

Thrive

Secure

True

New

Empowered

Hear

Speak

Connect

Share

Act

SECURE

What's an example of a secure relationship in your life? Unsecure?

What affects does that relationship have in your life relationally, emotionally, mentally?

Secure- safe, firmly in place, certain.

Clarifying the Gospel

Read John 3:16

What two possible destinies are described in this verse?

Which destiny does God desire for us? Why?

What thoughts or feelings does this bring about?

Read Romans 6:23

What have we earned? How?

What does God desire to give us? How

Read Romans 5:8

Why did Jesus have to die?

What are your thoughts about this?

Read John 5:24 & Romans 10:9-13

What is our part in salvation?

Tell the story about when you decided to trust Jesus' perfection instead of your own, relying on His forgiveness.

Read Psalm 103:12

How many sins did God forgive you of? What if you do something horrific 5 years from now?

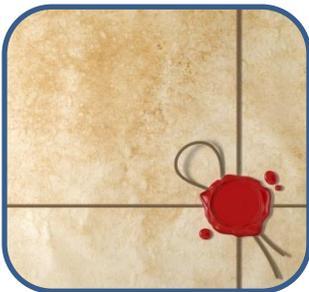
Do you think God wants us to be secure in our relationship with Him? Why or why not?

What would be the impact in your life if you thought God would abandon you if you sinned now that you're a Christian?

Read John 10:27-30. How would you rephrase what these verses are saying? Which picture do you think best describes the intended meaning? Why?



Read and summarize Ephesians 1:13-14. Which picture do you think best describes the intended meaning of? Why?



Read and summarize 1 John 5:11-13. Which picture do you think best describes the intended meaning of? Why?



When you think about God's unconditional love toward you and how He will never abandon you or give up on you, how does that make you feel?

If someone thought they could lose the gift of eternal life given to them by grace, what would that show they think about the cross?

Spend some time telling God how you feel about Him and how He has rescued you and will never leave you.

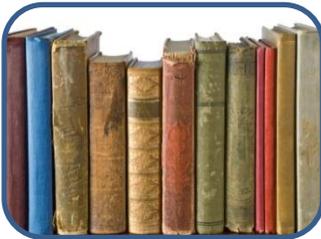
True

Tell about a time you thought something was true but later found out it wasn't. How did that impact you?

What would be the effects of believing something that isn't true about God.

"I am more convinced than ever that there is nothing more important to teach another believer than who God is, what He is like and why or how He does what He does. In fact, everything about our lives-our attitudes, motives, desires, actions, and even our words-is influenced by our view of God." Bill Bright

For each picture discuss what characteristic of God the picture could display.



Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 & Hebrews 12:1-4 and discuss the effects of intentionally keeping our attention on God.

Read the following verses and share what it shows you about God's character and discuss how believing this truth about God would affect your daily life.

Psalms 139:1-18

Proverbs 2:6

Isaiah 40:25-29

Isaiah 41:10

Romans 11:33-36

2 Corinthians 3:5

Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 1:15-17

James 1:17

Rev. 19:11-16

Who in your life would benefit from hearing one of these truths about God?

Figure out a time to share with them within the next day or 2.

Spend some time telling God what you think about Him and praying for the person you are going to tell something about God.

New

Describe what would happen if you believed things were true about yourself that were in fact not true. Share a personal example.

When you let God forgive you, He gave you a new identity. The following verses highlight some of the things that are now true about you.

Read each of the verses and pick the picture that helps you to understand the truth of your new identity highlighted in each verse.

Isaiah 43:10

Matthew 5:13-15

John 20:21

Rom 5:9-10

Rom 8:1, 28, 31-39

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

2 Corinthians 3:5

Ephesians 2:5-10

Ephesians 2:18-19

Philippians 1:6

Hebrews 3:1

1 Peter 2:9-10

1 John 3:1-2

John 15:15-16



Which verses do you have the hardest time believing? What would help you cling to the truth this week?

