



SHARE

Life Group Curriculum
4 weeks

RLM: VISION, MISSION, PROCESS

VISION:

We will reach the world for Jesus one person at a time.

(Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20; Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9)

MISSION:

We will create biblical disciples in relational environments.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

PROCESS:

We will be a church that makes disciples who make disciples of Jesus.

(Acts 2:42-47)

GROUP GUIDELINES



Though we call these Basic Group Guidelines, these are also essential in all relationships and environments. These should be observed whether in a 1-on1 conversation or in a group discussion.

- Guidelines give boundaries for people to operate within.
- They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.
- They help us value one another.
- They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key—at is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

NO CROSSTALK

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phones, responding to texts or emails, etc.

LISTEN

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

NO RESCUING OR FIXING

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

USE "I" STATEMENTS

It's easy to talk about the issues of other or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

DON'T OVER-TALK

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

It's not *if* conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1. Pray
2. Read the passage 2-3 times (use different translations).
3. Write out simple outline of the passage.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE PASSAGE

1. What did you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in the passage?
2. What new thing did you learn in this passage?
 - a. What questions/challenges does this passage raise for you?
3. What verse/truth stuck out to you?
4. What did you learn about yourself (people) in this passage?
5. How has what you learned impacted you or can be applied in your life?

SHARE

WEEK 1

OUR LIFE GROUP'S PURPOSE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Harvest Festival is coming in a few weeks. We, as a church, get to bless our community with this event. You can be involved in a few ways.

1. VOLUNTEER - This is a great place to serve. Your life group could volunteer together! Visit reallifeministries.com/events to register. This is a tangible way to spend time together while loving those who come that night!!
2. BRING CANDY - Fill those candy collection boxes. We have a generous God and we get to be generous to others.
3. INVITE A FRIEND - Invite someone (and their kids) to come to the Harvest Festival. Help a family experience an environment that is safe, kind, and caring. In particular, invite those who do not attend a church or do not yet walk with Jesus.

THIS CURRICULUM:

Over the next four weeks, we are going to help each other prepare to share our faith with the people around us.

This week, let's take a look at what motivates us to share our faith in Jesus with others and how we begin by building bridges and earning the right to be heard.

GETTING STARTED:

- Share about the last time you told someone about Jesus. What was it like?
- In what ways can sharing the gospel about Jesus be difficult?
- WHY does sharing Jesus with others matter?

WEEK 1

WHY SHARE:

Pick two of these passages to look at:

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- Luke 15: 7, 10, 32
- Luke 19:10
- 2 Peter 3:9-10



What do you see about God's heart expressed in them?

Pick a passage from each column:

COLUMN 1

1 Peter 2:9
2 Peter 3:9-10

COLUMN 2

Luke 19:10
1 Peter 3:15-16

- After hearing these passages how would you describe who we are and what we have been entrusted with?
- Whose responsibility is it to share Jesus with others that don't know Him?
- What keeps us from sharing Jesus with others? (Be as real and personal as you can be. Try not to be theoretical about answering this.)

HOW TO SHARE:

Start with your *lifestyle* and *relationships*

A. Your life opens doors --- Read 1 Peter 3:15,16

- How does Christ being the Lord of your heart change you?
- In what ways do you have hope?
- How does having hope and Christ as your Lord impact how you live?
- What do you think being prepared means?

SHARE

WEEK 1 (Cont.)

FORM

Here is an acronym to guide you in asking good questions.

Family – Tell me about your family.

Occupation – What do you do for a living? For Fun?

Religious background - What is your background with church or spiritual things? What do you think about Jesus?

Memories/Moments - Ask about important memories or moments in their life (good or bad).

Listen to their heart. Ask curious, interested questions in the midst of a relationship with them. Do this with gentleness and respect! Seek to know them, to know their story. Listen for where they are in their life and their journey toward Jesus. Be bold and courageous to know them. Eternity is at stake.

B. Build a relationship

- Share your life – Think about how Jesus shared his life with those who he was seeking after. Take a look at John 1:37-39.
- Meet a need (serve them) - Meeting needs when God reveals them is a way to express God's heart and love toward people. Remember how Jesus used the story of the Good Samaritan who demonstrated loving his neighbor by meeting his need? You can check it out in Luke 10:26-36.
- Listen to their story - Be curious and genuinely interested in their story. Jesus modeled this in his interaction with the woman at the well described in John 4:1-42. Learn about them first! Ask good questions.
 - Listen to their story and where they are in their journey to Jesus.
 - Seek to understand where they are coming from.
 - Listen for what questions or roadblocks they have in responding to Jesus.

