

Evangelism
Week 2: “The Conversation”

Hook



Main Point: Any believer can share the Gospel with simplicity and clarity.

Game: An obstacle for some in sharing their faith is developing a method of presenting the Gospel. Today’s lesson will illustrate a method called “3 Circles”; its goal is to help you explain the Gospel story effectively and efficiently. To practice being concise, break your class into small groups. Challenge them to consider the movies listed below and explain their plots in the number of words allotted. Each movie is permitted one word for every 30 minutes of running time. Feel free to change some of the titles to make the game most effective for your class.

<i>Gone with the Wind</i>	(238 minutes) 8 words
<i>Toy Story</i>	(81 minutes) 3 words
<i>ET: The Extra-Terrestrial</i>	(115 minutes) 4 words
<i>Star Wars</i>	(121 minutes) 5 words
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	(142 minutes) 5 words
<i>Frozen</i>	(102 minutes) 4 words
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> [1951]	(75 minutes) 3 words
<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>	(83 minutes) 3 words
<i>It’s a Wonderful Life</i>	(130 minutes) 5 words
<i>Rear Window</i> [1954]	(112 minutes) 4 words
<i>Casablanca</i>	(102 minutes) 4 words
<i>Wizard of Oz</i> [1939]	(102 minutes) 4 words

Discussion Questions

- *What methods have you used in the past to succinctly and clearly share the Gospel? Which was the most effective?*
- *If you had only five minutes to share the Gospel with someone, what strategy would you use?*
- *How do you quickly build a rapport with someone in an effort to introduce the Gospel? How do you initiate a Gospel conversation?*
- *Describe a time when you encountered a stranger and shared the Gospel. Describe a time when you shared the Gospel with an acquaintance or friend. How did your approach differ between the two encounters?*

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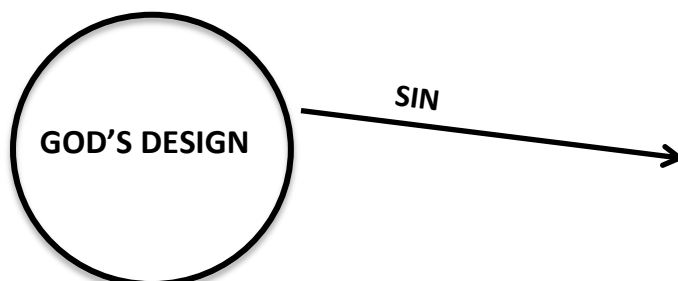
Lesson Introduction: Today’s lesson is the second installment in the evangelism series; its goal is to help a believer become confident in holding a Gospel conversation. Below is a presentation of the *3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide* from *Life on Mission*. The illustrations intertwined in the text are intended to be an integral tool in this method of evangelism. The *3 Circles* technique is designed to be simple enough that one could draw it on the back of a napkin. In an effort to be better understood and accepted by a lost person, this method avoids using formal theological language. The images below should be illustrated on your white board in the classroom so your class members can follow along. An illustration of the *3 Circles* presentation and a helpful app can be found at <http://lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide>.

Circle 1: God’s Design



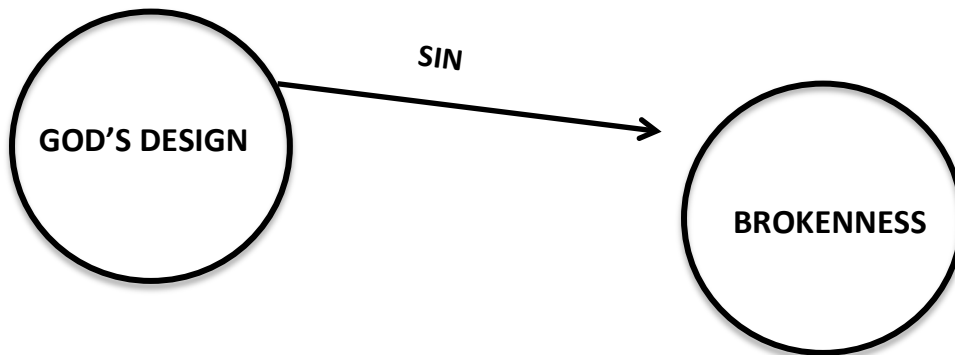
From the very beginning, God had a plan for humans. Not only did God have a plan for humanity at large, He had *and has* a plan for every human individually. God has a design for the way we should treat our families, work our jobs, interact with friends and strangers; the plan is perfect. The Creator who knit together every being desires nothing more than for His plans to be implemented in every life.

The challenge is that there is something within people that pushes us to depart from God’s design, to go in our own direction. The Bible has labeled that departure from God’s design “sin.”

