

how do i live the gospel in my world?

**How Can I
Naturally Share
Jesus With
Others?**



**Get Ready...
Get Set...**

... are you excited to share Jesus' love?

READ

HAVE YOU EVER...?

Have you ever stopped to think about WHY you need Jesus?
Are you a Christian just because you were raised that way?
Why is Jesus so important to you?

Only when you truly understand your need for Jesus and your brokenness will you understand how incredible His love is! And only then will you become passionate about sharing that amazing love with your friends and peers!

See...your peers need Jesus, but so do you. A passion for loving others in the midst of their brokenness can only come when we recognize our own!

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CHALLENGE

Where the rubber meets the road...

God's desire is for EVERY person on your campus to hear about Him and get to know Him better! God desires to use YOU, broken, messed up YOU, if you are willing! It is in and through our weaknesses that HE is strong! Whether you are afraid or simply think you don't know enough, the Holy Spirit can and wants to move through you!

Whether you are an individual, a small group or a "Christian club", God can do mighty things through you! Don't let your groups, clubs and cliques become places to hide at lunch.

Don't get too comfortable! God is calling you to get out of your comfort zone and GO to the people who are hurting, broken and need to experience His love through you! Get OUT on campus, talk to people, serve people, show compassion to people, be Jesus to them! GO to where they are...Paul told us to be all things to all men...are you??

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THINK

Questions to ask yourselves before you get started...

- Am I aware of my own need for Jesus and how much grace and love He's given me?
- Does my heart grieve for those who don't yet know Him? Am I passionate about sharing His love with them?
- Am I seeking the Lord daily and growing in my walk with Him?
- Am I willing to risk my reputation to do what the Lord calls me to do?
- Are my Christian friends and I committed to being united, encouraging each other along the way, and keeping each other accountable?
- Do we have adults to mentor us?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, take time to put these things before the Lord in prayer and ask Him to work in and through you in these areas!

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Word Wisdom

* 2 Corinthians 5:14
For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died.

* Matthew 28:19, 20
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 5:46-48
If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?...And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Statistics:

There is an average of only 17 evangelical Christians on each high school campus in the U.S. If you're one of them, what are YOU doing about it?



**Get Ready...
Get Set...**

... are you excited to share Jesus' love?

DIG IN!

Create a Vision!

So, where do you begin? There are tons of people at your school and they are all hurting in one way or another! Who does Jesus want you to reach out to? Below is an exercise you can do individually or with a community of Christian friends to help you think through who Jesus is calling you to love!

- * A good place to begin is to think about the communities you are involved in. Name some communities you are already involved in that you enjoy and have chosen for yourself (sports team, friend group, club, etc.):

- * Now name some communities that have been chosen for you that you may or may not enjoy (classmates, family, your morning bus ride, etc.):

- * Now name some NEW communities God might be calling you to. These communities may be uncomfortable or foreign to you, OR they may just be groups of students you don't know yet (the boy/girl who sits alone at lunch, new freshman, etc.):

- * Lastly, write down the names of 3-5 people in these communities who God is putting on your heart to love and reach out to (people who don't yet know Jesus).

- * What are some of the needs you see in these communities and in these people you've listed? How might God want to use you in their lives? What practical things could you do to show them Christ's love and begin to build relationships with them? Talk to God about these things, record your answers, and keep them in mind as you continue through this workbook!

REMEMBER!

- God has called you to step out of your comfort zone and be part of something much bigger than yourself. He has called you to serve and love others with His love.
- Your job is not to change peoples' hearts (that is the Holy Spirit's job) but to point them toward Christ. We may plant and water, but God causes the growth! (1 Corinthians 3:7)
- Do not be discouraged, God's plan is MUCH bigger than your own...and you can't mess up His plan!

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GO !!!

...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

3Story

3Story®

Disclaimer: 3Story is NOT an evangelism method. So, then...what is it? Well...read this story and then maybe we'll tell you!