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER:

1. Who is in your world that does not yet have a relationship with Jesus? (You might need to become aware of those in the places you work, live and play. Be prayerful and intentional!)
2. How can you invite them to share life with you?
3. In what ways can you serve them – meet a need they have?
4. What is their story?
5. What would it take for you to get the opportunity to hear their story?
6. What are their questions about God?

PRAYER SUGGESTION:

Put an empty chair in the center of your group. Think about who in your life does not yet have a relationship with Jesus. Take time as a group to pray for the specific people in your lives who need Jesus.

Ask God to open your eyes, to give you a heart like his for them, for ways to serve them and share life with them. Ask for opportunities to hear their story and to understand where they are in their journey.

WEEK 1

NEXT WEEK:

In the next few weeks here is where we are headed:

WEEK 2: Be Prepared - Sharing Your Story (We will develop and share our testimonies).

WEEK 3: Be Prepared - Sharing God's Story (We will learn and practice a way to share God's plan of salvation).

WEEK 4: Follow-Through and Follow-Up

EXTRAS:

Part of listening is seeking to understand a person's questions or roadblocks. Part of being prepared to give an answer for the hope you have is working on being prepared to answer questions people have. What kinds of questions do the people in your world have?

Get yourself prepared to answer the questions that the people in your life have. Never be afraid to say, "Great question! I don't know, but I will find out. When can we meet again and I will find out by then?"

Some common questions people have:

- Is there a God?
- Which God?
- What kind of God is he?
- Why is there evil, pain, or suffering?
- How do I know if the Bible is reliable?
- What about all the different religions?

TOOLS AND RESOURCES:

There are resources in the Appendix to help you find answers to the questions people in your world are asking.

Bill Putman also offers a class and an app that he has been developing to equip people to answer questions. His app is called GODISNOWHERE—check it out.

SHARE YOUR STORY

WEEK 2

BE PREPARED: SHARE YOUR STORY:

Last week, we discussed God's heart for people becoming our heart for people. We looked at how our lifestyle gives us a platform to share the hope we have. Listening to someone's story and understanding where they are is critical to building a relationship and earning the right to share. A part of becoming prepared is to find answers for the spiritual questions or roadblocks that the people in our own part of the world are asking.

This week, we want to help you prepare by writing and sharing your personal testimony of how God impacted your story.

We want to get practical. Let's look at God's Word, and then, let's practice and share.

NOTE: Later, someone will need to be the time keeper to help the group.

GOD'S WORD:

Take a look at Ephesians 2:1-10.

- What was life like before God?
- What did God do?
- What was different as a result?

This is a great example of how to share the story of your journey with God.

PREPARING YOUR STORY - SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY:

The time you take to share your story depends on the context and situation. You could take 90 seconds, 2 minutes, 5 minutes, 2 hours, or anything in between. Whatever the length, it contains three key elements: What life was like without God, how you came to choose Jesus, and what difference He has made in your life. Today, during our group time, help each other prepare a short version (about 2 minutes long).

Think about when you might share a short version of how you chose to follow Jesus. **Share the situations that come to mind.**

When sharing our stories, especially after we know the other person and their story, we can draw from the variety of our life experiences to custom fit it to another person's pain, questions, and context to be transparent and relatable.

WEEK 2

DEVELOP YOUR STORY:

Here are some questions to help you develop your own story:

1. What was your life like before Jesus?
 - A. Where were you?
 - B. What got you there?
 - C. What lies did you believe?
 - D. What steps did you take to solve your own problems?

2. What brought you to Jesus?
 - A. Where did He find you?
 - B. What did Jesus do?

3. What is different about you since knowing Jesus?
 - A. How has He changed your heart?
 - B. How has He changed you?

TIPS:

- Don't glorify or exaggerate your past.
- Focus on what God did for you, not on what you gave up for God.
- Don't use "Christian-ese."

Remember: Every story matters. Everyone has a journey that led them to making a choice about Jesus. Everyone experiences the power of God that saves them and gives them eternal life. Not all stories are dramatic with a past life filled with lots of experiences without God. Some stories are more subtle in how a self-ruled life was expressed and changed. But all stories are redeemed by God, are worthy to be told, and are used by God to help others see how He works in every life.

