

# The **Three Circles** Evangelism

*“And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don’t need to tell them about it,”* 1 Thessalonians 1:8 NLT

## **CAN** You Do This? Can You Do Conversational Evangelism?

The church in Thessalonica **saturated its surrounding mission field** with the gospel message & their testimony (1 Thessalonians 1:8-10). They were so passionate about evangelism, and were so successful in saturating their city with the gospel, that Paul said that he didn’t need to do further evangelistic work in their area. The believers at Thessalonica had already done the work.

There is an interesting back story to the success of this church. Paul was in Thessalonica for only 4 to 5 weeks and had to flee for his life because of the threats of the hostile religious establishment (See Acts 17:2-10). Paul **arrived** in Thessalonica, began leading people to Christ, initiated his **discipleship** process, **organized** a local church, **all within a four to five-week** period (three consecutive Sabbaths, Acts 17:2). The believers at Thessalonica were all NEW Christians. When Paul left them, they had been walking with Christ for approximately one month or less—yet they continued to spread the gospel and make disciples. Paul wrote the letter of 1 Thessalonians approximately 9 months later. These believers made a major gospel-centered impact on their vicinity and were not even a year old in the Lord.

**CENTRAL LESSON: If one month Christians in Thessalonica were able to saturate their city with the gospel, why can’t we?** You CAN impact your world with the gospel—regardless of how long you have been a Christ-follower, regardless of your level of spiritual maturity, regardless of your knowledge of scripture, regardless of your spiritual giftedness, and regardless of any other perceived hindrance. **How?** 1. Stop making excuses. 2. Surrender totally to Christ and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). 3. Get some basic training. 4. Go - make disciples....

## **Overview** of Conversational Evangelism.

1. Starting Conversations
2. Sharing the Gospel
3. Stepping Across the Line of Faith
4. Spiritual Growth Steps

## **Strengths** of the Three Circles Presentation

- Explains the consequences of sin - suffering & brokenness
- Simple - visual & easy to present
- Customizable

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### ***Turning Everyday Conversation Into Gospel Conversations***

**By Jimmy Scroggins, Steve Wright, Leslee Bennett**

Page 85-86 **Things to Remember**

- **The 3 Circles is simply a tool.** He (God) is the one reconciling the world to Himself, and He just uses us as His mouthpiece.
  - **It’s your “napkin.”** Each person can **customize** the 3 Circles to his or her own style. You can use more verses or less. You can use different verses. You can explain God’s design in a different way. This is an open-source tool - make it your own.
  - **Practice is key.** We take every opportunity to get people to practice the 3 Circles. When we have a meeting, a lunch, or a class, we take a few limited to let the person or people practice the 3 Circles. If you’re in a group, you could have them practice....
  - **Testimonies are essential.** The 3 Circles is a great training tool for helping believers articulate their testimony and their ability to share it with others.
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## 1. Starting Conversations

### Suggested Conversation Starters...

- ▶ *Do you ever think about spiritual matters?*
- ▶ *What is your religious background? Or, do you attend church anywhere?*
- ▶ *How much of the Bible have you read?*
- ▶ *“Why do you think there is so much evil, corruption, and suffering in the world?”*
- ▶ *“What was the most difficult time in your life?”*
- ▶ **Direct Approach** - *“Have you heard of the Three Circles? It explains why there is so much brokenness in the world. May I share it with you?”*

We live in a broken world. Brokenness gives us an opportunity to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations.

## 2. Sharing the Gospel

- The keywords for each of the 3 circles are - **God’s Design, Brokenness, and Gospel.**
- The 3 arrows of the diagram are: (1) **sin**, (2) **apologize, accept, & trust**, and (3) **recover & pursue**
- Conversation Guide (share with someone)
- 3 Circles Evangelistic Bracelet
- 3 Circles Evangelistic Phone App - [lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide](http://lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide)
- Sample Key Scripture Verses - **Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16; John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**

## 3. Stepping Across the Line of Faith.

Sample commitment questions:

1. *Do the 3 Circles make sense to you?*
2. *Which circle represents your life right now? **BROKENNESS** or the **GOSPEL**?*
3. *Is there anything that would keep you from apologizing, accepting, & trusting in Christ?*

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**Suggested prayer:** *“Dear God, I believe Jesus died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I **apologize** for my sins. Please forgive me and make me clean on the inside. I **accept** and **trust** Jesus as my Savior. Heal the broken places in my life. Help me to recover and pursue your design for my life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen”*

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Practice leading the prayer...

## 4. Spiritual Growth Steps

- Read the Bible - *God speaks to you*
- Prayer - *you talk to God*
- Small group - fellowship & discipleship
- Worship
- Learn to tell others

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**THREE people to tell in practice:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**THREE people to train:**

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
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**WHAT’S NEXT?** Training & Read the Book. Focused prayer for people who are distant from God. Continued practice—spiritual muscle memory. Celebrate witnessing stories.