

COURSE 1 - 2025
Basic Discipleship

The
JOURNEY
STEP SEVEN



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are so glad you're here! As you step into this journey of discipleship, know that you are entering a path designed to deepen your relationship with God and build a firm biblical foundation. This material is meant to guide you, no matter where you are on your faith journey. The tools and lessons you'll find here are adaptable to many settings—whether you're meeting one-on-one, gathering with a small group, or sharing in a larger community. It can be simplified to nurture the hearts of youth and children or enriched to challenge and inspire mature believers to grow even further.

Discipleship is a journey, not a race.

Our prayer is that this journey will help you engage with Scripture, build meaningful relationships, and discover how God is working in and through your life. Let's take this next step together with faith and intentionality as we grow closer to Him. Trust the process of growth and transformation that occurs over time as you walk with God.



07 SHARING THE GOSPEL



I. FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GOSPEL AND SHARING

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

THE GOSPEL MEANS “GOOD NEWS.”

The essence of the Gospel is that we’ve all sinned and separated ourselves from God, who by nature is holy and therefore cannot be in the presence of sin. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2).

But because God loves us, He sent Jesus (fully human and fully God) to earth where He lived a perfect life to become the only acceptable sacrifice for our sin when He died on the cross (1 John 4:8; John 3:16).

On the third day, Jesus rose again (physically), defeating death. As a result, forgiveness and eternal life forever with God is available for all who choose to receive it (Romans 6:23; Romans 10:13). This is truly Good News!

**A SHORTHAND VERSION OF THE GOSPEL MIGHT BE
“JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS.”**

One practical example of explaining the Gospel to someone would be:

“God’s holy; we’re not. Because God’s holy, He can’t be around sin, so He can’t be around us. But God also loves us, so He provided a lifeline by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sin.

After Jesus becomes your Lord and Savior, when God sees you He sees Jesus and not your sin. That means that when I die, I’ll be in Heaven forever with God and not in Hell. Anyone who wants can get in on this deal. Do you want to know how?”



WHY SHOULD I WANT TO SHARE THE GOSPEL?

The first reason is because we should care about other people. We should strive to see people in the way that God sees people - in need of a Savior. We should want others to experience God's love and the adventure He has for them while they are alive, and we should want them to go to Heaven (and not to Hell) after they die.

"Faith comes by hearing" (Romans 10:17), and so we need to share the Gospel so others can hear the message and have an opportunity to accept God's free gift of salvation.

The second reason we share the Gospel is because that's what God has told (or commissioned) all Christians to do. Sharing the Gospel is being obedient to God. (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Peter 3:15, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

WITH WHOM SHOULD I SHARE THE GOSPEL?

The short answer is "anyone who is not a believer." (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19).

We should share the Gospel with everyone we come into contact with. This includes family, friends, coworkers (or fellow students), and neighbors. It includes both those we think are not likely to be receptive, and those who we think might be. It includes people we meet where we live, and those whom we meet as we travel.

Additionally, we should also work together to share the Gospel with people located around the world. Often, larger churches have a Missions Minister who coordinates a church's efforts of sharing the Gospel locally, in our country, and throughout the world.

Part of your daily prayer life should include asking God to show you someone who needs to hear the Gospel. When we consistently ask God for something (like this) that's in the center of His will, He often gives it. Therefore, if you ask God to show you who needs to hear the Gospel, He will both provide the opportunity and give you the eyes to see it.

II. CHALLENGES AND PRACTICAL ADVICE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

WHEN SHOULD I SHARE THE GOSPEL?

We should share the Gospel whenever possible, but over time you can learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit about when you share, what you share, and how much you share in that particular moment (Romans 8:14).

Many Christians today simply don't share the Gospel enough (or at all), as opposed to sharing too much without sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It's easy to let fear or potential embarrassment hold us back, but you'll never experience greater heights in your faith than when you are obedient in following the Lord's leadings in situations like this.

Note: Some of the very best times to share Jesus can include moments of transition in a person's life that open their eyes to their need for a Savior. Examples would be job loss, family issues, illness/injury, addiction, death of a loved one, birth of a child, and more.



WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK ME WHEN I SHARE THE GOSPEL?

You definitely won't have all the answers and you don't need to. Generally, contentious debates and arguments should be avoided. Remain calm and confident and focus on your testimony of what Jesus has done for you (1 Peter 3:15).

Example response to a question you don't know: "I don't know about all that, I just know Jesus is amazing and He's totally changed my life. I was dead and now I'm alive. I was lost and now I'm found!"

As you mature in your faith you will begin to discover more and more answers to common questions and objections to the Gospel. You will begin to pull those answers into your conversations more easily with time and practice. However, keep in mind that many times a skeptic's questions are a "smoke screen" for something else. It could be a past hurt or a negative experience they've had. It could be a pride issue that resists the idea that they are indeed a sinner in need of a Savior. It could be motivated by them wanting to live their life however they want.

Pray and ask God, "What's really going on in their life that prevents them from believing?" Sometimes it really is their stated objection, but most of the time it is not.

