



***A More Relatable Way to Share Jesus***

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# Welcome Letter



**Listen to hear more about how  
One Life can change you.**

Each of us has an internal desire to make a difference in this world. That desire has been placed there by God for his purposes. Yet so many of us live our lives wondering if this desire will ever come to fruition. We feel like we aren't good enough, we don't do enough, or we aren't gifted enough.

The truth is God created us to be part of his great story for humanity, and that story unfolds one life at a time. Around you there are people (*family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.*) that you have relationships with, and you are uniquely positioned to share your faith journey with. Your investment and invitation to just one person can make an eternal impact on their life.

The Great Commission from Jesus to bring the gospel to the world is given to each and every follower of Jesus, yet we often face obstacles that prevent us from living out what Jesus commanded us to do.

Many followers of Jesus feel these obstacles when sharing their faith:

1. I don't know enough.
2. I don't have time.
3. I don't want to pressure anyone.
4. I don't want people to not like me.
5. I don't feel comfortable.
6. I don't know how to share my faith.

*What if these obstacles are actually opportunities?*

God doesn't call or commission us to do something that he won't equip us to accomplish. Each of these obstacles are opportunities for God to grow our faith, our character, and our ability to articulate our faith. They are opportunities to ground our faith, and they are opportunities

for us to experience the Holy Spirit working through us to bring others into relationship with their Creator.

I want to invite you to join us on this One Life journey, as we learn how God can move through us to make a difference one life at a time. Together on this journey we will: Ask God for Help, Build Friendships, Cultivate Conversations, and Discern Steps that lead toward life impact.

As we start this journey, I want to ask you to think about your relationships. Who is the one person that God would want you to pray for and invest in this year? Let them be your One Life.

For some of you, your faith story is just beginning as you explore faith in Jesus. I hope as you join in group discussions and read this book that you see the love of God in the very core of this journey. John 3:16 says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (NIV)*. If you are currently exploring faith, I’d love to invite you to watch the video on the QR code at the top of this letter to learn more about a relationship with Jesus and the heart behind this study.

I’m excited for us as we begin this life changing study. It’ll not only change others’ lives, it’ll change ours as well.

**Pastor Andy Wood**

Lead Pastor

## How to Use this One Life Journal

You are in for a rich, transformational experience. This One Life journal is designed to be a four-week journey that will integrate your small group and daily reading/exercises around one topic: how to reach that One Life with Jesus' love.

Each week, you will walk through the following process:

- Introduction to this week's theme
- Material for your small group meeting for that week (*see How to do the GROUP Method for Your Small Group on page vii*)
- A daily reading/response built to equip and empower you

Each day will consist of a variety of engagement pieces: reading, reflection, exercises, prayer prompts, etc. The goal of every day is to help you identify the one person, the One Life, that you will share the Good News of Jesus with by the end of the four weeks, and then to equip you with the tools you need to feel confident and energized to share.

# How to Do the GROUP Method for Your Small Group



If you are leading your small group, check out these resources.

## Gather

Get together. Whether it is in person, at a home or a coffee shop or a park, or on Zoom, get together with the *intent* to encourage one another and grow in your faith. You'll be amazed at how your life is improved by committing to get together with friends or family once a week for the next month. For each week, questions are included to help focus the conversation and give you an opportunity to share what God is teaching you.

## Read

Read the passage out loud together. This part is important! The Bible was originally written to be read out loud to groups of people just like you and your family or friends. Hearing with others will give you fresh ears.

## Observe

Make your own observations about the passage and share them with the group. Is there anything you all picked up on? Did you all notice something completely different? Did the Holy Spirit speak to you through something someone else said? Share that with them!

We offer suggested questions but feel free to go beyond that. Note where you have difficulties understanding the passage. Maybe you got something fresh or different in light of this whole series. Observe what the Holy Spirit is saying *IN* the passage.

Maybe you are feeling overly familiar with the passage and are having a hard time not just skimming through. If that's the case, try reading it in another translation to get a fresh perspective.

## **Understand**

How can you apply what you've learned from this passage? How can your group help support and encourage you in this?

## **Prayer**

Wrap it all up in Prayer. Share prayer requests and praises. Have one group member capture the prayer requests and praises in a text to everyone in the group.

*Remember—it's important to begin AND end your time together with prayer. You may choose to have every member of your group pray or just choose one spokesperson to represent you before the throne of God. But whether your group is you and your spouse, your small group, your family, or your friends, make sure to invite God to your group.*

## *Week One: Introduction*

### **ASK GOD FOR HELP**

It's time to start this One Life four-week journey. The journey ahead will help you live a life of Good News for others and let the light of Jesus shine through you.

Let's lay some groundwork. Why should we even care about sharing the Good News of Jesus with others? Why is this part of what it means to follow Jesus? What roadblocks stand in the way, and what should we do about them?

This week, let's bring these questions before God, asking God for help to prepare our hearts, and prepare whatever Good News opportunities he has ahead of us.



# GROUP Week One

## WEEK ONE: Ask God For Help



If you are leading your small group,  
check out these resources.

### Gather

As we begin this One Life journey, talk as a group about any experiences you have had sharing the Good News.

### Group discussion question:

*What interests you the most about this One Life journey?*

### Read

Choose someone to read out loud Matthew 28:16–20 (NIV)

*<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

### Observe

This passage is known as the Great Commission—an assignment for us to share the Good News of Jesus with others. It is the last thing Jesus said before returning to heaven.



## Group discussion questions:

*What stood out to you about this passage?*

*Why do you think we were given this commission?*

*What thoughts or feelings emerge as you think about carrying out this assignment?*

## Understand

Let's consider how we can apply this passage to our lives.

In the space below, write in your own words what you believe Jesus is commissioning you to do in Matthew 28. Share what you wrote with the group. Then, discuss ideas about how your group can encourage one another and keep each other accountable to engage with this One Life book every day over the next four weeks.

## Pray

As a group, pray for what God is going to do through this One Life journey. Ask God to open your eyes, your ears, and your hearts toward this mission: seeing people as God sees them. Begin to pray for the One Life that God will direct you towards during the next four weeks and thank God in advance for the work he is going to do in you and through you.



# Week One: Day One

## WHY SHOULD I SHARE?

Has your life been changed by Jesus?

If so, you know that you have experienced the saving and transformational love of Jesus. You are a part of this grand story God began writing before time itself . . . a story of hope, restoration, and love. It is a story about God and his people—about the God who steps into our humanity to live, then die, then defeat death in order to rescue the world. This is called the gospel, the Good News.

**Are you new to faith or still deciding on whether Jesus is worth exploring deeper? Are you wondering if this One Life journey is for you? Please know that wherever you are, this journey will help you deepen your friendships, grow your thinking, and help you experience and learn about God's love. For more information, check out [saddleback.com/jesus](http://saddleback.com/jesus)**

If you have said yes to Jesus, your story, your character, your eternal trajectory has been changed. Why? Because someone welcomed you into this story. Someone shared the good news of this rescuing God with you. Maybe it was an invite to a church service. Maybe it was sharing their own story over coffee. Maybe it was a description of the biblical gospel. Maybe it was a simple question. You are where you are because someone felt the responsibility to share the Good News with you.

1. Who first introduced you to Jesus? Why are you reading this book now? Share a few words of what that experience was like.

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Let's get practical. The fact is, there are only two things that will motivate you to work through this journal and grow over the next four weeks. Only two thoughts that will motivate you to share this Good News with others.

1

**WHAT GOOD HAS JESUS DONE (IN THE WORLD, IN YOUR LIFE, IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS)?**

*“Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”*

**PSALM 34:8 (NIV)**

2

**HOW DESPERATELY DO THOSE AROUND YOU NEED THE GOOD JESUS BRINGS?**

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

**LUKE 19:10 (NIV)**

Take a few moments now and pray about these questions. Let's get motivated for the work ahead!

**Side Note:** Writing out your responses takes some time, but it is time well spent. Every word you write and every thought you think will help strengthen your ability to be a sharer of the Good News. Recent neuroscience has found that simply reading and moving on will give you a thin benefit, but engaging with thought and pen will enrich your experience substantially. Put in the effort; it'll be worth it!



2. What good has Jesus done in your life? Instead of writing a book, just think about yesterday. What would yesterday look like if it **WASN'T** for where you are in your relationship with God? How would you be different if you **DIDN'T** know Jesus? (*Fill out some quick words or bullet points in the graphic below*)

**Head**  
*How would your beliefs and core convictions be different?*

**Heart**  
*How would your thoughts and emotions be different?*

**Soul**  
*How would you think and feel differently about yourself?*

**Hands**  
*How would your habits be different?*

**Feet**  
*How would your experience today be different?*

3. Think about someone you know well who doesn't yet know Jesus. This may be the One Life God will call you to share with. Enter into their story for a moment. Think about their life. What would happen if they knew Jesus? Think about their hopes. How would they answer a question about their ultimate purpose in life? What would their life look like if they knew Jesus?

**Heart**

*How would their thoughts and emotions be different?*

**Head**

*How would their beliefs and core convictions be different?*

**Hands**

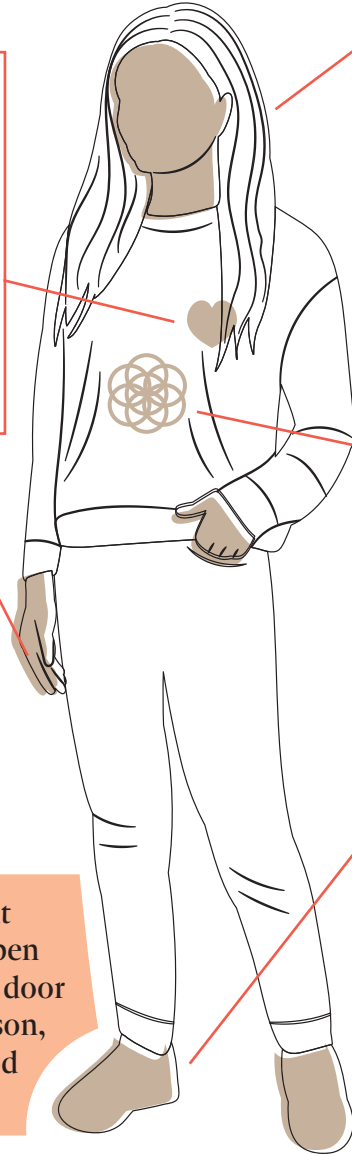
*How would their habits be different?*

**Soul**

*How would they think and feel differently about themselves?*

**Feet**

*How would their experience today be different?*



Finally, take a moment to pray. Ask God to open your heart and open a door to share with that person, that One Life, that God brought to mind.



# Week One: Day Two

## **FIVE REASONS WE SHOULD SHARE OUR FAITH**

For followers of Jesus, there are dozens of reasons to share our faith with the world. To be clear, God doesn't need us to, but rather he chooses to use us and allows us the privilege to partner with him to spread the gospel and grow the family of God. Let's look together at five reasons the Bible provides as to why Christians should share our faith.

### First Reason

#### **Because Jesus commissions us to share our faith.**

After Jesus died on the cross, resurrected a few days later, and then spent forty days revealing himself to people throughout Jerusalem, he gathered up the eleven disciples and (in his final words as recorded by Matthew) said this:

*I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this:*

*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

**MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NLT)**

### Second Reason

#### **Because we get to participate in the work God is doing in the world.**

Sharing our story and the Good News of Jesus isn't simply a have-to, it's something we get to do. It's easy to lose track of how good the Good News of Jesus really is because we've gotten so used to knowing it. Part of what we're hoping to accomplish through this journal is to be reminded of the true joy of knowing Christ and seeing him work in our lives. With that joy set before us, we will be like Peter in the book of Acts:



*We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.*

**ACTS 4:20 (NLT)**

... or like the woman at the well in John 4 who, after encountering Jesus and conversing with him about her life, was so powerfully impacted by her time with him that she “left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village telling everyone” (*John 4:1–30*).

