

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GUIDE

Creative ideas on how to be a better neighbor.

A GOOD FOR ALL NIGHTS CONFERENCE RESOURCE

## Looking for creative ideas on how to be a better neighbor?

Start by answering the first section of questions. Then use the two idea lists to begin generating your own list of action items.

Along the way, be sure to review the five follow-up questions to improve and evaluate how things are going.

**Remember** – Love is a lifelong practice, not a one-time action.



### **5 Questions to Ask and Answer**

1.	Who are our neighbors and how can we serve them?				
2.	What needs exist in our community that need to be met?				
3.	Who can we talk to in our community to learn more about how we can help?				
4.	Can we partner with anyone who's already meeting this need?				
5.	How can we connect our actions to the gospel?				

### **5 Community Engagement Ideas**



#### **Send Thank Yous**

Write letters to teachers, law enforcement, first responders, and other businesses in your neighborhood. Pray over them!



#### Support Internationals

Volunteer with an organization that aims to help internationals in your community.



#### **Love Kids**

Host a kids' event or sports camp at your local park.



#### Celebrate Seasonally

Find simple ways to celebrate holidays with your neighbors or organize a fall or spring clean-up.



## **Appreciate Educators**

Sponsor a school or classroom.

### **5 Individual Engagement Ideas**



#### Invite

Invite a neighbor into your home for a meal or to join you at a community event.



#### **Connect**

Call or visit an elderly neighbor and check in on them.



#### Write

Write notes of encouragement to individuals going through challenging times.



#### **Party**

Plan a block party on your street.



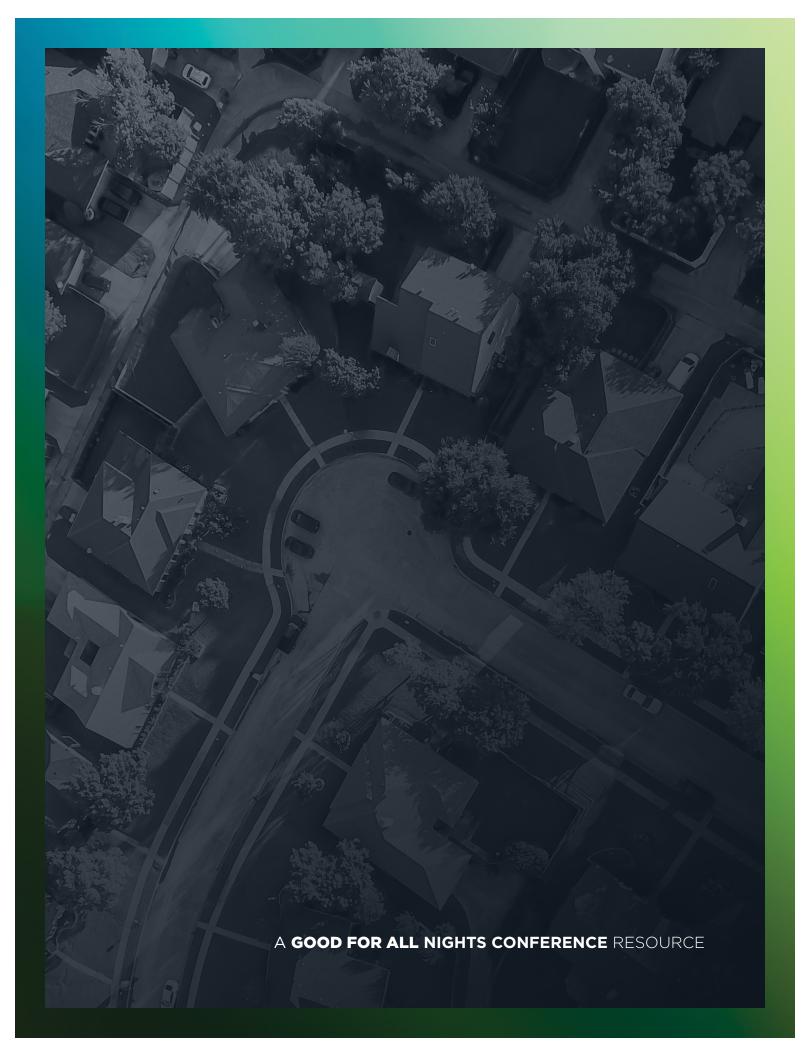
#### Gather

Commit to spending time in your front yard every day for two weeks to meet more of your neighbors.