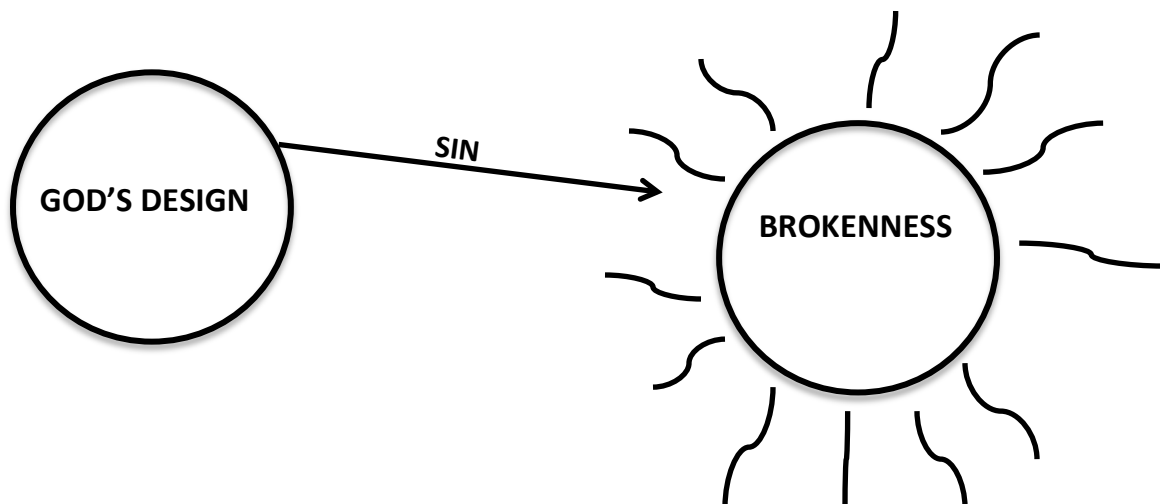


Sin leads to a world of consequences. When we sin, we find ourselves in a place of “brokenness.”

Circle 2: Brokenness

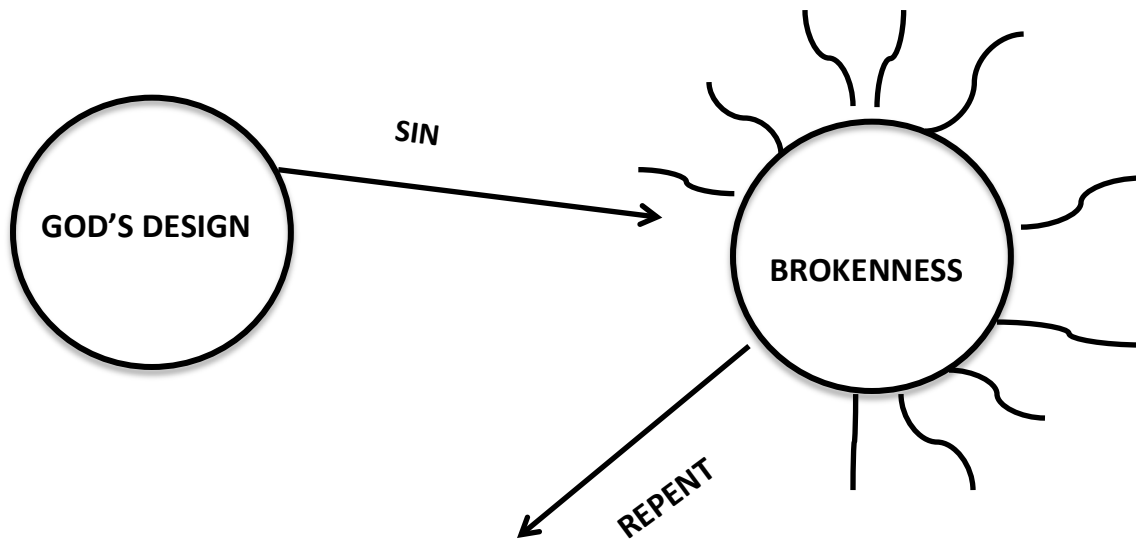


The feeling of brokenness is the result of our poor choices or even the choices of others that negatively affect us. This state exemplifies itself in ruined relationships, addictions, unease, fear and a mountain of other negative circumstances and states of being. Our brokenness, the feeling of emptiness and desperation, leads us to look in many different directions for healing.