An Open Fire

*"Have you ever walked past an open fire that wasn't yours? I mean you didn't build it, you aren't tending it, you weren't involved in providing the necessary fuel to ignite or sustain it... but you walked by it, and when you did, you instantly felt the heat that it produced. You may or may not have acknowledged it, and you may or may not have paused and wandered closer... but regardless, **you felt the heat.**"*

*For those of us that claim the name of Christ, and desire to follow Him faithfully, this image should be inspirational. In fact, it is the way that Jesus lived His life on earth. His actions, His interaction, and His insights provided warmth not only to those that were huddled around the fire of His life, but to passers by as well. In fact, it was often those on the periphery that were attracted the most magnetically to the heartbeat of Jesus. **They felt the heat before they embraced the fire.***

...I used to think of myself as a flamethrower. Today I have a different picture. One that's not only more inviting to others, but frankly, one that generates significantly more heat than the old model.

I want my life to be a bonfire of grace and love. I want the flames to generate warmth, not only for friends and family, but for strangers and skeptics. I want my life to warm hearts as a part of the process of the Spirit igniting them.

I want the brokenness, disappointment, challenges and joys of my own life to provide ample kindling for the kind of fire that attracts and engages.

I want to be a beautiful bonfire of grace, humility and love... and I believe that it's there that warmth captivates the rigid, lifeless and cold heart. Perhaps most often, to people who just happen to cross my path, who just happen to wander past the fire."

- Dan Wolgemuth (President of Youth For Christ)

SO...

3Story is more than "evangelism." It's living like Jesus did...as a warm bonfire of grace and love. Just as Jesus used parables to draw people in, stories are also the best firewood we have. God has a story, we have a story and everyone we meet has a story. As you read on, we will walk you through how all of these stories are involved.

Loving and sharing with people like Jesus did is a way of life. It's NOT about selling your faith or judging others or having all the answers. It IS about loving, learning, sharing and meeting people where they are at. Just like Jesus. It's time to put down our flamethrowers and simply BE the fire!

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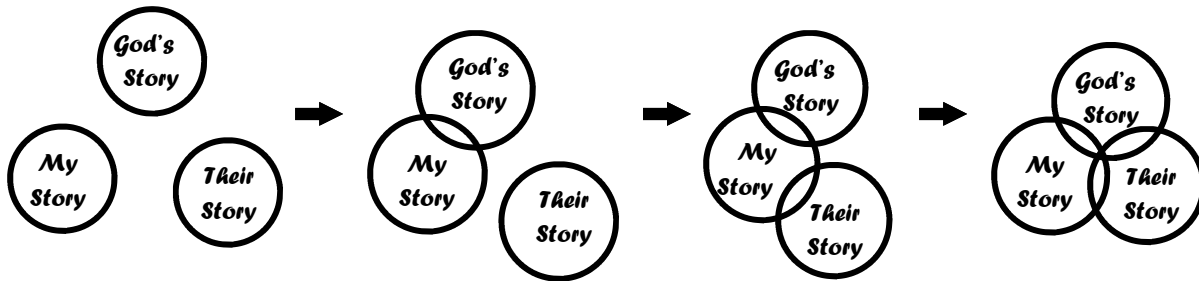


GO !!!

...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

THE BASICS

As you work through this section, think about the people and communities you recorded on page 5. Each person on that list and in those communities has a story. It's who they are, what they like, their experiences in life...everything about them. In the same way, you have a story and so does Jesus! The concept with 3Story is that as you grow closer to Jesus and get to know your friend, your stories will begin to intertwine and Christ's story will begin to impact your friend's story!



Make sense? First, you get to know God and your stories intertwine, then you get to know your friend and your stories overlap, then, because God's story has so impacted your life, your friend will get to know Jesus through you! So, let's get started!!

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YOU & GOD

Connecting Your Story To God's Story!

Your story became connected with God's story when you got to know Him and invited Him into your life. His story impacts and intertwines with your story as you learn to ABIDE in Him. So what does abiding look like?

ABIDING (Read John 15:4,5,9-11 on the right)

In this passage, Jesus tells us to remain in Him...in other words, to abide...to live in Him, rest in Him, "stay" in Him, be connected to Him.

- Why does Christ say it is so necessary to abide in Him?

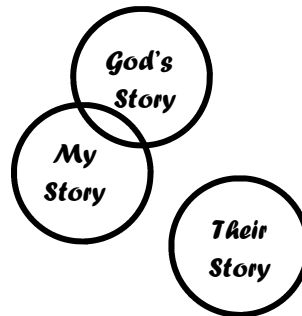
So WHY is abiding so important?

