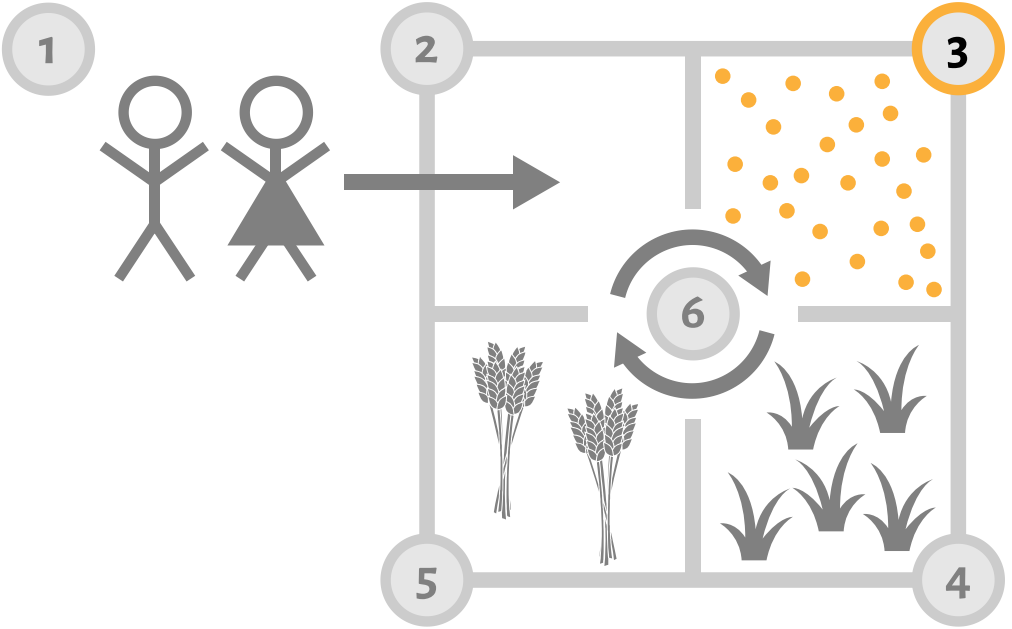


PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL



A farmer must sow seed abundantly in order to reap a harvest; so too believers must sow the seed of the gospel abundantly in order to gather a harvest of believers in the kingdom of God. To see the kingdom of God grow, we must know how to proclaim the good news of Jesus in empty fields of people who do not follow Jesus.

How can we proclaim the gospel?

John 4:4-42:



And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water

will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit

and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the town and were coming to him.

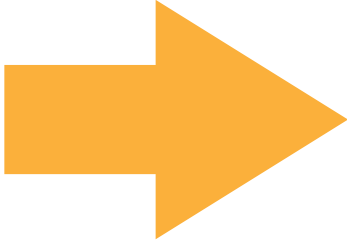
Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows

and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

In this true story, the Samaritan woman provides an excellent example of how we can share the gospel of Jesus. The Samaritan woman was not someone who had followed Jesus for a long time. She was not someone with a perfect life. She was not a man. She was probably not well-educated. She was probably not baptized yet. But many in the town believed in Jesus because of her testimony. God is willing to use us to lead many to believe in him also.

What did the Samaritan woman do to see many in the town believe in Jesus? We know she did these things:



She went immediately.



She shared her story.



She shared God's story.

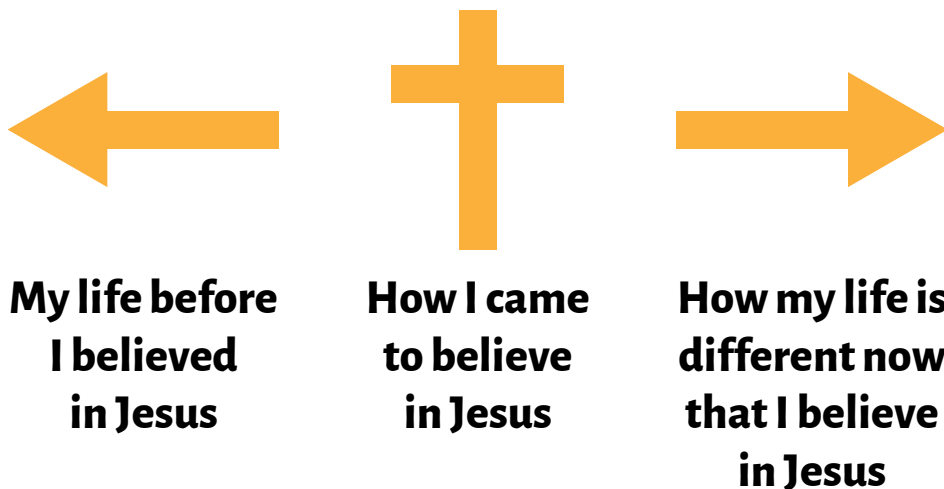


She invited people to experience Jesus.

We can do these things and see many believe also.

How can we share our story?