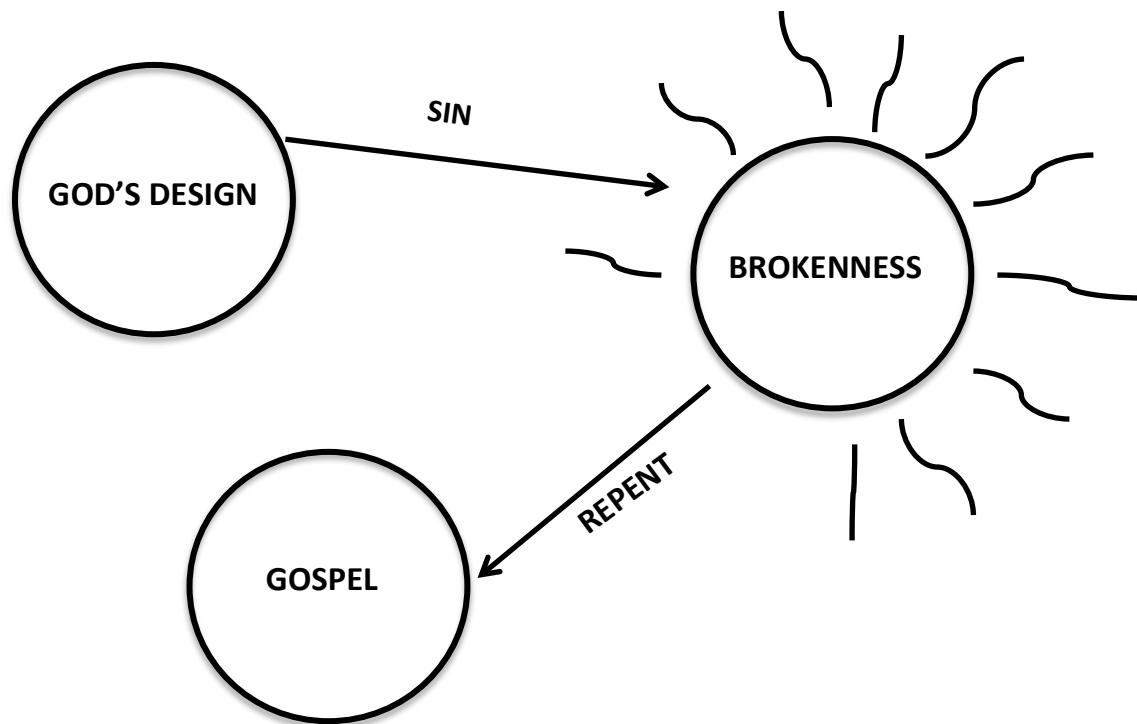


We turn to religion, success, beauty, substances, anger and a litany of other seemingly filling solutions to fix the brokenness in our lives. The challenge is that none of the solutions we carve out for ourselves will work; the brokenness remains.

Although brokenness is bleak, God uses it for good. God uses brokenness to help people understand that there is a problem that needs a solution. When someone surveys his life and recognizes the destruction around him and acknowledges that his solutions have failed, he often becomes open to the idea of a different path. He becomes open to a genuine change. The Bible's word for change is "repent."