## **5 Follow-Up Questions**

1.	What worked (or didn't work)?
2.	How will we follow up with people we made contact with?
3.	What other opportunities can we pursue?
4.	Who else can we partner with next time?
5.	What are some wins we can celebrate from this?

GOOD FOR ALL NOTES



# GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

A Process for Sharing Your Faith

**EAST WHITE OAK** 

## Why Share the Gospel

- 1. People are broken and the gospel has the power to change lives.
  - John 4:13-14 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, [14] but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
  - Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.
  - John 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
- 2. God is making His appeal through us. Christians have an eternal, spiritual perspective that people aren't going to get anywhere else.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
  - Acts 4:4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

## Why Share the Gospel

- 3. We are responsible for the invitation, but not the response. Just as many in Jesus' story refused the invitation to the great banquet, many will refuse our invitations. This shouldn't keep us from inviting. We can learn how to turn the rejections into opportunities for future gospel conversations.
  - Luke 14:15-24 Great Banquet
  - Luke 8:5-8 Scattering Seed

#### 4. The time is short

- John 16:16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."
- Hebrews 10:37 For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."
- James 4:14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.
- 1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

## Why Share the Gospel

## 5. Everyone likes to be invited. Even if we can't go, it's always nice to be asked.

- Matthew 4:18-20 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. [19] "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." [20] At once they left their nets and followed him.
- Matthew 4:25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

#### 6. Share the gospel with yourself everyday!

- The Man on the Middle Cross Said I Can Come | Alistair Begg - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePYs1bv\_FGM
  - "If I don't preach the gospel to myself every day I will begin to trust myself"
- Psalm 119:15-16 "I will <u>meditate</u> on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."
- Psalm 40:9-10 I <u>proclaim</u> your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know. [10] I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.

## **SHARING PROCESS**

#### **Preparation**

- 1. Training: ABF, Home, Small Group
- 2. Practice: so important
- 3. Pray for those you know who are far from God

#### **Three Gospel Message Hinges**

- 1. Look for opportunities to *transition* to share
- 2. Share the gospel: 3 Circles
- 3. Offer an *invitation*



#### **After Sharing**

- 1. Handle various responses
- 2. Share experience with ABF & Small Group
- 3. Celebrate stories and use them to encourage others. Salvation stories inspire us, allow us to rejoice with the angels in heaven, and help us remember how God is reconciling the world to Himself.
  - > Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## **TRANSITIONS**

#### **Conversation Starters**

- How are you doing? What's new?
- General conversation that turns personal and something disappointing is shared
- Is there something I can pray for?

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#### Response to life's disappointments

- I'm sorry, I have not been through the exact situation that you just mentioned, but I have had similar problems. Can I share with you how God healed my life of brokenness and gave me something beautiful instead?
- I'm sorry about...can I share with you how God has helped me heal from broken situations?
- I'm sorry about...can I share with you some good news?
- I haven't been through the exact situation that you just mentioned, but I have had similar problems. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?

