



3 BIG THINGS



3 BIG THINGS

Jesus' Great Commission call to "go and make disciples" (Matt. 28:18-20) reflects the loving heart of God, our heavenly Father, which is to draw people to Himself, forgive their sin, rescue them from death through Jesus' death and resurrection, and adopt them into His forever family, all for the glory of His name.

Why are disciples - His children - part of that plan? Because our identity is that we are new people (2 Cor.5:17), so we share our Father's life and heart. And we are ambassadors (2 Cor.5:20), obediently spreading His message to a world of people who are lost, spiritually dead, and in desperate need of a Savior.

Three Big Things is a resource for disciples who intend to be obedient and join the Father in His mission. It provides cues to guide conversations with people about the state of their own relationship with God.

The primary tool for explaining the Gospel is The Three Circles, which may be used effectively with people from religious or non-religious backgrounds. The Three-Part Story and Impact Map are tools that help a new believer take their first steps as an obedient disciple of Jesus. All can be easily sketched on a piece of paper.

Disciple-makers will explore key Bible stories with a friend to help them understand and respond to God's call to...

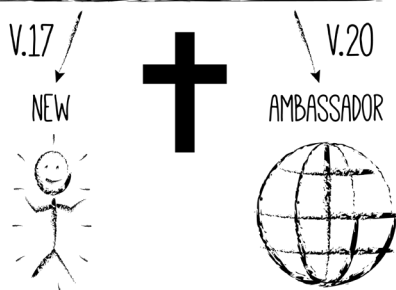
BELIEVE: Turn from sin and believe to anchor your life and hope in Jesus. (Tool: The Three Circles)

MATTHEW 28:18-20

JESUS: "GO...MAKE DISCIPLES."

WHY? - YOUR IDENTITY

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21





BE BAPTIZED: Obey Jesus and symbolically testify to what Jesus and his Gospel have done in you. (Tool: Three-Part, 60-second Testimony)

BE AN AMBASSADOR: Pray for and tell other people what Jesus has done to save sinners and invite them to become disciples of Jesus. (Tool: Impact Map)

So, any disciple can use these simple things to lead people to enter a relationship with Jesus and begin to live as His disciple: a Bible story, the Three Big Things guide, a pen, a piece of paper, and an intentional conversation.

But since changing lives and eternal destinies is a work of God, making more disciples mostly requires a disciple to pray expectantly, depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, and be willing to invest their time, faith, and life in spreading the gospel to others. *"We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives."* (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Jesus promised His presence and power to any disciple who will obey His call and join His mission to make more disciples:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt.28:18-20)

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

God is always at work in our world, drawing hearts to Himself. Pray, and as you go through your everyday life, make more disciples.

BELIEVE

READ JESUS' CALL:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the gospel! (Mark 1:15)

TELL THE STORY: A Sinful Woman is Forgiven (Luke 7:36-50)

DISCOVER:

What does the story teach about God?

Remember: when you see & hear Jesus, you hear and see God: His character, truths, and ways.

What does the story teach about people?

What do their words or actions reveal? Is there an action or attitude to imitate? A sin to avoid?