Here is where you need a time keeper. We are going to take 15 minutes to sketch out our stories. Take the first 10 minutes to think through the 3 parts. Then take 5 minutes to pull out a few highlights to communicate in a shorter version of your story.

SHARE YOUR STORY

WEEK 2 (Cont.)

PREPARING TO SHARE YOUR STORY WORKSHEET:

You have a significant role in what Jesus is doing in the world. You are here at this place and this time for a reason. You are here to be a part of what God is doing. He is reaching out to people who don't have a relationship with Him and drawing them to respond to Him. Your own story of how God reached out to you and how you responded is significant. It is a tool you can use to reach the world for Jesus one person at a time. You can introduce someone to Christ. Therefore, it is essential that you have your testimony well thought-out and that you are prepared to share it.

This is where your story and His story come together, resulting in a changed life.

There are 3 parts to think about in your personal testimony:

1. What was your life like before you had a personal relationship with Jesus?
2. How did you make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?
3. What is your life like, now, with Jesus Christ?

What was your life like before you had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? People often view God and the church negatively—perhaps they had broken relationships or searched for satisfaction in the wrong places. Think through your “Before Christ” days and examine how you thought and lived. Who or what were your gods? When telling this part of your story, be careful not to spend too much time bragging about your old ways of life or how sinful you were. Make this the shortest part of your testimony.

People come to Christ in many different ways with one thing in common: God draws each person. How did you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? How did God work in your life and draw you to Himself? Was there anyone who helped you along in this process? Friends? Family? A pastor?

The most exciting and attractive part of your testimony is what your life is like now that Jesus Christ is the center of it. How has being committed to Jesus changed your life? Have you experienced victories and struggles? How have your relationships changed? Remember that your excitement about following Christ will make your listeners excited about starting a relationship with Him.

Take 10 Minutes to answer the three main questions to telling your story. Then take 5 minutes to pull out a few key points of your story in each section.

WEEK 2

WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE BEFORE JESUS?

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO JESUS?

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU SINCE KNOWING JESUS?

Later you may want to go back over your story and make additions or changes.

SHARE YOUR STORY

WEEK 2 (Cont.)

PRACTICE SHARING:

Now we want to share it! We get to speak it out loud. There is power in our stories. Romans 1:16 says that what God has done in our lives has power—power to save us and to transform us, and when we tell our story, it has the power to draw others to God. Be bold and courageous. And practice it. It's your story—tell it!

1. Pair up. This is a great time for guys to pair up and for gals to pair up. Have one person share while the other listens and provides feedback. Again, THIS is where you need a time keeper. Take 5 minutes to share and 2 minutes to give feedback. Listener:

- A. What did you hear?
- B. What did you not hear?

2. Now switch roles. One person shares for 5 minutes, then the other person encourages and gives feedback for 2 minutes.

3. If there is time for different pairs, do it again.

DEBRIEF:

What did you learn, discover, or experience in this?

WEEK 2

OUTSIDE OF GROUP TIME:

1. Who in your life are you praying for? See the Appendix for prayer suggestions.

2. Practice sharing your story 2-3 times this week. Share with your family or a friend. Ask someone to help you with your "homework" this week.

NEXT WEEK:

Make sure you bring your Bible. We will be using them to become prepared to share the gospel.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

WEEK 3

REVIEW YOUR LIFE GROUP'S PURPOSE:



Did anyone get an opportunity to share your story this week?

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

BE PREPARED: SHARE GOD'S STORY

We have been helping each other be prepared to share our faith and reach out to those who do not yet follow Jesus.

We have talked about living a life with Jesus as Lord, living in a way that builds bridges and reflects hope. Building a relationship with someone—sharing our life with them—is key. Meeting needs is a way to do that. We recognized that part of being prepared is becoming aware of what questions and roadblocks people in our own world have in believing and following Jesus. We want to listen to their stories with genuine interest and curiosity.

Last week, we worked at being prepared by sharing our own story of how we chose to follow Jesus and the difference it has made in our lives.

Today, we get to work on being prepared by walking through a tangible way of sharing God's story.

- Who, in your world, needs to be reached out to?
- What are you learning about them?
- What are you learning about yourself in this process?

