

*Following
Jesus
Together*

MISSION
TRAINING



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FOR LEADERS

READ THIS BEFOREHAND!

First off, we are thankful for you! LifeGroups are the backbone of our church, and your leadership makes all of it possible.

Second, we want to ease any concerns you may have. While there's a lot of content in this guide, the format, as best as possible, fits with what you're normally used to in our LifeGroup Guides. So each week we will catch up with one another, review the mission, engage the heart and discuss scripture. The only elements that will be different each week will be watching a video together, going through a worksheet, and praying together. For some of these elements each week, we will have time allocated to make sure you can still accomplish all the materials in your normal group time.

To make it easier on you as the leader, we would suggest skimming through the weekly material beforehand to get a broad "lay of the land" before leading your group. Before your first week going through this material, have your group read on their own "Why This Guide?" on the next page. If any one misses a week, simply have them catch up by directing them to the website FollowingJesusTogether.com/mission

THINGS YOU'LL NEED EACH WEEK:

- A large enough screen for your group to watch the weekly training videos. Ideally a TV with mirroring capabilities would be best. If that's not possible, a laptop that's loud enough for the group to hear will also work.
- Printouts of the weekly Worksheet/Tool. If you don't have a printer, assign someone from your group to print out enough copies for your group.

We want this guide to be as effective as possible for you and your group to be on mission, so we'd love your feedback. As you go through content week-to-week, are any elements particularly helpful? Are there any Jesus-wins you're noticing in the group? Are there specific ways we can make the tools more accessible? Please let us know at teaching@midtowncolumbia.com

WHY THIS GUIDE?

From page one to the very last, God is a missional God.¹

In the beginning, the Triune God in perfect fellowship within Himself spoke the words, “Let us make man in our image.” And tied within being made in the image of God, was the call to live out the mission of God: to be with God and to go out and make Him known.

Genesis 1:28

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

Their call was, in a sense, to image what God did in creation: to bring order out of chaos, to create their own image bearers through raising children, to cultivate the world in the way God cultivated the garden. The call was to partner with God in this global project to make His name known, to bring this Garden-life to the world, on Earth as it is in Eden.

But not too long after being given this mission, our first ancestors had another agenda in mind. Rather than serve God, they wanted to be like God. Soon after, God hears the news of their disobedience and sends them away, banished from the Garden. What was supposed to be God sending His people out with a mission, because of sin, God sends His people out in exile.

The call was to partner with God in this global project...on Earth as it is in Eden.

And yet, even in the midst of their exile, God made a promise. One day the seed of Adam would crush the seed of the serpent. Someone would come along to restore the missional vision that Yahweh began in the Garden.

From Genesis 3-11, we see the problem of sin spiral further and further out of control. By the end of Genesis 11, it's not just Adam and Eve who were sent into exile, now it's all the nations.

So what is God going to do? Has He given up on His mission to bless the world? And what about the promise to raise up the seed of Adam? Well, rather than scrapping the entire humanity project, God chooses a shepherd named Abraham to carry out His mission.

Genesis 12:1-3

“Go...and I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

This call in Genesis 12 has this same missional echo we saw in Genesis 1: create a family who will go bless the nations. Go, make known the name of Yahweh to the world.

The Mosaic law, with all 613 commandments, was a call for Abraham's family, the nation of Israel, to learn how to live in God's presence so that they could bless the nations. There's command after command about caring for the widow, the refugee, the poor. Why? So Israel could bless the world.

About 400 years after this, King Solomon creates the temple, the official place where God would dwell with His people. But God's presence wasn't meant to be confined to the temple, the call for Israel was to bless the nations. Twice in Solomon's dedication prayer he says the temple is created:

¹ “the whole Bible is itself a missional phenomenon. The writings that now comprise our Bible are themselves the product of and witness to the ultimate mission of God. The Bible renders to us the story of God's mission through God's people in their engagement with God's world for the sake of the whole of God's creation. The Bible is the drama of this God of purpose engaged in the mission of achieving that purpose universally, embracing past, present and future, Israel and the nations, “life, the universe and everything,” and with its centre, focus, climax, and completion in Jesus Christ. Mission is not just one of a list of things that the Bible happens to talk about, only a bit more urgently than some. Mission is, in that much-abused phrase, “what it's all about.”
-Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God*

1 Kings 8:43, 60

*“that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you...
[and] all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.”*

But all the while, lurking in the shadows of the human heart, sin keeps sidelining God’s people from fully living out their divine mission. Not too long after the establishment of the temple, the nation is torn in two. Foreign nations come in. The temple is destroyed. God’s presence has left. God’s people are exiled once again from the presence of God, unable to carry out their divine task.

That’s when, just at the right time, Jesus is sent into the world to deal with the problem of sin once and for all. The seed of Adam is none other than the God who made Adam in the beginning. And for some 30 years, Jesus is on a mission to tear down the stronghold of sin that reigns in the human heart. Through His death and resurrection, He crushes the head of the Serpent.

God doesn’t give up on His mission, and He doesn’t give up on His promises either. He keeps His word.

But right before Jesus’ mission on Earth is complete, He has one last command for His followers:

Matthew 28:18-20

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In the other Gospel accounts, Jesus says similar words:

Luke 24:46-47

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations

John 20:21

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Why does Jesus make a big deal about sending His disciples?

But if you’re tracing the storyline of Scripture, all the way from Genesis 1, you see exactly what Jesus is getting at. It echoes the call of Abraham to go bless the world. It rings with Solomon’s prayer for God’s presence to reach the nations. It mirrors the command of Adam and Eve in the Garden. Through Jesus, we have now been ushered back into His divine presence, and our call now is to be sent out, making His name known, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

So when we talk about Jesus to our friends, or we’re serving impoverished communities in our city, or we’re leading our kids in conversations about the Bible, or we’re giving sacrificially to our church family, or we’re speaking up against injustice in the world - we are participating in the mission of God that we were always called to live out. As new creations, we are partnering with God to make His name known throughout all of creation. Through daily abiding in His divine presence, we are partnering with God, as we are sent out into the world day-by-day, pushing the darkness back so that the Serpent’s head will be crushed once and for all.²

And one day, through God’s people, empowered by the Spirit to faithfully live out the mission God called us to in the beginning, the mission will be complete.

