

October 31, 2021

**LIFE: 3 Circles Conversation and Witnessing Guide.
(Lifeway)**

Today our focus is on LIFE-Life as God designed us to live.

My message has a two-fold purpose:

1. To share with anyone here who is not sure of their salvation and help them to make a life-changing commitment to Christ and their Lord and Savior.
2. To share with believers a practical method to present the gospel and share the message of salvation in a natural conversational manner.

Nearly everyday we have an opportunity to talk with someone who is either struggling with some life issue or is unsure of their relationship with God. Many of you may not feel very comfortable or natural about bringing spiritual issues about Jesus Christ and His love for us and our need for salvation. But, comfortable or not, it is one of the main thing that God wants us to do. We must acknowledge and accept the fact that God has called EVERY believer to be a witness. Now, we may be a witness in different ways, but we all must be (as my three favorite concept words put it)...

INTENTIONAL, DELIBERATE & CONSISTENT

There is no greater action of love or care that you can do for another person that to share with them God's plan for their lives and His gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

SO today I am using a resource for our Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Press called 'LIFE: 3 Circles Conversation Guide.

If you have a smart phone there is a free app that you can download. Go to your app store and search for "LIFE ON MISSION". You will see the 3 circles logo next to the title. Download it and then get familiar with it as you now use your phone anytime you want to share the gospel.

So, let's get started. Remember if you are not sure of your salvation this message is designed to lead you to a commitment of your life to Jesus Christ in faith. At the end of the service, you will have a chance to come forward and talk with me or Pastor Adam about becoming a born-again Christian, a fully devoted follower of Christ.

For those who are believers already this is a chance to polish up and become more proficient in your calling to be a witness for Christ.

It doesn't take a PhD in Psychology, Sociology or Theology to know that we live in a broken world. Surrounded by broken lives, broken relationships, and broken systems. This brokenness is seen in suffering violence, poverty, pain, loneliness, anxiety, and death all around us.

This is truly a disheartening reality. But the Good News is that this same brokenness that we see and experience can be a catalyst, a motivation to search for genuine HOPE, LIFE, LOVE and PEACE. Because if we truly look carefully around us we can see that there are those things in this world that are filled with beauty, purpose and give strong evidence of a purpose and a design.

The best place to learn about the original plan, purpose and design for life is found in the Bible.

It is in the Bible that we become aware that there is a God,
He does exist and He created all life with a purpose and a Design



Genesis 1 and 2 tell us about life as our Designer meant it to be. God has a design for our lives—for every life He ever created and His creation was good, very good.

Genesis 1:31... “*God saw all that He had made and it was very good*”.

Look at these three key truths we learn from the Bible:

1. God created us and He loves us.

»» God designed the world and everything in it. He created everything as it was meant to be and it was good (Genesis 1:1-25).

»» He created humans in His image—the pinnacle of His creation. He called us very good (Genesis 1:26-2:24)

2. God has a design for every aspect of our lives.

»» Our gender identity (Genesis 1:27 - created us male and female)

»» Our families (Gen. 1:28 - be fruitful and multiply)

»» Our work life (Gen. 1:28-30; 2:15-17 - dominion over the earth and work the garden)

»» Our rest life (Gen. 2:1-3 - He rested on the seventh day)

»» Our marriages (Gen. 2:24 - leave and cleave)

3. God designed us for relationship with Him.

»» He created us to have unbroken communion with Him (Genesis 3:8 walking in the garden looking for Adam and Eve). He “walked with us and talked with us.”

So what happened



➤ Sin Happened - We choose to depart from God's design.

Life doesn't work well when we ignore God and His original design for our lives. We all have experienced trying to put some project or toy together and not follow the directions or the guidelines for its proper usage and have experienced failure and disappointment

»» This has been true from the very beginning.

»» Adam and Eve thought they knew better than God

»» The Bible word for departing from God's design and going our own way is sin.»» The cold hard fact is that we all sin, or putting it another way, we fall short of God's purpose and fail to follow His design.

Why is it that we selfishly insist on doing things our own way.