Third Reason

**Because the world urgently needs the gospel.**

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

**LUKE 19:10 (NIV)**

The Bible describes anyone who has not put their hope and trust in Jesus Christ as “lost.” This “lostness” doesn’t refer to not knowing where we are. Rather, “lost” here is more like “irreconcilably separated from.” In John 14:6, Jesus declared himself to be the Way to God. Trusting in Jesus is the only way God has provided by which we may be saved. When we reject God’s way and choose our own, God honors that choice. This picture helps us understand why what Jesus did is so significant.

While it’s true that all people are loved by God, not all people are part of God’s family. Not all people automatically share in the goodness of walking with God (*both during this life and in eternity*). God does not want to force us into a relationship with him. Only those who choose *his way* are part of his family. Those who choose their own way in this life miss out on God’s abundance, his blessings, his wisdom and guidance, his strength, his power, and his intimate presence in their lives. For those who choose their own way, eternity is even worse. We have no capacity to truly understand what eternity will be like for those who have chosen their own way. The Bible writers called this state “hell” and, whatever it’s like, it’s likely far worse than the best descriptions the Bible gives us. It means eternal separation from the God who created you and loves you.



Before Christ went to the cross, we were all irreconcilably separated from relationship with God because of our sin. We were utterly without hope. But through the cross, we have been reconciled to God. Because God loves us, he doesn't force us to love him back. He gives us the choice to either love him and accept the sacrifice he made on our behalf, or reject him and face this life and eternity without him.

#### Fourth Reason

**Because people are far more open to the gospel than we think.**

A study conducted by Lifeway Research\* revealed that about half of unchurched people in America say they would be willing to engage in discussion with someone who wanted to talk about their religious beliefs. Another 31% said they would at least listen without actively participating. Furthermore, seven out of ten unchurched people say they've never had a Christian share their faith with them. What this means, practically, is that people are often far more ready to hear the gospel than Christians are to share it. Jesus talked about this disparity in Matthew 9:37. Speaking to his disciples, Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (ESV).

#### Fifth Reason

**Because sharing our faith brings real hope to the world.**

Without hope there is no life. And if we are intellectually honest, we live in a world that desperately needs real, authentic, genuine hope. The apostle Paul, writing to the Christians in Ephesus, reminds them that once they were "without God and without hope."

*In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them.*

*You lived in this world without God and without hope.*

**EPHESIANS 2:12 (NLT)**



Their situation was the worst it could possibly be. As Ephesians 2:1 puts it, they were “dead in their transgressions and sins.” But God, full of love and mercy, reached out and brought them new life in Jesus (see *Ephesians 2:4–5*). When we share the gospel, we offer real hope, the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Sharing your faith is not a matter of knowing all the answers, and it doesn’t require seminary-level understanding. Instead, it flows from deep gratitude for the joy we’ve experienced because of what Jesus has done in our lives. It is something so incredibly good that we want others to experience it as well.

## Questions

1. What are some other reasons to share your story and the Good News of Jesus? Jot down as many as you can think of.

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2. What is **YOUR** reason for sharing your faith?

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3. Who in your life “urgently” needs you to share your faith with them?

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4. What words or phrases describe the joy that you have in your relationship with Jesus—joy that you would want others to experience as well?

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Throughout the next four weeks, we will use phrases like share your faith, share the Good News, and share the gospel. All three of these are synonymous with another term you may be familiar with: evangelism. Evangelism comes from the Greek word euangelion, which just means “good news.” Gospel, Good News, and evangelism all mean the same thing. To evangelize is not to stand on a street corner with a cardboard sign, it is to go about your life “Good Newsing.” We are called by Jesus to be evangelists . . . “Good Newsmen.” This One Life journey is focused specifically on helping you feel more confident and courageous as a personal witness of the Good News of Jesus.

*\*Lifeway Research study of 2,000 unchurched Americans conducted May 23–June 1, 2016.*



Go back and review the Five Reasons to Share that we read yesterday (page 8). Then rate each reason on a scale of 1 to 5 for how motivating each reason is for you.

(with 1 being “not motivating at all” to 5 being “motivating a sense of urgency”)

Jesus commissions us to share our faith. 1 2 3 4 5

We have been given the privilege to participate with God in the work he’s doing in the world. 1 2 3 4 5

The world urgently needs the gospel. 1 2 3 4 5

People are more open to the gospel than we think. 1 2 3 4 5

Sharing our faith brings real hope to the world. 1 2 3 4 5

2. What thoughts and feelings come to mind as you look at your scores?

3. How could you move the scores up just one point?

Spend a few moments in prayer, asking God to give you a renewed sense of urgency to share his Good News with the lost.



**Ambassadors for Christ - Part 1**

*Consider diving deeper into this by listening to Saddleback's Doable Discipleship podcast episodes "Ambassadors for Christ" with special guest Greg Koukl.*



**Ambassadors for Christ - Part 2**

*Continue listening to this Doable Discipleship conversation in Part 2 of Ambassadors for Christ.*



## Week One: Day Four

### ROADBLOCKS TO SHARING OUR FAITH

Have you ever thought . . .

*“If I share my faith, they’ll think I’m being too pushy!”*

*“If I share my faith, they might be offended!”*

*“If I share my faith, I won’t know what to say!”*

*“If I share my faith, I might not have all the right answers to their questions!”*

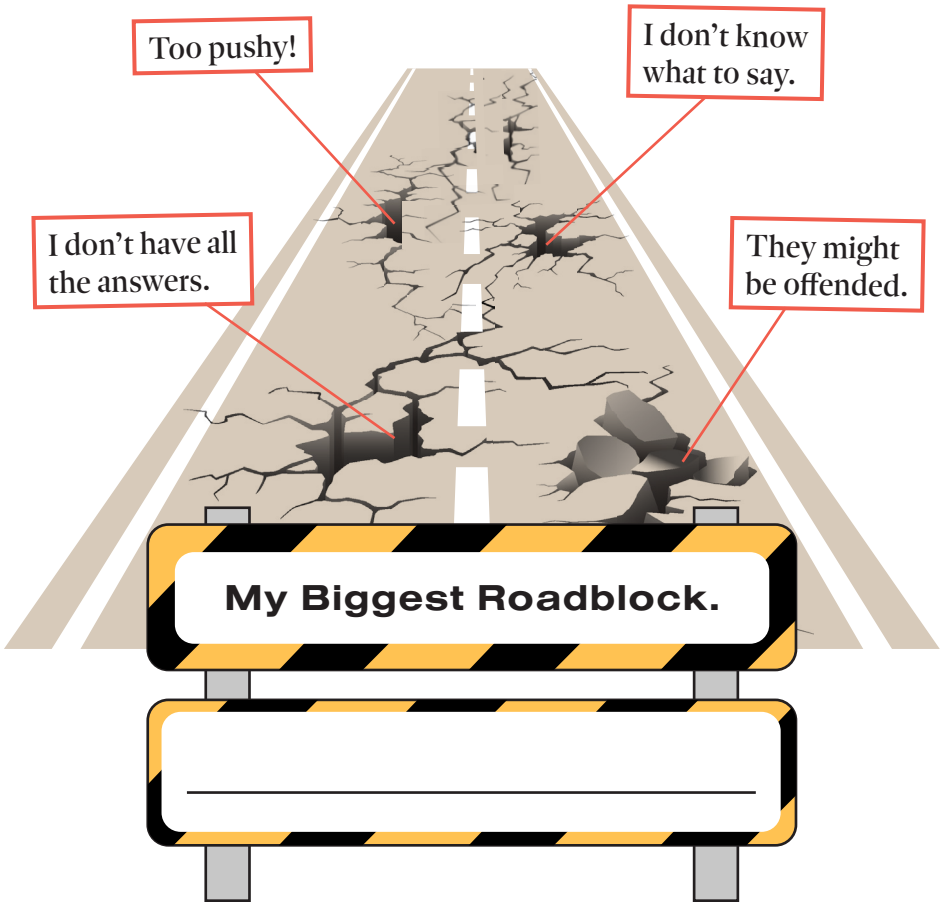
*“If I share my faith, I don’t want to call out the sin in their life!”*

If you’ve asked any of these questions, or one that wasn’t mentioned, you’re in good company! These are important questions to consider, because as we think about sharing our faith, we want people to experience, first and foremost, that they are loved and cared for, that they’re not a project to complete or a problem to solve. But, these questions shouldn’t keep us from sharing. It’s normal to feel like you might not know what to say, or you’re not good at it, or you don’t want to risk losing a friendship with someone. Our hope is that you know that you aren’t alone in these questions, and this journal can help you work through some of your hesitations.

As mentioned earlier, despite what we may think, the reality is that most people are open to having someone share their faith with them. So even if we don’t have all the right answers, we need to begin conversations and rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in these conversations.

One of the ways we can get more comfortable with sharing our faith is through training and practicing. The hope is that in the pages to come, you’ll become better equipped to formulate these conversations, and then begin practicing with friends and family so you’re ready when the opportunity comes to have them with unbelievers.





Think about how you might overcome or remove your roadblock. What one or two ideas come to mind?

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## Week One: Day Five

### OVERCOMING YOUR BIGGEST ROADBLOCK

Review the roadblocks to sharing your faith. What was your biggest roadblock to sharing your faith?



My Biggest Roadblock.

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Many times, what we see as roadblocks are actually lies we have believed. 2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us to “take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ.” To that end, use the chart on the next page to think through what lies might lie behind your biggest roadblock(s). Then take some time to think, pray, and read Scripture about what might be true instead.



#### **Saddleback Recommended Books**

*If you would like to learn more about overcoming roadblocks and sharing the Good News, check out these Saddleback recommended books.*

**What lie am I believing?**

*Talking about my faith will be seen as offensive.*

*I am not good at hard conversations.*

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**What is true?**

*People are more willing to hear than I think.*

*I have Jesus to help me.*

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# Week One: Day Six

## ASK GOD FOR HELP

Imagine, for a moment, the Apostle Paul chained to a wall in a dark, damp prison cell. He has been imprisoned in Rome for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. His body wounded and broken from his many journeys, he is hunched over a table, scribbling on some parchment paper his beautiful letter to the church in Colossae. Towards the end, he writes out these instructions:

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 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 4:2-6 (NIV)

Today, no questions to respond to, no exercises to work through. Today is a time for prayer. This is a time to ask God for his help. Without him, we are helpless. With him, we can be deliverers of Jesus' eternal salvation. We are his chosen newscasters, his reflectors of light into this world. We need his help.

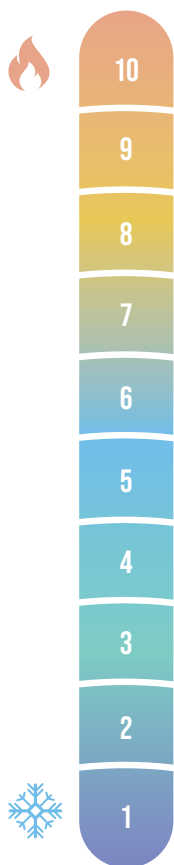
So, look through the passage again. If it helps, circle, underline, highlight, write, color. Then pray that God would empower you, that these words would be true of you.

# Week One: Day Seven

## WEEK 1 TEMPERATURE CHECK

Congratulations on finishing up week one! We hope you are feeling motivated and excited to live as God's Good Newser in this world.

Each week of this One Life journey, you will take an assessment called the **Mission Mindset Temperature**. The purpose of this assessment is to help you understand where you are right now with respect to sharing your faith. Pausing and assessing your mindset each week will help you see where you are and how you're growing. Circle the number on the thermometer that you think best identifies your current temperature.



**9–10** means you're all in! You've followed the Spirit's leading and seen him move in the lives of others through conversations. Everywhere you go, you see opportunities to share his love.

**7–8** means the Good News is important to you and you're intentionally preparing for those conversations, but you still struggle to understand the right timing and way to start those conversations.

**5–6** means you've had a few simple spiritual conversations and have begun praying before certain conversations.

**3–4** means you know you should be thinking about how others need Jesus, but there are always reasons you don't or can't actually do so, so you don't.