² “our mission is nothing less (or more) than participating with God in this grand story until he brings it to its guaranteed climax.” - Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God*

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

One day every nation, tribe, people and language will be brought into the family. Sin will be destroyed for good. The Garden will fill the globe, and God will dwell with His people forever. God's people will finish the mission.



Now let's step back for a moment, if living out and sharing the good news is this big of a deal, how do you get started? What does it even look like?

That's what this guide is all about.

The late professor Howard Hendricks said people rarely do what you want them to because of two things: they're not motivated to do it and they're not trained on how to do it. So our aim for this book is to have those two categories in mind, to motivate one another to see why this is the best thing for us to do and to train one another on how exactly to go about it.

So here's where we're going: this book is broken down into six sessions. Each session breaks down how to share Jesus with others in bitesize, manageable units. Think of this whole thing as a massive toolbox, each session you'll get trained up on how to use one tool.

- In **Session 1** we'll talk about the importance of prayer.
- **Session 2** we'll explain exactly what the gospel is.
- **Session 3** we'll learn how to share your story of how Jesus saved you.
- **Session 4** trains you on how to make small talk and initiate friendships.
- **Session 5** walks through how to transition from small talk into spiritual talk (without being weird).
- Lastly, **Session 6** guides you to establish missional rhythms in your life to invite others into.

And because there's no such thing as a lone missionary (or a lone Christian for that matter), we'd ask you to work through each session with others. Spreading the Kingdom is a team sport. So bounce ideas off of one another. Confess where you fall short to others. Have them call out your blind spots. Sharpen one another.

Lastly if anyone in your group misses a week, make sure they're able to go through the material they missed so they can stay on track. To make it easy, we've even provided an e-version of all of this content over at followingjesustogether.com/mission

We have the King on our side. He will complete His mission through His people.

All this to say, all of us are called to share the good news of Jesus and it's absolutely possible for each of us to do it because of the Spirit that dwells in you. We can't control who comes to faith or not, that's not our job, that's God's. Our call is to simply be faithful to what He's called us to do. We have the King on our side. He will complete His mission through His people's faithfulness, however He sees fit.

So let's pray bold, expectant prayers to God. Let's go out and share boldly to others that King Jesus loves them and is inviting them in on what He's doing in the world.

When we do this - and we *can* do this - the Kingdom of Heaven will be closer than you think.

In Christ,

Your Pastors



BIG PICTURE - SESSION 1-3

BUILDING UP

For these first three weeks, our aim is to create a foundation of both prayer and gospel fluency. Weeks 4-6 we'll be thinking outwardly as we build on this foundation to be missional with others.

Also, if anyone in the group misses a week, have them go to FollowingJesusTogether.com/mission to review the content so they can catch up.

SESSION 1 - PRAYER

BIG IDEA: IF WE WANT GOD TO SHOW UP IN ANYTHING, IT FIRST STARTS WITH COMMITTING OURSELVES TO PRAYER.

For leaders: To help your group see the big picture for this guide, read out loud the "Big Picture" on the previous page.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

15-20 minutes

Read **Matthew 28:18-20** and **Colossians 4:2-4** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Colossians 4:2-4

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ 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— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

In your own words, what does Jesus command the disciples to do in **Matthew 28:18-20**?

According to Jesus, disciples make disciples - followers of Jesus who teach others to take the next steps towards Him. In your own words, what does a modern-day disciple look like?

Now looking at **Colossians 4:2-4**, what connection do you see between prayer and telling others about Jesus? What specifically do you see Paul asking prayer for?

How often would you say you regularly pray for others to come to know Jesus? Why is that?

Recap: Paul is praying for opportunities to share Jesus and to speak clearly about Jesus. This means that without constant prayer, we're likely to not see opportunities or to speak up about Jesus. So for this week we want to spend some time thinking through who in our lives doesn't know Jesus and how we might specifically be praying for them and ourselves.

WATCH

5 minutes

Now watch this [video](#) as a group.



ENGAGE THE HEART

10-15 minutes

What was insightful/helpful from the video?

Knowing that Jesus calls us to make disciples, what fears and concerns do you have? If you're new to the idea of making disciples/being on mission, how are you taking this all in?

If the call to be on mission is rooted in prayer, is there anything keeping you from praying regularly for Jesus' kingdom to come? (Examples can include unconfessed sin, lack of zeal, etc).

PRACTICE

15-20 minutes

To put the concept of the video into practice, we'll go through a worksheet together. The goal is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

At this time, leaders will pass out this week's Worksheet/Tool.

For homework, every day this week spend some time praying for your list. Create a plan with your LifeGroup to hold one another accountable to pray daily. You may want to set an alarm on your phone when you'll pray for those people, or send out a mass text to your group at an agreed upon time to remind each other.

Next week in LifeGroup we'll check in on our homework.

PRAY TOGETHER

10-15 minutes

Prayer is the bedrock of a life with Jesus, from being with Jesus to telling others about Jesus.

Get into smaller groups of 3-4, ideally of the same-gender. Have one person read out loud the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Then take turns praying out loud for the names you listed and potential opportunities to meet people. Pray specifically for them to come to know Jesus and for you to step out in boldness. If the weather is nice, consider going out for a prayer walk while you pray for your list and your neighborhood.

Pray for your group for these next six weeks, that through the Spirit we will grow in what it means to be a Jesus-centered family on mission.

RESOURCES

[A Praying Life by Paul Miller](#)

[Prayer by Tim Keller](#)

[Every Moment Holy](#)

PRAYER + MISSION WORKSHEET

1 - CREATE A LIST.

For the next 5 minutes or so, list out the people in your life who don't know Jesus and your relation to them. If you need help brainstorming, use the breakdown below.

