

## THREE CIRCLES — FACILITATOR GUIDE

A Gospel Training & Presentation Tool

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

*The Three Circles is a gospel training tool that uses a simple visual illustration to walk participants through the gospel message. This session will guide participants through the gospel visually, give them an opportunity to practice sharing it, and close with a small group discussion that shows the gospel lived out in Scripture.*

*These resources can be used as a gospel training to equip participants to share the gospel with others, or as a gospel lesson to help a group personally engage with and respond to the message. Both purposes are meaningful and often happen simultaneously in the same room. For example, someone who doesn't know Jesus could respond to the gospel during the presentation, while someone who does know Jesus grows in confidence to share it. The same session can serve both purposes.*

### NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR

Before leading this session, familiarize yourself with the Three Circles script until you can teach it naturally without reading word for word. You do not need to memorize it perfectly — but you should know it well enough to draw and explain the visual fluidly. For additional context and teaching ideas, read the full blog post “Start with the Gospel” at [redeemedblog.com](http://redeemedblog.com). Participant handouts with the small group follow-up lesson are available as separate downloads — choose the version that fits your group before printing.

### SESSION GOALS

- 1. For Believers** — Every follower of Jesus who participates in this session will leave more confident in their ability to share the gospel message — in a one-on-one conversation, with a group, or in an everyday moment God opens up. (1 Peter 3:15)
- 2. For Those Who Don't Yet Know Jesus** — Any person who does not yet know Jesus as their Savior will leave feeling that the gospel message makes sense, that it is meant for them personally, and that they know how to respond in faith. (Romans 10:14–15)

### SESSION OVERVIEW

#### Step 1 — Frame the Session

Before introducing the visual, take a few minutes to share why the gospel is the starting point for everything. Help participants understand that the gospel is not just the entry point to the Christian life — it is the foundation everything else is built on. A believer who knows the gospel well and can articulate it clearly is better equipped to grow in their own faith, disciple others, and share their story with confidence. You might say something like:

*“Before we dive into any study or series, we want to make sure we are all starting from the same place — the gospel. The gospel is not just for people who don’t yet know Jesus. It is the foundation of everything we believe as followers of Christ. Today we are going to walk through it together so that we know it well enough to live it, share it, and build everything else on top of it.”*

## **Step 2 — Introduce the Session**

Gather your group and explain what you will be doing together. Tell participants you will be walking them through the gospel message using a simple visual model called the Three Circles. Let them know they will follow along by drawing the model as you teach — so make sure everyone has a pen or pencil and their participant handout ready before you begin.

## **Step 3 — Teach the Visual**

Using the script on the following page, draw and explain the Three Circles model. Speak naturally and let the drawing guide the conversation. Encourage participants to draw along with you on their handout as you teach — this helps them process and remember the material. Before you begin, review the Conversation Starters on the following page. These are simple lead-ins you can share with participants to help them know how to introduce the gospel naturally in a one-on-one conversation. Encourage participants to write down any that feel natural to them before you begin.

## **Step 4 — Partner Practice**

Once you have finished teaching the visual, have participants pair up with someone near them. Encourage them to open their practice time with one of the Conversation Starters and close with a question from the Continuing the Conversation section at the end of this guide. Ask each person to take a turn sharing what they remember — either by pointing to the visual they already drew or by drawing it again from memory as they explain. Encourage partners to help each other if someone gets stuck or forgets a part. Remind them that this is practice, not a test.

## **Step 5 — Group Debrief**

Bring everyone back together after the partner practice. Use this time to encourage your group well. You might ask:

- What went well when you practiced?
- What was hard or felt awkward?
- Did practicing even once help your confidence?
- What questions, if any, do you have?

Acknowledge that sharing the gospel can feel intimidating — but remind your group that confidence grows through practice, not perfection. Most importantly, remind them that it is only through the power of God that anyone is saved. Our job is to be faithful and willing — not flawless. (1 Corinthians 3:6–7)

## Step 6 — Salvation Invitation

Before dismissing to small groups, take a brief moment to acknowledge that someone in the room may be hearing the gospel for the first time — or may have heard it many times but is ready to officially respond in faith today. Invite anyone who does not know Jesus as their Savior to talk to you or another leader before they leave that day. Do not rush this moment. It may be the most important thing that happens all night.

## Step 7 — Small Group Discussion

Dismiss participants to their small groups with their participant handout. The small group follow-up lesson is designed to show the gospel lived out in a Scripture passage. Three passage options are available — choose the one that fits your group before the session begins and make sure you have printed the correct version of the participant handout.

### TRAINING TIPS

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- **Draw slowly.** The visual only works if participants can follow along. Pause between each element and give people time to draw before moving on.
- **Draw big.** Use a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper when teaching the visual to a group. The Three Circles only works as a teaching tool if everyone in the room can see each element clearly as you draw it. If you are sharing one-on-one, a napkin or the back of a piece of paper works just fine.
- **Practice before you lead.** Teach the visual to a family member, a friend, or even just to yourself in a mirror before leading the session. The first time you teach it will always feel the most awkward — make sure that first time is not in front of your group.
- **Normalize the awkward.** When you debrief after partner practice, be honest about your own experience learning to share the gospel. Vulnerability from the leader gives participants permission to struggle without shame.
- **Close with a gospel invitation.** No matter how the session goes, make sure the invitation in Step 6 is never skipped. You never know who in the room needs to hear it.