THE GOSPEL:

There are many different ways to share the gospel, the good news, the true story of how God wants a relationship with people. The gospel shares God's story of love, our need, and redemption. He loves each person so much that He paid the price to get rid of the sin, judgment, guilt, and condemnation that stands between Him and us. This break in relationship came because we chose to live life on our own. He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay this price. He offers a new beginning to those who humble themselves to accept what He offers.

WEEK 3

We are going to walk through how to share the core of this story. Recognize that you need to meet a person where they are at, and they may have questions or roadblocks that you may need to address before they have ears to hear and to respond to the core of the gospel story.

This week, like last week, we are going to go over, and then practice, a tool for sharing the gospel.

Discuss: Do you already have a preferred way to share the gospel?

Get out your Bibles... let's walk through telling God's core story.

The Gospel consists of both good news and bad news. The gospel becomes active in a person's life when there is a response to it.

John 3:16 is one of the most famous verses.

Discuss: What is the good news, and what is the bad news in it?

Look at **Romans 6:23**.

Discuss: What is the good news, and what is the bad news?

The tool we are going to practice is called *The Romans Road* because it walks through the book of Romans to tell the core of what God has done for us.

First, let's walk through it as a group. Then, we will pair up and practice. You are going to need about 25 minutes to practice. Budget your time so you can practice!

THE ROMANS ROAD:

You may start with something like this:

"We've been getting to know each other, and you know I'm a Christian. Oftentimes, Christians are guilty of never sharing their faith with others. I don't want to be that guy! Would you allow me to share what the Bible says about Jesus, and why I'm a Christian?"

Be conversational, ask questions and remember that you are called to be a disciple maker!

THE PROBLEM

Romans 3:23 - Our problem is universal!

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard (emphasis added)."

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

WEEK 3 (Cont.)

Questions to Guide The Conversation

1. What do you hear me saying?
2. Do you see yourself as a sinner?
3. Do you want forgiveness of your sins?
4. Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? That he died on the cross for you and rose again?
5. Are you willing to surrender your life to Jesus?
6. Are you ready to accept Jesus' payment for you and ask Him to be your Lord?

Here you pray with them.

Romans 6:23 - The consequences are eternal!

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord (emphasis added)."

NOTE: A question you might encounter is "what is sin?" How would you explain/define sin? You are helping a person recognize that all have sinned. All are in need of being saved from the penalty of sin. And none of us can do that on our own.

GOD'S RESPONSE: GOOD NEWS

Romans 5:8 - God's dilemma: He loves us, yet He has to judge sin!

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners (emphasis added)."

NOTE: Here you are talking about God's heart, his desire to be in relationship and how he solved our dilemma.

OUR RESPONSE

Romans 10:9-10 - God tells us what we must do!

*"If you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth you are saved."*

Romans 10:13 - Confirmation that this is available to everyone!

*"For everyone who **calls on the name** of the Lord will be saved (emphasis added)."*

NOTE: This is where you explain that each of us gets to respond to what Jesus has done for us. You want to ask them if they are ready to respond to what Jesus offers.

WHAT HAPPENS

Romans 5:1 - The amazing result!

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

WEEK 3

Romans 8:1 - We have been set free in Christ!

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

NOTE: At this point, you are reassuring the person that God's grace is just that good and big.

NOW WHAT?

Romans 12:1-2 - We now live life differently because of who we have become through Jesus.

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

NOTE: Here you are telling them who they have become, how Jesus is a part of their daily life, and you are encouraging them to respond publically through baptism.

TIPS:

If you are a paper/physical Bible person, write these verses in the front of your Bible. You might write the page number for Romans 3:23. Then go to where Romans 3:23 is in your Bible. and highlight the verse. Then write the address and page number for the next verse (Romans 6:23) in the margin. Repeat that for the whole 'road.'

When you share: Have the person read each text aloud from the Bible, and then ask them what it means.

Remember, when you share, you have to start with where they are at. That is why you become curious about their story, their questions, and their roadblocks.

In the Appendix, there are some additional ways to share the gospel and some online resources.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

WEEK 3 (Cont.)

PRACTICE SHARING:

Now we get to practice together! You will need a time keeper.

Pair up. In the pairs, have one person share. Take 10 minutes to walk through the Romans Road and give 2 minutes for the listener to give feedback, encouragement, and constructive comments.

Then switch roles. Have a time keeper help everyone stay on top of the time.