**1–2** means you rarely even think about sharing your faith and have definitely never tried it.



We all start somewhere. Wherever you are, please remember there is no shame in being a 1, 3, or 5. Even the most spiritually mature person you know, if they're being honest, would admit that their mission mindset temperature fluctuates—sometimes by several degrees. The most important thing is that you're honest with yourself. Once you know where you are, the next question you want to ask yourself is: “*What is my plan to raise my temperature by one degree?*” We will do this exercise at the end of each of the four weeks of this study. Imagine the power of continuing to do this exercise a few times a year or even once a month. The more attuned we are to our attitudes and actions, the more motivated we will be to go to God for his help.

*“Father, thank you for all that I have learned and processed this week about why it is important to share the Good News of Jesus. Thank you, too, for helping me identify the roadblocks to sharing my faith. Help me continue to break through any roadblocks that exist and defeat the lies I tell myself by holding to your truth. I’m sorry for not loving people the way you love them. I’m ready and excited for that to change. I ask, Lord, that you show me ways to increase my Mission Mindset Temperature and that my desire to share the Good News continues to grow. Thank you for walking with me in this. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

1. What thoughts or feelings come up as you look at your results on the Mission Mindset thermometer?

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2. How might you raise your temperature by one degree? Look back at the responses you made on Day Three and Day Five of this week. Using these as motivation, what one thing will you do to increase your Mission Mindset Temperature?

**Action Plan:** This week I will...



## *Week Two: Introduction*

### **BUILD FRIENDSHIPS**

Congratulations on working through week one! We hope you are feeling motivated to carry out God's call to share his love with the world.

Do you know what God used to spread his message all around the world? He could have used a heavenly megaphone to broadcast his voice at the Earth. He could have dropped pamphlets out of the sky. He could have developed the coolest advertising campaign ever. But he didn't. To spread the Good News of his love all around the world, God used relationships.

This week is going to be focused on building relationships. How can you begin the important and simple work of investing and integrating God's Good News into the relationships you have around you?



# GROUP Week Two

## WEEK Two: Build Friendships



If you are leading your small group,  
check out these resources.

### Gather

As a group, talk about your impressions of Week One of this One Life journey.

### Group discussion questions:

*What was the most compelling of the Five Reasons We Should Share Our Faith?*

*Which of the roadblocks presents the biggest struggle to you?*

### Read

Choose someone to read out loud Luke 5:27–32 (NIV)

<sup>27</sup> After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, <sup>28</sup> and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. <sup>29</sup> Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. <sup>30</sup> 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?” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.



## Observe

### Group discussion questions:

*What stood out to you about this passage?*

*What does it say about Jesus that he would step into this scene—this party filled with tax collectors (sinners looked down upon by the religious community)?*

*What do you think Levi was thinking and feeling as his two worlds collided—his new love for Jesus and his tax collector community?*

*What do you think Levi's friends were thinking as they saw Levi's new friendship with Jesus?*

## Understand

Let's consider how we can apply this passage to our lives.

In the space below, answer the following questions with a word, phrase, or sentence that comes to your mind. Then, share what you wrote with your group.

*What do you think Jesus is calling you to do through this passage?*

*What can you do to follow Levi's example?*



*What are some other ways you can build friendships with unbelievers, or even how your group can build friendships with unbelievers together?*

**Pray**

As a group, ask God for help in what could seemingly be a difficult challenge: building friendships between believers and unbelievers. Thank God for the example that the Bible sets with Levi and the amazing truth that Levi didn't stay Levi the tax collector . . . he became Matthew the disciple. Pray for the One Life that God has placed on your heart. If you don't have anyone in mind, ask God to make that person known to you soon. Ask God to present an opportunity for you to bring this person into relationship with your other Christian friends.



## Week Two: Day One

### CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE

God likes to use what *already exists* to carry out his good work . . . he used the dirt of the ground to form humanity, he used fishermen to make fishers of men, he used Roman roads to spread his message.

God wants to change lives through you . . . primarily through your *already existing* relationships. Let's look at your sphere of influence. Who has God placed in your life? It can be easy for us to take for granted all of the many connection points we have with people. Perhaps there is a certain area of our life that you feel uncomfortable or nervous about because most of the people there are not Christians (workplace, neighbors, etc.). Remember, God loves each and every person, and we are called to do the same. The Bible tells us that Jesus was a friend to sinners. Don't overlook the work God may be calling you to in areas where there may be few or no believers.

Use the circles on the next page to help you think about the people you regularly come across in five different areas of your life. In each circle, write down the names of two or three people who do not know Jesus.



#### **Relating to Different People**

*For more on God's love for all people, watch this Saddleback weekend message, "Relating to Different People".*



**FAMILY**

*(immediate or extended)*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**FREQUENT**

*(frequent relationship)*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIENDS**

*(neighbors, kids, sports, school, etc.)*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**FUN**

*(gym, hobbies, hang out)*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**FACTORY/  
FIRM**

*(work, professional arenas)*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## Week Two: Day Two

### PEOPLE OF PEACE

Guess what? God wants us to share his Good News with the people who are open to it. No forcing, no arm twisting, no sales persuading necessary. Let's collectively breathe a sigh of relief!

Yesterday, you came up with some names of people that God has placed in your life. What if your steps of obedience in the days, months, years ahead would mean they get to spend eternity wrapped in the love of God's embrace? That's an amazing and humbling thought, isn't it?

Realistically, though, you may look at the names in those circles and know that some of them would unfriend you the second you mention Jesus. Thankfully, Jesus gives us a helpful concept: "People of Peace".

When Jesus is sending out his followers to share the Good News of God's love, he tells them:

*Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'  
If a **person of peace** is there, your peace will rest on  
him; but if not, it will return to you.*  
**LUKE 10:5-6 (CSB)**

We aren't necessarily going door-to-door here, but we **ARE** called to enter into our relationships with people and offer the peace of God. But notice this principle: God wants us to share his peace with those who are **OPEN TO IT**. He doesn't want us to force a decision on people that are hesitant.

So let's whittle down the list from yesterday. Things don't become dynamic until they become specific. Who are your People of Peace: what people in your circles of influence are **OPEN** to God's love? Believe it or not, there are people right now that are yearning and waiting to hear about God's love from **YOU!** Take these names and work them through this three-question filter using the graphic below.



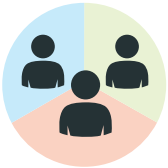
1. Who is in your sphere of influence that does not yet know Jesus? (See yesterday's "Circles of Influence" exercise). List those names.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



2. Of these, who do you get along with well? Where is there good chemistry, trust, and mutual affection? Who likes you? List those names.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



3. Of these, who is not weirded out/turned off by your faith? You likely know those who are obviously opposed to anything having to do with God. But who has heard you mention church and showed interest? Who has showed curiosity about what you believe? This person has maybe asked questions, or at least, not immediately shut down a conversation about your Christian life. List those names.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

You should now have a few names, if not just one. These are your people of peace . . . people in your life that are open to God's Good News. In the days ahead, let God expand your love specifically for these people/this person. Let him open your eyes to what he wants for their lives. Jesus came to save them, possibly with your help. Starting tomorrow, we'll be equipping you for the sake of these he loves.



## Week Two: Day Three

### THE POWER OF LIVING A CHRIST-LIKE LIFE

Having now identified the People of Peace in your various circles of influence, how do you begin the process of sharing your faith with them? A great place to start is to take a careful look at your own life . . . from the outside.

A picture is worth a thousand words. The way you live your life—with your family, at work, in your community—is creating a picture of what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus talked about this in Matthew 5:16. “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*” (KJV). What people see when they watch the way you live (*your light*) speaks more powerfully than any words you could ever say. Your life is a sermon. Your life is a witness. Your life shows people what’s really important to you and it reveals what you really believe. Living in a way that reflects your love for Jesus and the difference he’s made in your life will help people be more open to a spiritual conversation when the time comes.

The core question to ask is: how do people experience me? The more similar your answer is to how people experienced Jesus, the better you’ll be at “Good Newsing” with your life.



#### **Personal Health Assessment**

*Living a life that reflects Christ in every area can only happen as we consistently nurture our own relationship with God, and seek to balance all five of the purposes that God has revealed in his Word. Use this QR Code to access our Personal Spiritual Health Assessment. It will help you understand your overall spiritual health and discover opportunities to grow.*

## Questions:

1. Think back over the past week. What story is your life telling those around you? What is the title of the book you are writing?



2. How can I shine my light for the people in my circles of influence?



3. As you think about your life as a witness to the world, if you were offered one do-over for something that happened in the last seven days, what would you do differently and why?



# Week Two: Day Four

## THE SHARE SPECTRUM

You have a list of names. You’ve discerned who your People of Peace are. You’re doing your best, with God’s help, to live like Jesus.

But let’s be real, moving from living like Jesus to actually talking with another person about the Good News seems daunting. Let’s start by rethinking what we mean by “*share the Good News.*”

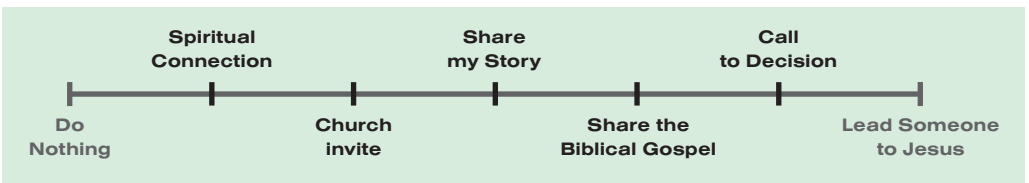
For most people “*sharing the Good News*” may look like this:



Of course this is daunting! There’s a massive chasm between these two things. But what if “*sharing the Good News*” offered more opportunities at different stages of a relationship? What if there were multiple steps between these two? In fact, it is . . . and there are!

Evangelism—which can be a scary word—simply means sharing the Good News of Jesus. We are called to be “*Good Newsmen*,” not just in the moments that we call people to a decision to follow Jesus, but in all aspects of our relationships. How are you sharing God’s love, inviting people into a relationship with God through your words, actions, and relationships? Instead of the graphic above, how about this one?

## The Share Spectrum



*\*Share Spectrum is inspired by Apartment Life’s “People Impact” strategy. For more information, check out [apartmentlife.org](http://apartmentlife.org)*

### *Point One*

## **Spiritual Connection**

This is your very first step and you can do this with anyone. A “*Spiritual Connection*” is simply a conversational mention of God, church, your faith, Jesus, the Bible, or anything else that may plant a seed. For example: “*Hey, what are you up to this weekend?*” “*Saturday I’ll be out on a hike with the family, then Sunday, we’ll be going to church.*”

There’s very little cost, but a very big gain. For those disinterested, they will just quickly pass over your comment. For those interested or curious, this may open up for a larger conversation. At the very least, you’ll grow in being more intentional with your words, and the person you are talking to will know you are a Christian. This is a habit to grow into, and we’ll be working to build this up in the days ahead.

### *Point Two*

## **Church Invite**

If conversations have gone well with a few Spiritual Connections, the person you’re in a relationship with knows you are a follower of Jesus and is not turned off by that. They are growing into a Person of Peace!

This is a great time to offer a personal invite to church. A church invite can begin with an invite to connect with your Christian friend group . . . a birthday party, a game night, playing basketball (*remember, the church isn’t a place we go, but the community we belong to!*). Look for some fun weekend event, something your small group is doing, or a weekend service series you know would interest them. An invite is simple and short, and it shows your Person of Peace that you care about them. Worst case, they say no. Best case is they come with you, hear the Good News of Jesus, commit and are baptized right there on the spot! Whatever the case, this opens the door for deeper relationship with them and a greater opportunity to share God’s love.



*Point Three*

## **Share My Story**

This is your opportunity to share the story of your journey with Jesus. The Good News is not something “*out there*,” it is something you live; something imprinted on your life! How has following Jesus changed you? This sharing may need to be worked up to, or it could happen in your very first meeting with someone. It can be a planned time with a friend over coffee where you explain how Jesus has changed you or a moment where a conversation opens up and you see the chance to share.