Empowered

Describe a time you thought you could do something but later found out you were not able.

What is the danger of thinking you can do something but can't?

Living the Christian life is what God desires of us but we can't do it in and of ourselves by trying hard. What God expects of us is so impossible that only He can do it. And only by yielding to Him can He do it through us.

What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

Which picture would you choose to describe Him?



What do these verses say about what the Holy Spirit does?

John 14:26

John 15:26

John 16:8

Acts 1:8

Galatians 5:22-23

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

Describe a recent time you've seen one of these things happen in someone's life.

What you think or feel knowing you have interacted with or saw God the Holy Spirit at work?

Draw out and explain 3 Circles Diagram

(<http://www.campuscrusade.com/downloads/SFL.pdf>)

Read each verse and put it in your own words.

John 15:5

Galatians 5:16

Galatians 5:19-23

Galatians 3:3

How do each of these pictures convey the spirit-filled life?



How does each picture portray the element of surrender or yielding?

How does yielding relate to the Spirit-filled life?

What would this yielding look like practically in your life?

Discuss how often believers need to yield to the Holy Spirit.

What would specific things would help you intentionally yield often to the Holy Spirit this week?

Hear

What picture best represents how you view the Bible?



Read the following verses and discuss what God says about the Bible and why it's significant.

Hebrews 4:12

2 Tim. 3:16-17

What do you know about the Bible?

What would you say if someone said it was full of errors?

1. It is **scientifically accurate** - The Bible makes accurate scientific claims about radioactivity, hydrology, astronomy, biology, physics and other areas of science. (Radioactive decay, in 2Peter 3:10. Hydrologic cycles, in Ps.135:7, Ec.1:7 and Job 36:27-29. Atmospheric jet streams, in Ecc. 1:6. Clouds and condensation, in Job 26:8, 37:11. Earth's spherical shape, Is. 40:22. The expansion of the universe, in Job 26:7. Earth's foundation – hung on nothing, Job 26:7. That air has weight, Job 28:25. Hydrothermic vents, Gen. 7:11 and Job. 38:16.)
2. It is **historically accurate** - Real people, places and events corroborated by archeology (here are just a couple of examples). Hitites – critics condemned the Bible's description of this group; archeological digs have since proven their existence. Caesar Augustus' census at the time of Christ's birth (Luke 2:1).
3. It is **prophetically accurate** - There are hundreds of prophetic claims in the Bible which have been fulfilled with dramatic accuracy. Jesus alone fulfilled over 300 (odds of just 8 = 1 in 1017). i.e. Jesus' crucifixion prophesied 1000 years before crucifixion was even invented (Ps. 22:16).
4. It is **textually authentic** - There are many thousands of copies of the Biblical manuscripts that no text is in question. A quick comparison with Homer's Iliad: NT has copies from as early as AD 125 (~25-70 years after written, within life-spans of Jesus' contemporaries). The Iliad's earliest copy is from 400 BC (500 yrs after written). NT has 24,000 early copies (~300 yrs) vs. Iliad's 643
5. It's **continuity** is staggering - 60 generations over 1600 years produced this book. 40 authors including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, physicians, poets, statesmen, and scholars. There is perfect agreement with prophesy and fulfillment, historical facts and sequence. The Bible is printed in over 2200 languages, and is the best seller every year.

What do the following verses say some benefits of reading God's word are? Which do you appreciate the most? Why?

Joshua 1:8

Psalm 119:9-11, 99, 105, 130

Matthew 4:1-11

What does God tell us about reading the Bible? Why is it significant?

Deuteronomy 17:19

Psalm 119:27

2 Timothy 2:15

James 1:22-25

Connect With the Lord Together. Read Isaiah 40 and make note of the things that jump out at you as you read.

