

THREE CIRCLES — FACILITATOR GUIDE

A Gospel Training & Presentation Tool

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Three Circles is a gospel training tool that uses a simple visual to walk a group through the gospel message. Participants see the gospel taught, practice sharing it themselves, and then study it in Scripture.

This session meets two types of people at once. Someone who doesn't yet know Jesus can respond to the gospel, while someone who does know Jesus grows in confidence to share it.

NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR

Before you lead, get familiar with the script until you can teach it naturally without reading word for word. You don't need it memorized — just know it well enough to draw and explain the visual as you go. For more context and teaching ideas, read the Three Circles post at redeemedblog.com. Every session uses the Follow-Along Sheet. Choose your follow-up handout and print both before you begin.

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 — Introduce the Session

Gather your group and tell them what you'll be doing together. Let them know they'll be drawing along with you as you teach — so make sure everyone has a pen and their Follow-Along Sheet before you begin.

"Hey guys. Today we're going to learn a visual for the most important message in the Bible — the gospel. The word gospel means good news. So today we're going to hear that good news, and we're going to have a chance to respond to it. Some of us might respond in faith for the first time. Some of us might respond by getting ready to share it with someone else."

Step 2 — Teach the Visual

Using the script on the following pages, draw and explain the Three Circles. Let the drawing lead — you don't need to hurry. Before you begin, point your group to the Conversation Starters on the next page and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

Step 3 — 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 4 — 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?

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 5 — 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 6 — Small Group Discussion

Dismiss participants to their small groups with the handout you have chosen.

You have three follow-ups to choose from. Practice the Gospel has them pair up and take turns explaining the visual to each other. Rooted in Scripture has them look up verses and place them on the visual they drew — an answer key is available for you. Or choose one of the three Bible studies: Luke 19, Ephesians 2, or 1 Corinthians 15.

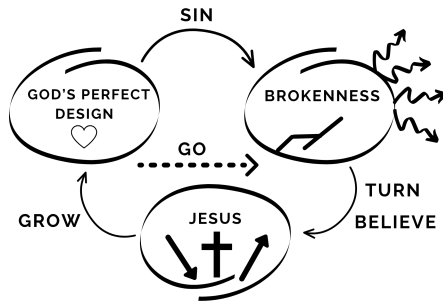
Choose before the session and print the right handout. You don't have to do this the same night — many groups teach the visual one week and come back to the study at a later meeting.

TRAINING TIPS

- **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

You don't need to memorize this word for word — just keep the story and the sequence intact as best you can. The visual below shows where you're headed.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

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 world that can be characterized by brokenness. And it's not hard to see brokenness in our world. People are hurting. Sometimes people hurt each other. There are natural disasters. There are sicknesses. Things just don't seem right in our 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 God had a perfect design in mind when He created the world. In that design, we were made to have a good relationship with God — to know Him personally, to walk alongside Him, and to be His image bearers. And we were meant to have good relationships with each other too. In His perfect design there is no shame and no separation from Him.

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

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

Unfortunately, the first people God created chose not to trust Him fully. And because of this, they sinned against a holy and perfect God. That sin removed them from His perfect design and into a world of brokenness. And that's where all of us are born. But it's not just them.

Every one of us has sinned against God too. We've all chosen our own way instead of His. And sin against a holy God has a consequence. The Bible says the wages of sin is death. Not just physical death — being separated from God forever, in a place the Bible calls hell.

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)*

And because no one wants to stay in brokenness, we try to get out of it on our own. We try being a good person. We try succeeding in life. We try religious deeds. Or maybe we try to numb the pain through substances, entertainment, or relationships. But none of those things will ever completely work to get us out of brokenness. The only thing that can help is God intervening.

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)*

So God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect and sinless life here on earth. A life that none of us have been able to live. And then Jesus took that punishment for us — the one we deserve — by dying on the cross. He remained dead for three days. And then on the third day, He proved that He really is the Son of God, and that He can conquer sin and death, by rising from the grave.

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)*

Now if we turn from our sin toward Jesus and believe in Him as our Lord and Savior, the Bible says that we can be saved. And from salvation, we're restored back into God's perfect design — into a good standing relationship with God. Our sins are forgiven. Not because of anything we did, but because of what Jesus did in our place. The separation is gone.

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 *(draw the arrow from the Jesus circle up to the God's Perfect Design circle; write "Grow" next to the arrow)*

And that's where we grow. Daily, in our relationship with God — reading His Word, praying, gathering with other believers.

John 17:3 · 2 Timothy 3:16–17 · Hebrews 10:24–25 · Acts 2:42–47

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

And that's also where we go. Back out into the brokenness around us, to tell other people how they can escape brokenness too — by turning and believing in Jesus Christ as their Savior, for the forgiveness of their sins. So that they can be part of God's perfect design again.

Matthew 28:19–20 · 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 · Romans 10:14–15

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

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?