Practice the Story

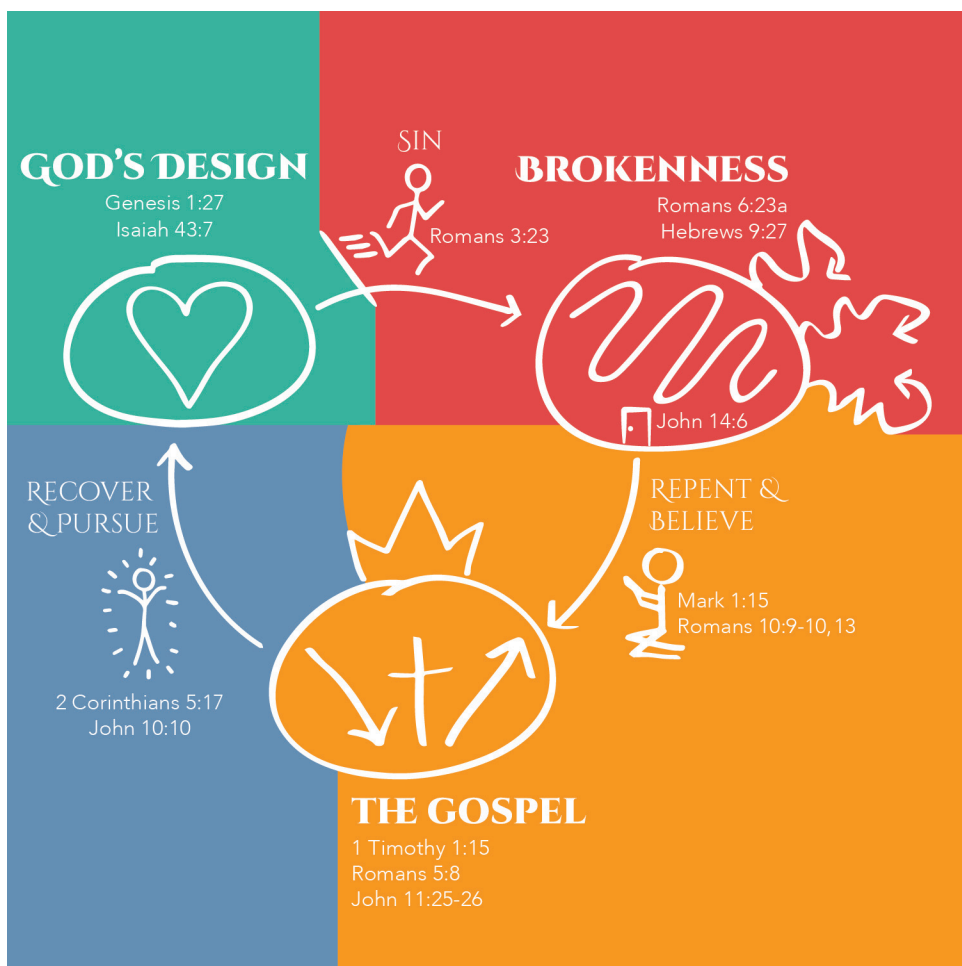
Explore the Story

What does it mean to be a sinner? Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and Romans 3:23.

Why would Jesus forgive any sinner of their sin? Read Ephesians 2:4-5, John 3:16-18, and Romans 6:23.

What does every person need in order to experience this rescue? Read John 3:3-7.

What will a person with this new heart & spiritual life do? Read Mark 1:15 and Romans 10:9.



Prayer: Jesus, I want to move from death to life. I trust that You are the only way out of brokenness and death, and into a relationship with my Creator. I repent of my sin, and trust that only your death can forgive my sin, only Your resurrection can give me life, and only You are a King worth following now and forever.

BE BAPTIZED

READ JESUS' COMMAND:

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
(Matthew 28:19)*

TELL THE STORY: The Ethiopian Official is Baptized by Philip
(Acts 8:26-39)

DISCOVER:

What does the story teach about God?

Remember: when you see & hear Jesus, you hear and see God: His character, truths, and ways

What does the story teach about people?

What do their words or actions reveal? Is there an action or attitude to imitate? A sin to avoid?

Practice the Story

Explore the Story

What is baptism? Read Romans 6:4.

What does the act of baptism involve? Read Mark 1:9-10 and Acts 8:38-39.

Who should be baptized? And when? Read Acts 2:41 and 8:12.

Why should a believer be baptized? Read Matthew 3:13-17 and 28:19; Acts 16:14-15, 30-34.



Prayer: *Jesus, you are my Lord and I want to obey you from the start. I will publicly proclaim my faith in you through believer's baptism and commit to gladly follow You all my days—no matter the cost.*

Before baptism and as part of your witness to Jesus, it is crucial to be able to clearly describe your experience of coming to a relationship with Christ. We call that your three-part story.

Your Three-Part Sixty-Second Jesus Story

My life before I came to Jesus was...

I repented of sin and believed the gospel when...

Since becoming a disciple of Jesus, my life is...

This week, share your three-part story with a friend and begin inviting people who may not know Jesus to your baptism.

BE AN AMBASSADOR

READ JESUS' ASSIGNMENT:

We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

TELL THE STORY: A Demon-Possessed Man is Changed & Sent to Tell (Luke 8:26-39)

DISCOVER:

What does the story teach about God?

Remember: when you see & hear Jesus, you hear and see God: His character, truths, and ways

What does the story teach about people?

What do their words or actions reveal? Is there an action or attitude to imitate? A sin to avoid?

Practice the Story

Explore the Story

What are the responsibilities of any nation's ambassador?

Who is an ambassador for Christ? Read John 20:21; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 2 Timothy 2:2.

How should the message from Jesus be delivered? Read John 1:14, 17; 1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:5-6.

What helps make the message from Christ's ambassadors unmistakably clear? Read Acts 4:10-20; Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23-25