The Romans Road

- **Romans 3:23 – Our problem is universal!**

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- **Romans 6:23 – The consequences are eternal!**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Romans 5:8 – God's dilemma: He loves us yet has to judge sin!**

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- **Romans 10:9-10 – God tells us what we must do!**

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth you are saved.

- **Romans 10:13 – Confirmation that this is available to everyone!**

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

- **Romans 5:1 – The amazing result!**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

- **Romans 8:1 – We have been set free in Christ!**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

- **Romans 12:1-2 – We now live life differently because of who we have become through Jesus.**

WEEK 3

OUTSIDE OF GROUP TIME:

During the week, go over this tool or your preferred tool for sharing the gospel 2-3 times. Ask some people to listen to you walk through it. Look for opportunities to share your story, to hear someone's story, or to share God's story.

PRAYER SUGGESTION:

Put an empty chair in the center of your group. Think about who in your life does not have a relationship with Jesus, yet. Take time as a group to pray for the specific people in your lives who need Jesus. Pray for boldness, courage, and opportunities to hear their story, to share your story, and to share God's story

FOLLOW-THROUGH & FOLLOW-UP

WEEK 4

REVIEW YOUR LIFE GROUP'S PURPOSE:



Did anyone get an opportunity to share your story or the gospel this week? Share about the experience.

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

BE PREPARED:

We have been helping each other be prepared to share our faith and reach out to those who do not yet follow Jesus.

We've talked about living a life with Jesus as Lord, living in a way that builds bridges and reflects hope. We want to build a relationship and share our life. Meeting needs is a way to do that. We become aware of what questions and roadblocks people in our own world have to believing and following Jesus. We want to listen to their stories with genuine interest and curiosity.

We've prepared our own story of how we chose to follow Jesus and the difference it has made in life.

We have practiced a tool of how to share the good news, bad news, and to ask for a response.

Today, we are going to talk about following-up and following-through.

FOLLOW-THROUGH:

No one wants to feel like a project. That is why we began with building a relationship by serving, by meeting a need, and by being genuinely interested in hearing our friend's heart and story. We keep loving, sharing, and serving regardless of how they respond.

Someone's next step may be that they need time to consider what you have shared with them. If they are not ready to respond to Jesus, continue in relationship, continue praying for them, continue serving them, and continue loving them. Share what Jesus is doing in your life—as a friend—not preaching! When it is appropriate, probe where they are at in their journey. Ask some curious questions like:

- “What are you struggling with?”

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- “Is there a specific reason why you are not ready to ask Jesus to save you and be your Lord?”
- Listen to them as they answer.
- When they express a desire and readiness to accept Christ, lead them to ask for God’s forgiveness and salvation.

FOLLOW-UP:

So, they said “Yes!” They chose to accept God’s gift and to surrender their self-willed life to follow Jesus. Recognize that much rejoicing has happened in heaven. Check out Luke 15:7 & 10. Celebrate with them. Encourage and challenge them to move toward baptism (Acts 2:38).

Now what? A spiritual baby has been born, and they need some help to get rooted and grounded in this new life (John 3:3, Colossians 2:6-7).

- What do you think they might need?
- What did you need when you came to Christ?
- What was helpful to you?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Share Your Life - Ever had buyer’s remorse or wonder what you had done, not because you regretted something, but because it was so new?

- Think about how a brand-new follower of Christ might be feeling. What would they need from you?
- What might that look like?

Continue your relationship with them, but you will need to increase your frequency and intentionality for a time. They are new! Make sure you call, text, and meet with them. Listen to them, let them ask questions, ask them questions, and guide them. Make time for one-on-one time together to help them get rooted. Don’t forget to have fun and enjoy real life with them, too!

2. Continue to Share Truth

- They will have questions about this new life. And you get to walk with them!
- Questions that are common:
 - i. How do I know I am saved?
 - ii. What does my new relationship with Jesus look like?
 - iii. What do I do when I sin?
 - iv. Where do I start in the bible?

FOLLOW-THROUGH & FOLLOW-UP

WEEK 4 (Cont.)

