

d dare 2 share



TAKEOFF TO TOUCHDOWN

How to navigate a Gospel conversation



A 4-LESSON
evangelism-training curriculum

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

How can we teach students to articulate the Gospel clearly?

What can we do to get them more comfortable in relationally sharing the message of Jesus?

This four-session curriculum first gives students biblical motivations to share their faith and then continues week by week, training them how to start, sustain, and gracefully wrap up meaningful conversations about God with the people in their lives.

Each session includes (60 minutes):

- » **Game:** an activity that relates to the lesson (10 minutes).
- » **Transition:** a bridge that ties the game into the teaching (5 minutes).
- » **Teaching:** a video clip and detailed teaching points (15 minutes).
- » **Gospel segue:** a Gospel explanation and invitation to trust Christ (5 minutes).
- » **Discussion questions:** group questions to help students process the teaching (15 minutes).
- » **Pilot-training activity:** an opportunity for them to practice what they've learned (5 minutes).
- » **Challenge and prayer:** an encouragement to apply what they've learned (5 minutes).

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- free, high-quality, downloadable curriculum and other e-resources.
- events and training opportunities.
- free youth ministry assessments.



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LESSON 1:

FUEL UP AND GET PASSENGERS ON BOARD



GAME: BANK ROBBERY

What you'll need:

- » Streamers (red if you have them, but any will do)
- » A hallway or narrow room
- » Scotch or masking tape
- » A toy necklace or treasure chest
- » A stool or chair
- » A phone or timer to time each participant
- » A notepad, poster board, or whiteboard to record the time of each participant

Setup:

- » Tape the streamers on the walls in zigzags from one side of the hallway (or room) to the other at varying heights. It should mimic the look of a laser beam protecting a bank (like you see in the *Mission Impossible* movies). Be sure to leave enough room for students to be able to fit through the maze.
- » Place the toy necklace or treasure chest on top of a stool at the end of the laser maze.
- » Decide how you want the students to compete. Some options: individually against the clock, as a team, boys against girls.
- » Be sure to have extra tape and streamers on hand for repairs to the maze as the game goes on.

How to play:

- » Line students up at the end of the laser-maze hallway from smallest to tallest (so that the smallest goes first, to minimize breakage early on) if they're competing individually, or by teams if you're playing the game that way.



- » Explain to them that they have a mission: to get to the treasure at the end of the hallway without touching any of the “lasers” (streamers).
- » Tell them they’ll be timed from the moment you say go until the moment the treasure is in their hands.
- » Explain that your leaders will be watching closely, and for every streamer that is touched, 10 seconds will be added to their time; for every streamer that is torn or damaged, 20 seconds will be added to their time; and if any streamer is ripped down completely, they will be disqualified.
- » Have the students go through the course; post their times on the wall as they complete the maze.
- » If playing with teams, calculate the collective team times at the end.
- » Announce your winner, and give them the treasure (that they’ve all been trying to “steal”) as the prize.

necklace at the end. That would also change your motivation. Today we’re going to be talking a lot about motivation—specifically about what could and should motivate us to tell others about Jesus.

TEACHING

Play Lesson 1 video clip [also in the PowerPoint]: <https://youtu.be/MSmWDHRg9jQ>

In the video, there were several motivations mentioned for sharing the message of Christianity. We can think of these motivations as the right fuel needed to fly the plane—or in this case, to navigate a conversation about God. Keep in mind that there are other motivations as well that we might individually have, but I’m going to elaborate a little more on the motivations mentioned in the video, using God’s Word as our guide. As I’m going through them, be thinking about which fuel would motivate you the most.

» Obedience to Jesus

- The idea of wanting to be our own “boss” and do things our own way is a common trait for all humans. But if we’re trying to follow Jesus, we need to do what *He* says rather than just doing what we think we ought to do. In fact, in the book of John, Jesus said that the way His followers show they love Him is by obeying His commands (**John 14:15**).

TRANSITION

Imagine if these were real lasers and you knew they’d trigger an alarm that launched an instant flood of people aiming to kill you. You’d be a lot more motivated to be careful! Also, imagine if there were a real box of gold or a diamond

- After Jesus died and came back to life, He spent some time teaching the disciples before He ascended to Heaven—to make sure they understood the mission He had for them and all future followers. He left them with these important final instructions:

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matthew 28:18-20

- This is THE Cause of Christ—the main instruction He gave His followers before He ascended to Heaven. Because of that, it's now our cause as Christians.
- As we grow in our love of God, we're more and more motivated to obey Him, because we understand we can trust Him and we want to do as He sees best.

» Compassion for the lost

- As we grow closer to God, we begin to change how we see others and their "rough edges." Jesus beautifully illustrates this change of perspective in this passage:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.' Matthew 9:35-38

- The word compassion in this passage means "to suffer with." Are you suffering with and hurting for those who don't know Christ?
- It's important to remember that living a life apart from Jesus is often full of hopelessness, discouragement, and unforgiveness—which can lead to some undesirable behavior. Our natural instinct might be to reject people for that behavior, but Christ calls us to have compassion for them instead.
- We're blessed to be able to help people understand how to escape not only the Hell they're headed to, but also the hell they are going through apart from Jesus Christ!

» Urgency of the mission

- As teenagers, it may seem like you have plenty of time to help people understand the reality of Jesus, but there is, in actuality, an urgency to tell others.
- None of us ever knows how much time we'll have with someone—circumstances can change suddenly. They may have to move unexpectedly, or worse yet, their life may end abruptly.
- The Lord urges us to take the mission seriously when He says in Jude:





...save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. **Jude 23**

- This fire that is spoken of refers to a literal Hell, where people will experience suffering, regret, and hopelessness for all eternity. This reality can help us remember how important it is to share the Good News of Jesus.