- *Make sure Christ is on the throne of your heart and ask God to show you what He wants to.
- *Summarize the chapter.
- *Of the verses that jumped out at you, look up the verse or a word in a commentary (www.biblestudytools.com) and write down what you learn.
- *Write down some principles that stick out to you which are timeless and universal. (Things that are true for all people throughout all time. Follow the normal rule of grammar to find out.)
- *Ask God why He brought these principles to your mind and write down the things that come to mind.
- *What does this verse show you about God's character?
- *What does this thought show you about mankind?
- *Put yourself in this situation, what would you be thinking and feeling?
- *What does this relate to in your personal day to day life?
- *What is one way you can respond to what God has brought to your mind?

Come up with a plan of how you can spend time with God in His Word like this every day.

Speak

Tell of a time when you've seen God answer a prayer.

What picture best represents your view of prayer?



Read the following verses on prayer and jot down something beside it that will remind you what it said.

Jeremiah 33:3

Matthew 7:7

Mark 1:35

Luke 5:16

John 15:7

Philippians 4:6-7

Colossians 4:2-6

Hebrews 4:16

1 Peter 4:7

1 John 5:14-15

Discuss which verse best relates to where you are right now in life.

Which verse inspires you to pray?

Which verse clarifies something for you about prayer?

Read the following examples of things people prayed and talk about what stands out to you and then spend some time praying together. 1 Kings 3:3-14, Psalm 51:1-12, John 17, Colossians 1:9-12.

Connect

How do you think God desires us to relate to other believers? Can you think of any Scripture that would answer this question?

Looking back at the truths talked about under **New**, how would believing these truths in relation to other believers affect life and relationships overall? How would they specifically affect your relationships?

Read Hebrews 3:13 and discuss which picture best describes this verse and why.



Read Hebrews 10:25 and discuss which picture best describes this verse and why.



What would this practically look like in your circle of believers?

Read Galatians 6:1-2 and discuss which picture best describes the authors intended meaning of this verse and why.



The word restore in Greek means to set a broken bone or mend a net. Discuss how these word pictures bring depth to the verse.

God is specific in His Word about how He wants us to relate to each other. Jot down a summary beside each verse.

John 13:34-35

Romans 12:16

Romans 15:7

Galatians 5:13

Ephesians 4:25, 32

1 Thessalonians 4:18

1 Thessalonians 5:15

James 5:16

1 Peter 4:9

What are some reasons God wants us to treat other believers the ways described above?

Which is the easiest for you? Hardest?

What relationship with a believer in your life would be different if you believed what God said was true about them? How can you help yourself believe what's true about them this week?

How can you encourage another believer in your life toward action this week?

Share

When you think of evangelism, which picture describes your initial reaction.



What caused you to see your need for Christ and gave Him control?

Who shared with you that you were separated from God and needed God to forgive you?

What would happen if the person who shared the gospel with you hadn't out of fear?

"Successful evangelism is taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results up to God." Bill Bright, Founder of Cru How does this quote change your thoughts about evangelism?

Read the following verses and match them with what you feel or an emotion that could be associated with it.