Finally, remember that rarely is someone "argued" into the Kingdom of God. Your testimony will always be your strongest tool to share the Gospel, regardless of how mature in your faith you become (Colossians 4:5-6).





WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M AFRAID TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS?

It's normal to be afraid to share the Gospel at first. However, you'll find that the more you do it (and the better you get at it) the smaller your fear will become. More and more, this fear will be replaced by a trust that if God is leading you to speak at that moment, you need not fear anything that might happen (2 Timothy 1:7).

Ask yourself "what's the worst thing that could happen?" In modern day America, the likelihood of something really bad happening as a result of sharing your faith is very low. If you knew the cure for cancer, would you keep that to yourself? How much more should we want to share the Good News with others?

Keep firmly in mind the enormity of the stakes here: Eternal life or death.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET REJECTED WHEN SHARING THE GOSPEL?

If you share the Gospel on a regular basis, you will often be rejected. Please notice this question has the word “when” and not “if.” Don’t get hung up on outcomes. It’s not your job to save them - only Jesus saves people. It’s your job to be faithful in sharing the Gospel.

The difference between someone accepting the Gospel or rejecting the Gospel likely does not have anything to do with you at all.

What Christians sometimes don’t see is that their efforts to share the Gospel are part of God’s plan to move people toward the Gospel - and they may accept later. The timing and the results are up to God (1 Corinthians 3:6-9).

But take heart, many are on a multi-step journey toward the Gospel and this is another step (perhaps of a great many) before they accept the Gospel. By some estimates, nearly 70,000 people each day accept the Gospel. Who knows if your sharing of the Gospel might be part of adding to this number one day?



WHAT IS A GREAT WAY FOR ME TO SHARE THE GOSPEL?

A great way for you to share the Gospel is to learn how to share your testimony effectively. Your testimony is your personal story and is not something someone can argue with. **When you share your testimony, the Gospel should be presented right along with it.** This will challenge those who aren't Christians yet to wonder if what God did for you could be experienced by them as well.

HOW DO I PREPARE MY TESTIMONY TO HELP SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Your testimony can be incredibly powerful and simple at the same time.

Just answer the following questions in your own words.

What was your life like before God changed your life?

What happened? How did God change you?

What has your life been like since?

Important notes on preparing your testimony:

- You can use this same simple outline above to share with someone for 1 minute or 1 hour, depending on the circumstances.
- Remember when you share your testimony, the simple Gospel should be presented right along with it.
- Avoid vague language such as “my struggles” or “the thorn in my side” but identify some specific sin that Jesus rescued you from. The intent isn’t to overshare, but it is critical to demonstrate that there were specific things in your life that separated you from God and required Jesus to redeem - things that you could not address in your own power.
- Remember that it’s one thing to tell someone what God can do. It’s an entirely different thing to share what God has done in your life. Your goal is just that, to share what God has done in your life.
- Though this story is your own, remember you are not the hero. Jesus is the hero. He deserves all the credit.
- Avoid “Christianese” phrases and sayings. Make sure you share in everyday language that someone who is outside Christian culture will understand.

III. HOMEWORK

Write out your testimony in two formats: First, use a one minute format and a five minute format. Write them out word for word. The one minute format should have about 120 words; the five minute format should have about 600 words.

Practice saying your one minute and five minute testimonies out loud and get feedback from other believers.

NOTES

Want to dive deeper into your journey?

Scan the QR code for an in-depth exploration of Step 7: Sharing the Gospel



NOTE: All verses are quoted from the NIV translation. The Bible remains the ultimate authority for understanding who God is.

BASIC DISCIPLESHIP STEP SEVEN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ice Breaker Questions

What did the word "Gospel" mean to you growing up? How has it changed?

Question 1 - *What is the Gospel?*

When did you first hear the full story of the Gospel, in this kind of detail? What was the setting?

Question 2 - *Why Should I Want To Share The Gospel?*

On a scale of 1-10, what's your motivation level to share the Gospel with others and why?

Question 3 - *With Whom Should I Share The Gospel?*

Who specifically in your life (family, friends, coworkers) needs to hear the Gospel?

Question 4 - *When Should I Share The Gospel?*

Does the part about sharing during transitional times make sense? Why or why not?

Question 5 - *What If I Don't Have The Answers To Questions People Ask Me When I Share The Gospel?*

Does the "smoke screen" make sense? Why or why not?

Question 6 - *What Should I Do If I'm Afraid To Share The Gospel With Others?*

Is the fear of not knowing the answers something you relate to? Why or why not?

Question 7 - *What Happens When I Get Rejected When Sharing The Gospel?*

Is fear of rejection right now greater than your curiosity of what might happen if you were faithful in sharing the Gospel? Or is it vice-versa? Why?

Question 8 - *What Is A Great Way For Me To Share The Gospel?*

Have you ever shared your testimony with someone? If so, how did it go, and are you ready to go again? If not, are you ready to change that?

Question 9 - *How Do I Prepare My Testimony To Help Share The Gospel?*

Does writing your testimony out feel doable? What questions do you have? Are you good with doing this over the course of a week's time?



26600 Westheimer Parkway

Katy TX 77494

281-395-4722 | www.currentchristian.org

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