

**CITY** on a  
**HILL**  
C H U R C H

**F.I.S.H. Guide**

Matthew 4:19 - "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	pg. 3
<b>F: Friendship Building with Gospel Intentionally</b>	pg. 5
<b>I: Initiating Spiritual Conversations</b>	pg. 9
<b>S: Sharing the Gospel</b> (next Vision Night, not printed here)	pg. 14
<b>H: Helping Friends Make a Decision</b> (Covered next Vision Night, not printed here)	pg. 19
<b>Appendix</b>	
Appendix 1 - FISH Prayer Sheet	pg. 23
Appendix 2 – The Bridge Diagram	pg. 24

# Introduction

In Matthew 4:19, we see an overview of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. He told his disciples, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” A disciple is someone who is saved and empowered by Christ into a fruit-bearing life of Gospel, Community, and Mission.

One of the roles we are privileged to receive when we are adopted by God through faith in Jesus is a “fisher of men”. This resource provides a basic framework to help Christians be intentional in fishing for people, or engaging in daily conversations about the gospel – the good news of Jesus.

The acronym “**F.I.S.H.**” will provide the framework for this training guide. In this guide, we will learn how to share the gospel with our friends in a four-step process. First, we will see how and why to build friendships intentionally. Then, we will learn to initiate spiritual conversations. After initiating spiritual conversations, we must share the gospel. And finally, we will see how to help our friends make a decision toward Christ.

Throughout this guide you will build a FISH Prayer Sheet that you can find in Appendix 1. The sheet will help you continually pray for the people you hope to see accept Jesus. Prayer must be primary throughout this process. There are two reasons for this:

1. *Being with Jesus* always comes before and alongside *doing for Jesus*.
2. You have no power on your own - none - to accomplish your goal.

**Before we seek to do for Jesus, we are called to be with Jesus. And as we do for Jesus, we must continue to be with him.** Prayer is a daily confession that being with Jesus comes before and alongside doing for Jesus. When the disciples returned from one missionary campaign, celebrating their success and glorying in their power to cast out demons, Jesus reminded them, “Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” One day, when Christ returns, there will be no more mission. There will be no more evangelism – sharing the gospel with others who don’t know Jesus. There will only be worship of God. We must constantly remember to love God more than we love his mission.

**Second, you have no power on your own to accomplish your goal of leading your friends and neighbors to know Jesus.** There are no magical words or systems to lead people to Christ. God, and God alone, can save. Scripture compares the process of sharing the gospel to that of a farmer harvesting his field. There are some ways in which a farmer can help growth happen,

but ultimately has no control to cause the growth. Similarly, God calls us to love others and share the gospel - but only He can give the growth. So, we must pray.

Our prayer is that this guide will give you tools to share the gospel well and spur you on to share the gospel faithfully with your friends as a disciple of Christ. The 4 sections of this guide are outlined below:

**F: Building friendships intentionally**

**I: Initiating spiritual conversations**

**S: Sharing the gospel**

**H: Helping friends make a decision**

**Action**

- Take a moment to pray together as a small group before we get started. Will someone open up your group with prayer – asking God to help us to love Him deeper and share Him further? Then continue to complete sections 1 & 2 tonight here for Vision Night.

## Session 1

# F.I.S.H.

Building Friendships Intentionally

# F.I.S.H.: Friendship Building with Gospel Intentionally

## ***Why Build Friendships Intentionally?***

*Quickly explore the following questions as you discover why to build friendships intentionally.*

- Do you know many non-Christians? Would they consider you a close friend to them? Why or why not?

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- What are the biggest barriers for you in building friendships with non-Christians?

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- Read Luke 5:29-32 below. What observations about building relationships with non-Christians do you see in these verses?

- “And Levi (a tax collector) made him (Jesus) a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’ And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’” **Luke 5:29-32**

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- Read Colossians 4:5-6 below. What observations about building relationships with non-Christians do you see in these verses?

- “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” **Colossians 4:5-6**

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- Using 1 sentence, write out why building friendships intentionally with non-Christians as seen in the passages above is essential to our lives:

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## ***How to Build Friendships Intentionally***

We are going to walk through a three-step lesson on how to build friendships with non-Christians intentionally. The three steps include:

- 1) learning what a friend is,
- 2) who we should intentionally pursue as friends,
- 3) how to practically build friendships.

***The first place to start in building intentional friendships is to ask, “What is a friend?”*** There are different kinds of friendships, but for our purposes, we will define a friend as someone who...

- you have met
- you have spent informal time outside of a meeting place (i.e., outside of class or work)
- knows more about you than the surface-level basics - and you know more about them, too!

Remember, we don't build friendships as a means to share the gospel only, then reject them as friends if they reject Jesus. That was never friendship! It was just an act to tell them our message. A pressing need people have is for relationship, so offering genuine friendship is one great way to love your non-Christian neighbor, regardless of how they respond to God's message.

