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**GO TELL THE  
STORY**  
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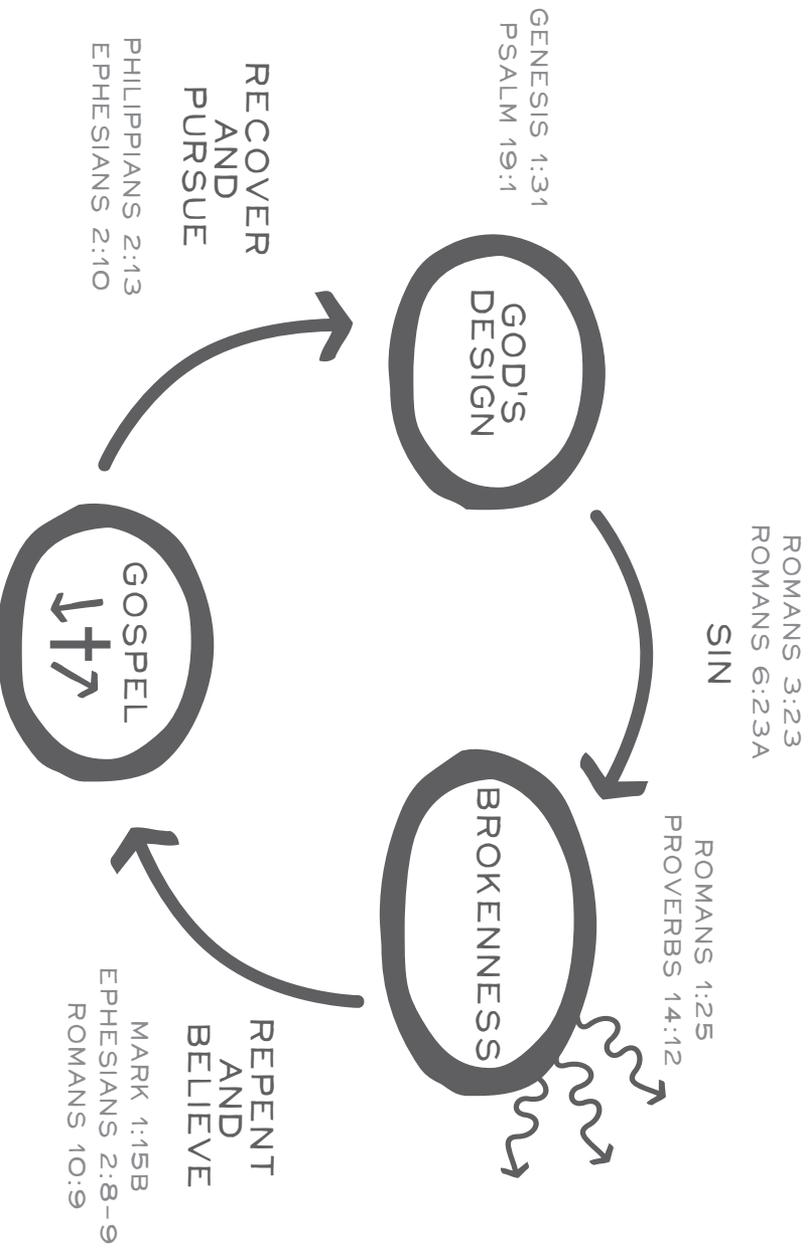


A GUIDE TO LEADING  
SOMEONE THROUGH  
THE 7 STORIES OF HOPE

THE 3 CIRCLES:  
AN EASY GOSPEL  
SHARING TOOL



The 3 Circles starts with God's Design. From there, our departure from God's design as sinful people leads us into brokenness. Our relief from brokenness is found in repentance. We must repent and believe the Gospel in order to be rescued from brokenness. The Gospel is Christ dying in our place on the cross and taking the penalty that we deserve for our sins. He was resurrected, and in turn we are resurrected into a new life when we believe in the Gospel. Through God's grace we are able to recover and pursue His design for our lives – from wherever we are.



## 7 STORIES OF HOPE

### 1. HOPE FOR THE REJECTED

Luke 7:36-50 (The woman weeping at Jesus' feet)

### 2. HOPE FOR THE NON-RELIGIOUS

Luke 18:9-14 (Pharisee & Tax Collector)

### 3. HOPE CHANGES THINGS

Luke 19:1-10 (Jesus & Zacchaeus)

### 4. HOPE FORGIVES

Matthew 18:21-35 (The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

### 5. HOPE THROUGH DEATH

Luke 23:26-43 (Thieves on the Cross)

### 6. HOPE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Luke 24:1-20: (Resurrection)

### 7. HOPE IS WAITING FOR YOU

Luke 15:11-32 (Prodigal Son)

## TEACHER TIPS FOR MOVING SESSION TO SESSION

1. Review the material from the previous session.
2. Ask the person to retell you the story in his/her own words.
3. Determine if it is appropriate to move on to the next story or to stay on the previous story for an additional session.
4. Remember: We are teaching for their own spiritual discovery while simultaneously training them to be storytellers.

### HOMework

Encourage the person to complete the following before each meeting:

- Read the applicable story once a day.
- Pray and look for opportunities to share the story each day.
- Tell the story to someone else at least once a day.
- Report back to the teacher within 48 hours about telling the story.

## STORY OF HOPE 1

### HOPE FOR THE REJECTED

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Luke 7:36-50

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup>And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup>and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup>And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." <sup>41</sup>"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup>Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." <sup>48</sup>And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup>Then

those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"<sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** Psalm 94:14, Romans 8:31, Romans 8:1-2, Isaiah 61:1-2

Assign homework and schedule the next session!

## STORY OF HOPE 2 HOPE FOR THE NON-RELIGIOUS

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** James 1:27, James 4:6, Matthew 6:5

Assign homework and schedule the next session!

## STORY OF HOPE 3 HOPE CHANGES THINGS

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Luke 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup>He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup>And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup>And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** Jeremiah 29:11, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 40:1-3, 2 Chronicles 5:17

Assign homework and schedule the next session!

## STORY OF HOPE 4 HOPE FORGIVES

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant[c] fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'<sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'<sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'<sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do

to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** Psalm 103:1-5, 12; Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:31-32

Assign homework and schedule the next session!

## STORY OF HOPE 5

### HOPE THROUGH DEATH

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Luke 23:26-43

<sup>26</sup>And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" <sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for

we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup>And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** Psalm 33:18-19, John 14:1-3, Romans 8:16-17, Psalm 116:15

Assign homework and schedule the next session!

## STORY OF HOPE 6 HOPE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Luke 24:1-20

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup>And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup>but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened. <sup>13</sup>That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them,

named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** Romans 10:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Assign homework and schedule the next session!

## STORY OF HOPE 7 HOPE IS WAITING FOR YOU

**LEARNER:** Read the story: Luke 15:11-32

<sup>11</sup>And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and

drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'<sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

**LEARNER:** Retell the story in his/her own words

**TEACHER:** Ask the following questions:

- What does this story say?
- Is there a life principle that you can apply?
- With whom can you share this story?

**For further reference:** 2 Peter 3:9, 1 John 1:9, Revelation 3:20

Assign homework and schedule the next session!



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