Neighbors:

Co-workers:

Friends in the city:

People you see regularly:

Family members:

Friends outside the city:

If you're still having trouble coming up with names, what opportunities might be available for you to meet people who don't know Jesus? List them out.

2 - COMMIT TO PRAYER DAILY.

When in your schedule each day can you pray for the people around you to come to know Jesus? On the drive to work? Going for a prayer walk around your neighborhood?

At the end of 5 minutes we'll go around and share what you wrote down, offering feedback if anyone is stuck.

For homework, every day this week spend some time praying for your list. Create a plan with your LifeGroup to hold one another accountable to pray daily. You may want to set an alarm on your phone when you'll pray for those people, or send out a mass text to your group at an agreed upon time to remind each other.

Next week we'll check in on our homework.

SESSION 2 - WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

BIG IDEA: EQUIPPING YOURSELF WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

REVIEW THE MISSION

5-10 minutes

For homework last week, we asked everyone in LifeGroup to pray every day for the people in your life who don't know Jesus and potential opportunities for you to meet people who don't know Jesus. That could look like praying for people on your way to work, going for a prayer walk, etc.

- How did that go? What went well? What was challenging?
- As you were praying every day, did you notice anything change in you?
- If our prayers are the means by which God works in the world, how can you pray more often to be on mission?

Like we mentioned last week, God's kingdom begins to spread when we pray for it to happen. So for the next several weeks we're committing ourselves to prayer. We want to continue praying for those who don't know Jesus, and that opportunities would come up to build with others.

Is there anything that needs to change in your schedule so you can regularly pray for non-Christians?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

15-20 minutes

Read **Mark 1:14-15** and **Ephesians 2:1-10** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

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."

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

In **Mark 1:14-15**, Jesus says “believe in the gospel.” The gospel literally means “good news” or “good proclamation.” In your own words, what makes the gospel good news?

In your own words, how would you share the gospel with someone who doesn’t know Jesus?

Ephesians 2:1-10 gives us helpful language to think about the gospel. Spend some time answering the following questions.

- In **vv. 1-3**, who were we before we began following Jesus?
- In **vv. 4-7**, what did Jesus do?
- In **vv. 8-10**, what should we do?

Recap: Being disciples of Jesus means we’re called to make disciples, but that requires knowing what we’re calling people to - this means “knowing the gospel” is critical to mission.

In Mark, we see Jesus is King and is ushering in His kingdom. Ephesians helps us fill in the details about what King Jesus did and what His kingdom is all about.

WATCH

5 minutes

Now watch this [video](#) as a group.



ENGAGE THE HEART

10 minutes

What was insightful/helpful from the video?

Have you had previous experience sharing Jesus with others? What was that experience like? If you’ve never articulated the gospel to someone before, what keeps you from doing so?

Sharing Jesus is about knowing Him deeply and explaining Him simply. In many ways, sharing Jesus with others is motivated by regularly abiding with Him. Without abiding in Him, we won’t be motivated to be on mission. With that in mind, how are you doing abiding with Jesus this week? Is there any sin to confess and repent of so you can experience deeper abiding?

PRACTICE

20-30 minutes

To put the concept of the video into practice, we’ll go through a worksheet together. The goal is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It’s okay if this feels new!

At this time, leader’s will pass out this week’s Worksheet/Tool.

For your homework, take your worksheet and refine it. Next week everyone will bring in a “final draft” based on people’s feedback they offered. (This will be helpful for next week’s Worksheet/Tool!)

PRAY TOGETHER

10-15 minutes

Prayer is the bedrock of a life with Jesus, from being with Jesus to telling others about Jesus.

Get into smaller groups of 3-4, ideally of the same-gender. To get us in the mindset of seeing God's Kingdom made known in our city, have one person read out loud the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

Continue praying out loud for the names you listed last week. Pray specifically for them to come to know Jesus and for you to step out in boldness. If the weather is nice, consider going out for a prayer walk while you pray for your list and your neighborhood.

Pray for your group to continue growing in this area as we work through this content together for the next several weeks.

RESOURCES

[Simply Good News by NT Wright](#)

[The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler](#)

KNOWING THE GOSPEL WORKSHEET

In the video, we offered a basic outline of what the Gospel is. How would you explain the Gospel now in your own words? Use the four steps below, writing a sentence or two for each one. Then combine all of it together at the bottom of the sheet to create a simple gospel presentation. **(If you get stuck, there's a cheat sheet on the next page.)**

This should take about 5-10 minutes. At the end of the time, we'll split into groups of 3-4, share our answers and offer feedback on how we can improve.

Purpose - Why are we here?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Problem - What is wrong?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Solution - How to make it right?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Utopia - What will it look like when all is made right?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Putting it all together:

Remember, as followers of Jesus equipped with the good news of Jesus, we want to know the gospel deeply but explain it simply. Using your answers from the worksheet, split into groups of 3-4. Everyone gets a turn sharing their "Putting it all together" paragraph. Aim to share the gospel in one minute. Afterward, the group will offer feedback - Was it clear? Was it concise?

For your homework, take your worksheet and refine it. Next week everyone will bring in a "final draft" based on people's feedback they offered. (This will be helpful for next week's Practice!)

KNOWING THE GOSPEL WORKSHEET (SIDE 2)

Purpose - Why are we here?

God loves us and created us to know Him.

Verses: John 3:16, John 10:10, 1 John 4:10

Problem - What is wrong?

Our sin gets in the way of loving God as we should and because of that, we're separated from Him.

Verses: Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 3:23, Isaiah 64:6

Solution - How to make it right?

Jesus pays the penalty for our sin by dying on the Cross and raising again.

Verses: Ephesians 2:4-7, Philippians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Utopia - What will it look like when all is made right?

Through faith in Jesus and following Him, I'm forgiven of sin, I can experience His love, I'm a child of God, I can live with purpose and meaning.