In addition to motivation, we need a plan to help us reach people, or as the video put it, a way to “invite people on board.”

» **Cause Circle**

- Once we understand why it’s important to share the Gospel, we can use the Cause Circle tool. It helps us prioritize and relationally approach talking to people about God.
- We start by identifying one to three people God has put in our lives who haven’t put their trust in Jesus yet.
- Then we begin to pray for their salvation, demonstrate care for them, and lovingly share the message—just as the church in Colossae was told to do in this passage:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ... 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 4:2, 5-6

- Some people think St. Francis of Assisi once said: “Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words.” But a more biblical saying might be: “Preach the Gospel. It’s necessary. Use words.”

- This relational approach demonstrates God’s character and helps people experience His love through your actions and your words.

Maybe you’re here today, and you can’t find the motivation to share the Gospel because you aren’t sure you understand it or believe it yourself. In case that describes you, I’d like to explain what the Gospel message is. Here’s a quick summary [you can paraphrase or expand on these main points]:

God created us to be with Him.

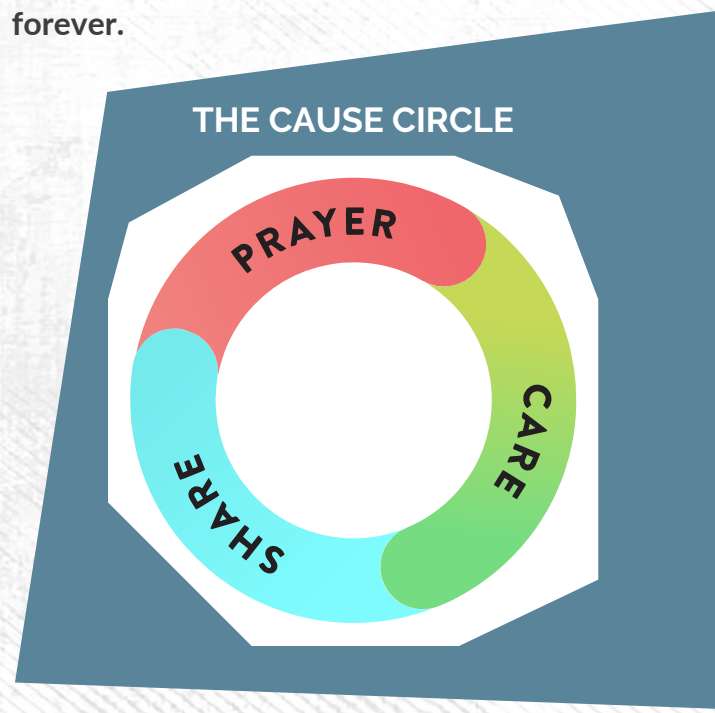
Our sins separate us from God.

Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.



If you're hearing this for the first time, we want you to know that it's OK to have some questions. But if you understand these basic points about God and Jesus, we encourage you to put your trust in Jesus if you haven't already. It's important to know that He paid the price required, so that you could have a relationship with God. If you'd like to trust in Jesus tonight/today, let Him and one of our leaders know, and we'd be happy to help you on the next steps of your faith journey.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- » *[Pass out the Lesson 1 handout, Bibles, and pens.]*
 - » For you personally, what questions do you have about the Gospel message? If you're a Christian, what hesitations, fears, thoughts, or obstacles get in the way of sharing the message of Christianity *[Examples could include: I'm too busy; they won't be interested; etc.]*
 - » What do you think or how do you feel about the idea of sharing the Gospel with someone out of obedience—essentially because Jesus "said so"? Are you in a place in your relationship with God where this idea motivates you?
 - » Think of someone you know who annoys you or is difficult for you to be around because of some way they behave. Maybe this person has even hurt your feelings personally. What are some specific things you could think or do to help you have more compassion for this person? *[Help students remember how much Jesus has forgiven them, and remind them that they may not know the struggles that person is going through.]*
 - » Do you think most of your peers who aren't Christians think about what will happen when they die? If you asked them, what do you think their theories are? How can their lack of understanding motivate you to help them understand why it's important to put their trust in Jesus?
- » Which of these fuels—obedience to Jesus, compassion for the lost, or urgency of the mission—motivates you most?
 - » Let's take another look at **Colossians 4:2, 5-6** together. Who wants to read it? What do you notice in this passage that is helpful when we think about how to approach people and begin a conversation?

PILOT-TRAINING ACTIVITY

Take a look at your handout. At the bottom right, you'll see a picture of the Cause Circle we talked about. In the middle of it are lines for you to write the names of one to three people you want to begin praying for and showing care for, with the hope of sharing the Gospel with them. Write their names, and then take the paper home and keep it in a visible spot. We'll use it throughout this series.

Now I'm going to pass out another piece of paper *[use paper or cards of your choice]* for you to write a brief, caring note to one friend or family member who doesn't know Jesus as their Savior. This is the person in your Cause Circle whom you'll focus on this week.

CHALLENGE AND PRAYER

Every week that we're doing this series, I'll give you a challenge. This week, I challenge all of us (including myself) to pray every night for the salvation of the person you wrote the caring note to and to deliver the note before we meet again. *[Go around the circle in prayer, and have each student pray by name for the salvation of the person they're focusing on this week.]*