The Bible says:

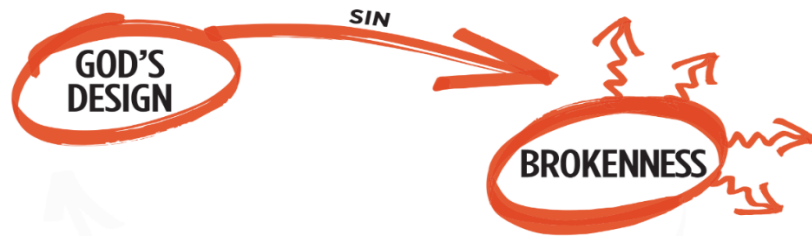
Isaiah 53:6... *All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.*

Romans 3:23... *We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

The problem is there are consequences from our sin, consequences that have not only a negative effect in our present life, but most importantly in our eternal destination.

Romans 6:23a... *For the wages (the result) of sin is death.*

Sin leads to a place of Brokenness



- **When we depart from God's design, it always leads to brokenness.**

Brokenness is easy for most of us to understand. It feels like broken relationships, addiction, depression, discouragement, guilt and shame. We all want out of brokenness, so we try to fix it. We medicate it with drugs or numb it with alcohol. We strive to be better people, hoping that somehow, someday, our good will outweigh our bad. We look for ways to alleviate our pain. When we do that, we just get more and more broken. This feels like a bad thing, but in many ways brokenness is a good thing because it's the way God gets our attention. When we feel broken on the inside and everything's all messed up, we know something needs to change.

Brokenness disrupts God's design.

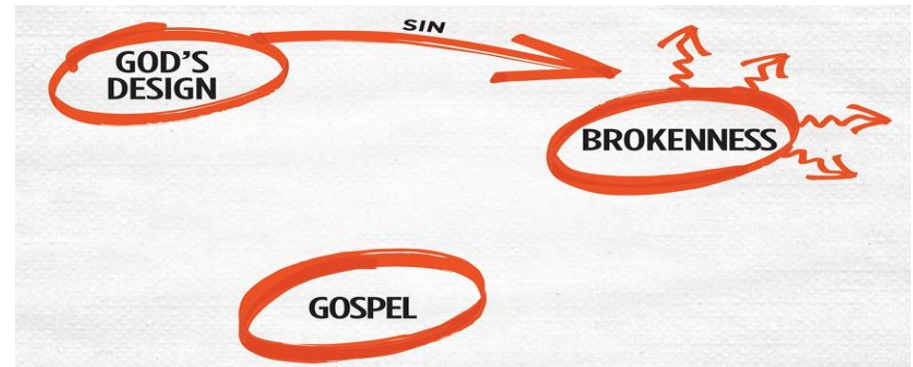
- »» Disrupts our spiritual life
- »» Disrupts our family life
- »» Disrupts our married life
- »» Disrupts our work life
- »» Disrupts our physical life.

Brokenness helps us see our need for change.

- »» We try to cover our own sin, but it doesn't work
- »» We do what we can to fix our own brokenness (relationships, drugs, alcohol, strive for a "better me"), but it doesn't work.
- »» Brokenness seems like a bad thing, but in many ways it's good because it's how God gets our attention.

We could use some Good News about now, right?

»» God has made way out of our brokenness: the gospel.



The word Gospel – means Good News. It's the Good news because:

1. God made a way out of our brokenness.

»» God loves us and sent His one and only Son to shed His blood and cover sin once and for all

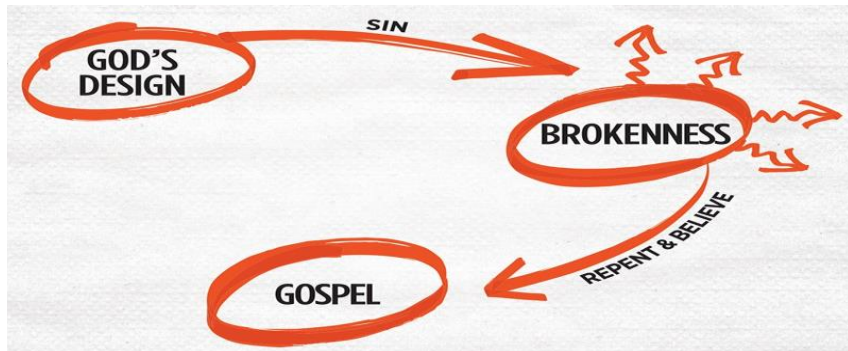
John 3:16... For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We are not capable of 'fixing' our brokenness. But God, Who is the original Creator is also a Master Restorationist.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we have a way to have our brokenness repaired and His original purpose and design for our lives restored

SO What Do we have to do? I'm glad you asked that question...LOL.