***Next, we must know who we should pursue as friends.*** There are so many people in the world, in our cities, and at our universities! How do we know with whom to build relationships and friendships? The best answer is to meet and build relationships with the people that are naturally around you. We all work, live, and play - so build friendships intentionally where you already do those things! If you don't interact with people now, think through ways to live, work, and play around lost people!

Here are some final “Quick Tips” on where to build friendships.

- Don't add more activities to your schedule; instead, add people to your activities!
- We fail to build new friendships because we either *don't see* or *don't take advantage* of the opportunities in front of us.

***Finally, we need to learn practically how to build friendships intentionally with non-Christians.*** After you know which people you hope to intentionally pursue as friends, then we can ask, “How do I build friendships intentionally?” One great way is to think through this paradigm - ***Their Passions, Your Passions, Our Passions.***

**STEP 1: Discover “Their Passions”**

- What do you like to do in free time or on the weekends?
- Do you have any hobbies?
- What’s something new you’ve wanted to try, but haven’t yet?
- What are you passionate about?

**STEP 2: Support “Their Passions”**

- Go to their concert
- Eat food they really like
- Join them in one of their hobbies
- Work out or play/watch sports together
- Watch TV or play video games with them, etc.

**STEP 3: Invite them into “Your Passions”**

- Play a game with them
- Invite them out to a meal/drinks, or over for a meal/drinks
- Play/watch sports or work out with them
- Community Group
- Ask them to help you with something with which you could really use help
- Invite them to a movie night or hangout time with our Community Group

**STEP 4: Find “Our Passions”**

- What can you consistently do together?
- Do you know other Christians/Community Group members who share the same interests as them? Connect them!

**Apply:** Fill out the chart below: Write down 3 names of non-Christians that you can intentionally build or deepen friendships with **this week!** Then discover and invest in their passions as you build the relationship and begin displaying and declaring the gospel to them.

<b>Non-Christian Friend/Neighbor/Co-Worker</b>	<b>Their Passion</b>	<b>Your Passion</b>	<b>Our Passions</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			

**Lastly:** What is ONE “out of your comfort zone” steps you will take this week to build friendships intentionally with non-Christians? Pray for faith to take that step!



## Session 2

# F.I.S.H.

Initiating Spiritual Conversations

# F.I.S.H.: Initiating Spiritual Conversations

## ***Why Initiate Spiritual Conversations?***

*Quickly explore the following questions as you discover why to initiate Spiritual Conversations.*

- What are your biggest barriers to initiating spiritual conversations w/ non-Christian friends?

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- When was the last time you had a spiritual conversation w/ a non-Christian? How did it go?

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- What do you think the difference is between “Initiating a Spiritual Conversation” & “Sharing the Gospel”? Why does it even matter?

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- Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 below. What should be some of our characteristics during spiritual conversation?
  - **1 Peter 3:15-16** “In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

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- Read John 4:6-10. How did Jesus initiate spiritual conversation with the Samaritan woman?
  - **John 4:6-10** "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 asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

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- Using 1 sentence, write out why we should overcome awkwardness and initiate spiritual conversations:

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One of the biggest barriers to initiating spiritual conversations is awkwardness. But it has been said before that *"Awkwardness is not an excuse, because comfort is not our goal."* Whether or not initiating spiritual conversations leads to awkwardness, we still must take this step in sharing the gospel with our friends - out of joyful obedience to Christ.

A common question people have is, "How long should I wait in a friendship to initiate spiritual conversation? Do I have to "earn the right" in the relationship to talk about spiritual things?" It is completely acceptable to initiate spiritual conversation very early in a relationship, even the first time you meet someone! Here are some reasons to initiate spiritual conversation sooner rather than later in a relationship:

- The message of salvation is very urgent
- Jesus is the most important thing about you - your friends should know about your passions
- The longer you "hide" that you follow Jesus, the harder it is to bring up

## ***How to Initiate Spiritual Conversations***

Often, initiating spiritual conversation is not as awkward as you may think! Remember these tips when initiating spiritual conversation:

- Make sure it is a conversation, not an interrogation. Ask questions *and* answer questions –if they don’t ask you, then just answer the questions you asked them.
- Be a learner and listener, not a teacher. As they talk, actively ask follow-up questions to spur the conversation along. Learn as much as you can about what your friend believes.
- Ask open-ended questions rather than yes-or-no questions.

A good way to move a conversation forward in order to initiate spiritual conversation is through the progression ***Casual to Meaningful to Spiritual***. It may be good to start with easy, comfortable, “small talk” conversation before jumping into the deep stuff! Here are some examples of good questions to use at each stage of a conversation in which you initiate spiritual conversation.

### **STEP 1: Casual**

- What do you do for work? Where do you go to school? Do you like it?
- Where are you from? How did you end up in Boston?
- Where do you live? Are you married? Do you have kids?

### **STEP 2: Meaningful**

- What are you looking forward to most about the next year?
- What do you think will be the biggest challenge for you in the next year?
- What is your dream for life?
- Do you have brothers and sisters? Are you close with them?
- Have you been able to find a good group of friends in the city?
- Who do you look up to and what about them do you find inspirational?
- Are you happy in life?