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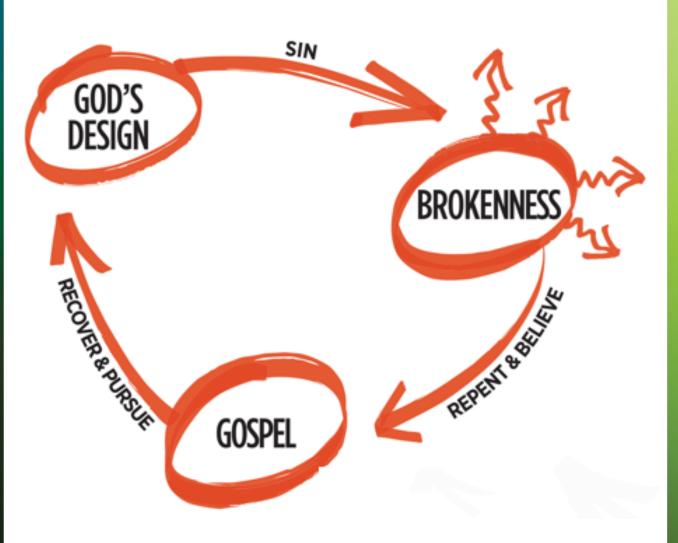
#### Other

- Have you heard of the gospel?
- What is the gospel to you?
- Can I share with you about Jesus?
- Do you go to Church somewhere?
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## 3 CIRCLES

**Jimmy Scroggins** 

https://youtu.be/tjpt1gbVnOE



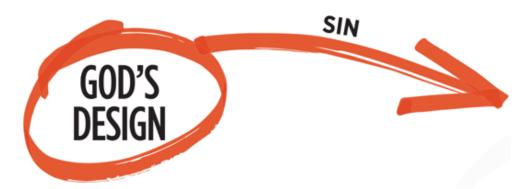
## **3 CIRCLES**

#### **TRANSITION**

I haven't been through the exact situation that you just mentioned, but I have had similar problems. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?



The Bible tells us that God has a design for our lives. That God cares about every aspect of our lives, that's our families, that's our personal lives, that's our choices, our money, our sex life. Really everything about our life God has a design for it. If we live according to God's design, then we have the opportunity to live in the arena of God's blessing.



The problem is that all of us have a tendency to depart from God's design. When we depart from God's design the Bible has a word for that, and the word is sin.

## **Brokenness**

GOD'S DESIGN

Inevitably when we sin against

Inevitably when we sin against God, when we leave his design we end up in a place that we call brokenness. All of us know what brokenness feels like. It feels like emptiness, it feels like guilt, it feels like rejection, it feels like shame, it feels like regret.

#### **ESCAPE**

But when we get in this place of brokenness, we always try to fix it. So we try to maybe dive into another relationship, or try and make more money or try to become more religious. But whatever we do we try and mitigate the pain of our brokenness, we try to escape our brokenness in some way. Now brokenness really hurts, and it feels like a terrible thing, but the truth is, it's a good thing because brokenness draws our attention to the need for change in our lives.

## **GOSPEL**



#### **GOSPEL**

But the change we need doesn't come from in here, the change we need comes from somewhere else. The good news is, the Bible tells us where that kind of change comes from. That kind of change comes from what's called the good news, or the story of the gospel. The gospel is just a Bible word that means good news.

#### - DOWN

The gospel is the story of Jesus, Jesus who was the Son of God who came to earth, and he never departed from God's design in anyway, not even 1 time.

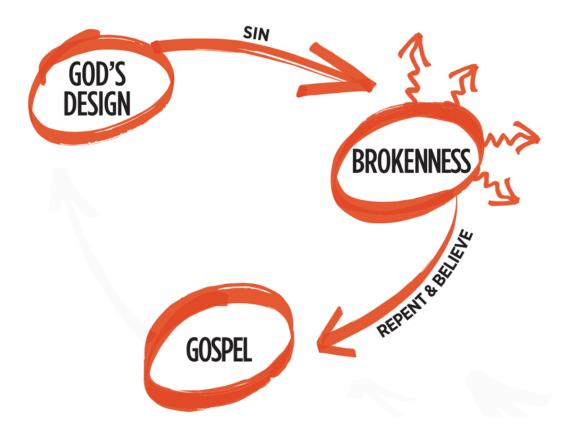
#### - CROSS

But Jesus was crucified on the cross for the Bible says the sins of the world, that's my sins and your sins. And when Jesus was hanging on the cross God did a miracle. He took the sins of the world, our sins and put them on Jesus, and Jesus received the punishment from God for our sins. When he done everything he came to do, he said it is finished and he died.

