

3 Circles

The 3 Circles is a simple picture used to share the gospel that can be drawn on a napkin, notecard, etc. It even has an app (Search the app store for "Life on Mission").

Transition: We all know the most challenging part of sharing the gospel is transitioning from "normal" conversation to "spiritual" conversation. The 3 Circles presentation works best when someone shares a problem, issue, or concern. Once they do that, you have received a perfect invitation to pray for them and share the gospel. Here is a transition statement you can use: "I haven't been through that exact thing, but I have had similar problems. Could I share with you something that has really helped me?" There are other kinds of similar statements that can help you get to the 3 Circles. The important thing is that you write one down, memorize it, and practice it.

After you transition, pull out your note card and share. Here's a sample script you can use, but feel free to make it your own.

Script:

(Draw: Circle and write in "GOD'S DESIGN")

"The Bible tells us that God has a design for every single area of our lives. He cares about everything and about us. He cares about our marriages, He cares about our parenting, our money, our jobs. He cares about every aspect of our lives. And the Bible says that if we'll operate our lives according to God's design, then we'll live in God's blessing."

(Draw: Line/Arrow from 1st Circle)

"The problem is that every single one of us has a tendency to depart from God's design because we want to do things our own way.

(Draw: Write "SIN" above Line)

"The Bible has a word for this, and the word is 'Sin.' The Bible says that all of us have sinned and we all fall short of God's design for our lives."

(Draw: 2nd Circle and write in "BROKENNESS")

"When we sin against God and depart from His design, we experience what we call 'Brokenness.' Now, we've all been in broken places in our lives. Brokenness feels like shame, it feels like regret, emptiness, it's the feeling of being used, it's loneliness."

(Draw: Squiggly lines out from circle for relationship, money, etc...4 total)

"When we're in brokenness, we try to change things and so we maybe dive into another relationship, or we try to make more money, or we try to numb the pain of our brokenness with drugs and alcohol. But whatever it is, we figure out that the change that we need can't really come from inside of us, the change that we really need comes from outside of us. And the Bible says there's very good news for every one of us, and the good news is that God wants to change us."

(Draw: 3rd Circle and write in "GOSPEL")

"The Bible has a word for "good news" and the word is "Gospel." And the gospel is the simple story of how Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth as a man, died on the cross for the sins of the world, and was raised from the dead. Now when Jesus was dying on the cross, God did a miracle. He took the sins of the world, that's your sins and my sins, and He put them on Jesus. But then when God raised Jesus from the dead, God proved that Jesus could do everything for us that He said He could do. So the kind of change we need doesn't come from out there (point to second circle) in the world somewhere."

(Draw: Line/Arrow from 2nd circle with word "REPENT")

"The kind of change we need comes from the gospel, and the Bible has a word for the kind of change that we need, and that word is 'Repent.'"

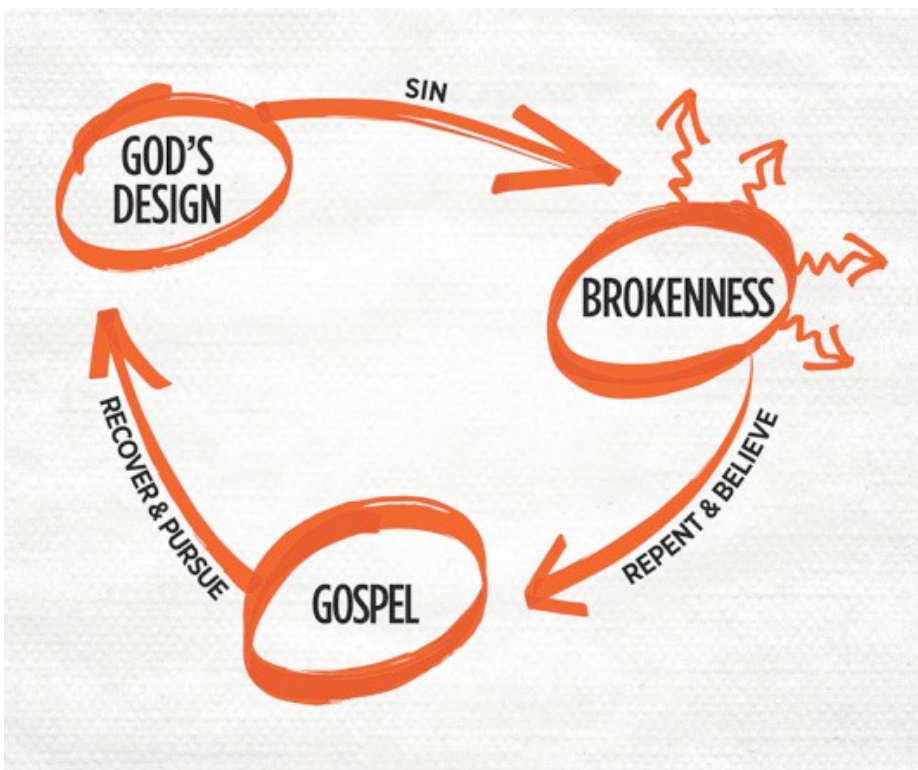
Repent means to change our mind, to change our heart, to change our direction."

(Draw: Write "+ BELIEVE" under REPENT)

"And when we repent of our sins and we believe the gospel story – the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus – then the Bible says that Jesus comes into our lives, forgives our sins, and gives us eternal life."

(Draw: Line/Arrow from 2nd circle to 3rd circle with "RECOVER + PURSUE")

"And because He does that, then we have the opportunity to recover and pursue God's design for our lives. And He then takes us and sends us back out into a broken world as ambassadors for his kingdom so others can find out about how Jesus can save them also."



After drawing and explaining the 3 Circles, ask this question: "Where would you place yourself on this picture? In brokenness or in God's design?"

Most will point to brokenness, and then you can ask: "Is there anything that keeps you from trusting in Jesus and pursuing God's design today?"

If they say no, then you can say: "When I first trusted in Jesus, I prayed a simple prayer to express my heart to God. Would you like to pray that prayer with me?"

If they agree, then lead them in a prayer of salvation, repeating the words after you.

If they point to somewhere besides brokenness, ask them to explain their choice. They may have trusted in Christ previously, or they may think they are pursuing God's design some other way. This may require further explanation of the gospel.

If they do not want to trust in Christ then and there, or they don't want to pray, don't push them. Ask if they would like to think about it and meet another time for further discussion.