### **STEP 3: Spiritual**

- What do you believe about God?
- Are you a very religious person?
- Would you say you are far from God or close to God?
- Did you grow up going to church?

At the end of a conversation in which you initiate spiritual conversation, set up a “***Gospel Meeting/Appointment***” or ***what we like to call at CoaH a “Gospel Conversation”***. A gospel conversation/meeting is a time in which you and another person plan to discuss faith matters where you can share the gospel with them. This can happen over coffee, a meal or wherever!

## Here is the process of setting up a Gospel conversation/meeting:

### 1. Build a friendship intentionally

- *You can meet a new friend, initiate a spiritual conversation, and set up a Gospel Appointment in the same day! Be careful not to let initiating a spiritual conversation take too long. Often that stems from fear of their opinion of us. It is not a good idea for us to hide the most important part of our lives from our friends or to delay our obedience to Jesus.*

### 2. Initiate a spiritual conversation

- *After you have made a new friend and get to know them, ask casual, meaningful, and spiritual questions of your friend to engage in a good spiritual conversation.*

### 3. Make a time for a “Gospel Conversation”

- *At the end of a spiritual conversation is a great time to say something like this: “Thanks for telling me about your beliefs. I would love to talk about God with you more, and about the impact knowing God has had in my life. Can we meet for coffee soon to talk about it? How about Wednesday?”*
- **Note\*** *Sometimes people feel comfortable to discuss their thoughts and personal beliefs right there on the spot, therefore not needing to set-up another time to talk about it. If so, do it right then! You can share the gospel then and discuss their belief in Jesus! However, for some, they may feel more comfortable to sit down and talk about it in private when they have time to process and feel more at ease to discuss matters of such importance in a more causal intentional environment like a coffee shop or out sharing a meal together. Be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading on this.*

### 4. Schedule a “Gospel Conversation / Gospel Meeting”

- *Make sure to schedule a time to have a follow-up meeting. This is key! Maybe that means grabbing coffee or going to the dining hall together - whatever it is, get it on the calendar! Try to schedule the gospel appointment to happen within a week.*

If your friend is not interested in a Gospel Conversation/Meeting, **that is OK!** Continue initiating spiritual conversation, inviting them to Christian community, and looking to share the gospel with them at other opportunities! If your friend is interested in a Gospel Conversation/Meeting, great! Next week’s lesson is on a good way to share the gospel with someone! Pray like crazy that God would open their eyes and prepare well to share the gospel with them!

### Apply:

- Pick 1 non-Christian friend you will initiate a spiritual conversation with this week. Who will this be? **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Schedule 1 gospel conversation/meeting in April. Who will this be? **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_. Close this session by praying for these friends!

## Session 3

**F.I.S.H.**

Sharing the Gospel

# F.I.S.H.: Sharing the Gospel

## Review

- How did initiating spiritual conversation go the past 2 weeks? Any stories to share?
- Did you set up a gospel appointment? Why or why not? How did that go?

## Why Share the Gospel?

- What are some of your biggest barriers to sharing the gospel with your non-Christian friends?

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- Have you ever shared the gospel before? How did it go?

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- Read Matthew 28:18-20 below. These are the final words of Jesus recorded in Matthew. What does that mean for the significance of what Jesus commands here?

- “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.” Matthew 28:18-20

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- Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 below. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

- “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

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- Why should all disciples share the gospel?

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## How to Share the Gospel

Share the gospel whenever you can and trust God with the results. We want to be holistic life disciples, not just disciples during a couple meals per week!

- Share the gospel with your non-Christian friends in day-to-day conversations, applying the truth of Jesus to real life feelings, fears and circumstances.
- Pray for your friends to receive the gospel and respond in faith.
- Both small gospel truths and big gospel conversations are important!

Just because you know that you *should* share the gospel, does not mean you know how. It is okay to feel nervous! Just like anything else in life, we must learn how to share the gospel. And through time, experience, and growing in our relationship with God, we will get better at and more comfortable with sharing it. There are many different ways to share the gospel!