1. Because you can't share something you haven't experienced! If you don't really KNOW the Lord then how can you share with someone what it's like to know Him?
2. Because the story you tell should be one that is impacted by and deeply involving Christ!

And HOW do we do it?

Well, check out the next chapter in this workbook for more info!

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* John 15:4,5,9-11
 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. I have loved you even as My Father has loved Me. Remain in My love. When you obey Me, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father and remain in His love. I have told you this so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!



...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

Word Wisdom

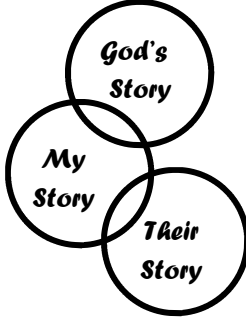
- * Acts 1:8
...and you will be My witnesses...
- * 1 Thess. 2:8, 1:5-6
We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's good news but our own lives too. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

Remember:

- Don't live in a Christian bubble! Build relationships with people who don't know Jesus!
- Get involved in activities such as band, clubs, drama...
- Be yourself! Be a friend!
- Enjoy being with them, without having an agenda.
- Don't expect them to act like Christians. Look at their heart, not their actions!
- Be there for them in hard times.
- Be IN the world, but not OF the world!
- Meet their tangible needs: help them with homework, give them a ride home, write them an encouraging note...
- God knows who's ready to respond to the gospel, He's been preparing them behind the scenes!
- Be willing to learn from them!
- Ask the Holy Spirit for opportunities to share!

YOU&THEM

Connecting Your Story To Your Friend's Story!



First of all, this is about becoming a TRUE friend to someone. Love them, care about them, and truly be involved in their life. This is NOT about making them a project or "evangelistic goal." They will see through that right away. They need to know that you will be their friend even if they say no to Jesus!

In addition, this is NOT about preaching or proving your point to them...it's about relationships and experiences. It's about sharing your stories with each other. When they begin to experience God in the context of their own story, they understand it and it becomes real. Just look at Christ! The power of His parables shows that people listen to stories more easily than facts.

THINGS TO REMEMBER...

Sharing your life and faith with someone should be a natural progression within your friendship. There is no exact formula or particular "steps" that you have to follow. As you go forth, here are some important things to keep in the back of your mind...

- In a way, the process of sharing your story and learning their story resembles a DANCE. It's back and forth, you listen a bit, they share a bit, you share a bit, you listen a bit, etc.
- Remember, this is about THEM, not you, so LISTENING is MUCH more important than telling! Your story will come out eventually. THEY are the priority!
- The most important thing is that you are THERE for them. ASK them questions about their life, LISTEN to their answers. If they know that you are truly interested in their life, they will start to open up.
- PRAY, PRAY, and PRAY some more that the Holy Spirit will give you opportunities and the wisdom to know when to listen and when to share!

So let's start by talking through THEIR STORY...





...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

YOU&THEM

Connecting Your Story To Your Friend's Story!

THEIR STORY

Why is learning their story so important??

1. You can't tell someone what THEY need before you even know what that is! (Ex. A doctor can't tell a patient what medicine they need before they know the problem!) You want to understand them, not judge or fix them.
2. Their story influences how they interpret your story and how they view God. Perception and interpretation are always shaped by experience.
3. Their story helps you determine how to introduce God's story. Just like introducing any two friends, you should show your friend what they have in common with God. Determine which parts of God's story will most impact them.
4. People are often not ready to listen until they have been heard! This is about listening more than telling. *People listen to people who listen!*

What are some characteristics of a good listener?

Do you think you listen well? How can you listen better?

So, how do you discover their story??

1. **LOVE them!** ...but how??
 - By showing up in their world! (John 4, Luke 5:27-32) Jesus hung out with sinners. He met them where they were at and served them in compassion. People won't come to you, you need to **GO seek THEM** out!
 - By showing interest in them! Pay attention to their needs and remember important things about them like birthdays, likes/dislikes, etc.!
 - By giving them your time! Be available. Don't have an agenda. These things take time!

What are some practical ways you can love people on your list?

(continued on the next page)



Word Wisdom

* Luke 5:29-32
 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to His disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Good Questions :

- Tell me some of the things that are important to you in a friendship...
- Do your friends help you make better or worse decisions...why?
- Do you ever feel lonely when you are with your friends?
- What do you think God is like?
- What confuses you the most about God?
- Tell me about the most important part of your life...
- What part of your life would you never wish on someone?
- How do the opinions of your friends influence your everyday life?