If this seems a bit scary, don't worry. We'll be helping you craft your story in the days ahead.

*Point Four*

## **Share the Biblical Gospel**

The “*biblical gospel*” is the description of who Jesus is, why he came, and what he did for all of us. This is the opportunity for you to share not just what Jesus did for you, but why Jesus matters—how his life, death, and resurrection is the key part of God's rescue plan for the world.

Again, this may seem daunting. Don't worry, we'll be covering this in more depth next week. You'll be finishing up these 4 weeks fully equipped to share this Good News story with that One Life.

*Point Five*

## **Call to Decision**

The final step is the Call to Decision. Yes, God may call you to this point the very first time you meet someone. But it may come after months or years of investing in another's life. Jesus called people to a point of decision and we get to do so as well. The result of this call is not ours to control, but there are times God wants us to point out the choice they have before them.

For a great tool on calling someone to a decision, check out *The Gospel in 5* on page 104.



This is your chance to explain that God gives us a free choice to receive or reject the amazing gift of life with him. No one else can make this choice except for the person themselves. To say “yes” to Jesus, it simply means “*confessing with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’*” and “*believing in your heart that God raised him from the dead*” (Romans 10:9). This may lead to you getting the chance to pray with them and welcome them into life in Christ!

You may have walked this far through this journey, and realized that you’ve never made this decision. Maybe you just figured that growing up in a Christian home or going to church meant you were a Christian. But, if you have never told Jesus that you want to follow him with your life, now is your chance. Reach out to a small group member or visit [saddleback.com/newstart](http://saddleback.com/newstart) to take that step.

**Exercise:**

Let’s take a moment now and reflect on this:

1. How could this Share Spectrum help you feel more comfortable “*Good Newsing*” in the days ahead?

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2. Which of these steps have you taken before, and what was the outcome?

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## *Week Two: Day Five*

### **WHERE ARE YOUR PEOPLE OF PEACE?**

Yesterday, we talked through the Share Spectrum. Hopefully, this opened your eyes to the many ways we get to spread the Good News. Now, let's pull together all our work from earlier this week.

Look back at your Circles of Influence. Think through your People of Peace exercise. You should have a handful of names that come to mind. Now, where are you relationally with these people that God has called you to love? Think through the Share Spectrum as a process to build on as you show God's love to these people.

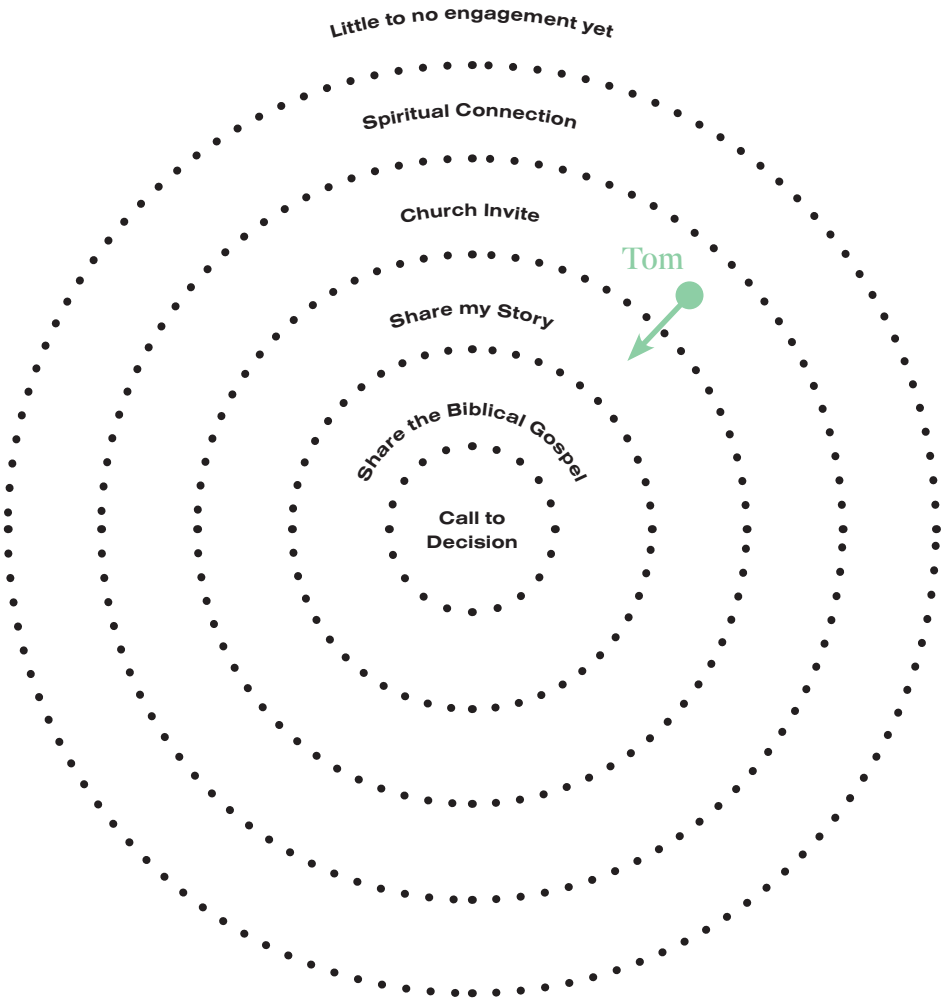
Take a moment and plot the location of your "Good Newsing" relationship with them. Also, plot the direction they seem to be heading. As you do, pray for more opportunities to share God's love with them, through word and deed.

**Example:** Tom is a friend from work. I've had many lunches with him, and from a few Spiritual Connections we've had, he knows that I go to church. I've invited him to an event I was attending with my small group, and he said he wanted to join but was busy. He's officially in the "Church Invite" place of the Share Spectrum, and his comment about wanting to join tells me he's moving in a direction towards a deeper relationship.



# People of Peace

*Share Spectrum*



## Week Two: Day Six

### **BUILDING ON YOUR RELATIONSHIPS**

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*  
**-1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 (ESV)**

Today, take this time to reflect and pray about how we can build on the relationships we already have. Look through the acrostic on the next page. Draw, sketch, color, or write words around the bridge.

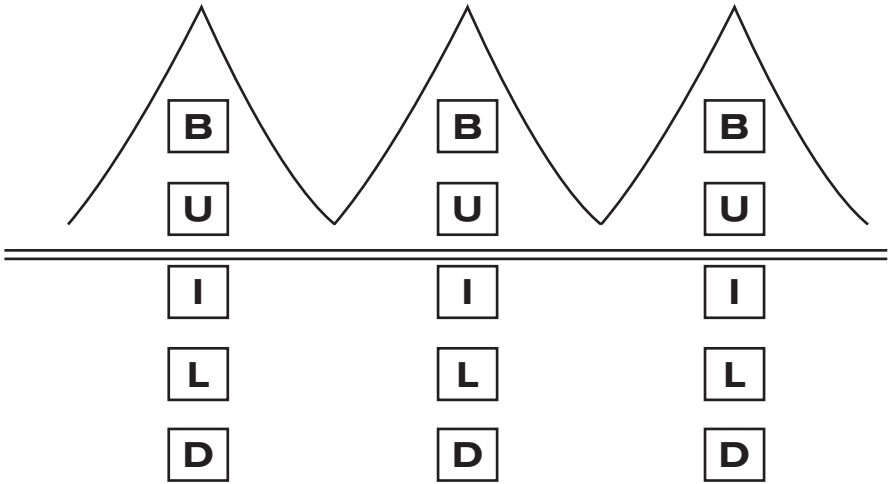
Then respond in prayer.

*Father, I pray for the opportunity to build a bridge of friendship between my life and the People of Peace you have put around me. I pray that I will be myself and not pretend to be anything I am not. I pray that you will help me uncover areas of common interest and connections we share. Father I pray that they will begin to trust me enough to share the things that are happening in their life. I want to listen carefully to their story to see how YOUR story can meet them and help them. And Father, I will depend on you to create a bridge of friendship that Jesus can walk across. Amen.*



#### **The Relationship Principles of Jesus**

*If you would like to learn more about how Jesus thought about relationships, read *The Relationship Principles of Jesus* by Pastor Tom Holladay.*



**B** = Be yourself

**U** = Uncover areas of common interest

**I** = Invite them to share what is happening in their life

**L** = Listen to their story

**D** = Depend on God to create a friendship



# Week Two: Day Seven

## WEEK TWO TEMPERATURE CHECK



**9–10** means you're all in! You've followed the Spirit's leading and seen him move in the lives of others through conversations. Everywhere you go, you see opportunities to share his love.

**7–8** means the Good News is important to you and you're intentionally preparing for those conversations, but you still struggle to understand the right timing and way to start those conversations.

**5–6** means you've had a few simple spiritual conversations and have begun praying before certain conversations.

**3–4** means you know you should be thinking about how others need Jesus, but there are always reasons you don't or can't actually do so, so you don't.

**1–2** means you rarely even think about sharing your faith and have definitely never tried it.

You've made it through our second week, congratulations!

Let's pause now that we're at the end of this week's daily readings, to assess your Mission Mindset Temperature. Circle the number on the thermometer that you think best identifies where you are. What would it take for you to raise that temperature one degree? Pray the prayer below and then answer the questions to help you make an action plan to raise your Mission Mindset Temperature.

*“Father, thank you for all that I have learned and processed this week around who you have brought into my life. Thank you for helping me see the importance of building friendships and showing me that I can have influence on the people in the different areas of my life. Help me to live a life that points people to you, and help me see people as you see them. I ask, Lord, that you show me ways to increase my Mission Mindset Temperature and that my desire to share the Good News continues to grow. Thank you for walking with me in this. In Jesus' name, Amen.”*

1. How do you feel about where you are on the Mission Mindset thermometer?

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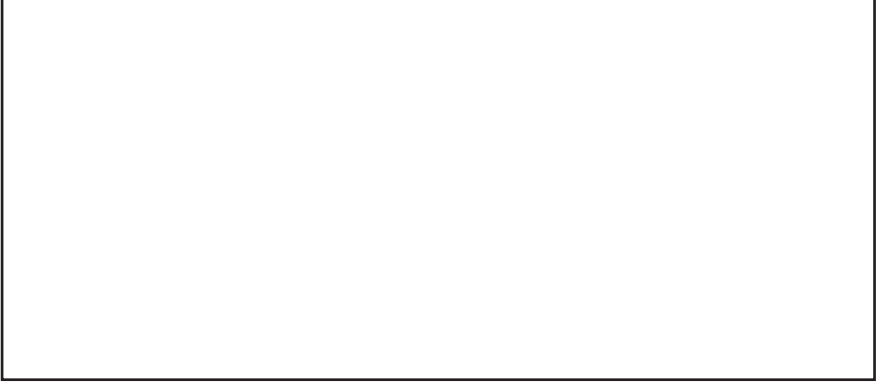
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2. If you saw a change in your Mission Mindset Temperature, what changed in you that led you to make the change on the thermometer? Did you do something new that you can continue doing in the future?



3. What would it take for you to raise your temperature by one degree? Look back at the Circles of Influence from page 36 and the Share Spectrum pieces from page 44. Using these as motivation, give yourself one thing that you will do to see your Mission Mindset Temperature increase.

**Action Plan:** This week I will...

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## *Week Three: Introduction*

### **CULTIVATE CONVERSATIONS**

Many of us have heard the adage:

*“Preach the gospel, and when necessary, use words.”*

There is great importance in living a Christlike life of love. It is primarily our life example that cultivates curiosity about Jesus in others. But at some point, it is necessary to use words. A good conversation can change your perspective, change your life, change your eternity.

This week, we are going to be giving you the tools to cultivate conversations with those around you, beginning with your own story.

# GROUP Week Three

## WEEK Three: Cultivate Conversations



If you are leading your small group, check out these resources.