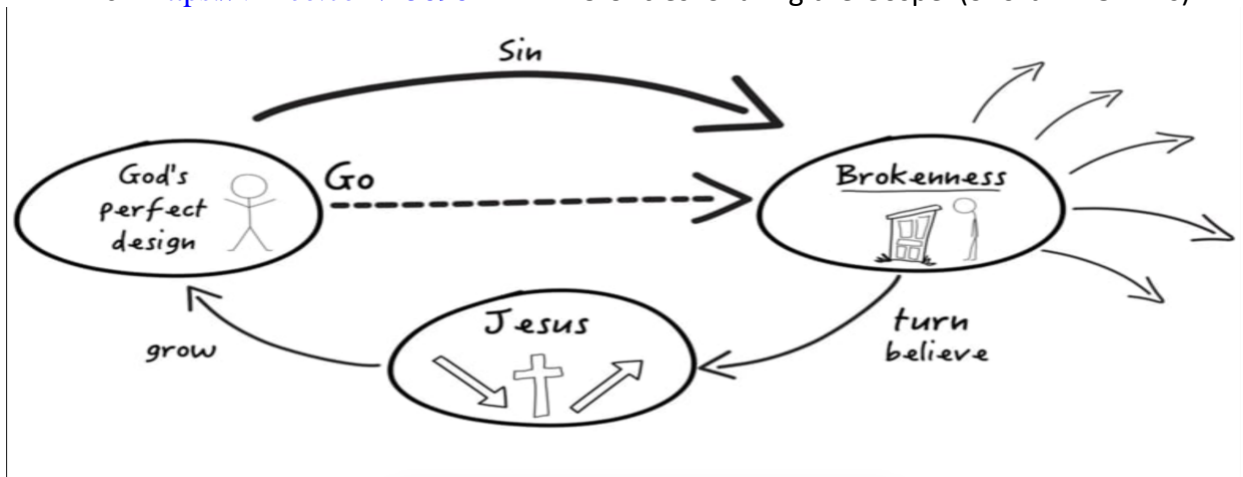
The gospel can be shared in 5 seconds or over the course of hours and hours. The best way to share the gospel is to have a Gospel Meeting/Conversation. In a Gospel Meeting setting, distractions will be minimized and focus maximized. Our goal is to present the gospel in a clear and compelling way because it is the power of God for salvation!



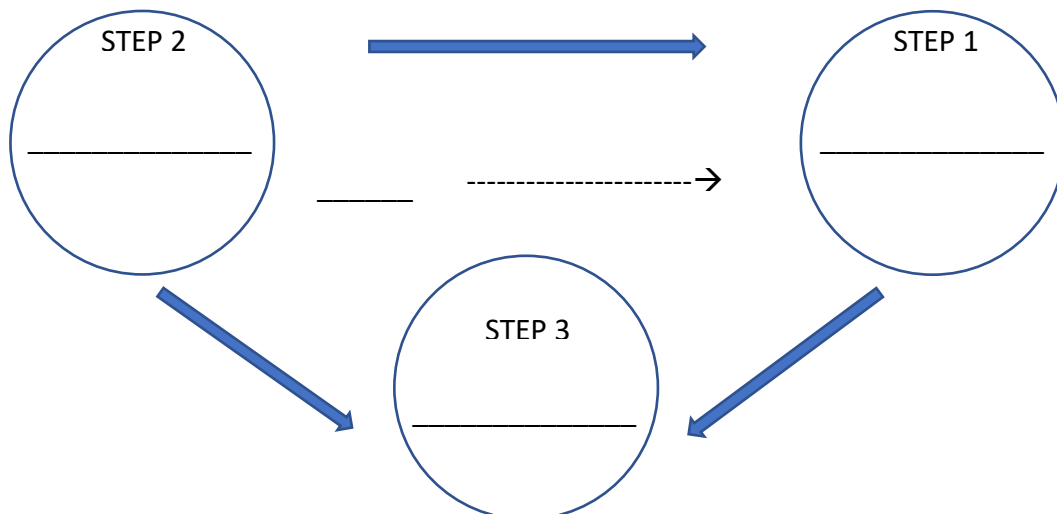
## The 3 Circles – Life Conversations

The 3 Circles is a great way to share the gospel in a clear and compelling way! The 3 Circles is best used in sit-down situations when you have a non-Christian friend's attention. It is effective in one-on-one or small group environments. The benefits of using The 3 Circles include:

- Visual aspect to explaining the gospel, especially for visual learners
- Clarity in explaining Romans 6:23 and the gospel
- Both answers and brings up questions throughout presentation
- Can be a short presentation (~4 minutes) or a long discussion (30min+). It's up to you!
- Please view the following videos to see this way of walking someone through the gospel:
  - <https://vimeo.com/96082854> 3 Circles: Sharing the Gospel (Longer: 6 mins)
  - <https://vimeo.com/158982114> 3 Circles: Sharing the Gospel (Short: 1:48 mins)



Take a moment to practice sharing The 3 Circles with your group, as if they didn't know Jesus. Remember that ultimately, the best way to share the gospel is to... share the gospel! Use whatever method you are comfortable with to share the love of God in Christ with others! Use the space below to at least practice this method!



After you share the gospel in a conversation, it is important to ask some clarifying questions. Part of sharing the gospel is helping them respond. Here are some clarifying questions to ask immediately after you share the gospel with your friends:

- Do you have any questions or push-backs about this message of Jesus? I'd love to hear your thoughts! Is there anything I can elaborate on to make it more-clear?
- Is there anything keeping you from believing this message and trusting in Jesus today?

There is always a fork in the road. People are on one of two paths. All people must choose to follow God or to continue living for themselves. Here are some questions, after clarifying their understanding of the Bible's message, to point people to believing in Jesus:

- Do you want to receive God's gift of forgiveness and love?
- Do you believe that Jesus has done this for you and for the world?
- Have you ever chosen to entrust your life completely to God?
- Based on what I have shared, have you decided to follow Jesus before now, or not?
- Will you make the decision now to trust Jesus as the leader of your life & the Savior of your sins?