...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

YOU&THEM

Connecting Your Story To Your Friend's Story!

(continued)

- 2. **LISTEN well!** Ask good questions and LISTEN to the answers!
 - Questions without question-marks! (They don't have yes or no answers.)
 - Examples: Tell me about your family.
 - Tell me how you're dealing with this situation.

What are some good "questions without question-marks" that you can ask your friend?

As you listen, you will see where your story, their story, and God's story may overlap and it will help you know what parts of your story and God's story to share!

Now, let's move on to your story!

YOUR STORY

Why tell your story??

1. People are skeptical, they want to see your life up close and personal.
 - Are you ever a stereotypical Christian (pretending you have it all together, a hypocrite, thinking you're better than others...etc)? In what ways can you be a more accurate example of life in Christ?
2. It reveals your honesty and humanity. When you are honest about your struggles and flaws, they will see that you are a REAL person and that they can relate to you and be honest with you!
 - Are you honest with people about your imperfections and struggles?
3. It can lead them to telling more of their story. When they know you can relate, they will open up!
4. As you take risks in telling your story, it allows them to take more risks in telling their story!
5. Over time, telling your story will allow you to share part of God's story (because His story is a big part of your story)!
6. It deepens the friendship. (Because they are genuinely your friend, not your project!)

So HOW do you share your story?? →

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...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

YOU&THEM

Connecting Your Story To Your Friend's Story!

HOW to tell your story!

1. BE REAL!!

- People only listen to those who are genuine and authentic. So what does it mean to be real??
- Demonstrate that you still have a genuine need for Jesus EVERY DAY!
 - We have less secrets (you are not concerned about others' opinions).
 - Let people in on your emotions.
 - Admit your needs and failures...this is about Christ's reputation, not yours! When you are honest, you allow your friends to see how leaning on Jesus makes a difference in your life.
 - You are on a journey, you haven't arrived at the destination.

Write down a few areas of your life in which you need to be real/some areas of your life in which you need Jesus. What are the benefits of being real?

What are some practical ways you can begin to be "more real" with your peers?

2. **DEPEND ON JESUS!** Why? And how?

- WHY - It's more important to tell and show others how much you need Jesus than to tell them how much they need Jesus. People don't want you to tell them what you think they do or don't need, BUT they WILL listen to your story and more likely understand their own need through your story.
- HOW - Jesus, not your messed up life, should be the center of the story!
- HOW - Allow the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation instead of having a "plan." Let the conversation flow naturally and allow the Lord to give you opportunities to share. This isn't a race!

On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you think you depend on Jesus during a normal day? How do you depend on Him daily?

What, in your life, prevents you from depending on Him?

Let's move on to connecting their story to God's story!





...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

THEM & GOD

Connecting Their Story To God's Story!

This is the part that is usually the most overwhelming for people. It's actually a great experience! Just remember, you're simply introducing two people to each other who are both important to you!

Remember, pray, stay involved, be ready, and rely on the Holy Spirit! This is NOT a step-by-step process or formula, the following information is simply to keep us focused and help us share God's story!

So, how DO we share God's story?

- CONNECTING POINTS** - Find a connecting point between their story and God's.
 - We all come to Jesus for different reasons (need for a father, need for significance, loneliness, unconditional love). This is about discerning your friend's greatest needs and showing them how God meets those needs. Pray that the Holy Spirit would provide/show you that doorway.
- HIGH POINTS OF THE GOSPEL** - Remember, this is not a formula! Let the other person's story determine how you share. Example: Jesus started in a different place with the Rich Young Ruler than with the Woman at the Well.
 - Jesus showed up for us. (John 1:14, Philippians 2:6,7)
What does that mean? Why is it significant?
 - Jesus died for us. (Romans 5:8, Philippians 2:8)
Why is this significant? What difference does it make?
 - Jesus rose for us. (Romans 6:4, Romans 6:8-10)
Why is this so significant? Why did He need to rise again?
- CONTINUE TO DEEPEN THE DIALOGUE** - Continue to talk through things with them and find common ground between their story and God's story.
 - Do they have any questions? (If you don't know the answer, be honest and find out for them!)
What are some questions that they might ask? How would you respond?