Verses: Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 8:28, Mark 1:15, Matthew 28:18-20

Putting it all together:

God loves us and created us to know Him, but our sin gets in the way of loving God, so now we're separated from Him. That's why God sent Jesus into the world: to pay for my sin and raising again, to bring me back to God. By believing in Him and following Him as King, we can live out what we were created for, we can be forgiven, we can have eternal life.

SESSION 3 - TELLING YOUR STORY

BIG IDEA: EQUIPPING YOURSELF WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF HOW JESUS SAVED YOU

REVIEW THE MISSION

5-10 minutes

Last week we asked everyone to bring a “final draft” of the gospel in their own words this week. Has everyone done that? If so, have those who brought in a final draft share with the group. After sharing, have the group offer encouragement, highlighting the strengths.

We also asked everyone to continue praying for those you know to come to know Jesus.

- How did that go?
- Have you noticed any opportunities to initiate spiritual conversation or deepen your friendship with them?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your schedule so you can regularly pray for non-Christians?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

15-20 minutes

Read **1 Peter 3:15** and **Acts 22:1-21** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

1 Peter 3:15

...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord 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

Acts 22:1-21

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you,

Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

¹⁷ “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

In your own words, what is **1 Peter 3:15** saying? How does it connect with the verse we looked at in week 1, **Matthew 28:18-20**?

In **1 Peter 3:15** and **Acts 22:1-21** the word used here is “defense,” some Bible translations translate that word as “answer” or “reason.” In **Acts 22:1**, Paul gives an example of what it looks like to give an answer and he does it by showing how he came to follow Jesus.

- In **vv. 1-5**, what did Paul’s life look like before he began following Jesus?
- In **vv. 6-16**, how did Jesus get his attention? How did He save Paul?
- In **vv. 17-21**, what is Jesus calling Paul to do? What does following Jesus look like for Paul now?

WATCH

5 minutes

Now watch this [video](#) as a group



ENGAGE THE HEART

5-10 minutes

What was insightful/helpful from the video?

Have you ever written out your story before? If not, what reservations do you have?

Have you ever shared your story with someone who didn’t know Jesus? When was the most recent time?

What was that experience like?

A big component of sharing your story with others is sharing what Jesus is teaching you now. In other words, if we're not regularly with Jesus through the ongoing practice of abiding, then we aren't able to learn from Him. With that in mind, how are you doing abiding with Jesus this week? Is there any sin to confess and repent of so you can learn from Him more?

PRACTICE

20 minutes

To put the concept of the video into practice, we'll go through a worksheet together. The goal is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

At this time, leader's will pass out this week's Worksheet/Tool.

For your homework, take your worksheet and refine it. Next week everyone will bring in a "final draft" based on people's feedback.

PRAY TOGETHER

10-15 minutes

Prayer is the bedrock of a life with Jesus, from being with Jesus to telling others about Jesus.

Get into smaller groups of 3-4, ideally of the same-gender. To get us in the mindset of seeing God's Kingdom made known in our city, have one person read out loud the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

Continue praying out loud for the names of the people you want to build with. Pray specifically for them to come to know Jesus and for you to step out in boldness. If the weather is nice, consider going out for a prayer walk while you pray for your list and your neighborhood.

Pray for your group, that we would grow in our motivation and equipping so that we can be a Jesus-centered family on mission.

KNOWING YOUR STORY WORKSHEET

Last week we wrote out in our words how we would communicate the gospel. This week we're working on how the gospel impacted us. So if you have your worksheet from last week, use what you wrote as a jumping-off point to discuss how the gospel story applies to your life.

Use the three steps below, answering each one. Then combine all of it together at the bottom of the sheet to create a simple outline of how you'd share your story. **(If you need help, there's a cheat sheet on the next page to get the wheels turning.)**

This should take about 10-15 minutes. At the end of the time, we'll split into groups of 3-4, share our answers and offer feedback on how we can improve.

What was your life like before you began following Jesus?

What did Jesus do to get your attention? How did Jesus save you?

In your own words, what is the gospel?

[plug in here whatever you used from week 2's worksheet]

What is Jesus teaching you now? What does ongoing growth in Jesus look like?

As followers of Jesus equipped with the good news of Jesus, we want to know our story deeply but explain it simply. Now that you have a broad script, get into groups of 3-4 and spend some time sharing with one another how Jesus saved you, using your answers from the worksheet. Everyone gets a turn. Aim to share it in three minutes or less. Afterward, the group will offer feedback - Was it clear? Was it concise?

For your homework, take your worksheet and refine it. Next week everyone will bring in a "final draft" based on people's feedback.

KNOWING YOUR STORY WORKSHEET (SIDE 2)

What was your life like before you began following Jesus?

Before Jesus, I was chasing after things that only left me feeling empty...

Before Jesus, I thought I had it all together. I was very performance-driven but was exhausted on the inside...

What did Jesus do to get your attention? How did Jesus save you?

Someone invited me to a LifeGroup and then...

I was sitting in church when I heard the Gospel...

I hit rock bottom and cried out to God...

In your own words, what is the gospel?

[plug in here whatever you used from week 2's worksheet]

What is Jesus teaching you now? What does ongoing growth in Jesus look like?

Because of Jesus, I now have purpose....

Because of Jesus, I have hope...

Because of Jesus, I know I belong...

BIG PICTURE - SESSION 4-6

GOING OUT / INVITING IN

Now that you have a foundation of prayer and gospel fluency, our goal for the next three sessions is to think outwardly.

SESSION 4 - GOING OUT

BIG IDEA: LEARNING TO BECOME A CONVERSATIONALIST - BECAUSE JESUS BEFRIENDS US, WE CAN BEFRIEND OTHERS.

For leaders: To help your group see the big picture for this guide, read out loud the “Big Picture” on the previous page.

REVIEW THE MISSION

5-10 minutes

We asked everyone to bring a “final draft” of how Jesus saved them this week. Has everyone done that? If so, does anyone want to share their story with the group? (For the sake of time, not everyone will be able to share.)