#### - RESURRECTED

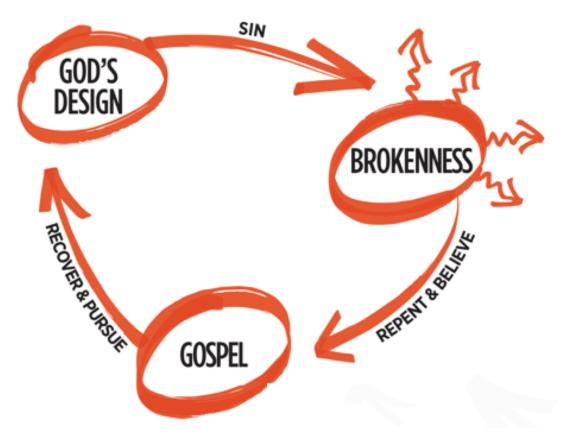
They took his body off the cross, they buried him, and 3 days later, Jesus was raised from the dead. The Bible says that God raised Jesus from the dead to prove that Jesus was who he said he was, the Son of God and that he could do what he came to do, forgive our sins and heal the broken places in our lives.

## REPENT AND BELIEVE



The kind of change we need, doesn't come from in here, the kind of change we need comes from the gospel itself. The Bible says that what we need to do when we find ourselves in brokenness, is repent of our sins, in other words, change heart, change or mind, change our direction and believe the gospel story. That's the story of Jesus, how he was crucified for our sins and raised from the dead. The Bible says if we repent and believe then Jesus will come into our lives, he'll forgive our sins and begin to heal the broken places in our lives.

## **RECOVER & PURSUE**



And then the Bible says that God will give us the opportunity to recover and pursue God's design for our lives. The cool thing about this is we get to recover and pursue God's design from wherever we are. We don't have to turn back the past we get to go and believe God and walk with God from right here.

#### **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS**

- 1. Where do you see yourself in this diagram?
- 2. If you're in brokenness is there anything that would keep you from repenting and believing the gospel right now?
- 3. Lead in a salvation prayer.

#### MY STORY USING FOLDING TRACT

I'm sorry. I have not been through that situation, but I also have had broken areas in my life. Can I share with you how God healed those broken areas and gave me something beauty in its place?

#### **Glimpses**

- Mothers love
- Babies Laugh
- Beautiful Sunset



It started for me when I heard that God had an original design. That God's design contained security, community, and abundance. I could see glimpses of God's perfect design around me in a mother's love, a babies laugh, or and a beautiful sunset, but I didn't experience it myself.

The problem I had is I wanted to do life my way, and not follow God's design for me. The Bible has a word for that, and the word is sin. Going my own way, I tried to maximize my control, comfort, and pleasure, which focused my energy on myself, turning me into someone who was uncontent, driven, and impatient, all making me a negative broken person.



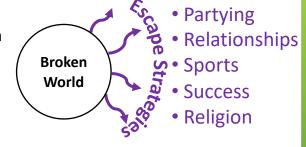
#### **Affected**

- Cancer
- Laid Off
- Deaths



It's not just me though, this whole world is broken. We can see the brokenness all around us every day by its violence, greed, and pride. My life has been deeply affected by this broken world. I have had cancer, been laid off, and those close to me have died. I am sure your life has also been affected.

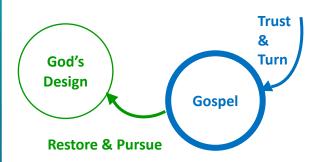
I tried to escape my broken negative self through partying, relationships, sports, success, and even religion. But none of those sources provided good feelings that lasted. I would feel better for a little while, but then it would die out quickly. This endless cycle just drained my energy.





My brokenness really hurt, and it felt like a terrible thing, but the truth is it was actually a good thing, because it drew my attention for my need for something better, and that was to live in God's design, a beautiful world, a new reality where I can receive God's joy, love, and peace. God brought me there through what the Bible calls the gospel, which just means "good news". (*Down*) The good news is that Jesus rescued me by coming into this broken world, living a perfect life, (*Cross*) then allowing himself to be killed on a cross to take my brokenness, my sin, my rebellion on himself. (*Resurrected*) Then he then defeated death by rising from the grave for my forgiveness, healing, and a new beautiful life.