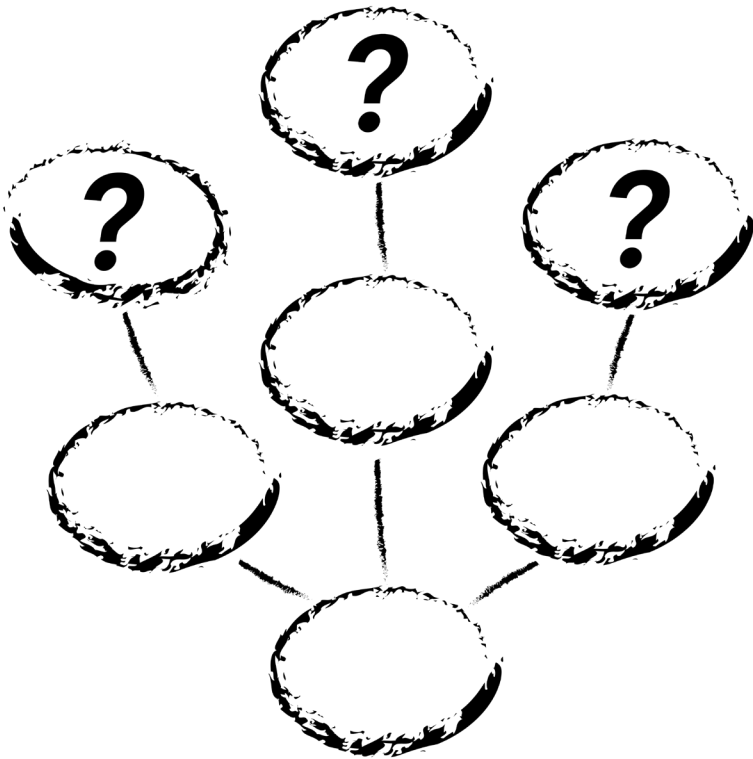


Why is it so crucial that disciples be faithful to live as ambassadors? Read Matthew 24:44, Hebrews 9:27, and 2 Peter 3:8-10.

Prayer: *Lord, make me bold to share what you have done in my life. I commit to be your ambassador to the people in my community and to make disciples who make disciples.*

DEVELOP YOUR IMPACT MAP

An impact map is a diagram showing those an ambassador is praying for and being intentional to share Jesus with.



For next week: Read Mark 1:14-20 as we begin to discuss Essentials for Disciples, and share your Three-part Story and /or the Three Circles with someone who may not yet know Jesus.

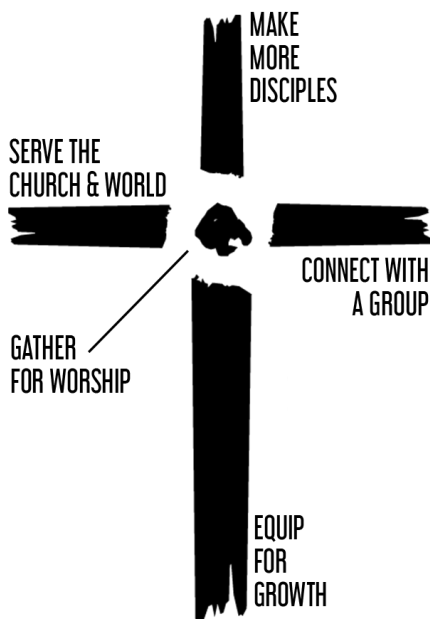
DEFINITIONS

Disciple: a person who has repented of sin, trusted Jesus as Savior and now knows, loves, and obeys Him as King; is becoming like Jesus in thought, character, and behavior; and daily joins with Jesus on His Kingdom mission in the world.

Disciple-maker: a disciple helping another person to know, love and obey Jesus by modeling the life of a disciple and engaging in practical training in the way of Jesus with encouragement and accountability until that person also becomes a disciple-maker.

Discipleship: the rhythms of life by which one's mind, heart and actions are centered on knowing, loving, and obeying Jesus.

The Disciple's Life includes gathering for worship; connecting with Jesus' family; serving the church and the world; equipping mind, heart, and life for growth; and making more disciples.





3 POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO A GOSPEL CONVERSATION

Y

YES (GREEN LIGHT)

Individual indicates their desire to enter a relationship with Jesus by repentance and belief. Lead them to pray. See Rom. 10:9-10, 13. **OR**

M

Individual indicates they have already trusted Christ. Ask them to share the story of their conversion. Listen carefully for trust in Christ and not religious action, as well as their obedience expressed in believer's baptism. You may then need to review the Gospel with the Three Circles, use an IQ conversation or go to the Be An Ambassador study.

N

MAYBE (YELLOW LIGHT)

Individual is not ready to repent and believe but is open to continue a conversation about Jesus and the Gospel. Use the IQ Guide.

NO (RED LIGHT)

Individual rejects the Gospel invitation or indicates no desire to continue the conversation. Be respectful and kind to assure the person of your love for them. Be open to further Gospel conversation as the Lord opens opportunities.

NEXT STEPS

Jesus said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

To be a disciple of Jesus is to live a life that is uniquely different from any other way to live. Jesus is at the center of the disciple's thinking, emotions, affections, motives, and choices. The new disciple must adopt ways and rhythms of living that enable that sort of living.

ESSENTIALS FOR DISCIPLES is a resource that equips the disciple-maker to help establish the new disciple of Jesus in their new life. It will introduce basic spiritual habits as well as the rhythms of the Disciple's Life.