As you’re praying daily for those you know to come to know Jesus, have you noticed any opportunities to initiate spiritual conversation or deepen your friendship with them?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

15-20 minutes

Read **John 15:15** and **Romans 5:6-8** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

John 15:15

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

In **John 15:15**, Jesus calls us His friends. In your own words, what makes a good friend?

By looking at the life and ministry of Jesus, we see a true friend is someone who’s committed to and seeks the good of others. Look again at **Romans 5:6-8**, how did Jesus initiate friendship with us?

How does Jesus’ initiative love impact how we interact with others?

As followers of Jesus who aim to make disciples, our call is to always initiate with others, seeking to build friendships. What challenges and reservations do you have about that? How does Jesus free up from those challenges and reservations?

WATCH

5 minutes

Now watch this [video](#) as a group



ENGAGE THE HEART

5-10 minutes

What was insightful/helpful from the video?

In the video we said making disciples begins by making friends. What reservations or fears do you have about initiating with people you don't know?

Jesus' initiatory love moves us to initiate with others. If we're not regularly renewing ourselves through abiding with Jesus, we won't feel compelled to initiate with others. With that in mind, how are you abiding with Jesus this week? Is there any sin you need to confess and repent of?

PRACTICE

20 minutes

To put the concept of the video into practice, we'll go through a worksheet together. The goal is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

At this time, leader(s) will pass out this week's Worksheet/Tool.

For homework, based on this week's practice select which things you're going to do this week:

1. Get to know one new person this week and make small talk using the questions/stories you wrote down. Maybe it's someone you've already listed out in week 1. Maybe it's somewhere you've prayed for during a prayer walk.
2. Begin an intentional conversation using the questions/stories you wrote down.
3. Invite someone to do something with you.

Which one(s) are you going to do? How are you going to do it?

PRAY TOGETHER

10-15 minutes

Prayer is the bedrock of a life with Jesus, from being with Jesus to telling others about Jesus.

Get into smaller groups of 3-4, ideally of the same-gender. To get us in the mindset of seeing God's Kingdom made known in our city, have one person read out loud the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

Continue praying out loud for the names of the people you want to build with. If the weather is nice, consider going out for a prayer walk while you pray for your list and your neighborhood.

Pray for your group, that we would grow in our motivation and equipping so that we can be a Jesus-centered family on mission.

Pray for opportunities to initiate conversations with others.

RESOURCES

Listen to conversational podcasts. As silly as it sounds, podcasts are a multi-million dollar industry because people like hearing other people talk. So find a podcast, specifically where people are interviewed and use that to glean ideas on how to become a better listener and asker of questions. Notice how the host leads the conversation. They may have questions in mind or they may not, but they're goal is to keep the conversation focused on the other.

If you don't have kids, **get to know your friends' kids.** Because here's the thing, if you can begin and hold a 5 minute conversation with a 5 year old, you can talk to just about anyone on the planet.

[*How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie*](#)

MAKING DISCIPLES BY MAKING FRIENDS WORKSHEET

This tool, like any spiritual practice, is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

Because Jesus went out of His way to initiate friendship with us, we're freed up to initiate friendships with others. This doesn't necessarily look like sharing the gospel and how Jesus saved you the first time you meet them (but if so, great!). With the video in mind, take some time to answer the questions below. This should take 5-10 minutes. Once finished, get into smaller groups of 3-4. Everyone will share and offer feedback.

Go to spaces where people are/ where you have common interests with others.

What opportunities are available to you to meet new people?

Go find someone you don't know and start a conversation.

What are five go-to questions you feel comfortable asking anyone?

Create a space to invite others in.

What opportunities could you create to invite others into?

For homework, based on this week's practice select which things you're going to do this week:

1. Get to know one new person this week and make small talk using the questions/stories you wrote down. Maybe it's someone you've already listed out in Week 1. Maybe it's somewhere you've prayed for during a prayer walk.
2. Begin an intentional conversation using the questions/stories you wrote down.
3. Invite someone to do something with you.

Which one(s) are you going to do? How are you going to do it?

SESSION 5 - SHARING WITH

BIG IDEA: LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK TO OUR FRIENDS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS.

REVIEW THE MISSION

5-10 minutes

Last week we asked everyone to meet a new person. How did that go? What could next steps look like with them? (Examples, what could you invite them to? Or, when can you talk to them again?)

As you're praying daily for those you know to come to know Jesus, have you noticed any missional opportunities?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

15-20 minutes

Read **Acts 8:26-35** and **1 Corinthians 5:14-20** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

Acts 8:26-35

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

*"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.*

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

Look back at **Acts 8**. How does Philip prepare and take the initiative with the Ethiopian eunuch?

Philip was sensitive to the Spirit (**v. 29**) and spoke up as soon as he saw the opportunity to talk about Jesus (**v.30**). How might you, like Philip, cultivate a posture of being sensitive to the Spirit and ready to take the initiative when an opportunity presents itself?

How does **2 Corinthians 5** move us to become missional people?

WATCH

5 minutes

Now watch this [video](#) as a group



ENGAGE THE HEART

5-10 minutes

What was insightful/helpful from the video?

What fears and reservations do you have initiating spiritual conversations with others?

If you've talked with others recently about spiritual matters, describe it. When was it? How did that go?

Being sensitive to the Spirit's promptings requires regularly listening to Him in Scripture and prayer. On the flip side, unconfessed/unrepentant sin can actually keep us from hearing the Spirit in our lives. With that in mind, how are you abiding with Jesus this week? Is there any sin you need to confess and repent of?

PRACTICE

20 minutes

To put the concept of the video into practice, we'll go through a worksheet together. The goal is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

At this time, leaders will pass out this week's Worksheet/Tool.

For homework, take your questions from the worksheet, pair up with someone from your group, and meet this week, going through the 4 levels of communication. As you move into deeper conversation, look for opportunities to naturally pivot into spiritual matters.

PRAY TOGETHER

10-15 minutes

Prayer is the bedrock of a life with Jesus, from being with Jesus to telling others about Jesus.