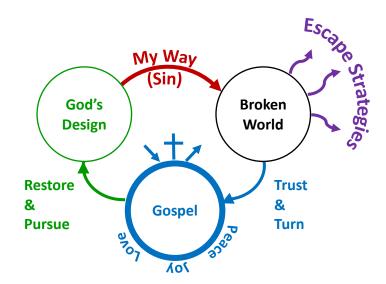
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There are only 2 THINGS I did to be brought into this new beautiful world. First, I TRUSTED in Jesus rescue for my forgiveness and healing. And second, I TURNED from my broken world thinking and escape strategies to God-centered thinking and living.

After I trusted in Jesus and turned my life over to God, I began to recover and pursue His design. God began healing me and giving me new desires. I didn't have to change my life all at once, God met me where I was at, and started walking with me, showing me the path to joy, love, and peace.

- 1. Does this diagram make any sense to you?
- 2. As you look at it, where do you see yourself?
- 3. Is there anything that would prevent you from trusting in Jesus and turning your life over to God, today?



#### YES

Let's read a few verses out of the Bible.

- What does that say to you? Do you believe it?
- > <u>Sent</u>: John 3:16-17 > <u>Cross</u>: Isaiah 53:4-5 > <u>Resurrection</u>: John 11:25-26 > <u>Trust</u>: Ephesians 2:8-9 > <u>Turn</u>: Acts 2:38

#### **PRAYER**

"God, I know I'm a sinner and I'm broken. Please forgive me of my sins and make me whole. I believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. I'm asking Him to come into my life right now to help me heal and pursue God's design for my life."

#### Welcome To God's Family!

#### NO

Thank you for listening to me. If you ever find yourself in a place of brokenness, please remember our conversation and that God has made a way out through His Son, Jesus.

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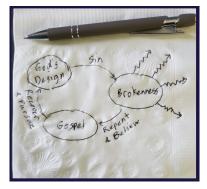
## **ILLUSTRATION METHODS**

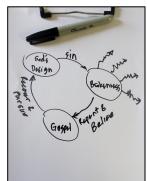
## 1. App



## 2. Draw it Out: Napkin, Clip Board or Dry

**Erase** 





### 3. Talk it Out



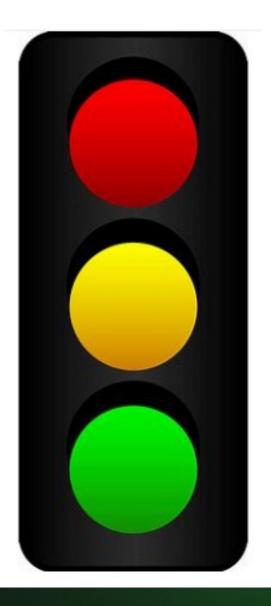
## 4. Tract or Folding





## **RESPONSES**

Acts 17:32-34 - When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them <u>sneered</u>, but others said, "We want to <u>hear you again</u> on this subject." [33] At that, Paul left the Council. [34] Some of the people became followers of Paul and <u>believed</u>. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.



Thank you for listening to me. If you ever find yourself in a place of brokenness, please remember our conversation and that God has made a way out through His Son, Jesus.