Just like the Samaritan woman, we can use our story as a bridge to get to sharing God's story, the gospel. When we share our story in this way, it should be short enough that we can move quickly to sharing the gospel. Around 3 minutes is a good target for how long we can take to share our story in this way. An outline that is helpful to follow as we share our story is this:



How can we share God's story?

Once we have shared our story, we can often bridge to sharing God's story. Sometimes it is as simple as asking something like, "Could I share with you about Jesus who changed my life?" If we are given the opportunity to share about Jesus, there are four main parts of the gospel that we should include:



- **God**

God is the creator of all things. He is holy, just, and love. He created humans to be in relationship with him.

- **Man**

Humans are created to bring glory to God and enjoy relationship with him. But all men are separated from God and subject to judgement because of sin. Sin is turning from God and falling short of his glorious standard.

- **Jesus**

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He took on flesh, lived a sinless life, died as a sacrifice on a cross, and

rose from the grave. By believing in Jesus, we are brought to restored relationship with God.

- **Response**

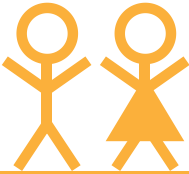
If someone repents and believes in Jesus, they will be saved. He becomes Savior and Lord of their life. If someone does not believe in Jesus, they suffer under the just wrath of God separated from him.

Many tools are available to help share the gospel clearly. No matter what tool we may use, or even if we do not use a tool at all, we should include at least the four parts mentioned.

One tool that may be helpful is the diagram that follows. When sharing the diagram with someone else, we should pause after drawing each part to explain the image, read the verse from the Bible, or ask a question. Some explanation is included along with each section of the diagram that follows.



God created everything, and he created man and woman to be in loving, holy relationship with him.



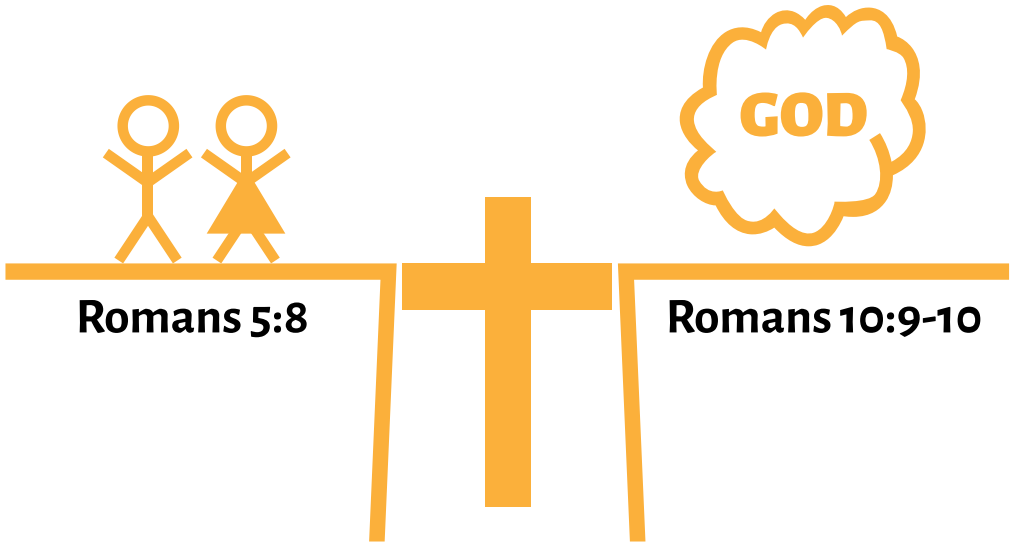
Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23



Mankind turned from relationship with God and broke his commandment, so there is a separation between God and man. Romans 3:23 says, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Sin is turning from God and falling short of his standard. All have sinned, so all are separate from God apart from

Jesus. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This means that our sin pays us a wage of death. This death is spiritual and will also be physical. The just punishment for our sin is everlasting suffering separated from God.



God still desires right relationship with every person, so he sent his Son Jesus. Jesus took on flesh, lived a sinless life, died as a sacrifice on a cross, and rose from the grave. Romans 5:8 says, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Jesus died as a sacrifice, once for all, to demonstrate God’s love. By believing in Jesus, we are

brought to restored relationship with God. Romans 10:9-10 says, “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” If anyone believes in Jesus, confesses that they believe, and commits to following him as Lord, they will be saved. By receiving God’s gift that we could never earn, we enjoy fellowship with God forever.

How can we invite people to experience Jesus?

Whatever way we share the gospel message, we must make sure that we invite the people we share with to respond. We should provide an opportunity for them to commit to believing in Jesus in that moment. Sometimes after we share the gospel, this can sound something like, “Would you, today, like to believe in Jesus and commit to following him?”



If their answer is “Yes,” we should continue to lead them to experience more of Jesus and take steps of obedience. We can pray with them. We can make sure that they understand the gospel and are comfortable sharing it with people who do not believe. We can disciple this new believer. We can ask to begin meeting for fellowship together. We should continue to lead these new believers to experience more of the life of Jesus.

For Kingdom Growth

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