C. Below are some scriptures to begin to answer questions.

- Choose 3 to go over as a life group, and discuss how you would share them with a new follower.
- i. Assurance of:
 - Salvation – Ephesians 2:8,9
 - Forgiven – Hebrews 10:12-14
 - Child of God – John 1:12,13
 - Christ will not leave you – Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:38-39
 - You have a new life – 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - You have eternal life – 1 John 5:11-13
 - Answered Prayer – John 16:24
 - Forgiveness when we fall – 1 John 1:9
 - Guidance – Proverbs 3:5-6

D. Help them get Connected

i. Connect with God

- What do you think would be helpful to encourage a new follower to begin to connect with God?
- What might they need from you?
- Model and encourage the healthy habits of:
Prayer—conversation with God
Bible reading—start simple, a few minutes a day (Try starting in Mark).

ii. Connect with Others

- What do you think a new follower would need to begin to connect with others?
- What might they need from you?
- Invite and encourage the healthy habits of:
Church
Life Group
- Think about people you can introduce them to.

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- Consider what other opportunities or resources would be helpful for them such as: Recovery, Marriage Help, Counseling, Men's Breakfast, and Ladies' Night Out.

iii. Connect with New Purpose

a. Re-affirm them of their new identity:

1. A child of God – 1 John 3:1
2. A new creation, now ambassador – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

b. Model and coach them on our new purpose as followers of Jesus

1. Loving God
 2. Loving Others – Matthew 22:37-39
- What do you think would be helpful to encourage a new follower to begin to understand their new purpose?
 - What might they need from you?

WRAP-UP:

Wow! We have covered a lot in the last few weeks. Now:

- What is your next step in being prepared and sharing your faith?
- How can you help each other in your life group?

This might be a consistent prayer for those in your life as you build a relationship with them. It might be practicing sharing your story and the gospel and looking for opportunities to share. It might be understanding the questions people have, and finding answers. We all need to abide with Jesus and to live a life that shines hope and Christ-like character.

Let's be bold, brave, compassionate, and intentional. Eternity is at stake, and what we do matters!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Bringing Home Christmas is designed for the life group ladies to create an environment and time to invite their friends and family who do not yet know Jesus to experience and share time together. Take advantage of this opportunity. See details at www.reallifefeministries.com/womens.

APPENDIX

31 PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT YET FOLLOW JESUS

1. That God draws them to Himself – John 6:44
2. They would seek to know God – Deut. 4:29; Acts 17:27
3. They would believe God’s word – Romans 10:17; 1 Thes. 2:13
4. Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth. – Matthew 13:19; 2 Cor 4:4
5. The Holy Spirit would convict them - John 16:8
6. God would send someone to share Christ with them. – Matthew 9:37-38
7. They would believe in Jesus as Savior – John 1:12, 5:24
8. They would turn from sin and living a self directed life. – Acts 3:19; 17:30,31
9. They confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead – Romans 10:9,10
10. They would yield all to follow Jesus – 2 Cor 5:15; Phil 3:7-8
11. They would take root and grow in Christ – Col 2:6-7
12. The cross would be powerful not foolishness to them – 1 Cor 1:18
13. Jesus would not be a stumbling block but life – 1 Cor 1:23,24
14. They understand that God chose Jesus and He is wisdom. They would long for righteousness, holiness and redemption – 1 Cor 1:30
15. Their faith would not rest on men’s wisdom but on God’s power. – 1 Cor 2:5
16. God would reveal himself to them through the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor 2:10
17. The Holy Spirit would give discernment and acceptance of spiritual things – 1 Cor 2:14
18. God would grow the seeds planted in their lives. – 1 Cor 3:6,7
19. They would fear God with an awe and respect. Salvation is near. – Ps 85:9
20. God’s kindness would bring them to repentance. – Romans 2:4
21. They may know that Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins. – Luke 5:25
22. They would be drawn towards repentance – readying their heart to acknowledge God’s way is right – Luke 7:29
23. Hear and understand God’s grace in all its truth.- Col 1:6
24. They would be convicted of ignorance and unbelief, realize how their own way is far from God, and ready to receive mercy, grace, faith and love in Jesus. – 1 Tim. 1:13,14

APPENDIX

25. Seek wisdom and find life in God's wisdom – Prov 8:33-36
26. God would have mercy on them. – Romans 9:16
27. They would pursue a righteousness from faith not from works. – Rom 9:30,31
28. Faith in Jesus ALONE would not be a stumbling block – Romans 9:32
29. Someone would proclaim the word of Jesus to them; they would hear, have faith, believe on Christ and call on the name of the Lord. – Romans 10:13-17
30. They would have zeal based on true knowledge of God – Romans 10:2
31. They would transfer their trust from self or false gods to Jesus Christ. – Romans 10:11