Invite to church, ABF, Small Group, personal study

Review key verses, pray, invite

## **Next Steps**

- Plan to begin sharing your faith
  - 5 Individual Engagement Ideas
  - 5 Community Engagement Ideas
- Write your testimony
- Practice
- Go

#### Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



NOTES	GOOD FOR ALL

## **EXAMPLE OF PERSONALIZING**

#### TRANSITION

Thank you so much for sharing your parenting/marriage issues. I haven't had the exact same problem, but I've definitely experienced similar problems. Can I share something with you that has

#### GOD'S DESIGN

I believe <u>God has a design</u> for our lives. We see God's design all around us: in the beauty of creation—a golden sunrise or a pink sunset—and in our own amazing bodies. The Bible says God knit us together in our mothers' wombs (Psalm 139). Knitting is delicate and intimate work, so we know that God personally designed us and has a purpose for our lives. Now, I have to tell you that, although I knew of God's wonderful design early in life, I didn't always accept it or appreciate it. Honestly, I rebelled against it. I didn't want to be under anyone's design or rule. I wanted to go my own way, be my own boss, make my own decisions, and do things the way I wanted them done. I basically decided to depart from God's design.

#### SIN

The Bible has a word for this departure from God's design—the word is "<u>sin</u>." The Bible actually says that all have sinned and departed from God's design.

#### BROKEN WORLD

Unfortunately, our sin takes us all to a place of <u>brokenness</u>. Brokenness could look like struggling relationships, addiction, isolation, or despair. It's guilty feelings, shame, and emptiness. It's how we feel when we realize we've been used, or that we've used someone else. In fact, our whole world is broken. We see evidence of this everywhere—in every crime, in sickness, and even in death. These all are results of sin. We live in a broken world, and no one in this world is untouched by brokenness, but no one likes brokenness or wants to stay in it.

#### **ESCAPE**

If it's broken, we want to fix it. There are entire industries built around getting people out of brokenness. There are counseling centers, self-help books, afternoon TV shows, treatment centers, and many more. We do our best to fix our brokenness. Some people try to numb their pain with drugs or alcohol. Others think the cure is another relationship. Some try to ramp up their personal discipline and dedication. Knowing they got themselves into brokenness, they think they can get themselves out. Some even turn to church or religion. We realize that something needs to change. But often, when we try to change ourselves, we realize that the change we need has to come from somewhere else. Our attempts to fix our brokenness usually only result in more brokenness.

#### GOSPEL

The word gospel means "good news." (*Down*) The good news is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life (*Cross*) die the death we deserve because of our sin (*Resurrected*) and be raised from the dead. The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross, God did a miracle. He took all of our sin and put it on Jesus, and then He took all of Jesus' righteousness and put it on anyone who believes in Jesus. This means that we are no longer broken in God's eyes. We are made right with Him. All we have to do to get this right standing with God is repent and believe in Jesus.

#### REPENT AND BELIEVE

The change we really need comes through the gospel. The word <u>repent</u> means a change of mind that's followed by a change in direction. It means we were headed one way, trying to fix our own brokenness, and now we have turned from that and turned to Jesus. "<u>Believe</u>" means that we trust that Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are what make us right with God. We believe it as much as we believe that the chair we sit in are going to hold us up. Jesus Himself told people to "repent and believe in the good news!"—the gospel

#### RECOVER AND PURSUE

Once we repent and believe, we can begin to <u>recover and pursue</u> God's design. We get a do-over. Everybody loves a doover. If we don't get it right the first time, we get to try again. God gives unlimited do-overs. None of us is perfect. Even if we have believed in Jesus and been made whole in God's eyes, we will still mess up. Repenting and believing doesn't fix everything, but it does forgive everything. Plus, we have Jesus helping us and walking with us. He changes our hearts and motivates us to recover and pursue God's design.

#### QUESTIONS

- 1) Does this diagram make any sense to you? As you look at it, where do you see yourself?
- 2) Is there anything that would prevent you from repenting and believing the gospel today?