If they are ready to believe, praise God! Pray with them, celebrate with them! Find a time to begin "The Foundations Guide" with them (contact Aaron Peters for this guide) and invite them into Christian community (church, Community Group, etc.) if they aren't already a part!

If they are not ready to believe, then our next session will show you ways to continue loving them!

## Apply

Practice "The 3 Circles" a couple times - time yourself so you know how long it takes you, get good feedback from others.

- Share "The 3 Circles" with a non-Christian friend this week. Who will you share with this week? Write their name here \_\_\_\_\_.
- Quickly take a moment pray for them right now! As you share the gospel with non-Christian friends this week, fill out the sheet, noting how the conversation went.

## Bonus

See appendix 2 for how to share the gospel using another method entitled "The Bridge Diagram". There you'll find a step-by-step guide on how to share The Bridge. Don't worry, though, it is much easier than it looks. You'll even find a few videos to help model how to share it!

## Session 4

**F.I.S.H.**

**Helping Friends Make A Decision**

# F.I.S.H.: Sharing the Gospel

## *Why Help Friends Make a Decision?*

- What are your biggest barriers to challenging friends to a decision about Jesus?

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- Have you been faithful to pray & ask God to save your non-Christian friends? If not why?

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- Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 below. What does this verse teach about people deciding to follow Jesus?

- “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.” **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

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- Read Acts 17:32-34. What do you notice about how different people respond to the gospel message?

- “Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.” **Acts 17:32-34**

- Why should we help our friends make a decision?

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Help them make a decision toward Christ. Everyone responds to the gospel in some way when they hear it, so help your friends know what their next step is.

- Every small decision toward Christ is significant.
- Helping to clarify what decision has been made is primary for identifying someone’s next step.
- If they aren’t ready to make *the* decision, help them make *a* decision.

## How to Help Friends Make a Decision

There are many different ways that people respond when they hear the gospel – but everyone responds in some way. Here are four common ways that people respond to the gospel and some ways to help your friends make a decision!

### 4 Common Responses to the Gospel

#### Response #1 – Turning to Jesus in Faith

*This person believes in the perfect life, atoning death and actual resurrection of Jesus and accepts they are in need the gift of forgiveness and freedom from sin.*

##### Next Steps:

- Celebrate and pray with them
- Invite them into more Christian Community
- Ask them to begin “The Foundations Guide” (Ask Aaron for this guide that helps a new Christian walk with Jesus by learning how to read/apply the bible, pray & follow Jesus.
- Discuss baptism and possible next steps

#### Response #2 – Confused by Religiousness/Morality

*This person likely grew up with some idea of Christianity, but does not understand the gospel or has not followed Jesus. They may think that following Jesus is only about being a good person, attending church, and not committing “big” sins. This person may be a believer, but it is hard to tell if they have ever surrendered to Jesus.*

##### Next Steps:

- Invite them to read the bible with you (the book of Mark is a great place to start!)
- Invite them into more Christian Community (Hangouts, CG, Small Groups, Church etc.)

#### Response #3 – Interested in the Gospel; but not Ready

*This person knows they are not a Christian, but is interested in learning more about Jesus.*

##### Next Steps:

- Invite them to read the bible with you (the book of Mark is a great place to start!)
- Invite them into more Christian Community (Hangouts, CG, Small Groups, Church etc.)

#### Response #4 – Not Interested/Apathetic

*This person knows they are not a Christian, and is not interested in learning more about Jesus.*

##### Next Steps:

- Invite them to explore the existence of God & Christianity with you (Reason for God / Alpha course offered through CoaH etc. Invite them into more Christian Community (Hangouts, Meals, CG’s, Sport Outings etc). Communicate that you want to be their friend regardless of their beliefs & continue the friendship.

### 3 Helpful Next Steps

1. Help them follow Jesus

- Christian Community
- Baptism
- Foundations Guide

2. Ask them to explore the claims of Christianity with you

- Weekly Bible Study
- Church
- Reason for God

3. Invite them to join you in hanging out in the everyday rhythms of life

- Hangouts, Meals, CG, Sports Outings, etc.
- Spending time with you around other Christians (John 13:34-35)
- Invite them to a Sunday Morning church gathering with you

#### **Apply**

Fill out the FISH Prayer Sheet - Fill out next steps that you want to help your non-Christian friends decide this week!

Ask a non-Christian friend to start exploring the claims of Jesus with you this week. Invite them out to a meal for a gospel conversation and to hear their thoughts/opinions on religion? Who will you ask? Write their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Conclude this session by praying for them now!