Word Wisdom

* John 1:14
The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

* Romans 5:8
But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

* Romans 6:4
We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.





THEM & GOD

Connecting Their Story To God's Story!

- 3. CONTINUE TO DEEPEN THE DIALOGUE (continued)
 - Invite them to investigate. (Always invite people to seek things out on their own and not to simply take your word for it.)
 - Give them a Bible. (John is a good place for them to start reading.)

- 4. CHECKING IN - Conversations with others need to be purposeful. Asking good questions is a great way to see your friend's progress toward Jesus. Examples:
 - Flowing from your conversation...
 - "Does this all make sense to you?"
 - "Would you like Christ to be a part of your life?"
 - To see which parts of God's story they need to understand better...
 - "What do you think of God's story?"
 - "Do you see how His story would make a difference in your life?"
 - "What, if anything, is preventing you from inviting Christ into your life?"

When they are ready to invite Christ into their life...

- 5. LEADING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST -
 - Romans 10:9, Matthew 16:24-25: Confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that Christ is Lord brings salvation, however, it is not about praying a magical prayer, but rather making a commitment to follow Christ.
 - A good method of praying with someone to invite Christ into their life is as follows. Don't tell them what to say, but help guide them as they pray in their own words. Example:
 - "Take some time to thank Jesus for dying on the cross and forgiving your sins."
 - "Now take some time to thank Him for the new life you have in Him."
 - "Tell Him that you want to follow Him."
 - "Praise Him that you are His child!"
 - Let your friend know that they are a brand new creation in Christ and that heaven is rejoicing over THEM! (2 Corinthians 5:17, Luke 15:7)

Word Wisdom

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

- * Matthew 16:24
..."If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

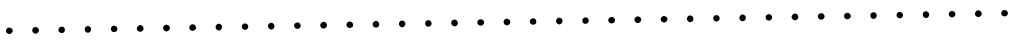
- * 2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!

- * Luke 15:7
I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Do vs. Don't:

- Life, not words!
- Honesty, not perfection!
- Hope, not judgment!
- Stories, not steps!
- Questions, not answers!
- Holy Spirit, not program!
- Experience, not information!
- Journey, not destination!
- Listening, not telling!
- Them, not you!

Remember: People listen to people who listen!!





GO !!!

...specifics on HOW to share Jesus!

FOLLOW-UP

Because the relationship with your friend doesn't end at salvation!

Key Steps in Follow-Up With New Christians:

****Before you begin:** Make sure that you connect with your friend within 24-48 hours after they have decided to follow Christ. Also, know that the first 3-6 months after their decision are crucial for them to get plugged in and feel that they belong and are cared for. **REMEMBER:** God is in control and His Spirit will be the one to cause growth in someone's life!

→ Some helpful websites: www.thekrsto.com/knowforsure.asp and www.knowgod.org.

1) Friendship

- New Christians need a solid friend (YOU) who can be their servant, their teacher, their encourager, and their prayer partner.
- Always be PRAYING for them!
- Be an example to them in your walk; disciple them in their faith.
- Show them how to put themselves in healthy situations and encouraging friendships and how to avoid bad situations.
- Have FUN together!

2) Training

- Be willing to meet with your friend on a regular basis to study the Word, pray together, and just talk about how they're doing. Make sure they are comfortable with it...even if that means meeting at Burger King! (It may help to go through a "new-believer's" book or study.)
- Also be sure to help your friend learn how to study the Word, pray, and spend time with the Lord on their own.
- Help them understand their faith by asking them good questions. (i.e. "What do you think is God's opinion of you?" "What are some things that still confuse you about God?")
- Help them learn to share their faith. A good way to begin would be to go with them and help them tell their family members and friends about the decision they made. Be willing to help them answer questions, etc.
- Also help them learn to disciple others in the same way that you have disciplined them. (These things may take a really long time, so don't feel pressured to accomplish all of this at a quick pace. Remember, in GOD'S time!)

3) Fellowship

- Make sure you help your friend get plugged in to a church/youth group, small group, etc. It will be most comfortable for them if you take them to your church, or at least go WITH them to the church they choose.
- Invite them to do things with your group of Christian friends!
- Let them see that loving and following Jesus is an adventure and the best way to live!