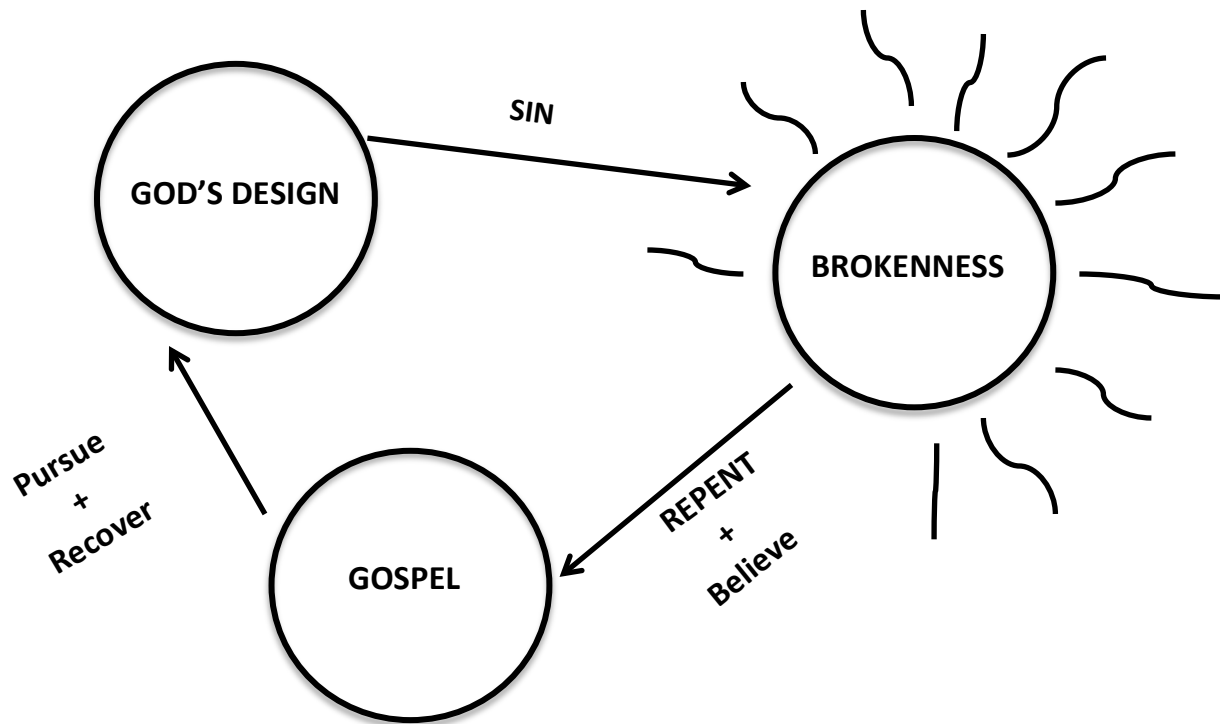


We want to change and repent but we realize that we can't do much on our own (as evidenced by our own solutions to our brokenness). The good news is that God has a plan to fix the problem of brokenness; it's called the "Gospel."



The Gospel is the story of what Jesus did for us. Jesus, who is God in flesh, came and lived a perfect life. He never departed from God's design; He lived a life completely without sin. He taught people about God's love for them and His design for their lives. He healed the sick, spent time with the poor, and sought the outcasts. When He was around 33 years old, people that He loved nailed Him to a cross and murdered Him. While Jesus was on the cross, God did something incredible. He took the sins of the world and placed them on Jesus. So in His death, Jesus paid the penalty for all of our sin. After He had accomplished His mission on the Cross (bearing the consequences of the world's sins), Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. In His conquering of death, Jesus proved that He was who He said He was, the Son of God. Jesus proved that He could do what He said He could do, forgive sin. And this is the Good News.

The death and Resurrection of Jesus opens up the path by which we might return to the design of God. God's provision means that we can do no good of our own to fix brokenness, nor can we lose that provision by making mistakes. The path to restoration and redemption is this: Repent and believe.



When we make the step of turning from our sins (repentance) and turning toward Jesus (belief), God restores us. He does a work in our hearts that helps us to pursue and recover God’s design. No matter what our brokenness looks like or how deep we are in it, God restores us to a right relationship with Him through Jesus.

When we come to faith in Jesus and are restored to His original design for us, we begin to experience the good things that God intends for us to have: purpose, forgiveness, community, hope, joy. As we experience these blessings from God, He sends us back into the brokenness of the world to help others discover the Good News that we have found.

Stage	Supporting Verses
God’s Design	Genesis 1:31; Psalm 19:1
Sin	Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23a
Brokenness	Romans 1:25; Proverbs 14:12
Gospel	John 3:16; Colossians 2:14
Repent & Believe	Mark 1:15; Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 10:9
Recover & Pursue	Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:10

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Main Point: Any believer can share the Gospel with simplicity and clarity.

Class Activity

Provide your class with pens and paper. Ask them to divide into pairs and practice the 3 Circles method of evangelism. Encourage your class to download the “Life Conversation Guide” app.

Lesson Conclusion: The Gospel is the good news of salvation and is intended to be shared.

Challenge

When confronted with a broken world, choose compassion. When we turn on the news and see violence, hatred, injustice, strife and all sorts of other sins, we shouldn’t be surprised because all humans are broken. As we go out into the world and engage people, we need to realize they are far from perfect and need the Gospel in order to restore them to God’s design. When you see an angry customer in line waiting for her coffee, or encounter a person who admits to enjoying his sin, choose to react as Jesus would; reject the tendency to become bitter, instead choose compassion. Don’t barricade yourself in judgment but choose to introduce light to a broken world.

Preach hope. Many people look to the wrong sources for hope. Ask God to give you attentive eyes to those who are searching for a solution to their brokenness. Never allow an opportunity to pass to preach the hope you have found.

Share the Gospel. As God’s redeemed people, we have an obligation to take this message to all of our lost friends, neighbors and coworkers. Before Christ departed, He

gave the Great Commission to His Church. They were to take the Gospel to all nations, making disciples of everyone who believes. We are a part of God's Church and must see this as our task for the time we have left on this earth. The burden is on us to share the Gospel with the neighbor across the hall, the coworker who sits next to us at work, or the barista we see everyday at the coffee shop.