

SHARING THE GOSPEL

▶ TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS

*“But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust?
And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted?
And how can they hear if nobody tells them?”
(Romans 10:14, The Message)*

Romans 10:14 asks the rhetorical question, “How will anybody hear about Jesus, unless somebody talks with them about Jesus?” The obvious answer is that they won’t.

Witnessing – the word may bring to mind some pretty negative images. Perhaps you’re thinking of that nutty-looking guy standing outside the football game holding a big sign that reads, “Repent or Die!” If that’s what witnessing is, you probably want no part of it. But you also know that your mission is to make the gospel known..And if you will not make it known, who will?

Below is a link to a video describing one way to summarize the gospel. It’s not the only way to share the gospel,.by any means, but it is a simple way. If you are in a group, give everyone in the group the opportunity.to practice it with others. While this role-playing may seem awkward at first (or maybe always), it’s important to practice sharing the.gospel out loud, because we often think we have a concept down until we try saying it to another person. This.practice will go a long way toward helping you feel comfortable sharing the gospel in person.

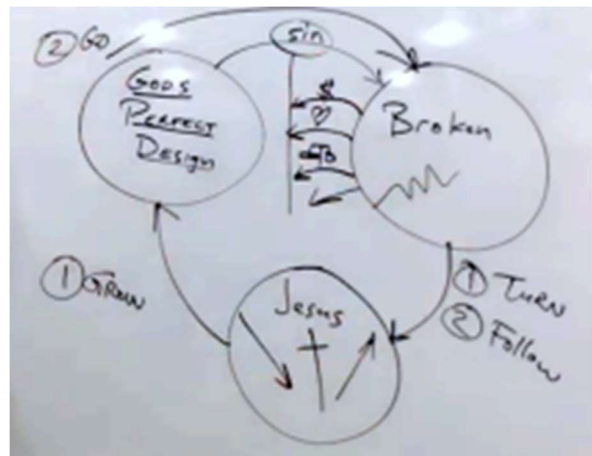
But before we get into this approach to sharing the gospel, it’s important to stop and examine our hearts. Do.you actually *want* to share the gospel with a non-Christian? Are you finding your heart growing in a gospel motivated desire to make Jesus known? Write your honest thoughts about witnessing here.

Now, examine your thoughts about witnessing in light of Romans 10:14. How would you pray about this to your.loving Father? Sometimes, we don’t want what God wants, and we can only pray that we would desire what God wants. But even this prayer is acceptable to God when it is offered humbly in the name of Christ. Take a.moment to write a prayer to God about the state of your heart in regards to developing a gospel-motivated.missional life.

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► LEARNING HOW TO SHARE “THE THREE CIRCLES”

Our testimonies are spiritual conversations about some aspect of the gospel that has made a difference in our lives. They often show the relevance of some gospel truth to our daily lives and build a bridge toward a fuller explanation of the gospel message, which centers on the good news of who Jesus is and what he did for us. It is important to move from that initial spiritual conversation to a more complete and explicit explanation of the gospel, and then to invite the person we are sharing with—explicitly—to trust Jesus for themselves. “The Three Circles” is one way to summarize the gospel that does just that.



Watch the video explaining this approach at <https://youtu.be/v9iLg8DJbLg>.

Note:

- The actual summary of the gospel is done in about 5 minutes, between 2:00 and 7:00.
- You can “customize” the summary to the person by connecting how you talk about the “Broken” circle (around the 2:10 mark) with what they have already shared with you about their own struggle(s) in life. You could also make the connection to your own testimony that you may have shared with them by referencing your own “brokenness” and disappointments with the fallen world. You can do this again at the 3:50 mark when you talk about how these alternatives to God don’t ultimately work, because they don’t address our fundamental problem of sin.
- It is important to be explicit about the self-assessment (7:00 to 7:20) in order to call for a response to the gospel.

After watching it once, go back to the 2:00 mark and watch it again, drawing the picture yourself on a piece of paper while watching the video. Continue watching while practicing the drawing and saying the explanation along with the video until you feel comfortable doing it yourself.