## THE SCRIPT — TEACHING THE THREE CIRCLES VISUAL

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The following is a guide for teaching the Three Circles gospel visual. You do not need to memorize it word for word — but keep the story and the sequence intact as best you can. If you have never seen the Three Circles taught before, search for examples on YouTube to help you understand how the drawing and the script work together before leading this session.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

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One of the hardest parts of sharing the gospel is knowing how to bring it up naturally. Share these with your group before teaching the visual and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

- Can I show you a simple visual that explains what I believe?
- I just learned something that really helped me understand the gospel — can I share it with you?
- Have you ever seen the Three Circles? It's a simple way of looking at what the Bible says about life, sin, and Jesus — can I walk you through it?
- I'd love to get your thoughts on something — can I draw something out for you real quick?

### **BROKENNESS** *(draw the right circle; draw a crack inside the circle)*

We live in a broken world where everyone is affected by sin. Brokenness is not hard to see — everywhere you look, people are hurting. People hurt each other, get sick, feel an emptiness they cannot explain. Natural disasters happen. Relationships fall apart. Something is clearly wrong with the world.

*Romans 1:18–32 · Ephesians 2:1–3 · Isaiah 59:2*

### **GOD'S PERFECT DESIGN** *(draw the left circle; draw a heart inside the circle)*

But brokenness was not part of the original story. God had a perfect design in mind. At the beginning of time, people lived in a pure and unbroken relationship with God and with each other. There was no shame, no separation, and every need was provided for. That is what we were made for.

*Genesis 1–2 · Psalm 8 · Colossians 1:16*

### **SIN** *(draw the arrow from the left circle to the right circle)*

Unfortunately, the world did not stay that way. The first people chose to rebel against God — and that rebellion is what the Bible calls sin. Sin is choosing to live for ourselves rather than for the God who made us. And sin against a perfectly holy and just God has a serious consequence — Romans 6:23 tells us the wage of sin is death. Not just physical death, but eternal separation from God in a place the Bible calls hell. Because of sin, you and I are born into brokenness, cut off from the God we were designed to know and love.

*Genesis 3 · Romans 3:23 · Romans 5:12 · Romans 6:23 · Romans 2:5 · 2 Thessalonians 1:9 · Revelation 20:11–15*

### **THE SQUIGGLY ARROWS** *(draw squiggly arrows leaving the Brokenness circle)*

Since no one wants to stay in pain, people spend their lives trying to escape brokenness on their own. Some chase success, achievement, or wealth. Some try religion or good deeds. Some numb the pain with entertainment, substances, or relationships. But none of it works — not for long, and not completely. Nothing we do on our own can get us back to where we were meant to be.

*Isaiah 53:6 · Proverbs 14:12 · Romans 3:10–12*

### **JESUS** *(draw the bottom circle; inside draw a downward arrow, a cross, and an upward arrow)*

But God loves you too much to leave you in brokenness and separation. So He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to do what none of us could do — live a perfect life on this earth. Jesus then took the full penalty for your sins by dying on the cross. And three days later, He defeated death by rising from the grave. Jesus is the only one who can do what no amount of effort, religion, or achievement ever could.

*John 3:16 · Romans 5:8 · Ephesians 2:4–7 · 1 Corinthians 15:1–11*

### **TURN AND BELIEVE** *(draw the arrow from the Brokenness circle down to Jesus; draw a line from the Jesus circle to the God's Perfect Design circle)*

The Bible tells us that if you turn from your sin toward Jesus — believing in your heart what He did on the cross for you and confessing Him as Lord of your life — you will be saved. In that moment, something incredible happens. God restores you into His perfect design and into a right standing relationship with Him. Your sins are completely forgiven — not because of anything you did, but because of what Jesus did on the cross in your place. You are made clean. The separation is gone. You are no longer an enemy of God but His child.

*Acts 2:38 · Romans 10:9–13 · Luke 9:23–27 · 2 Corinthians 5:17 · Colossians 1:13–14 · Romans 5:1 · Ephesians 1:7*

### **GROW AND GO** *(draw a dotted arrow from the God's Perfect Design circle to the Brokenness circle; write "Grow and Go" on the dotted line)*

Turning to Jesus is not the end of the story — it is the beginning. Eternal life is not just something that starts when you die. It starts the moment you trust Jesus. And as you grow in your relationship with Him — reading His Word, praying, gathering with other believers — you will begin to know Him more deeply and obey Him more naturally. That obedience will lead you back out into the brokenness around you, carrying the message of what Jesus has done.

*John 17:3 · 2 Timothy 3:16–17 · Hebrews 10:24–25 · Acts 2:42–47 · Matthew 28:19–20 · 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 · Romans 10:14–15*

## **CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION**

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The following questions are tools participants can use when sharing the Three Circles with someone one-on-one. After teaching the visual, these questions help open a natural gospel conversation with the person they are sharing with. Consider having participants practice using these questions with their partner during Step 4.

- Have you ever heard this message before?
- Which part of the Three Circles stood out to you most? Why?
- Where do you think you would place yourself in this gospel illustration? Why?

- What questions do you have?
- Would you like to follow Jesus?
- Are you connected to a local church? If not, I would love to help you find one.
- How can I pray for you?