Get into smaller groups of 3-4, ideally of the same-gender. To get us in the mindset of seeing God's Kingdom made known in our city, have one person read out loud the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

Continue praying out loud for the names of the people you want to build with. If the weather is nice, consider going out for a prayer walk while you pray for your list and your neighborhood.

Pray for your group, that we would grow in our motivation and equipping so that we can be a Jesus-centered family on mission.

Pray for boldness to step out of your comfort zone reminding yourself that because Jesus initiated with you, you are empowered to initiate with others.

RESOURCES

["How Do I Share My Faith?"](#)

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS WORKSHEET

Taking the initiative requires small talk (as previously discussed in week 4), but it also requires talking about spiritual matters *eventually*. As we build friendships this may mean spiritual conversations will come up right away or later down the road, but either way when it happens, we want to be ready to ask the right questions and share with others why Jesus is good news.

Below are the four levels of vulnerability mentioned in the video. Because we want to give others the gift of going second, use the questions below to work through on your own. So, start with your day/week and begin in the Facts level, what were the highlights and lowlights? Then move on to the Opinion level based on what you wrote for the Facts and so on until you get down to the Needs/Desires level. You have 10-15 minutes.

Once time is up, split into groups of 3-4 and share your answers. Once someone is finished sharing what they wrote, allow others in the group to ask follow-up questions, and then practice naturally transitioning into a spiritual conversation. **Example segue ways are on the next page.**

1 - Facts and Opinions - "How have you been?"

2 - Emotions - "How did that make you feel?"

3 - Needs and Desires - "Why do you think you feel that way?" or "Hey, you mentioned this, what do you mean by that?"

For homework, take your questions from the worksheet, pair up with someone from your group, and meet this week, going through the 3 levels of communication. As you move into deeper conversation, look for opportunities to naturally pivot into spiritual matters.

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

WORKSHEET (SIDE 2)

1 - Facts and Opinions - "How have you been?"

Case 1: It's been an average workweek. I've got a big project due soon. Most evenings I've got something planned, either work-stuff or taking kids somewhere.

Case 2: I finally got the job I've been applying for and it comes with a pay raise.

Case 3: I totaled my car yesterday and family life is rough right now

2 - Emotions - "How has that made you feel?"

Case 1: It's been stressful to keep up with everything. I feel like I'm spinning a lot of plates at once and hoping I don't mess something up.

Case 2: I'm doing great, this is the best week of my life.

Case 3: Awful. I feel pretty hopeless like I'm always doing something wrong.

3 - Needs and Desires - "Why do you think you feel that way?" or "Hey, you mentioned this, what do you mean by that?"

Case 1: I sort of always feel this way. I've got a strong work ethic that I take pride in.

Case 2: I need this break. I've been discouraged lately and I feel like things are finally looking up.

Case 3: I don't know, I guess I just need to get over it.

Potential segue ways. The following are different conversational routes you may go when someone is being vulnerable with you.

- **Spiritual convo:** "I don't know if you know, but I'm a Christian and something that's really helped me through something similar is _____."
- **Invite:** "You should come with me to my church/small group some time, it's been so good for me and I'd love for you to come and get your thoughts on it."
- **Pray:** "Full disclosure, I'm a Christian and I think God loves you and I think there's power in prayer. I'll be praying for you/Can I pray for you?"

SESSION 6 - INVITING IN

BIG IDEA: CULTIVATING MISSIONAL RHYTHMS TO INVITE OTHERS INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD AND TO JESUS

REVIEW THE MISSION

5-10 minutes

We asked everyone to pair up last week and work through the four levels of conversation, listening for opportunities to segway into spiritual conversation. Has everyone done that? If so, what was that like?

As you're praying daily for those you know to come to know Jesus, have you noticed any opportunities to initiate spiritual conversation or deepen your friendship with them?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

15-20 minutes

Read **John 1:43-46** and **Acts 2:42-47** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

John 1:43-46

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.⁴⁵ 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."⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common.⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

In **John 1**, Nathaniel becomes one of the 12 disciples through Philip's invitation. In **Acts 2**, people come to know Jesus through His people practicing hospitality and boldly sharing with others. What opportunities are available for you to practice hospitality now?

With the people you've been building with and praying over these last six weeks, what do specific next steps look like?

Is it inviting them to something? If so, what is it and when do you plan on inviting them?

Is it initiating a spiritual conversation? If so, when can we pray for you to be bold and have that conversation?

WATCH

5 minutes

Now watch this [video](#) as a group



ENGAGE THE HEART

5-10 minutes

What was insightful/helpful from the video?

Are there any physical barriers and challenges that keep you from practicing missional hospitality? If so, what are they? If Jesus calls all of us to make disciples, what might He be calling you to change so that you can be missional?

Are there any spiritual barriers and challenges that keep you from being missional? If so, what are they?

PRACTICE

20 minutes

To put the concept of the video into practice, we'll go through a worksheet together. The goal is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

At this time, leaders will pass out this week's Worksheet/Tool.

PRAY TOGETHER

10-15 minutes

Prayer is the bedrock of a life with Jesus, from being with Jesus to telling others about Jesus.

Get into smaller groups of 3-4, ideally of the same-gender. To get us in the mindset of seeing God's Kingdom made known in our city, have one person read out loud the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

Continue praying out loud for the names of the people you want to build with. If the weather is nice, consider going out for a prayer walk while you pray for your list and your neighborhood.

Pray that your group will continue to make strides in being missional with those around us.

RESOURCES

["Throwing a Neighborhood Cookout" blog post](#)

[LifeGroups on Mission](#)

["Is Your Rhythm Set Up For Mission?" blog post](#)

[*The Simplest Way to Change the World*](#)

ESTABLISHING MISSIONAL RHYTHMS WORKSHEET

As followers of Jesus, praying for those who don't know Jesus and equipped with the good news of Jesus, we want to be ready to take the initiative and invite people into the family of God. And like you may have noticed so far, this requires intentionality. While it's true some are naturally wired to initiate and invite others in, for the rest of us this requires practice and planning.