### Gather

#### Group discussion questions:

*What was your reaction to Living a Christlike Life (Week Two, Day Three)? Were you able to see any impact from intentionally trying to live a Christlike life over the last week?*

*What did you think about the Share Spectrum? How did this help you see the act of sharing the Good News in a new way?*

### Read

Choose someone to read out loud Luke 10:25-30; 36-37 (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”  
<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”  
<sup>27</sup> The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”<sup>28</sup> “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”<sup>29</sup> The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story . . .<sup>36</sup> “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.<sup>37</sup> The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”



## Observe

### Group discussion questions:

*What stood out to you about this passage?*

*Why do you think Jesus often responded to questions by asking questions?*

*Why do you think Jesus would tell stories in conversations?*

## Understand

Let's consider how we can apply this passage to our lives.

### Group discussion questions:

*Jesus listened carefully and responded with good questions. This drove the dialogue deeper. Discuss as a group, how could you begin to use questions as you work to cultivate conversations with others?*

*Jesus was accessible and interruptible for conversations with people. Do you think people see you as accessible and interruptible? What small change might make you appear more open to conversation?*

*In the space below, write out an action statement on what you will do to make yourself more available for conversation. "In order to make myself more available for conversation, this week I will . . ."*

## Pray

As a group, thank God for the model that Jesus gave of prioritizing conversation by being accessible and interruptible. Ask God to help you see people not as interruptions, but as opportunities to grow relationships. Continue to pray for the One Life that God has placed on your heart. Ask God to show you ways to cultivate conversation with this person in the days or weeks ahead.



## *Week Three: Day One*

### **CULTIVATING CURIOSITY**

Last week, we considered the fact that living a Christlike life is a way of breaking down barriers and building friendships with others. People may become open to the Good News of Jesus because of the way a Christian they know loves, or serves, or sacrifices for others.

Today, we'll see that living a Christlike life is also a way to cultivate conversations with those in our circles of influence.

1 Peter 3:15b (NIV) says, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*"

This verse assumes something very significant: *Your life should cause people to ask questions.* For followers of Jesus, you are made to live your life in such a way that those around you get curious . . . they should notice that something is different.

- How you respond when you're angry, or hurt, or disappointed, should cultivate curiosity in others.
- How you navigate a disagreement with someone else should cultivate curiosity in others.
- How you care for those hurting or in need around you, how you treat your family, neighbors, and co-workers, how you live . . . should cultivate curiosity in others.

Ultimately, others should see desirable qualities in your life that cause them to wonder and to ask questions. And when they do, the Bible says to be prepared to tell them why your life looks the way it does.



## Question:

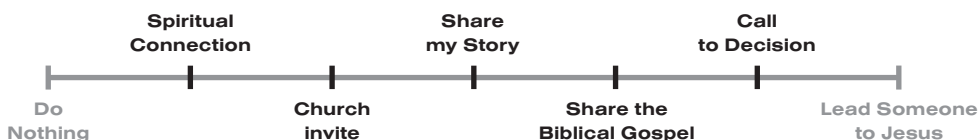
What can you do this week to cultivate curiosity about Jesus in those around you? Get specific. Use the chart below to list the names of people in your life and how you will shine your light (*the love and power of Christ*) in their lives this week.

Name	How I will shine my light this week...

## Week Three: Day Two

### CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS

A great way to cultivate better conversations is to continue taking next steps with the Share Spectrum. Here it is again:



Let's get practical and look at some examples of how to nourish your relationship with these first three tools: Spiritual Connections, Church Invites, and Sharing Your Story (circle examples that you want to use or write your own in the spaces below)

#### Spiritual Connection Examples

This is about mentioning God, your faith, church, etc. in casual conversation. It could open doors to longer conversations, or at least remind people of God's importance in your life.

- When someone asks about your weekend plans, include your plans for attending a church service. *"After the soccer game, we usually head to Saddleback Church, then we grab a meal afterwards."*
- When someone shares about something hard they're going through, mention that you'll be praying for them *(or if they seem open, ask if you could pray for them right there)*. *"Hey, I'm so sorry you're going through this. I'll be praying for you."*
- When talking about hobbies, share about how your hobby helps you connect with God. *"When I'm out hiking, I can sense God's presence in a special way."*



- When someone asks you for advice, see if you can mention a Bible verse or idea that has helped you. *“You know, there’s this verse in the Bible that says ‘If you wait for perfect conditions, you’ll never get anything done.’ That’s good wisdom!”*
- When mentioning a conversation you had earlier with a Christian friend or co-worker, make sure to make a point that you know them from church or small group. *“I was talking to this friend from church the other day and she was explaining that . . .”*

*Have your own idea?*

- \_\_\_\_\_

### **Church Invite Examples**

This is about inviting people into a gathering made up of other believers. This may be an ongoing social gathering with Christian friends, a small group outing, your regular small group gathering, a church event, or a church service.

- Send a link to an upcoming message series that could interest this person and invite them to the service you attend.
- Drop off an invite card to an upcoming Easter or Christmas service with a note.
- Invite this person to join you at Celebrate Recovery®, a retreat, your men’s or women’s gathering, or your small group.
- Throw a “Levi Party” (*Mark 2:13–17*) by inviting various unbelieving friends and inviting in some fellow believers to get to know them.
- Go on a hike with your small group and invite this person to join.
- Coordinate a book club with other Christians that you can invite this person to.
- Invite this person to a block party, couples’ night, art opening, or other upcoming Saddleback event meant for the community.

Have your own idea?

---

## Share My Story Examples

This is about taking the conversation deeper. This doesn't mean you need to present the entirety of your story, it could mean a simple conversation about how God worked in different moments in your life. (see page 114 on "Presentation vs. Conversation") How has the Good News been good news to you specifically?

- When someone asks about how you navigated a hard period in your life, be prepared to explain how God worked in and through you. *"When I went through that layoff, I felt lost and worthless. God really spoke to me when I was reading the Bible one day, it said . . ."*
- When getting close to someone and they begin to ask about different parts of your story, be sure to weave in your journey with Jesus. *"We moved out to California a few years ago. I found myself depending on God a lot during that time. We found our church and really were welcomed into a community of love like we hadn't experienced before."*
- If you have the opportunity with someone you've been getting close to, ask them out to coffee to share about how God has changed you. *"You asked why my faith is so important to me. I want to share with you how I ended up becoming who I am today. It all began . . ."*

Have your own idea?

---



### Bridge the Gap

To learn more about how to bridge the gap between current culture and biblical truth, check out Saddleback's Found podcast.



## *Week Three: Day Three*

### **PAUSE AND PRAY**

Today, we want to pause our thinking and strategizing and learning, and simply pray. The people in our lives who don't know Jesus yet aren't projects to be accomplished or targets we're aiming at or trophies to be won. They are people—dearly loved by God, and desperately in need of the hope that is found in Jesus.

Think back to the names you wrote out last week. Write their names below and take some time to simply pray for each one. Think about the person . . . their family . . . their work . . . whatever you know about them. Let God move your heart with compassion for each one of them. Is someone struggling in some way? Does someone have a need? Bring these all before God in prayer. Our act of “Good Newsing” must come first and foremost from a place of love for them.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Then, begin praying for God to clearly show you who that One Life is that you need to be focused on specifically right now.

## *Week Three: Day Four*

### **CRAFTING YOUR STORY**

Want to know the very best argument you have for the truth and goodness of God? *Your own life.*

Sharing your story may feel like a huge task. Images may come to mind of people sharing their testimony in church, or standing before a group of people with a script explaining all the bad things they did before they knew Jesus. Don't worry, sharing your story does not have to be like that. Let's make this doable.

We're not going to be writing a script. We're going to be laying out a few major landmarks in your life with Jesus. What are some of the major waypoints in your life, and how has God been deeply involved in these? Where did Jesus do his forgiving, restorative, resurrection, shepherding work in your life? Begin with a title, then a short, one sentence description. You can view these as landmarks, waypoints, or chapters of your life (*whatever is most helpful to you and your story*).

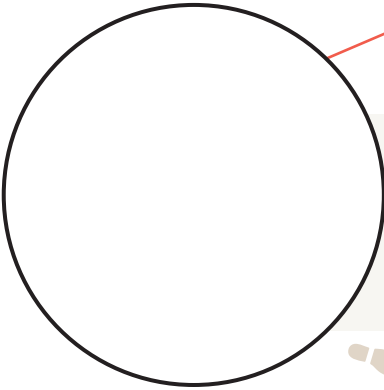
Ideas of things to include:

- *Catalysts or major life decisions*
- *Early family life settings*
- *The point you gave your life to Jesus*
- *Seasons of growth, loss, or wandering*
- *Major life-changing events*
- *Where you are now*



# My Landmarks

*Try drawing a simple image to represent this landmark of your story.*

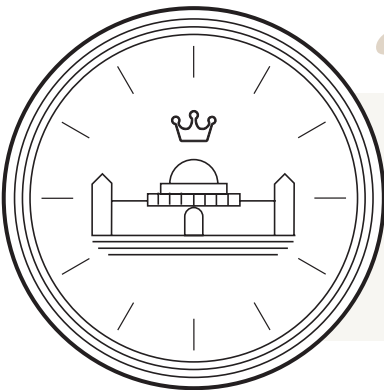
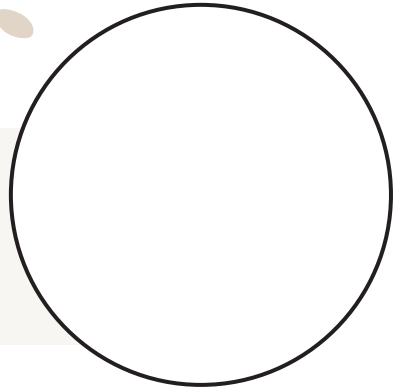


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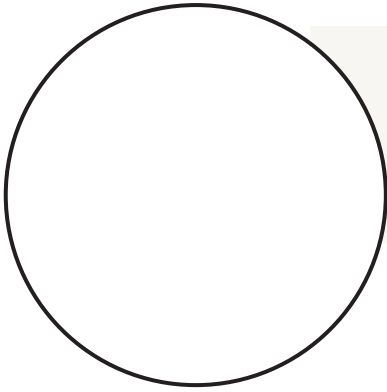


**Title:** “With God Forever”

**Description:**

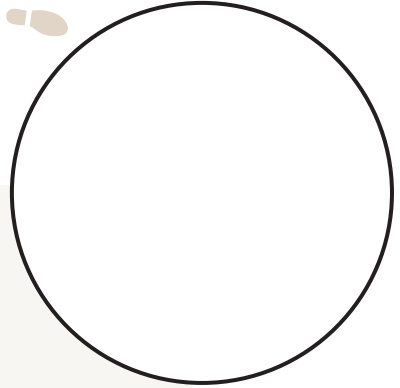
There will come a day that I stand before my loving Creator complete and whole.





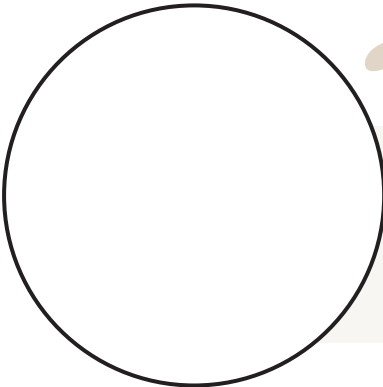
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This does not capture the full extent of your life, but it does show some of the central ways you've experienced the life change that Jesus brings. The last point is there because it is a reminder of the end of our story—what shapes our whole story. Someday, because of the work of Jesus, all things will be made right. Perfect justice will come, all wounds will be healed, and we will be in perfect community with our Father. The good news is that even though some of your landmarks may still feel like defeat, some wounds still left unhealed, we know that God is at work through his Son and his Spirit to make all things right.



# Week Three: Day Five

## EXPANDING ON YOUR STORY

Yesterday, you sketched out a few landmarks from your journey. Let's expand on these and look at how to use your story to share God's good news with others.

Take each of your landmarks from yesterday and flesh them out a bit more. You can write out bullet points to expand on them or write a few sentences.

