. The Flood did not eradicate these problems but formed a new planet divided by seas and hardened by extreme conditions. God's Eden was washed away, and now everything struggled to produce enough life to survive.

**Question: What evidence do you see in God's creation that is a result of the Fall?**

But that is not all that was effected in the Fall. The very one God made in His own image was broken. Consider the consequences...

## **B. To Mankind**

*"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned - " (Rom. 5:12).*

The most obvious consequence of sin was on humanity. *"The consequences of Adam And Eve's actions were devastating! Like a virus, sin entered into all of creation and into the hearts of Adam And Eve. Sin, suffering, and pain were passed down from generation to generation; all of creation was distorted from its original design. We have all read or heard the stories of war, poverty, disease, greed, and scandals that plague our world today. Those are all a result of sin" (The Story).*

What man experienced for the first time was guilt and shame. This sense of guilt and shame produced a greater separation from God, rather than drawing them closer to God. In fact, Scripture says that *"no one is righteous, no, not one; no one understands, no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no*

*one does good, not even one. Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongue to deceive. The venom of snakes is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom 3:10-18).*

The most direct way of saying this is that “the entire world is guilty before God” (NLT). Humanity wrestles with this guilt through addictions, self-loathing, violence and many other means. The heart of man is desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). No amount of good works can atone for our sin.

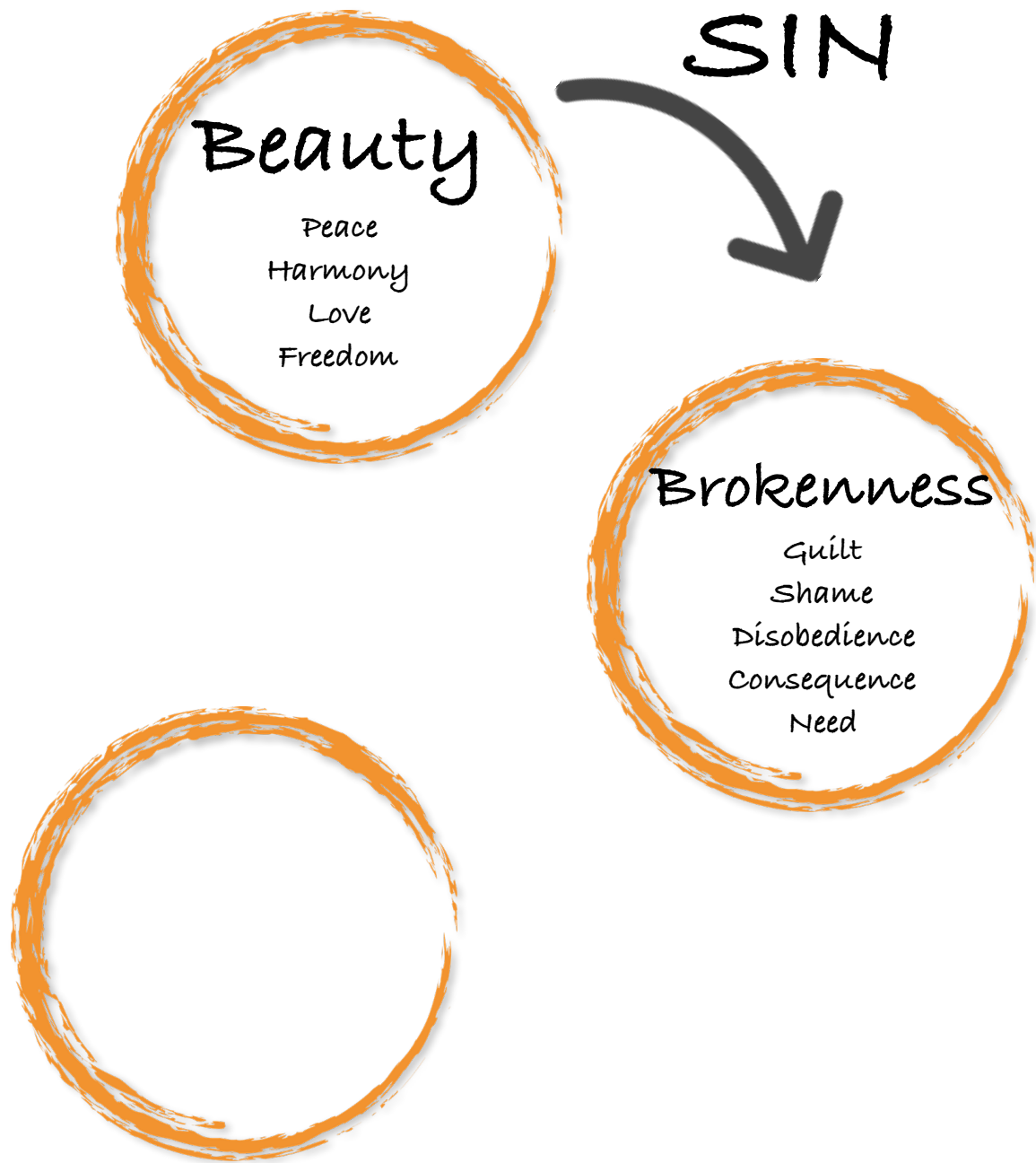
*“When we think about the perfection and loved that existed at the beginning of creation, we realize we are far more flawed and far more sinful than we can dare imagine. Just think of the grudges we’ve held, the lies we’ve told, the thoughts we’d never dare say aloud. An honest glance into our own hearts reveals the truth: we are all guilty. Everyone has sinned, and the ultimate consequence, even worse than physical death, is eternal separation from a loving God, in terrible misery and unhappiness. Because of all this, we need to consider the questions: Can anything be done? Is there any hope?” (The Story). This is the where the story gets MUCH better! There is HOPE for our Brokenness!!*