This tool focuses on establishing missional rhythms. Missional rhythms are opportunities built into your life to invite others into the family of God. We can think of rhythms in two broad categories: personally and corporately.

Personally

Look at your calendar. Spend 5 minutes listing out potential opportunities to invite them into your life.

When in your week can you create margin to be on mission? Is there a particular day/time?

Where is an accessible space for you to be on mission with others? A house, park, restaurant?

Is there anyone else in the group you can invite into your missional margin? If so, who?

What barriers are in place and what needs to change to create margin for mission? If you currently have a personal missional margin/rhythm, how effective have you been meeting new people, building with them, and inviting them in?

At the end of 5 minutes, share your answers and give honest feedback to help one another create missional margin.

Corporately

Just as there's no such thing as a lone ranger Christian, there's also no such thing as a solo missionary. Living on mission is a team sport. We get to invite the family of God into this. Spend 5 minutes on your own listing out potential opportunities your LifeGroup can do together to invite people in.

At the end of 5 minutes, share your answers and give each other feedback. While it may be too difficult to come to a unanimous decision that will accommodate everyone in the group, decide what your missional rhythm will be. If you currently have a corporate missional rhythm, how effective have you been meeting new people, building with them, and inviting them in?

APPENDIX - WORKSHEETS

PRAYER + MISSION WORKSHEET

1 - CREATE A LIST.

For the next 5 minutes or so, list out the people in your life who don't know Jesus and your relation to them. If you need help brainstorming, use the breakdown below.

Neighbors:

Co-workers:

Friends in the city:

People you see regularly:

Family members:

Friends outside the city:

If you're still having trouble coming up with names, what opportunities might be available for you to meet people who don't know Jesus? List them out.

2 - COMMIT TO PRAYER DAILY.

When in your schedule each day can you pray for the people around you to come to know Jesus? On the drive to work? Going for a prayer walk around your neighborhood?

At the end of 5 minutes we'll go around and share what you wrote down, offering feedback if anyone is stuck.

For homework, every day this week spend some time praying for your list. Create a plan with your LifeGroup to hold one another accountable to pray daily. You may want to set an alarm on your phone when you'll pray for those people, or send out a mass text to your group at an agreed upon time to remind each other.

Next week we'll check in on our homework.

KNOWING THE GOSPEL WORKSHEET

In the video, we offered a basic outline of what the Gospel is. How would you explain the Gospel now in your own words? Use the four steps below, writing a sentence or two for each one. Then combine all of it together at the bottom of the sheet to create a simple gospel presentation. **(If you get stuck, there's a cheat sheet on the next page.)**

This should take about 5-10 minutes. At the end of the time, we'll split into groups of 3-4, share our answers and offer feedback on how we can improve.

Purpose - Why are we here?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Problem - What is wrong?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Solution - How to make it right?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Utopia - What will it look like when all is made right?

Do any pocket verses come to mind for this part?

Putting it all together:

Remember, as followers of Jesus equipped with the good news of Jesus, we want to know the gospel deeply but explain it simply. Using your answers from the worksheet, split into groups of 3-4. Everyone gets a turn sharing their "Putting it all together" paragraph. Aim to share the gospel in one minute. Afterward, the group will offer feedback - Was it clear? Was it concise?

For your homework, take your worksheet and refine it. Next week everyone will bring in a "final draft" based on people's feedback they offered. (This will be helpful for next week's Practice!)

KNOWING THE GOSPEL WORKSHEET (SIDE 2)

Purpose - Why are we here?

God loves us and created us to know Him.

Verses: John 3:16, John 10:10, 1 John 4:10

Problem - What is wrong?

Our sin gets in the way of loving God as we should and because of that, we're separated from Him.

Verses: Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 3:23, Isaiah 64:6

Solution - How to make it right?

Jesus pays the penalty for our sin by dying on the Cross and raising again.

Verses: Ephesians 2:4-7, Philippians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Utopia - What will it look like when all is made right?

Through faith in Jesus and following Him, I'm forgiven of sin, I can experience His love, I'm a child of God, I can live with purpose and meaning.

Verses: Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 8:28, Mark 1:15, Matthew 28:18-20

Putting it all together:

God loves us and created us to know Him, but our sin gets in the way of loving God, so now we're separated from Him. That's why God sent Jesus into the world: to pay for my sin and raising again, to bring me back to God. By believing in Him and following Him as King, we can live out what we were created for, we can be forgiven, we can have eternal life.

KNOWING YOUR STORY WORKSHEET

Last week we wrote out in our words how we would communicate the gospel. This week we're working on how the gospel impacted us. So if you have your worksheet from last week, use what you wrote as a jumping-off point to discuss how the gospel story applies to your life.

Use the three steps below, answering each one. Then combine all of it together at the bottom of the sheet to create a simple outline of how you'd share your story. **(If you need help, there's a cheat sheet on the back to get the wheels turning.)**

This should take about 10-15 minutes. At the end of the time, we'll split into groups of 3-4, share our answers and offer feedback on how we can improve.

What was your life like before you began following Jesus?

What did Jesus do to get your attention? How did Jesus save you?

In your own words, what is the gospel?

[plug in here whatever you used from week 2's worksheet]

What is Jesus teaching you now? What does ongoing growth in Jesus look like?

As followers of Jesus equipped with the good news of Jesus, we want to know our story deeply but explain it simply. Now that you have a broad script, get into groups of 3-4 and spend some time sharing with one another how Jesus saved you, using your answers from the worksheet. Everyone gets a turn. Aim to share it in three minutes or less. Afterward, the group will offer feedback - Was it clear? Was it concise?

For your homework, take your worksheet and refine it. Next week everyone will bring in a "final draft" based on people's feedback.

KNOWING YOUR STORY WORKSHEET (SIDE 2)

What was your life like before you began following Jesus?

Before Jesus, I was chasing after things that only left me feeling empty...

Before Jesus, I thought I had it all together. I was very performance-driven but was exhausted on the inside...