Psalm 96:2

Proverbs 11:30

Luke 15:10

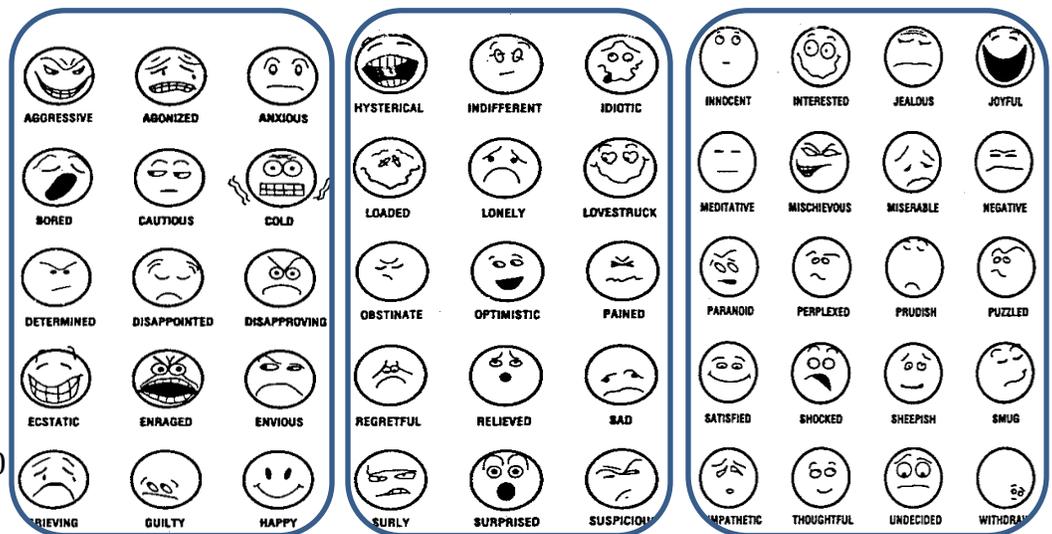
Acts 20:24

Romans 10:13-15

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

1 Thessalonians 2:4



In order to share the gospel, you have to break four Sound Barriers.

1. Get into a simple conversation. What's your name, how are you etc..
2. Swing the conversation to spiritual things.
3. Share the Gospel.
4. Ask them to respond to the Gospel/ask for a decision.

What are some practical tools that could help you break each of these sound barriers?

As God works through believers in seeking to save the lost, there are three different types of relational avenues which give us opportunity to use our tools. These avenues are determined by the nature of the relationship between the believer and the unbeliever.

Organic: Getting into conversations with others in the normal course of life.

Read the examples and discuss how they used the conversation to talk about spiritual things.
John 4:1-42, Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 3:15

Communal: Inviting non-believers to be part of your believing community. Letting them see how believers interact and using this to get into a spiritual conversation with them.

Read the examples below and write down a few key words or a sentence reminding you what it says. John 17:21-23, John 13:34-35, Acts 2:42-47

Missional: Intentionally taking the gospel to people you have not met yet.

Read the examples below and write down a few key words or a sentence reminding you what it says. Mark 1:38-39, Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-17, Acts 8, Acts 11:19-24

Through which of these avenues did you come to Christ?

Which one of these avenues is the most challenging for you personally? Why?

Are all three of these avenues necessary to saturate our culture? Why?

What does Colossians 1:21-23 say the gospel is? What key points does someone need to understand the full gospel?

What would be the result if someone trying to understand the gospel did not understand each of the following truths?

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9-10,13

“Each time I am with someone for five minutes or more, I consider it a God-given opportunity to testify of God’s mercy and grace in my life. You may be thinking: Bill Bright is the president of a worldwide organization dedicated to introducing people to Christ. Surely, proclaiming the gospel is easier for him than for me. I could never witness like that. I am naturally a shy and reserved person, so sharing my faith is sometimes difficult for me. I must continually rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to be a fruitful witness.” Bill Bright

Spend a few minutes praying for God to lead you to people to talk to about Him.

Take 30 min. or as much times as you have right now to take the initiative to break as many sound barriers as you can with people around you. (If there is no one around, try using facebook or calling someone.)

Act

If someone asked you why you exist what would you say?

What does God's Word say as the reason we exist?

Read Isaiah 43:7 and choose a picture that best describes what it means to glorify God.



To glorify God is to reflect His heart and character. What would this look like in your daily life?

Read John 20:21.

What was Jesus sent to do?

What then is our specific mission?

Becoming a follower of Jesus came with a job description. Matthew 28:18-20 lays it out for us. Read it and choose a picture you think best describes it.