RESOURCES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS:

ONLINE

1. www.reallifeministries.com/apologetics
2. www.answerstoreallife.org
3. GODISNOWHERE APP – developed by Bill Putman

BOOKS

1. More Than a Carpenter – Josh McDowell
2. A Case for a Creator – Lee Strobel
3. A Case for Christ – Lee Strobel
4. Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis
5. Know Who You Believe – Paul Little
6. Know What You Believe – Paul Little
7. Know Why you Believe – Paul Little
8. Prepare to Answer – a defense of the Christian Faith – Rubel Shelly
9. Knowing God – J.I. Packer

APPENDIX

QUESTIONS TO INVITE SOMEONE TO SHARE THEIR STORY:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?
4. If you died, where would you go? If heaven, why?
5. If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?

ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL:

ONLINE

1. <http://knowhimpersonally.com/>

BIG PICTURE SHARING METHOD

(Watch a video of Jim Putman walking through this method of sharing at <http://www.reallifeministries.com/sharing-your-faith/>. Part 4 starts at minute mark 24:50. The presentation is about 40 minutes long).

NOTE: The 101 class also has similar content.

1. In the Beginning: Genesis 2:15-18

Who is God? What is He like? Where did we come from?

- God created the world—A perfect world
- We were created by God in His image—a relationship with choice
- It was good—we walked with God and others
- He gave us choice and consequences

2. Sin and Consequences: Genesis 3:1-23

What happened? Where did evil come from? What is sin?

- The physical world is affected—weeds.
- All Spheres of our life impacted: Our Relationship with God, Family, Community of Believers, the world - work.
- Spiritual battle declared

APPENDIX

3. God's Response: A picture in the father of the prodigal son—Luke 15:11-32

Why does God allow the world to continue?

- The Father allows us to experience the consequences in hope that we will come home.
- Only when we see that He was right, and that our own lordship leads to death, are we willing to return.
- God holds the world together and sends His prophets to declare that He loves us.
- Finally, He sent Jesus.
- Father's Heart and Message: "Come Home."

4. The Gospel Message: Jesus reveals God's perspective.

- Romans 3:23—All have sinned.
- Romans 6:23—The wages of sin will be death.
- Revelation 20:14—The kind of death (physical and spiritual)
- 1 John 2:15—What is sin?

5. God's Response:

- John 3:16—Jesus came to be the lamb of God, to show us on the cross how much He loves us and how much He hates sin.
- Romans 5:1-2—God draws us back to Himself through Jesus.
- Isaiah 53—Isaiah prophesied 700+ years earlier to reveal God's ultimate plan.

6. God Acts—Our response:

- Acts 2:37-47 (29, 36-39)
- Faith to trust Jesus as savior and Lord—He is the Messiah, the Son of God, and the King of God's kingdom.
- Faith leads to a change of heart from self-rule to trust in and obedience to our Creator and King.
- Obedience and confession through baptism.

APPENDIX

BOOKS OR DVD SERIES:

1. Share Jesus Without Fear – William Fay
2. Tell Someone – Greg Laurie

NOTE: there are many many more ways to share God's core story. The point is to have a few tools and to USE them!

THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS/PRINCIPLES:

1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. (John 3:16, 10:10)
2. Humanity is tainted by sin and is therefore separated from God. As a result, we cannot know God's wonderful plan for our lives. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Jesus Christ, we can have our sins forgiven and restore a right relationship with God. (Rom 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 14:6)
4. We must each place our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior in order to receive the gift of salvation and know God's wonderful plan for our life. (John 1:12; Acts 16:13; Ephesians 2:8-9)

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

What is sin?

Definition: To miss the mark, to go against God's will.
Biblical Definition: 1 John 2:15, James 4:4

Who has sinned?

Romans 3:23

What are the wages of sin?

Romans 6:23

What kind of death?

Revelation 20:14

Once we have sinned, can we ever be sinless?

1 John 1:8

What did God do to help us?

John 3:16

What must we do to accept this gift?

1. Faith—John 3:16, Romans 1:5, 10:9; James 2
2. Repentance—Luke 13:3-5, Matthew 21:28-32, 2 Corinthians 7:10
3. Confession—Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9-10
4. Baptism—Jesus taught it, Peter taught it - Acts 2:38, 22:16; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:21

PRAYER REQUESTS

| NAME | PRAYER | ANSWER |
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Life Group Curriculum

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