**Appendix 1: FISH Prayer Sheet**

**FISH Prayer Sheet**

What is your missional focus? Where will you strive to become a regular? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your CG missional focus? \_\_\_\_\_

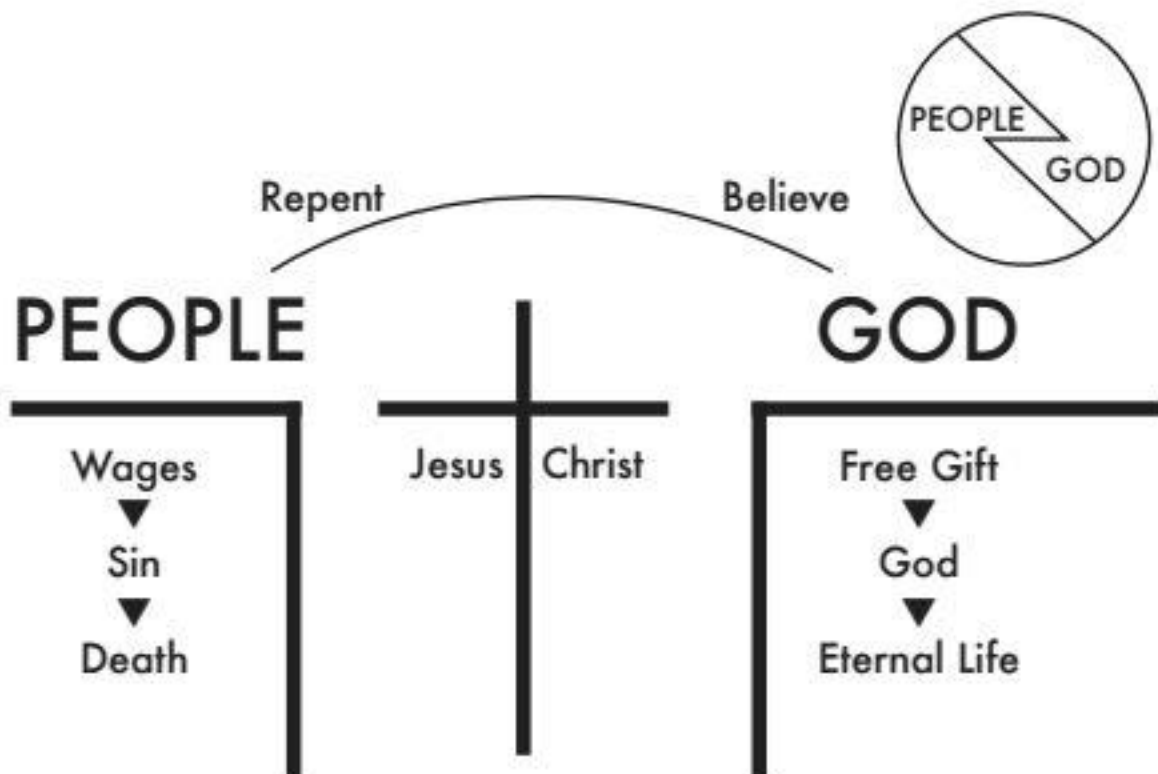
Build Friendships Intentionally	Initiate Spiritual Conversation	Share the Gospel		Help Take a Step
<i>Names</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Gospel Apt. Time &amp; Place</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Next Steps w/ Them</i>
<b>1</b>				
<b>2</b>				
<b>3</b>				
<b>4</b>				
<b>5</b>				
<b>6</b>				
<b>7</b>				
<b>8</b>				
<p><b>Next Steps - Pray!</b></p> <p>Brainstorm: "Where Has God Put Me?"</p> <p>Meet new people and become a regular</p> <p>Brainstorm: "Their Thing, Your Thing, Our Thing"</p> <p>Initiate time together with friends and invite them to hangout</p> <p>Introduce friends to other Christians who share their interests</p>	<p><b>Next Steps - Pray!</b></p> <p>Practice an invitation to a Gospel Appointment</p> <p>Ask for accountability and plan to initiate spiritual conversation with a non-Christian friend</p> <p>Schedule a Gospel Appointment</p> <p>Invite a lost friend to church, Bible Study, a Missional Hangout, or to hang out again</p>	<p><b>Next Steps - Pray!</b></p> <p>Practice sharing the gospel with another believer - get feedback!</p> <p>Always finish by asking them if they want to believe or what is keeping them from believing - "Is there anything stopping you from following Jesus today?"</p> <p>Share the gospel with a non-Christian friend</p>		<p><b>Next Steps - Pray!</b></p> <p>If they are not ready to make <b>the</b> decision, help them make <b>a</b> decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Help them repent and believe in Jesus</li> <li>2 Ask them to learn more (7 Stories, Eight Weeks in Mark, Reason for God)</li> <li>3 Invite them into Christian community (CG or church)</li> </ol>

## Appendix 2 - The Bridge Diagram

In this appendix we will see how to share the gospel using The Bridge diagram step by step. The following is a step-by-step guide on how to share The Bridge. Don't worry, though, it is much easier than it looks. Check out this video to see how to share the gospel using the Bridge Diagram <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAzjWByhBdQ>

Here are some tips to remember as you share The Bridge:

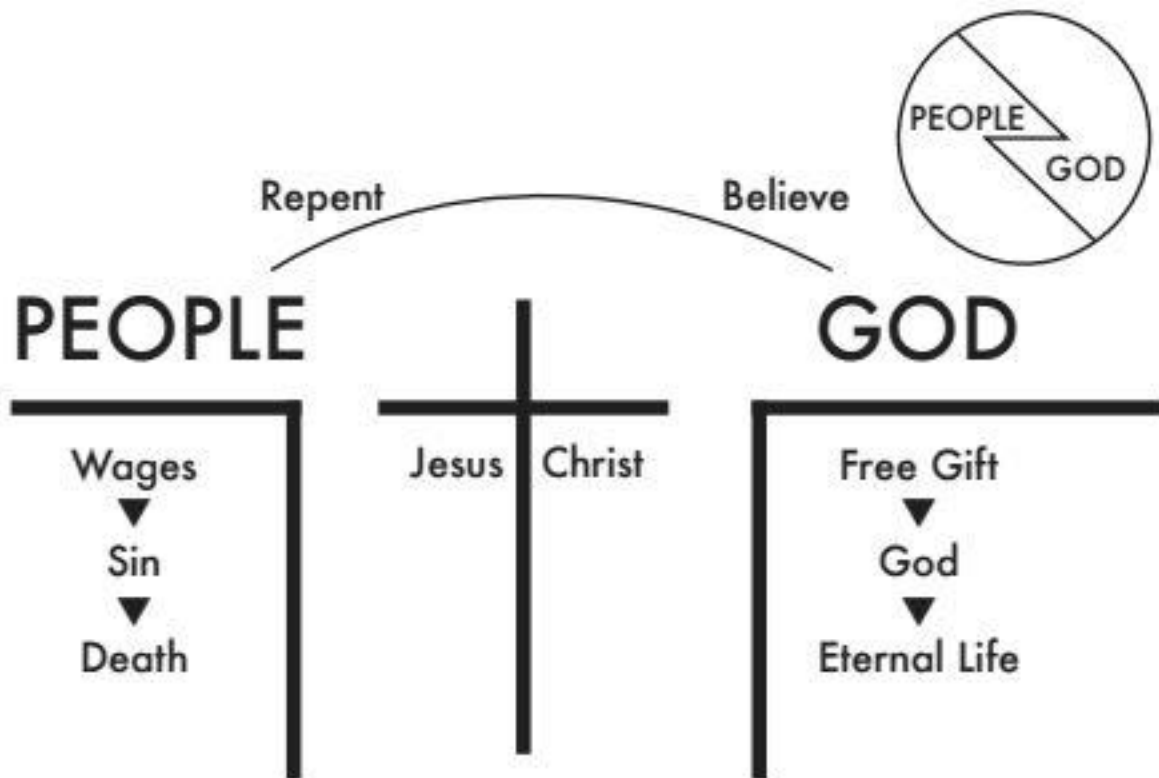
- It is best for when you are able to sit down and talk with someone - you will need to draw on a paper or napkin to teach The Bridge
- Different people will respond differently to the gospel. Roll with the punches, answer questions, but try to stay on track and share the gospel!
- A great way to introduce sharing the gospel is this: "Do you know what the Bible teaches? What do you think is the main point of Christianity? I used to think it was just about being a "good person" too. That is such a common misconception. Can I share with you real quick what the Bible actually teaches? It may surprise you."
- Then, hop straight into The Bridge!





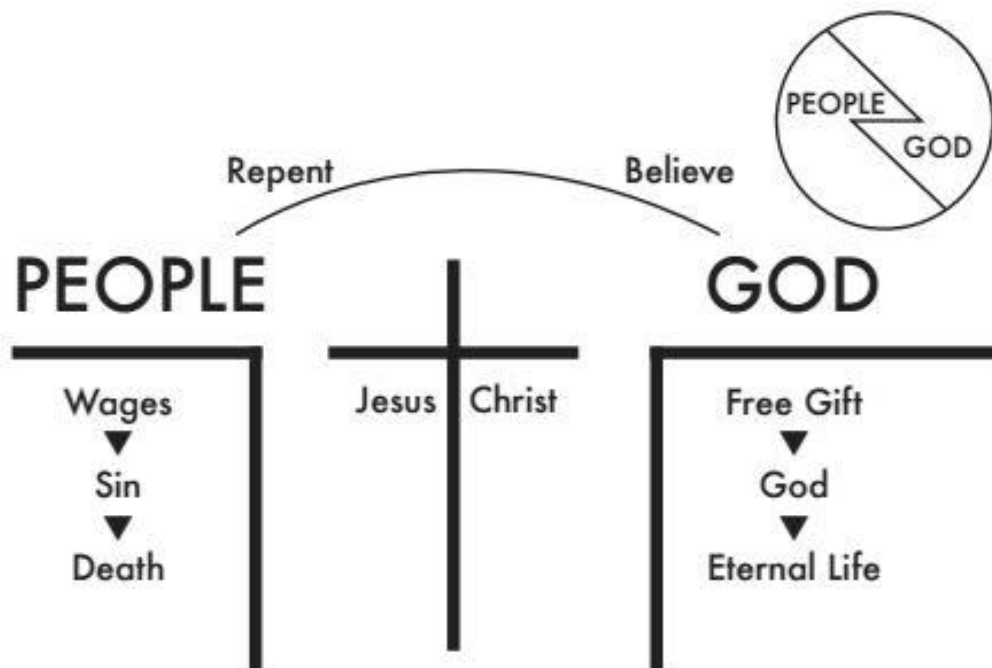
**1. Explain the need - Creation and Fall**