What did Jesus do to get your attention? How did Jesus save you?

Someone invited me to a LifeGroup and then...

I was sitting in church when I heard the Gospel...

I hit rock bottom and cried out to God...

In your own words, what is the gospel?

[plug in here whatever you used from week 2's worksheet]

What is Jesus teaching you now? What does ongoing growth in Jesus look like?

Because of Jesus, I now have purpose....

Because of Jesus, I have hope...

Because of Jesus, I know I belong...

MAKING DISCIPLES BY MAKING FRIENDS WORKSHEET

This tool, like any spiritual practice, is to get you acquainted with the skill, not gain mastery over it right away. It's okay if this feels new!

Because Jesus went out of His way to initiate friendship with us, we're freed up to initiate friendships with others. This doesn't necessarily look like sharing the gospel and how Jesus saved you the first time you meet them (but if so, great!). With the video in mind, take some time to answer the questions below. This should take 5-10 minutes. Once finished, get into smaller groups of 3-4. Everyone will share and offer feedback.

Go to spaces where people are/ where you have common interests with others.

What opportunities are available to you to meet new people?

Go find someone you don't know and start a conversation.

What are five go-to questions you feel comfortable asking anyone?

Create a space to invite others in.

What opportunities could you create to invite others into?

For homework, based on this week's practice select which things you're going to do this week:

1. Get to know one new person this week and make small talk using the questions/stories you wrote down. Maybe it's someone you've already listed out in Week 1. Maybe it's somewhere you've prayed for during a prayer walk.
2. Begin an intentional conversation using the questions/stories you wrote down.
3. Invite someone to do something with you.

Which one(s) are you going to do? How are you going to do it?

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS WORKSHEET

Taking the initiative requires small talk (as previously discussed in week 4), but it also requires talking about spiritual matters *eventually*. As we build friendships this may mean spiritual conversations will come up right away or later down the road, but either way when it happens, we want to be ready to ask the right questions and share with others why Jesus is good news.

Below are the four levels of vulnerability mentioned in the video. Because we want to give others the gift of going second, use the questions below to work through on your own. So, start with your day/week and begin in the Facts level, what were the highlights and lowlights? Then move on to the Opinion level based on what you wrote for the Facts and so on until you get down to the Needs/Desires level. You have 10-15 minutes.

Once time is up, split into groups of 3-4 and share your answers. Once someone is finished sharing what they wrote, allow others in the group to ask follow-up questions, and then practice naturally transitioning into a spiritual conversation. **Example segue ways are on the next page.**

1 - Facts and Opinions - "How have you been?"

2 - Emotions - "How did that make you feel?"

3 - Needs and Desires - "Why do you think you feel that way?" or "Hey, you mentioned this, what do you mean by that?"

For homework, take your questions from the worksheet, pair up with someone from your group, and meet this week, going through the 3 levels of communication. As you move into deeper conversation, look for opportunities to naturally pivot into spiritual matters.

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

WORKSHEET (SIDE 2)

1 - Facts and Opinions - "How have you been?"

Case 1: It's been an average workweek. I've got a big project due soon. Most evenings I've got something planned, either work-stuff or taking kids somewhere.

Case 2: I finally got the job I've been applying for and it comes with a pay raise.

Case 3: I totaled my car yesterday and family life is rough right now

2 - Emotions - "How has that made you feel?"

Case 1: It's been stressful to keep up with everything. I feel like I'm spinning a lot of plates at once and hoping I don't mess something up.

Case 2: I'm doing great, this is the best week of my life.

Case 3: Awful. I feel pretty hopeless like I'm always doing something wrong.

3 - Needs and Desires - "Why do you think you feel that way?" or "Hey, you mentioned this, what do you mean by that?"

Case 1: I sort of always feel this way. I've got a strong work ethic that I take pride in.

Case 2: I need this break. I've been discouraged lately and I feel like things are finally looking up.

Case 3: I don't know, I guess I just need to get over it.

Potential segue ways. The following are different conversational routes you may go when someone is being vulnerable with you.

- **Spiritual convo:** "I don't know if you know, but I'm a Christian and something that's really helped me through something similar is _____."
- **Invite:** "You should come with me to my church/small group some time, it's been so good for me and I'd love for you to come and get your thoughts on it."
- **Pray:** "Full disclosure, I'm a Christian and I think God loves you and I think there's power in prayer. I'll be praying for you/Can I pray for you?"

ESTABLISHING MISSIONAL RHYTHMS WORKSHEET

As followers of Jesus, praying for those who don't know Jesus and equipped with the good news of Jesus, we want to be ready to take the initiative and invite people into the family of God. And like you may have noticed so far, this requires intentionality. While it's true some are naturally wired to initiate and invite others in, for the rest of us this requires practice and planning.

This tool focuses on establishing missional rhythms. Missional rhythms are opportunities built into your life to invite others into the family of God. We can think of rhythms in two broad categories: personally and corporately.

Personally

Look at your calendar. Spend 5 minutes listing out potential opportunities to invite them into your life.

When in your week can you create margin to be on mission? Is there a particular day/time?

Where is an accessible space for you to be on mission with others? A house, park, restaurant?

Is there anyone else in the group you can invite into your missional margin? If so, who?

What barriers are in place and what needs to change to create margin for mission? If you currently have a personal missional margin/rhythm, how effective have you been meeting new people, building with them, and inviting them in?

At the end of 5 minutes, share your answers and give honest feedback to help one another create missional margin.

Corporately

Just as there's no such thing as a lone ranger Christian, there's also no such thing as a solo missionary. Living on mission is a team sport. We get to invite the family of God into this. Spend 5 minutes on your own listing out potential opportunities your LifeGroup can do together to invite people in.

At the end of 5 minutes, share your answers and give each other feedback. While it may be too difficult to come to a unanimous decision that will accommodate everyone in the group, decide what your missional rhythm will be. If you currently have a corporate missional rhythm, how effective have you been meeting new people, building with them, and inviting them in?

Following Jesus Together

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