REPENT & BELIEVE



It needs to be made clear that just simply hearing and acknowledging the facts of the Gospel/Good News is not enough. All of us may hear about things that are true in the world, but we don't let that truth have any effect on us. No, we must do more than just know some facts, we must act.

We must **Repent** – a rather ominous sounding word that simply means we must admit our sin and our brokenness and own up to our guilt. We must acknowledge that we are not capable of fixing ourselves and this also includes asking for **forgiveness** of our sins and turning away from our sin and selfish ways.

We must also Believe... we must rely or put our trust in God through His Son Jesus Christ. Believe is not just acknowledging the facts of the Gospel but it means placing full confidence in, putting our trust in the person of Jesus Christ as God's Son, the Savior of the World and our Lord and Savior. It is a non-changeable commitment to Christ.

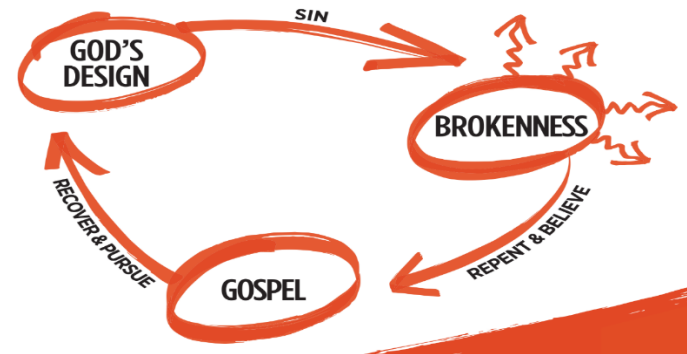
Another word is FAITH. Fully reliance and trust in the work of Jesus Christ. Our part is to...

Mark 1:15... Repent and believe in the Good News.

Ephesians 2:8,9 ... For you are saved by grace through faith, not by works.

When we truly Repent, Believe and place our faith in Jesus Christ, then God begins His work of Restoration.

In other words, God begins to lead us in recovering and pursuing His original design and plan for our lives



➤ **God helps us recover and pursue His design for our lives.**

Since God is the original Creator and designer of human life, He has the ability and the tools to help us recover and restore His original good plans for our life.

Philippians 2:13... For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

God gives you His Holy Spirit within you, The Holy Bible to guide you, and fellow Christians to encourage and teach you.

He has the power and the tools to help you recover and pursue God's best for your life.

➤ What Should I Do Now?

Repent
Believe
Surrender
Commit

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk with Him using words like these:

- My life is broken- I recognize it's because of my sin I need you.
- I believe Christ came to live, die, and was raised from the dead, to rescue me from my sin.
- Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my faith and trust in you, Lord Jesus.
- I confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, and I choose now to surrender to Him and follow Him.

Romans 10:9... *If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

If you would like to commit your life to Jesus Christ and become a Christian join with me in this prayer. Remember that just saying the words don't save you, but if you truly believe, God has promised to accept your prayer and to save you, restore you and help lead you to recover His design and plan for your life.

Let's pray:

Father God, I realize that I have sinned, and not followed Your design and plan for my life. I repent of my sin and ask You to forgive me and to wash away my sin and I ask Jesus to come into my heart as my Lord and Savior. I want to live my life in a way that follows Your perfect design and plan. In Jesus Name, Amen

What's Next?

As we begin our new journey, the Bible teaches us how to pursue God. He has a design for healthy relationships.

Prayer — God wants you to talk to Him about everything that matters to you.

Church — The local church is God's family to help you walk with Him.

Bible — The Bible reveals God's design — showing how to pursue Him.

Share — Now that you have experienced this Good News, tell others.

We are going to have a time of Invitation where I would like for you to come down and talk with Pastor Adam or I if you have made a first-time decision for Christ or if you want to reaffirm your salvation. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes for this special time .