- **Explain** – God created the world and it was good. God and humanity had a relationship.
- **Draw** – A circle with humanity and God together in the circle.
- **Explain** – Adam and Eve rebelled against God and the relationship was severed. Sin, like a virus, has spread throughout the entire human race, separating every one of us from God.
- **Draw** – An egg-crack separating humanity and God in the circle.
- **Draw** – The two sides of the bridge. People on left, God on right



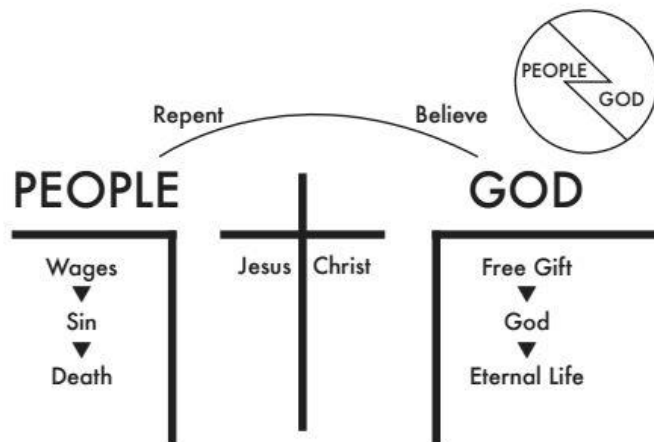
**2. Explain the gospel - Rescue**

- **Ask** – How do you think we can get back to God or please God after this separation?
- **Explain** – Romans 6:23 shows how we get back to a good relationship with God.
- **Write** – Romans 6:23 on top of page.
- **Write** – Wages, sin, and death under the “human” side
  - **Explain** – What is a wage? What is sin? What is death? “What we deserve to be paid (wage), for what we have performed (sin), is death.”
    - Help them believe they have sin and are separated from God.
    - Do you believe you have sinned against God?
    - Romans 3:23, Isaiah 64:6
- **Write** – Free gift, God, eternal life under the “God” side
  - **Explain** – What is a free gift? What is God? What is eternal life? “What we don’t deserve (free gift), from God, is eternal life”
  - **Ask** – How do you think you receive this free gift?
- **Explain** – “In Christ Jesus our Lord”
  - **Explain** – Jesus **lived** a perfect life we couldn’t live, **died** the death we deserved for our sin, and **rose again** defeating death and sin.
  - **Draw** – Cross connecting the two sides with Jesus name on the cross.
  - When we genuinely accept this free gift, a God:
    - Accepts Jesus’ payment of death on your behalf
    - Forgives you of your sin
    - Adopts you as his child
    - Gives you the Holy Spirit



### **3. Explain salvation - Repent and Believe**

- **Explain** – The way that we accept this free gift is through repentance and belief.
- **Draw** – An arc connecting humans and God over the cross with the words repent and believe on the arc.
- **Explain** – Repentance and belief.
  - **Repent** – Be sorry for your sin against God, really mean it, and surrender to Jesus as Lord of your life from now on.
    - Do you commit to go wherever he calls you to go and do whatever he tells you to do?
  - **Believe**: Jesus died and rose again, paying the full debt-penalty of your sin. Stop trusting your own good works, confess sin, and trust in Jesus’ goodness given to you.
    - Do you believe Jesus has done everything necessary on your behalf for salvation?
- **Respond to this common objection**: “So people can believe and then sin all they want?”
  - **Explain** – “Great question! The writers of the Bible saw this issue, and Romans 6:1-4 answers it well. “Faith” and “life change” are two sides of the same coin. Only faith, trusting in Jesus, saves you. But, if there is no genuine life change in response to Jesus’ love for you, then there is serious reason to question if the faith was genuine. We don’t earn salvation by doing good things, but genuine faith always leads to a changed life.”
- **Ask** – “Do you believe Jesus died and rose again?” and “Do you want to believe? If not, what is holding you back?”



### **4. Explain their new relationship with Christ**

- There is no magical word you can say to get God to save you.
- It is all about your heart posture, if you genuinely repent and believe you will be saved.
- But a great way to start your new relationship with Christ is through a simple prayer, thanking him for saving you and committing your life to following him.

This is what the finished product of your Bridge gospel presentation will look like!

Flip over on the back and practice using The Bridge to share the gospel!