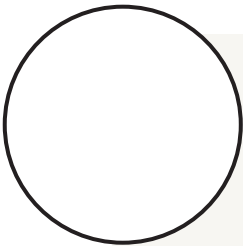
*What emotions or thoughts did you go to in this landmark?*

*How did God show up?*

*What characteristics of God shone through?*

*Where is there Good News in the story of this landmark of your life?*

If surfacing a certain part of your story has been particularly hard for you emotionally, consider reaching out for some help in processing it. Visit [saddleback.com/care](https://saddleback.com/care)

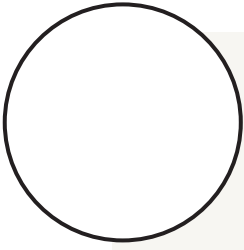


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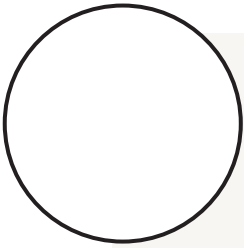




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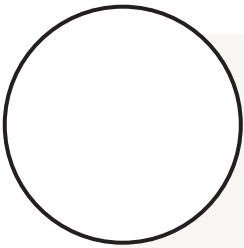
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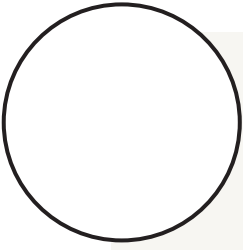


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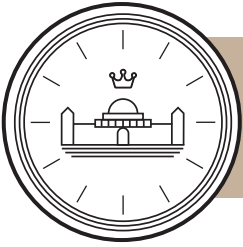




**Title:**

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**“With God Forever”**

There will come a day that I stand before my loving Creator complete and whole.

Try to create a 1–2 minute version for each landmark, and a 5–7 minute version. Choose one of them and talk through it as if you were sharing with someone else.

## *Week Three: Day Six*

### **SHARING YOUR STORY**

The work of preparing bite-sized chunks of your story is important. The Apostle Peter tells Christians everywhere that we should *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).*

Today we’re going to take the map from the last two days and look at how to use your story to share God’s Good News with others.

The goodness of God is painted on the canvas of our history. And bonus, no one can disagree with your own lived experience! Sharing your experience can be a very disarming and inviting way to rave about God’s goodness and love.

Now, sharing your story doesn’t necessarily mean walking through every one of these landmarks in sequence. It is rare to have the opportunity to sit across the table from someone and walk through your entire life story. Instead, sharing your story may mean just talking about one of these landmarks and the way Jesus loved you through it. It could be walking through a few of these points.

Here are some examples of potential bridges into a *“share my story”* conversation.

- *When someone shares with you a struggle they’re having with deciding on a new job, talk about that landmark where you faced a hard decision.*
- *When someone is in the thick of some pain and seeking some counsel, walk through a painful point in your story, and how God may have used that pain to shape you into the person you are now. (note: if they are just recently entering into a deeply painful experience, better just to listen!)*



- *When someone is asking you about how you got through a certain difficult season of life, talk about that season in light of what God did and your hope of how he'll someday make it right.*
- *If someone is wondering how you've developed a certain perspective or characteristic you possess, share with them the parts of your story that led to it.*

A few notes from this:

1. All of these begin with questions from others. Remember, we should live in such a way that our life cultivates curiosity and breeds questions.
2. Nothing is forced here, opportunities abound to share from your own life experience.
3. Having these short stories from our life already prepared, in our pockets, is an important way to love our friends. Once you have some of these prepared, you will see ample opportunities to share them for the good of others.

Think back. What is one bridge into your own story that you could have used in conversation you had this past week?

# Week Three: Day Seven

## WEEK THREE TEMPERATURE CHECK



**9–10** means you're all in! You've followed the Spirit's leading and seen him move in the lives of others through conversations. Everywhere you go, you see opportunities to share his love.

**7–8** means the Good News is important to you and you're intentionally preparing for those conversations, but you still struggle to understand the right timing and way to start those conversations.

**5–6** means you've had a few simple spiritual conversations and have begun praying before certain conversations.

**3–4** means you know you should be thinking about how others need Jesus, but there are always reasons you don't or can't actually do so, so you don't.

**1–2** means you rarely even think about sharing your faith and have definitely never tried it.



Congratulations on finishing Week Three!

It's time to once again assess your Mission Mindset Temperature. Circle the number on the thermometer that you think best identifies where you are. What would it take for you to raise that temperature one degree? Pray the prayer below and then answer the questions to help you make an action plan to raise your Mission Mindset Temperature.

*“Father, thank you for all that I have learned and processed this week about embracing and appreciating the story of your work in my life. Thank you, too, for helping me see the landmarks of my life. Help me see the bridges that you create so that I can cultivate conversations that share my story with other people. I ask, Lord, that you show me ways to increase my Mission Mindset Temperature and that my desire to share the Good News continues to grow. Thank you for walking with me in this. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

1. How do you feel about where you are on the Mission Mindset thermometer?

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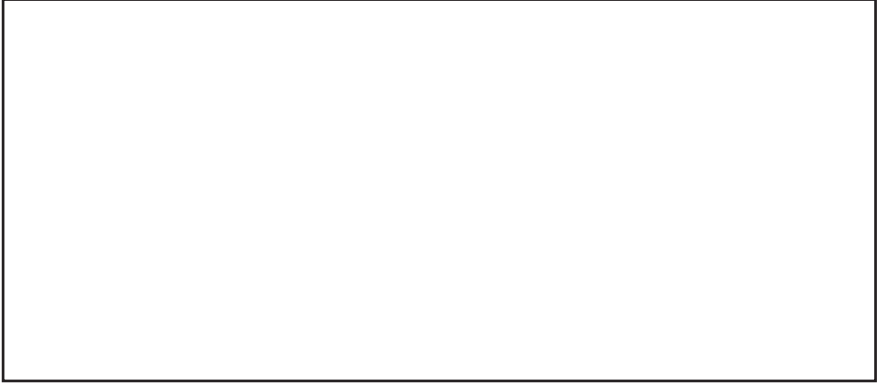
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2. If you saw a change in your Mission Mindset Temperature, what changed in you that led you to make the change on the thermometer? Did you do something new that you can continue doing in the future?



3. What would it take for you to raise your temperature by one degree? Look back at the landmarks talked about on pages 57 & 60. Using these as motivation, give yourself one thing that you will do to see your Mission Mindset Temperature increase.



**Action Plan:** This week I will...

## *Week Four: Introduction*

### **DISCERN STEPS**

God chooses to involve us in the saving work of others. We don't do the saving, of course, but it is up to us to point others to the savior!

With all the praying, the friendship-building, and the conversation-cultivating we've worked through these past weeks, there may come a time where God asks you to help another step over the line of faith. If we give people we love a glimpse of what the Christian life is, but never invite them into it, what good is that?

Don't be nervous, we're going to be giving you the tools all along the way to keep this relational, loving, and real. This week, we'll be equipping you with all you need to help your One Life discern the step before them.



# GROUP Week Four

## Week Four: Discern Steps



If you are leading your small group,  
check out these resources.

### Gather

Share about any spiritual connections you made this week.

### Group discussion question:

*By now you have taken your Mission Mindset Temperature three times. What growth have you seen in that weekly exercise? How has being aware of your Mission Mindset Temperature changed the way you have thought about sharing the Good News?*

### Read

Choose someone to read out loud Matthew 9:35–38 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”



## Observe

### Group discussion questions:

*What stood out to you about this passage?*

*What example is Jesus setting in the way he sees people?*

*What does it mean when Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few?” Why do you think that Jesus asked the disciples to pray for workers rather than be the workers themselves?*

## Understand

Let’s consider how we can apply this passage to our lives.

Have each person share about the One Life you have been working to identify during this journey. Based on all of the work you’ve done in this journal up to this point, what next steps can you decide on right now on how to connect with your One Life person? Talk about it as a group and then write down your next steps in the space below.

## Pray

As a group, thank God for what he has done and is still doing through this One Life journey. Go around the circle and have each person do the following:

- Thank God for one thing they learned or were inspired by during this experience.
- Pray by name for their One Life person.

Finally, ask God to continue growing in you a heart for the lost—for eyes to see people the way he does.



## *Week Four: Day One*

### **PRAY FOR THE ONE LIFE**

Every follower of Jesus has had a point of decision in their lives . . . a point when they chose to accept the Good News of Jesus for themselves and step into salvation. At the beginning of this study, you recalled the person or people who shared the gospel with you. Now take a few minutes to recall what led to your deciding to follow Jesus. *What happened leading up to that moment?*

Just like that person was used by God as a catalyst for the change in your life, God can use you as the catalyst for change in the lives of those around you. But here's what we all have to remember: It is God who does the changing and saving work through his Holy Spirit. Phew! We do not change anyone! While it is God who saves a person's life, all we are asked to do is invite people into that change. They don't need to accept or reject what we're telling them, they need to wrestle with what God is telling them through us.

Now, let's get specific once more. As you've worked through all of these exercises, who is the one name that God keeps bringing to mind? Whose life has God put on your heart to focus on and pray for first? This is the One Life God has before you.

Write their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember the Five Reasons to Share from Week One?*

They are:

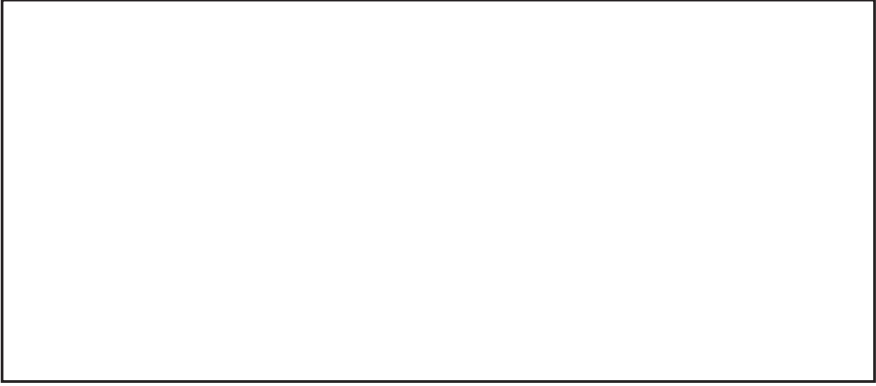
1. Jesus commissions us to share our faith.
2. We have been given the privilege to participate with God in the work he's doing in the world.
3. The world urgently needs the gospel.
4. People are more open to the gospel than we think.
5. Sharing our faith brings real hope to the world.

Let's personalize them for the One Life you are praying for. Write their name in each blank.

- Jesus commissions me to share my faith with \_\_\_\_\_.
- I have been given the privilege to participate with God in the work he's doing in \_\_\_\_\_'s life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ urgently needs the gospel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is likely more open to the gospel than I think.
- I can bring real hope to \_\_\_\_\_.



- Something powerful happens when we personalize these truths. It changes how we hear them. What happened in your heart as you personalized these Five Reasons to Share?