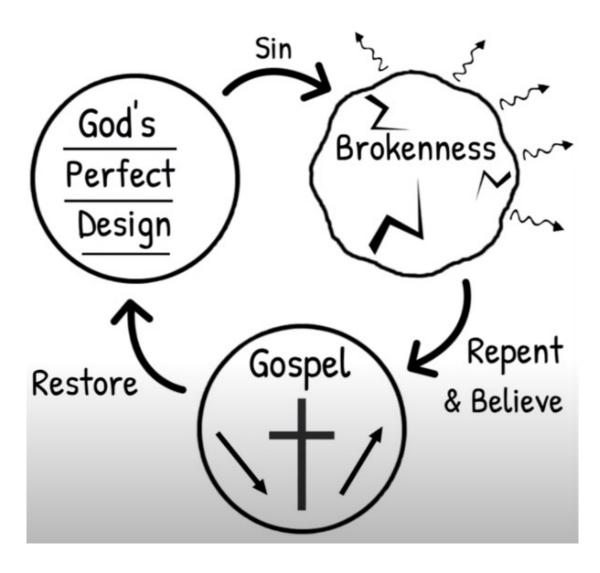
#### SHORT PRAYER

"God, I know I'm a sinner and I'm broken. Please forgive me of my sins and make me whole. I believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. I'm asking Him to come into my life right now to help me recover and pursue God's design for my life."

## **ANOTHER EXAMPLE**

The gospel explained using 3 circles - YouTube

https://youtu.be/JcwNwo9FAAI



## Follow-Up Example

#### Broken to Beautiful: God's Joy - Love - Peace

Follow Jesus purpose to glorify God free from self-focus
Be guided by the Spirit through the Scriptures to take action in becoming love
Live fearlessly like the Father's beloved so

You now have access to live in a **beautiful world reality** following Jesus' purpose, God's Spirit's your guide, and Father's God's beloved son or daughter. This will poured God's energy into your life so that you contribute joy, love, and peace to others.

- > NEW: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
- > KINGDOM-OF-GOD: Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
- > LIFE: John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- > ENERGY: 2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
- > SHINE: Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

God's joy is found when you follow Jesus PURPOSE and not your own. Living His purpose builds a life of deep meaning that produces joy, even in adversity, freeing you from your need for control, comfort, or pleasure. When you surrender to his purpose, let go of your plans, and have faith that Jesus will work things for his glory and your good, joy fills your heart, and you will contribute his joyful energy to others.

- > FOLLOW: Matthew 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.
- > PURPOSE: 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- > FREEDOM: Romans 8:18-19 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.
- > CONQUERORS: Romans 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- > JOY: John 15:11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

God's love is found when you receive God's Spirit as your GUIDE to love others. This is important because the world is broken and anti-God, and your heart, and mind, unknowingly conform to its patterns of thinking and living. But God's Spirit through the scriptures gives you new desires and ways of looking at life. So, when dealing with life's troubles, you don't look to your own wisdom but wait for direction from God's Spirit who guides your desires and decisions so that you contribute His loving energy to others.

- > RECEIVE: John 14:28 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
- > DIFFERENT: Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- > GUIDED: Romans 8:12-14 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation---but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
- > ACTION: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- > BECOME LOVE: 1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God's peace is found from living as Father God's BELOVED SON OR DAUGHTER. Through Jesus' death on the cross, you were adopted into God's family as His child. Father God is unlike our earthly fathers that can let us down. He actually delights in you, is your constant companion, and gives you strength in your troubles so you can live by faith and dream fearlessly. You can abandon all outcomes to Him and be courageous while staying calm so that you contribute His peaceful energy to others. 

> ADOPTED: John 1:12-13 - Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become

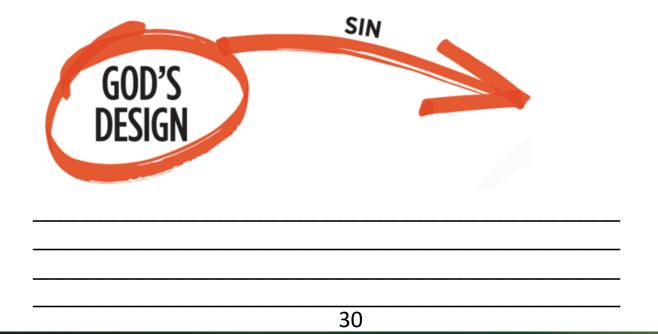
- children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
- > DELIGHTED-IN: Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."
- > COMPANION: Psalm 91:14-15 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
  > STRENGTH: 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...
- STRENGTH: 2 Corintnians 12:9 But he said to me, TMy grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weak "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
- > PEACEFUL: John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

  But take heart! I have overcome the world."