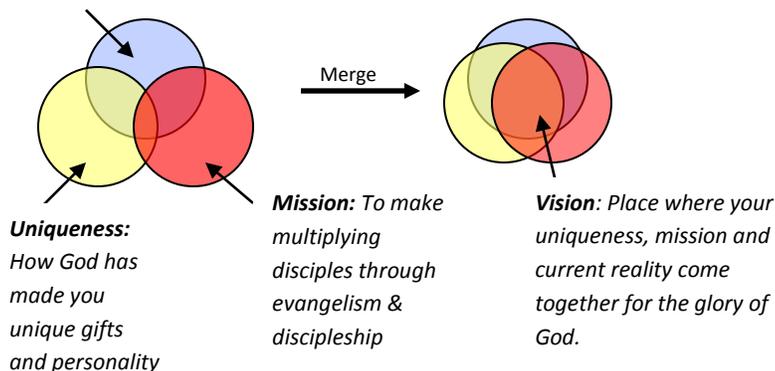
Purpose asks, "Why do we exist?" This is the same for all people. We exist to glorify God.

Mission asks, "What are we here to do?" This is the same for all believers. Our mission is to make disciples through the process of evangelism and discipleship.

Uniqueness is how God has built us. This is different for each person.

Vision is a picture of the desired future, a mental image of a possible and desirable future state. This is different for everyone.

Current Reality: Your sphere of influence and realities of life.



We have our purpose, mission, uniqueness and current reality. But if these remain separate, we can feel like we are running crazy doing everything under the sun yet accomplishing little in terms of making multiplying disciples. The goal is to merge these together as much as possible. Let's use Jesus as our example of how to merge these. He used His uniqueness of being able to heal (so people would know He was God) to preach, and his current reality was traveling around to do it. In Mark 1:35, we see that His uniqueness was getting a little more attention, so He said, "Come let us go to the towns nearby so I may preach there also, for that is what I came for."

The law of entropy says things naturally go from order to disorder. So unless we are intentional about making disciples and making a plan to merge these circles in all reality it won't happen.

What was Paul's strategy in merging his mission, current reality and uniqueness? Acts 17:2

Spend some time brainstorming practically what your strategy could be. It might help to write down some specifics of how God made you (what you like, your personality, passions, gifts etc.) and things that are true about your current reality. Then think through how you can use those things to be about making disciples through the process of evangelism and discipleship.

Believe it or not, reaching this world is very possible. Starting with 45 of us, multiplying once annually the whole world could be reached in 29 years.

Let's say for example that a gifted evangelist is able to lead 1,000 people to Christ every day. Each year he will have reached 365,000 people, a phenomenal ministry indeed. Let's compare him with a disciple who leads not 1,000 people a day to Christ, but only one person a year. At the end of the year, the disciple has one convert; the evangelist, 365,000. But suppose the disciple has not only led this man to Christ, but has also discipled him. He has prayed with him, taught him how to feed himself from the Word of God, gotten him into fellowship with like-minded believers, taken him out on evangelism and showed him how to present the Gospel to other people. At the end of that first year, this new convert is able to lead another man to Christ and follow him up as he himself has been followed up.

At the start of the second year, the disciple has doubled his ministry—the one has become two. During the second year, each man goes out and leads not 1,000 people per day to Christ, but one person per year. At the end of the second year, we have four people. You can see how slow our process is. But note, too, that we do not have only converts, but disciples who are able to reproduce themselves. At this rate of doubling every year, the disciple leading one man per year to Christ, will overtake the evangelist numerically somewhere in the 19th year. From then on, the disciple and his multiplying ministry will be propagating faster than the combined ministry of dozens of gifted evangelists." Walter Henrichsen

How can you be intentional this week about the mission God gave you of making disciples with your current reality and uniqueness? Practically, what is your next step?
What things could distract you? How can you guard against them?

Recommended reading:

Radical by David Platt

Fuel and the Flame by Steve Shadrach

www.CruPressGreen.com

The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman

The Unexpected Adventure by Lee Strobel & Mark Mittelberg

Disciples are Made Not Born by Walter Henrichsen