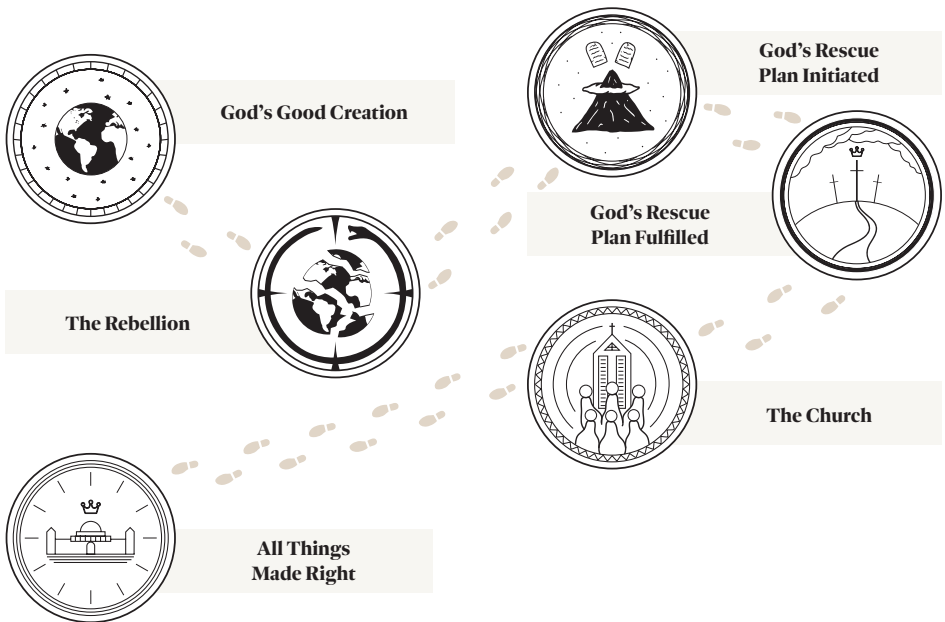
# Week Four: Day Two

## THE GOOD NEWS STORY

Your story is a beautiful picture of the Good News, *but it is not the Good News itself.*

Your story is one beautiful paint stroke in a monumental mural of billions of people throughout history that have experienced life change through Jesus. All these stories, yours included, point to a larger story. The Story. The Good News Story of God and His Creation.

Like recounting a good movie, no one wants to hear every detail in one sitting. Instead, for the sake of memory and simplicity, let's look at this story against the same map you used to work through your own story.



Read through each landmark below. Once you're done, take a moment to pray and thank God for what he has done and what he will do.





First image:

**Title: “God’s Good Creation”**

*(Genesis 1–2)*

God made all existence, the entire cosmos, and called it “*good*.” God was in beautiful harmony with humanity and the rest of Creation. Humanity was commissioned to reign and rule over the Earth like angled mirrors: reflecting the praises of all Creation up to God, and reflecting the good rule of God over all Creation.

*The point?* God’s fingerprint is on every person and every thing in the universe. This world was created as inherently good. We are designed to live in perfect harmony with God, with each other, and with this world.



Second image:

**Title: “The Rebellion”**

*(Genesis 3 to Revelation 20)*

Humanity chose to reject God’s love, and instead, rule the world according to their own desires. This is called “sin.” This rebellion left the good world, and humanity, broken. God’s relationship with humanity was broken. Humanity’s relationship with each other was broken. And humanity’s relationship with the created world was broken.

*The point?* All the brokenness around us cries out the truth that “things are not what they are supposed to be.” Something is wrong that needs to be made right. Our rebellion against God, our continual choosing to go our way, results in the brokenness all around us and in us. This includes our relational turmoil, our isolation from God, and even death itself. We have chosen to disconnect ourselves from the source of all good, the source of all life, and we all live with the scars and emptiness to prove it.





Third image:

**Title: “God’s Rescue Plan Initiated”**  
*(Genesis 3:15 to Malachi 4)*

God was not content to leave his creation and his people in disrepair. From the first promise made about one that would come to crush the head of the serpent, to the covenants made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, God was working to make things right. With Abraham, God called the people of Israel to pick up the mantle of Adam and Eve—God would bless them so that they would be a blessing to the nations. Although Israel continued to rebel, through prophets and poets, kings and priests, and normal, everyday people, God was preparing the way for the fulfillment of his plan.

*The point? Most of the Bible is about this portion of the story. It shows God’s character (his persistence, love, grace, and justice), and humanity’s natural tendencies (getting lost, wandering, having moments of clarity, but usually looking out for ourselves). We find in these many stories the picture of a loving father and his rebellious child.*



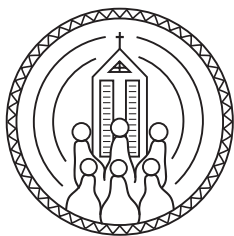
Fourth image:

**Title: “God’s Rescue Plan Fulfilled”**  
*(Matthew 1:1 to Revelation 21)*

The entire story is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. God steps into his creation as a human and fulfills what humanity was made for. He shows the perfect harmony between God and humanity. Unlike all other humans before him, Jesus carries out God’s reign and rule on the Earth. Jesus invites broken humans into this grand rescue revolution—which he calls the kingdom of God—and commissions them to follow his way. Broken relationships are mended. Wounds are healed. Evil is confronted. Good is triumphant. Nothing, not even death itself could hold down God’s goodness from bursting forth into the world through Jesus. His death on the cross confronts all the world’s sin. His resurrection confirms victory over all evil.

*The point? Jesus’ coming into the world is the climax point in the long story of God and his creation. In Jesus, you have the way, the bridge into being a part of God’s family and his rescue mission in this world. In Jesus, you also have a real-life example of how to live the life you were made for. He invites you to die to your old ways, pick up your cross, and follow him into eternal victory!*





Fifth image:

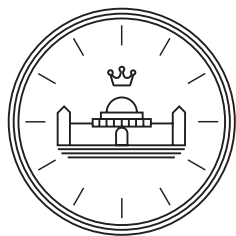
**Title: “The Church”**

*(Acts 1 to Revelation 21)*

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, followers of Jesus around the world are commissioned to live like Jesus is King, because he is. In their lives, their words, and their examples, these disciples of Jesus are meant to carry on the work that Jesus began. The church lives out and proclaims the Kingdom of God by reflecting the praises of the world back to God (*worship*), gathering together as his family (*fellowship*), growing more into the likeness of Jesus and helping others do the same (*discipleship*), serving one another in love (*ministry*), and welcoming others into this story (*evangelism*). The Church lives out these purposes amidst a broken but being-made-right world until Jesus returns and culminates his plan.

*The point? We all live, right now, in this chapter. We are caught between the resurrection of Jesus and the final consummation of God’s plan to make all things right. It is “already” (Jesus has come) . . . and not yet (we wait for Jesus’ return). We see glimpses of God’s goodness breaking through in our world and in our hearts, but evil and rebellion still has a foothold. In God’s grace, he is choosing us to take part in Jesus’ cosmic work to fix what is broken, heal what is wounded, and bring light into the dark all around us. (Note: This is why learning and sharing this story is so important—you’re bringing Good News, heavenly light into a dark and dreary world!)*





Final Picture:

**Title: “All Things Made Right”**  
*(Revelation 22)*

In the end, God will fulfill all of his promises. There will be a day when there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more death. In perfect justice, Jesus will return and defeat all evil once and for all. Satan, all who rejected Jesus as King, and all evil will spend eternity apart from God. Because of Jesus, there will be no more isolation from God for those who want to spend eternity with him, and we will get to reign and rule with God in a new and restored heaven and earth. God will be with this redeemed humanity and there will be perfect harmony between them forever.

*The point?* Because of God’s promises, we live with a hope for all things to be made right. We look to Jesus’ resurrection as the start of this new creation work that will someday be fully realized. Any pain, any corruption, any injustice will be made right by this good king. We look forward to this with hope, enduring whatever evil may throw at us, knowing this day of ultimate victory will come.



### **Foundations**

*If you would like to go deeper into these biblical truths, check out these Foundations videos from Pastor Tom Holladay and Kay Warren.*



## Week Four: Day Three

### INVITING OTHERS INTO THE GOOD NEWS STORY

When you invite someone into life with Christ, you are inviting them into this grand work of God in the world. This is the Good News, the biblical story of God and humanity.

So how can I call someone to a point of decision from this? This is where the question mark comes in.



It's actually quite simple. In this grand story, we are constantly caught between two decisions: God's way and our own way. Despite our constant failures, Jesus has made a way for us to follow God's way again. Thanks to his life, death, and resurrection, we aren't stuck in a world of our own brokenness forever.

Jesus calls us to follow him, to be a part of his global movement of God's love, redemption, and restoration. The great news about the Good News? Jesus' invitation is open to everyone. Anyone can leave the rebellion, turn away from living for themselves, and proclaim Jesus as King of their lives. Romans 10:9 says, "*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*" (CSB).

There's no magic prayer or special ceremony needed, you don't have to be at a church service or even with any other person. This is simply about letting God know that you want to stop doing this all yourself. You want to go his way.

As you share this, you don't need to cover every detail of this cosmic story. You can walk through these six major chapters in just a couple minutes. Use the images to help you! And remember, just like your own story, you can point to any one part or section of this story and still welcome people into a life with Christ!

For now, look at each image below and see if you can easily explain the Biblical story. If you need help to flesh out any point, feel free to reference the map from yesterday.



Finally, when should I share my story vs. the biblical story?

*If someone asks you about...*

**WHY** you believe, feel free to share your story.

**WHAT** you believe, point to the biblical story.

*If someone asks about why...*

**YOUR LIFE** is the way it is, point to your story.

**THE WORLD** is the way it is, point to the biblical story.

*If someone asks about who...*

**YOU** are, point to your story.

**JESUS** is, point to the biblical story.

*If someone asks about how...*

**YOU** got saved, point to your story.

**THEY** get saved, point to the biblical story.



## Week Four: Day Four

### JESUS' THOUGHTS ON SHARING - LUKE 10

*“Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’  
And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not,  
it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking  
what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go  
from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive  
you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them,  
‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”*

**LUKE 10:5–9 (ESV)**

When it comes to sharing your faith, having the right mindset and posture is more important than knowing the perfect words to say. In Luke chapter 10, Jesus gave instruction to seventy-two everyday Christ-followers, people just like you and me. Instead of giving them a script, model or formula, he shared four things to consider as they are participating in sharing his mission.

#### **Thought One: Speak Peace**

*“Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’  
And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon  
him. But if not, it will return to you.”*

**LUKE 10:5–6 (ESV)**

Gospel conversations should not be confrontational, nor should they lead to conflict. Our role is to bring peace into people’s lives and situations. In fact, if the peace we offer is not received, we are instructed to move on. We are not engaging people to win an argument or ‘seal the deal.’ Only God can move the hearts of people.

Our role is to **MAINTAIN A WILLING and OBEDIENT HEART.**

God’s role is to **CHANGE PEOPLE’S LIVES.**

## Thought Two: Prioritize Relationship

*“And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town, and they receive you, eat what is set before you.”*

**LUKE 10:7–8 (ESV)**

The saying that “*people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care*” is true. Jesus instructed his followers to eat what was set before them. He encouraged them to seek a personal connection and relationship. Throughout Scripture, the dinner table was a place for community and connection. If the door of a relationship is open, we should be ready to interact with genuine interest. As you share, make relationship a priority.

Be prepared to **STAY ENGAGED** with the people you’re praying for.

## Thought Three: Address Brokenness

*“Heal the sick who are there . . .”*

**LUKE 10:9 (HCSB)**

Enter every conversation knowing that everyone has broken and hurting parts of their lives. God will use you as a vessel of his healing, wisdom, peace and hope. It is amazing how one word of insight or a simple act of care demonstrates the authentic love of God. All creation is sick and broken, yearning for solutions.

God desires to use you to be a part of his mission to **HEAL THE SICK** and the **BROKEN THINGS** on earth.



## Thought Four: Proclaim the Kingdom

“Say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

**LUKE 10:9B (ESV)**

When we go, we go with the mindset that ‘I care because God cares.’ We are ambassadors of God’s kingdom. When we carry the king’s heart, attitude, and hope as we engage people, we are ‘proclaiming the kingdom.’ We do this by proclaiming (*sharing*) that there is a better way—a kingdom way of peace, relational wholeness, and healing. It is not complicated, and there is no formula. It’s a matter of helping people take a deep look at Jesus and experience his care or receive needed wisdom and peace.

At this point, you can share with  
**THE GOOD NEWS STORY.**



## Week Four: Day Five

### SELAH

Pause. Breathe. Over the last twenty-five days you have read, written, talked, learned, drawn, and thought over the call of the Great Commission to share the Good News of Jesus and what he has done for you. It is a profound responsibility. God has empowered and commissioned you to tell the people in your life about the gift of eternal life that he offers to anybody willing to receive it—and now you have identified who, the One Life, you are focused on reaching out to first.

What, then, is the most important thing you can do now? Pause. Breathe. The Hebrew word “selah” is often thought to mean “to pause and lift up.” Many of the psalms use the word “selah” as an encouragement to meditate on the words of the psalm and lift them up to the Lord.

