

PERSONAL MISSION WORKSHOP

SESSION 4: PRACTICING YOUR EVANGELISM



“Understanding the mission of God and discovering how he has uniquely gifted me to love and serve His church and the places where I live, work, and play.”

Personal Mission

The mission of God is to glorify himself by redeeming a people from sin and restoring creation to its intended purposes. Amazingly, God has gifted his children with the ability to participate in his mission. Equipped with unique spiritual gifts, a clear gospel message, and defined circles of accountability, God commands us to make disciples-an activity which requires proclamation.

In today’s workshop, we’ll consider the gospel message, ponder the movement of God in our grace stories, and make a plan to faithfully proclaim the good news.

THE GOSPEL.

In order to proclaim the gospel, we must have a clear grasp on the message itself. Thankfully, as I’ve reminded you so often throughout this workshop, we are not left to ourselves to figure out the good news. Instead, God has given us the Bible, a detailed revelation of the good news from beginning to end. And so, let’s look to the Bible and define the gospel message together.

Activity: From memory or group discussion, write down some Scripture references that speak to each of the following topics in relation to the gospel. Then, write a one sentence summary of each topic based on the Scripture references. Consider returning to this activity on your own time after this session.

Nature of God	Creation & Man’s Purpose	Sin	Person & Work of Jesus	Man’s Response	The Future
1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.	5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.	6.	6.	6.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

As you may notice, Christianity is extremely exclusive. No one can be saved by any means other than faith in Jesus.

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Evan at the time, that message was viewed as exclusive. In fact, many turned away because the message was viewed as too hard (John 6:60-66). That hasn’t changed. “Since the very beginning of time, people have been trying to save

themselves in ways that make sense to *them*, rather than listening and submitting to God. They have been trying to figure out how to get salvation to work-how to get the *gospel* to work-apart from the cross of Jesus Christ.”¹ There is no gospel apart from the cross of Jesus Christ.

Yet, Christianity is extremely inclusive in its exclusivity. No one is too bad for God to save.

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

In regard to evangelism, our job is not to pre-judge who we believe is most likely to repent and believe. It’s not to compartmentalize when, where, or to whom we may offer up the hope of Jesus. We don’t have the right to make the message of the gospel more palatable based on our audience. No, our job is to proclaim the gospel and trust the Spirit of God to draw men and women to himself.

But, like our Biblical predecessors, we should employ a strategic approach to evangelism. For example, the apostle Paul’s evangelistic method differed based on circumstances-before King Agrippa, he used his grace story²; in Athens, he turned an everyday conversation into a gospel conversation³; and in other cases, he chose to publicly address groups of people⁴. Let’s follow his model as we consider our evangelistic strategy.

GRACE STORY.

Sharing your grace story is a time-tested (and Biblical⁵) effective strategy for evangelism, because it allows family, friends, and neighbors to hear the gospel and observe its power at once. Every Christian has a grace story. It’s the story of God’s past, present, and future grace in the lives of his children-your salvation story and your transformation story. Just think of how encouraged you are when you hear of the movement of God in someone else’s life. And be encouraged, God is able to use your grace story in the same way!

To share your grace story, you must know your grace story. Have you stopped to consider the movement of God in your life? As you do, below is a brief structure to help guide you.⁶ Pro tip, you may want to grab a pen and paper.

1. Remember what your life was like before Christ.
2. Consider what your life is like now.
3. How has Jesus made the difference?
4. Think about what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life today. How is he growing you? What is he teaching you?
5. When sharing your grace story, make sure to include the gospel.

As people, we listen to and tell stories every day. We do it over the water cooler at work, over text with friends, on the way to car after the gym, etc. Your grace story doesn’t have to be any different. Participate in the mission of by sharing your story regularly in the places you live, work, and play.

¹ Gilbert, Greg, *What is the Gospel?* (Crossway; Wheaton, IL, 2010), 102.

² Acts 26.

³ Acts 17:16-34.

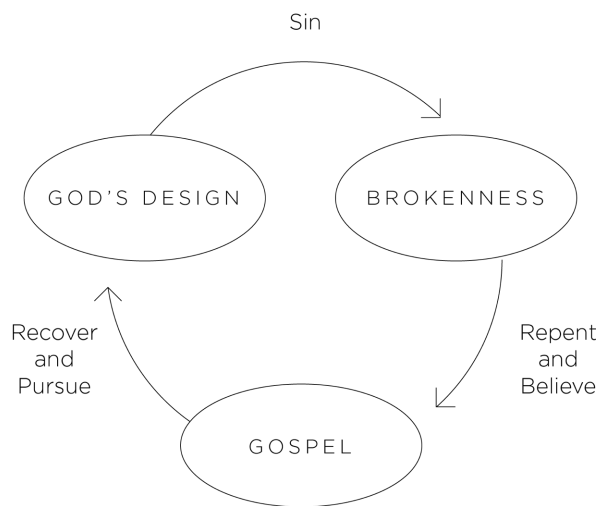
⁴ Acts 13:13-44; 19-8-10.

⁵ Mark 5:1-20; Mark 7:31-8:10; John 4:27-42; John 9; Acts 26.

⁶ Murphy, Jim., *The MyCircle Training: Session 2*, 20.

HAVING A GOSPEL CONVERSATION.

To help in this regard, we'll look to The 3 Circles tool presented in *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* by Jimmy Scroggins and Steve Wright. It is "a tool that works in our missional context. People in our broken world are looking for answers, and God has equipped us to give them."⁷



The diagram above is a helpful tool to share with those you are evangelizing. You can draw it on a napkin or any loose piece of paper, and use it to share the gospel. To see a sample script of an evangelistic conversation using the 3 circles, see pages 76-84 of *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations*.

Once again, I remind you that this is merely a tool. In all of your interactions, remember your limitations. You can share the gospel, but you cannot change a heart. Only God can. Share the gospel consistently and pray consistently.

⁶ *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.* (Acts 3:6-7)

TO-DO.

Today's project is a little different than previous sessions. Instead of sending you home with a project, we'll do our project together here this morning. Then, I'll send you home with a charge and some encouragements.

Project: Break up and practice sharing the gospel with each other. One person shares the gospel using your grace story and the other shares it using the 3 circles tool.

Encouragement: This Personal Mission Workshop was designed to help you identify your gifts and passions, and your areas of influence, and then equip you to confidently join God on his mission. As we leave this workshop, we have an exciting opportunity in front of us. Because of Christ, we have the opportunity to participate in the mission of God! As you ready yourself to step into the mission, remember:

- God included YOU in his mission. You have an important role to play!
- God has equipped YOU for the mission with unique spiritual gifts. Every one of you is important.
- God has given YOU a circle of accountability (live, work, and play) and sent you to saturate it with the gospel.
- YOU can share the gospel with confidence and trust God to give the growth. He saved you. He can save again.

⁷ Scroggins, Jimmy and Wright, Steve, *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* (B&H Publishing; Nashville, TN, 2016), 74.