**Question: What is one thing that comes to mind when you think about how sin has impacted humanity and brought brokenness to our human lives?**

**How do people try and fix the problems of our world without God?**

**What is something in your own life you could point to that is the result of brokenness from sin? (This helps to build a bridge of transparency to the other person)**

Below is a way for you to write what you’ve been talking about.



Next week, we will get the final word that will help us know what God did to bring beauty out of brokenness and give us what our hearts have always longed to possess.



NOW IS THE TIME TO DISCIPLE ONE MORE!

## Session 4

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*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

*Galatians 2:20*

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The greatest hunger of the human soul is to belong. No matter what culture, religious belief system or desire to be alone, people long to belong, to be in community, to be accepted, to know that someone cares enough to include them. When I was young boy, there was nothing I wanted more than for my big brother to pick me to be on his baseball or basketball team. I knew that if he chose me, I would be on a winning team. However, more importantly, I would belong to a team as a chosen member, not just the one no one else wanted. That is what every person longs for in life and that is what only God provides through His redemptive plan.



### 3. God has Created Us with the Purpose of Belonging to Him

The most significant event that happened at the Fall of man was the BROKENNESS of relationship between God and man. From the moment man sinned and turned away from God, there has been this void, this separation, this isolation from the intimacy God designed into creation that would be enjoyed between the Creator and His creation. Scripture bears this out:

- Rom. 14:8 "For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."
- 1 Cor. 6:19 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price."
- Psalm 100:3 "Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His, we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."
- Isaiah 43:1 "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
- John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

What does it mean that we belong to Jesus?

1. We can make God look glorious. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
2. We are not slaves of anyone or anything. (1 Corinthians 7:22-23)
3. We are dead to ruling and damning passions. (Galatians 5:24)
4. We are heirs of Abraham and all the promises God made to him. (Galatians 3:29)
5. All things are ours in Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)
6. We will be raised from the dead with a resurrection body. (1 Corinthians 15:22-23) \* Excerpt from John Piper's Podcast, *You are Not Your Own*



The ultimate purpose for life is to belong to God. The ultimate purpose for which Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross was so that people could belong to Him. Paul expressed this well to the believers in Ephesus who needed to know that they belonged to God because of God's grace through faith alone.

*"Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands –remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility"*  
(Eph. 2:11-16).

The hostility between God and man was the result of man's choice to sin. However, the redemption afforded to all of mankind through Jesus Christ made it possible for someone to cross over from death to life. Peter further explains this as God reclaiming His people as His own possession.

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 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 2:9-10

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To the prisoner, it means you do not belong to the bars and chains around you. You belong to God.

To the addicted, it means you do not belong to that thing which you crave. You belong to God.

To the dying, it means you do not belong to this body or to that cancer. You belong to God.

To the patriot, it means, you do not belong to this nation. You belong to God.

To the debtor, it means you do not belong to any bank or credit card company. You belong to God.