Today, have a moment of selah. Think about the moment you made your decision for Jesus. Think about five reasons to share. Think about the landmarks of your personal story and the biblical story. Think about the one person, the One Life, you have identified. Lift these thoughts up to the Lord and use this moment as a clear acceptance of the call to share.

*“Father, thank you for being a personal God who knows me inside and out. Thank you for loving me so much that you sent your Son to die for me—to save me. Thank you that the Good News of Jesus was so important that it led someone to share it with me. And I thank you now that the Good News is so important that I want to share it with someone else. I ask, Lord, that you put a fire in my heart to share my story, which is your story, with the One Life you have called me to right now. Open doors, make space, and create opportunities for me to talk with this person. Open my eyes to see your hand at work. Thank you for being with me, for going before me, and for the work you are doing in me and through me.*

*I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*





### **Prayer of Examen Podcast**

*If you would like to continue this salah moment, consider listening to this episode from Saddleback's The Well podcast titled "Prayer of Examen".*

# *Week Four: Day Six*

## **SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **REFLECTION**

As we near the end of this One Life journal,  
take a few moments to reflect.

1. *How is it going?*
2. *What successes have you had?*
3. *What has been your biggest takeaway?*

It's been an exciting four weeks! We hope you have been challenged to learn and grow, and even to step into moments of boldness to share your faith. It may be going really well and you're excited about what you see God doing. It may also have really stretched you and you're feeling discouraged or like, perhaps, it just isn't working. You may feel equipped to go and change the world. Wherever you are today, we want to offer some answers and encouragements to some frequently asked questions:



**Q: What if sharing my faith still feels daunting?**

*A: Remember you're not alone. Sharing our story and the Good News of Jesus is something we do in partnership with God. We act in obedience by preparing, and praying, and taking the risk to share, but it is God who prepares a person's heart and draws them to himself.*

**Q: What if the person I share with isn't as open as I thought they'd be?**

*A: If the person doesn't respond the way you expect, that doesn't mean you failed or that it didn't work. It simply means that person's heart isn't ready yet. God is still working in their heart. Had Paul measured the success of his ministry strictly by the number of people who responded in faith every time he taught or shared, he would have been sorely disappointed and frustrated. That's not how it worked then, and it's not how it works today. You might be the first person that someone hears about Jesus from. You might also be the fifth or sixth or twenty-seventh. You might also have the joy of leading a person to Christ. Whatever God's part, we are simply asked to love, serve and share our faith as we have opportunity.*

**Q: What if the conversation is clunky or uncomfortable?**

*A: That's okay. This takes practice. Remember, it's not a performance. We won't be evaluated on how smooth and theologically eloquent our words are.*

**Q: What should I do about questions I don't know the answer to?**

*A: That's okay, too. It's always okay to acknowledge a good question. Tell the person you don't know the answer but will find out and get back to them. This actually opens the door for a follow up conversation.*

**Q: What if someone does want to follow Jesus? What do I do?**

*A: When someone is ready to say yes to Jesus, welcome them into talking to God about this new commitment. Romans 10:9 says “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.” The exact words of prayer don’t make them saved, so don’t worry about getting it “right,” but here’s an example you can pray together with them.*

*Dear God,*

*I want to choose your way instead of my own. Thanks that you forgive me and don’t hold my past sin against me. I believe that Jesus died in my place, paying the price for my sins, and was raised back to life to defeat the power of death. I ask you, Jesus, to change me and make me more into who you made me to be. I place my trust in you and you alone, Jesus. Help me by your grace and strength to live my life for you and your purposes for my life. Thank you for giving me the gift of an eternal life with you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

**Q: After I pray with a person who has decided to follow Jesus, what do I do next?**

*A: Congratulate them. Then, offer them a next step. You can invite them to attend church with you, invite them to your small group or even ask them if they’d like to get baptized. If you direct them to [Saddleback.com/newstart](http://Saddleback.com/newstart), they’ll find all kinds of resources and opportunities to get them started in their new walk with Christ.*

Above all, keep going, keep preparing, keep asking God for wisdom and direction, keep building relationships and cultivating conversations. God is working whether you see things changing or not. In fact, there will be many times that you won’t even know how God worked in someone’s life until much later, or it may not be until you get to heaven. The good news is that he is always working. He is faithful and can do life-changing things through our obedience in the lives of others.



# Week Four: Day Seven

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?



**9–10** means you're all in! You've followed the Spirit's leading and seen him move in the lives of others through conversations. Everywhere you go, you see opportunities to share his love.

**7–8** means the Good News is important to you and you're intentionally preparing for those conversations, but you still struggle to understand the right timing and way to start those conversations.

**5–6** means you've had a few simple spiritual conversations and have begun praying before certain conversations.

**3–4** means you know you should be thinking about how others need Jesus, but there are always reasons you don't or can't actually do so, so you don't.

**1–2** means you rarely even think about sharing your faith and have definitely never tried it.

You now have the opportunity to assess your Mission Mindset Temperature for the last time in this journal. Circle the number on the thermometer that you think best identifies where you are at. What would it take for you to raise that temperature one degree? Pray the prayer below and then answer the questions to help you make an action plan to raise your Mission Mindset Temperature.

*“Father, thank you for all that I have learned and processed this week about the power of the Good News. I ask for clarity on what my next steps should be and for the wisdom and discernment on how to share the Good News with the one life you have put on my heart. I ask, Lord, that you show me ways to increase my Mission Mindset Temperature and that my desire to share the Good News continues to grow. Thank you for walking with me in this. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

1. *How do you feel about where you are on the Mission Mindset thermometer?*

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2. *If you saw a change in your Mission Mindset Temperature, what changed in you that led you to make the change on the thermometer? Did you do something new that you can continue doing in the future?*

3. *What would it take for you to raise your temperature by one degree? Look back at Jesus's Thoughts on Sharing on page 84. Using these as motivation, give yourself one thing that you will do to see your Mission Mindset Temperature increase.*

**Action Plan:** This week I will...

Congratulations on completing this One Life journey! You have spent time in prayer, reflection, action, and being equipped for the sake of another.

As a result, we hope you find yourself bolder and more comfortable being the Good Newser you are called to be.



This is our prayer for you in the days ahead:

*May the Spirit of God empower you to be who the Father has already made you to be, for the sake of the One Life before you.  
In Jesus' name, amen.*

And that is who you are. The Bible says that you are:

- *A light on a stand*
- *An ambassador of his kingdom*
- *A carrier of the Good News*
- *A city on a hill*
- *A piece of God's workmanship, made for good works*
- *A reflection of God's very image in the world*
- *A mirror of his love*
- *A daughter or son of the king*
- *A holy priesthood, reflecting God's character into the world*
- *A member of the body of Christ on Earth*
- *A dash of salt in a bland world*
- *A temple, bringing God's presence here*
- *A vessel of God's mercy*
- *An instrument in God's hands*
- *A tree along a river bank bearing delicious fruit*

**The journey is not over!**



**Feedback On The One Life Journey**

*How was this One Life Journey? We'd love to hear from you about your experience! We want to make resources like these even more helpful for you and others.*

# Appendix



# THE G O 5 P E L IN FIVE WORDS

The gospel is the most important thing to know as followers of Jesus. It's important for us to know that the gospel is the core of our faith. There are 5 key elements of the gospel that we should know and understand. If we want to share our faith, we need to understand what we are sharing! Spend some time refreshing your memory with the core elements of the gospel!



1. *Think of a time that you received really good news. How did you feel? What was it like? Write down some thoughts!*

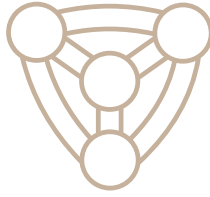
2. *Did you know that the word “gospel” literally means “good news”? Why do you think we use this word to refer to what Jesus did for us?*

## **Simply put, here is the gospel...**

**GOD** created all of us with the intention to be in a perfect relationship with him that would last forever. Sadly, that relationship was broken when people chose to **SIN** and follow their ways instead of God's. To fix the broken relationship, God sent his only Son, **JESUS CHRIST**, to die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus' death and resurrection paves the way to a restored relationship with God and a forever life in heaven, which he offers us as a free **GIFT!** God loves us completely and will never force us to follow him, so he gives us the **CHOICE** to receive or reject this amazing gift!

**Let's break down the five key aspects of the gospel!**





## GOD

*All of us were created by God to be in a relationship with him!*

- Read **Genesis 1:27**       Read **Genesis 5:1**

- What stands out about these verses when it comes to God?

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**God created all of us with the intention for us to be in a perfect relationship with him that would last forever. Sadly, that relationship was broken when people sinned.**



## SIN

*Because of sin, that relationship was broken.*

- Read **Romans 5:12**
- Read **Romans 3:23**
- Read **Romans 6:23**

- What stands out about these verses when it comes to sin?

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We are born separated from God because of our sin. No one is born a Christian. Because of our sin, our relationship with God is broken. When people chose sin, they chose their way instead of God's way. To fix the broken relationship, God sent his son Jesus.









### **Here's the deal.**

The free gift of forgiveness of our sins and salvation is offered to everyone, but each person must make the choice to accept and receive this gift, or not. When you hear the Good News about what Jesus did for you and what he offers to you, it's then up to you whether or not you want to believe and receive it. No one else can make this choice for you – it's a decision you have to make for yourself. But the Bible makes it very clear what it means to receive this gift.

*“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.”*

**ROMANS 10:9**



## Think through these “ABC’s.”

Here is how you can receive Christ right now & give your life to Jesus.

- **Admit** *that I’m a sinner and can’t save myself.*
- **Believe** *that Jesus died for my sins, rose again and has the power to forgive me and offer a restored relationship with God and eternal life in heaven.*
- **Commit** *to following Jesus and his ways for the rest of my life.*

Here is a suggested prayer for someone to pray if they want to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior:

*Dear God, I know that my sin has separated me from you and that I need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died in my place, paying the price for my sins. I ask you Jesus to forgive my sin and to come into my life as my personal Savior and Lord. I place my trust in you and you alone Jesus. Help me by your grace and strength to live my life for you and your purpose for my life. Thank you for giving me the gift of eternal life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*



## Some things to think about . . .

- *How does the gospel change the way we live our lives?*

- *What are some ways we can grow closer to Jesus?*

- *Who is someone in your life who needs to hear about the gospel?*



## Presentation vs. Conversation

One of the keys to successfully sharing your faith is to remember that it's happening in the context of a relationship, in the course of conversation.

### **PRESENTATION**

Starts with Christian worldview

Assumes they have some knowledge of the gospel message

Effective with people with a church background

Focuses on the lost person as a sinner

Focuses on an immediate decision primarily

Often one-sided listening. Clarifying

Linear (beginning, middle, end)

One and done

### **CONVERSATION**

Starts with the other person's worldview

Assumes they don't know the gospel message

Effective regardless of church background

Focuses on all of humanity as the sinner

Hopes for a decision but appreciates the process involved

Involves talking and listening. Clarifying and asking questions

Flows in various directions

May lead to more conversations



## CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS JOURNAL

*Every Home USA* is the US initiative of the global mission organization, *Every Home for Christ*, which has been equipping and resourcing churches across the world to share the truth and love of Jesus Christ for over 75 years. *Every Home USA* is on a mission of *Carrying Christ to Everyone, Everywhere, in Every Generation*. Learn more at **everyhomeusa.com**. Written contributions by Dr. David Schaal, Marcus Dolphens, and Hunter Schaal. Design by Jeshua Seifert.

*Saddleback Church* was founded in Lake Forest, California in 1980, and has since grown to over 20,000 people attending 18 campuses. For information on *Saddleback Church* visit **Saddleback.com**. Written contributions by Dave Alford, Brandon Bathauer (*General Editor*), James Browning, Heather Cova, Rob Jacobs, Kurt Johnston, Andrew Obnial, Linda Tokar, Jason Wieland, and Jacob Wilson.

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