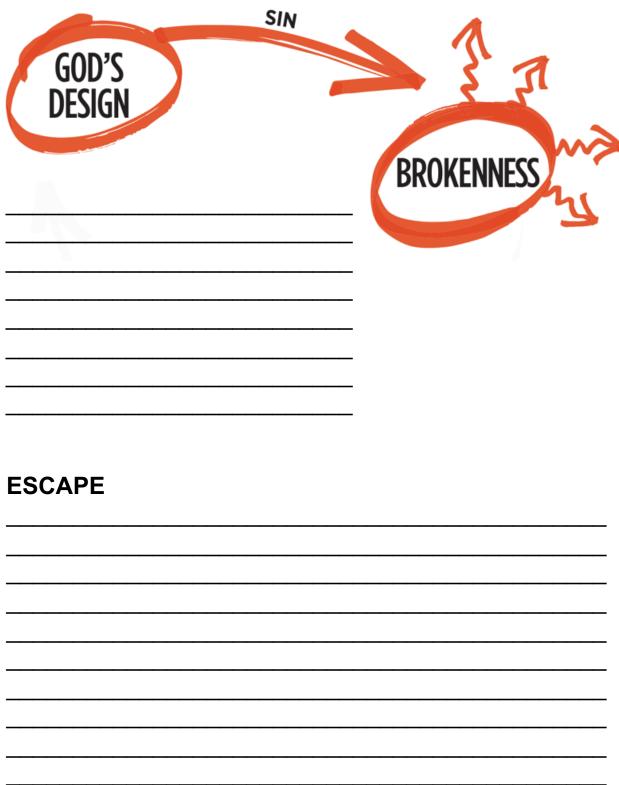
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## **Writing Your Own Testimony**

TRANSITION	
GOD'S DESIGN	



## **Brokenness**

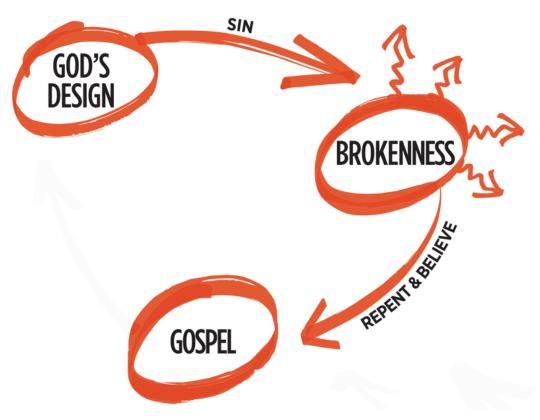


## **GOSPEL**



GOSPEL	
- DOWN	
- CROSS	
- RESURRECTED	·

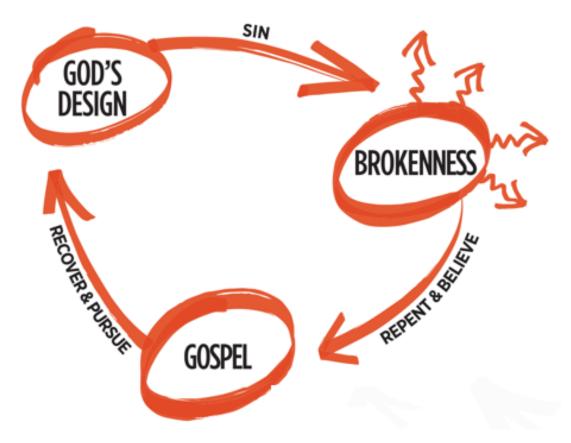
## **REPENT AND BELIEVE**



#### **REPENT & BELIEVE**

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## **RECOVER & PURSUE**



#### **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS**

- 1. Where do you see yourself in this diagram?
- 2. If you're in brokenness is there anything that would keep you from repenting and believing the gospel right now?
- 3. Lead in a salvation prayer.

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