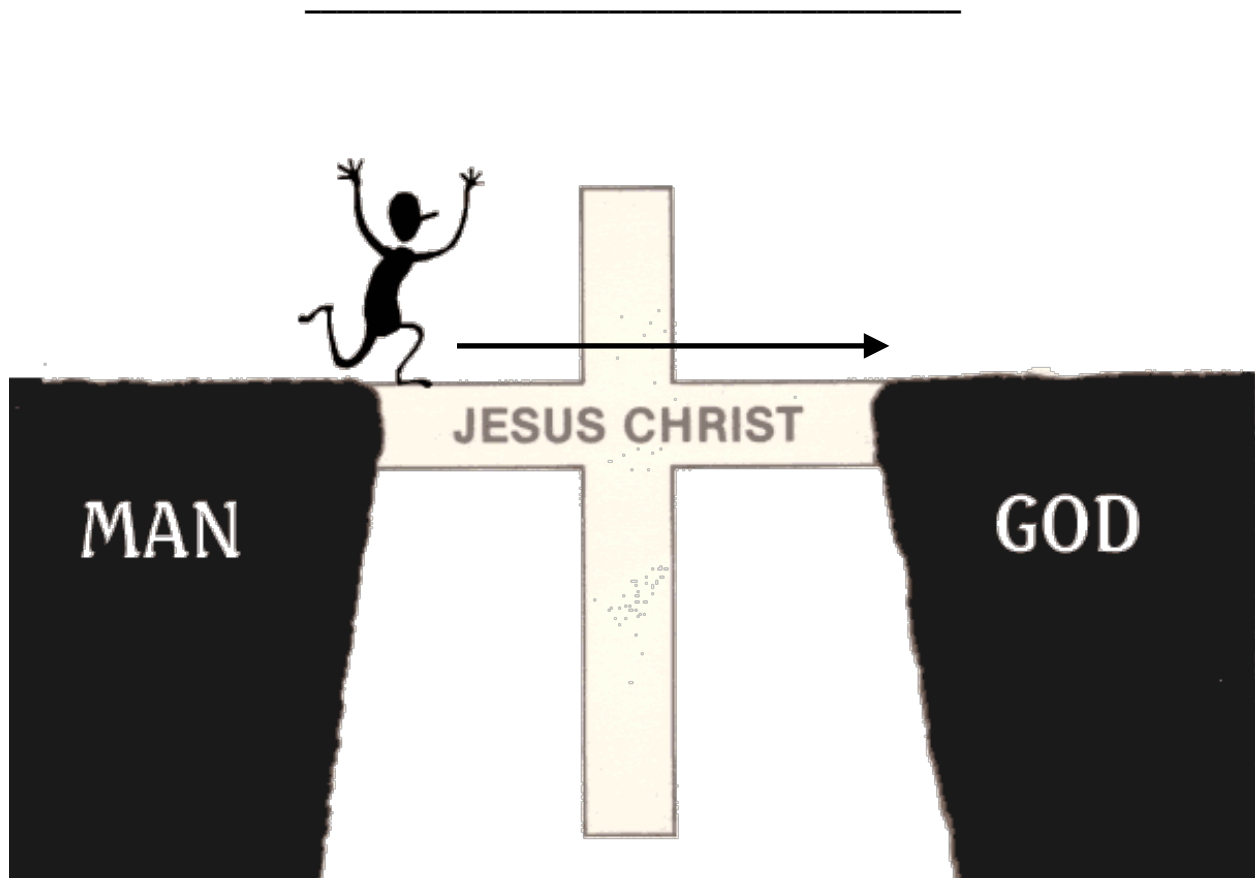
To the empty and overworked, it means you do not belong to your company. You belong to God.

To the depressed, it means you do not belong to this sadness. You belong to God.

To the abused, it means you do not belong to the person or the memories that hurt you. You belong to God.

And even though it might feel like, look like, smell like, hurt like you belong to all these other things, as sure as water is wet and God is good, I heard a voice out of the heavens say it: You belong to God.

\* From Vicki Flippen, Huff Post



## **2. God Created Us with the Purpose of Belonging to One Another**

If there is one thing BROKENNESS took from the human experience, it was this sense of belonging. When God created man, He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Gen. 2:18). God had created all kinds of animals which ran and flew in and out and above the garden, but when Adam looked at his reflection in water, he could not see the resemblance.

"So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man" (Gen. 2:21-22).

From the very first relationship, God gave a person another person. Since God created us in His image, we know that belonging is big deal. People long to be loved by others and long to love others. It's in our DNA to love. That is why Jesus taught that the highest expression of belonging to Him was love for others, even our enemies.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

The cross and empty tomb made it possible for people to experience the restoration power of Jesus Christ. What Jesus restored changed the future of what had been broken. No longer would sin have the power to keep broken that for which Christ had come to restore.

Here are nine realities of God's restoration that leads us to the belonging we all long for in life:

### **1. Belonging gives you peace and access to Him**

*Rom. 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

## **2. Belonging gives you the right to be called a child of God**

*John 1:12 "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."*

## **3. Belonging gives you a new family**

*1 Cor. 12:13 "For in one Spirit we are all baptized into one body-Jews and Greeks, slaves or free-and all were made to drink of one Spirit."*

## **4. Belonging gives you power to live for Christ**

*Eph. 4:12-16 "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."*

## **5. Belonging gives you grace to love your enemy**

*Matthew 5:43-44 "You heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."*

## **6. Belonging gives you freedom to live the purpose for which He made you**

*Galatians 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."*

## **7. Belonging gives you support from others when the burdens of life are heavy**

*Gal. 6:2 "Bear one another's, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

## **8. Belonging gives back to you all the enemy has stolen from you**

*John 10:10 "The thief only comes to steal, kill and to destroy, but I have come that you may have life and life more abundantly."*

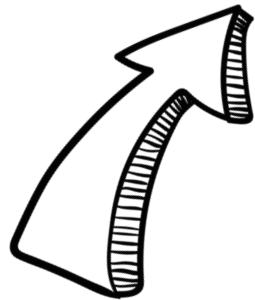
## **9. Belonging gives you a purpose greater than yourself**

*John 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to My Father."*

Below is a way for you to write what you've been talking about.

# Sin

Rom. 3:23;  
Rom. 6:23



Faith  
in  
Christ

Rom. 5:8  
Titus 3:4-7  
Rom. 10:9-10, 13  
Eph. 2:8-9  
1 Pet. 1:18-19

# Practice

