



Small Group Curriculum

Week 2: The "How To"

Leaders' Guide



Week 2 Video: The “How To”

Watch the video before the group meets.

This week we are going to begin the “How To.” Specifically, we’ll be introducing two basic tools: the GOSPEL acronym and our testimony.

Video Notes

THE GOSPEL ACRONYM

God-Our-Sins-Paying-Everyone-Life

- **God** created us to be with Him. (Genesis 2:15-25, Colossians 1:16, John 10:10, and John 17:3)
- **Our** sins separate us from God. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)
- **Sins** cannot be removed by good deeds. (Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **Paying** the price for our sins, Jesus died and rose again. (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3)
- **Everyone** who trusts in Jesus alone has eternal life. (John 3:16, John 14:6, Mark 1:15)
- **Life** with Jesus starts now and lasts forever. (John 5:24, John 10:10)

Minute to Witness: How to Write Your One-Minute Testimony

See Appendix A for examples.

YOUR STORY BEFORE CHRIST (20 SECONDS)

There was a time in my life when . . . (Use two adjectives to describe your life before Christ.)

1. _____

2. _____

THE GOSPEL (20 SECONDS)

Then someone shared a story with me that changed my life . . . (Share how you heard the Gospel and trusted in Christ as your Lord and Savior. Make sure to include the highlights of the Gospel.)

Note: Believers who can't remember their time before Christ should have a greater emphasis on Christ's sustainment through hard times.

LIFE AFTER TRUSTING CHRIST (20 SECONDS)

After I trusted in Christ . . . (Share a couple of ways how life changed. Be honest.)

CONCLUDING QUESTION

Do you have a story like that?

Week 2 - Group Discussion

Check-In

Share with your partner the Gospel statement, your memory verse, and how “heart prep” went.

ACTION

How did you do with your action step?

“We may not all be as bad, but we are all as badly off.”

– Ravi Zacharias

Connect

1. **How would you define “the Gospel,” and what are the different ways that you have heard it explained?** (In its simplest form, the Gospel means “good news” of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

Grow

We will grow in confidence by going deeper in our understanding of the Gospel.

2. **God created us to be with Him.** (Read: Genesis 2:15-25, Colossians 1:16, John 10:10, and John 17:3.)

How would you explain to a non-believer what it means to be with God? (e.g., abundant life, eternal life, fullness of joy, our longing for communion and worship fulfilled, peace, etc.)

3. **Our sins separate us from God.** (Read: Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.)

How do you explain what sin is to a non-believer? (*Sin is missing the mark of God's perfect standard. Sin is going our own way, putting ourselves on the throne, declaring independence from God.*)

4. **Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.** (Read Isaiah 64:6 and Ephesians 2:8-9.)

What does it say about our deeds? How would you explain what the Bible says about works-based salvation to someone who thinks their good works can save them?

First, ask how they came to that conclusion. It is always wise to identify others' undergirding assumptions. (if they claim Christianity, “can you show me where you find that in the Bible?)

Second, ask, “Can I share with you what the Bible says?” Share Isaiah 59:2 and Ephesians 2:8-9.

We may not have sinned as much as others, but our heart is too impure to be with God. Consider the analogy of a drop of poison in a glass of water. There may be way more water than poison, but it still cannot exist with life.

5. **Paying the price for our sins Jesus died and rose again.** (Read: Romans 5:8 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)

Why did Jesus have to die? *(If God pardoned us without any punishment, He would violate His perfect justice, whereas if God didn't pardon us at all, He would violate His perfect love. Therefore, the cross is the only way God could satisfy His perfect justice and love by taking our place.)*

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-19. What is the importance of His Resurrection? *(If Jesus had stayed dead, it would mean He didn't have power over death, but since He did rise, we can trust Him that we will be raised as well. The Resurrection proved that He was God.)*

6. **Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone has eternal life.** (Read John 3:16 and John 14:6.)

What does it mean to trust in Jesus? *(It means putting our full weight upon Him, not resting any of it on our own achievements. If I trust that a chair can hold me, it is not just me verbally saying it. If I really trust it, I will put my full weight on the chair. If I am partially holding myself up with one leg, chances are I don't actually trust it fully.)*

How would you respond to someone who says there are other ways to God? *(If there are other ways to God, Jesus died for nothing. This means that God is a fool for sending His Son to a painful death when there were other ways to redeem people. Remember what Jesus said in the garden, "Father, if it is possible [if there is any other way], let this cup [of crucifixion] pass from me." Also, why would He call us to world evangelism (The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20), if people could be saved apart from Christ? John 14:6 is key, "no one comes to the Father but through me.")*

7. **Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.** (Read John 5:24 and John 10:10.)

What does new life in Christ look like? *(a relationship with God restored, brokenness mended, emptiness filled, heartbreak healed, etc., but also dying to self, giving up temporary, sinful pleasures for eternal joy)*

8. **Practice sharing the GOSPEL acronym.** Role play sharing the Gospel with your Share Life partner. At this point, feel free to use the cheat sheet.

So the Christian has just asked, "Can I share with you what God says in the Bible about this world?" and the non-Christian person role-playing responds with, "Yes." Then the Christian proceeds to share the GOSPEL.

5 share **life** / small group

Week 2 - Application

Complete the following before group time next week.

Start - Day 1

PREPARE

Continue to pray daily for those who are close to you but far from God.

Continue - Days 2-4

PRACTICE

5. GOSPEL – Memorize the second and third line of the GOSPEL outline and at least one corresponding verse for each one:

- **Our sins separate us from God.** (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2, Hebrews 9:27)
- **Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.** (Isaiah 64:6 and Ephesians 2:8-9)

6. Write out your Minute-to-Witness testimony. (See examples in Appendix A.)

Your Story Before Christ (20 Seconds)

There was a time in my life when . . . (Use two adjectives to describe your life before Christ.)

1. _____

2. _____

The Gospel (20 Seconds)

Then someone shared a story with me that changed my life . . . (Share how you heard the Gospel and trusted in Christ as your Lord and Savior. Make sure to include the highlights of the Gospel.)

Note: Believers who can't remember a time before knowing Christ should have a greater emphasis on Christ's sustainment through hard times.

Life After Trusting Christ (20 Seconds)

After I trusted in Christ . . . (Share a couple of ways how life changed. Be honest.)

Concluding Question

Do you have a story like that?

Complete - Days 5 and 6

ACTION

Again, engage two non-believers this week in deeper conversation. This does not have to be a spiritual conversation, but we want to continue the habit of regularly engaging people beyond the surface level.

A suggested conversation transition would be: *If you could identify one thing that is wrong with the world, what would it be?* Be ready to answer the question yourself. This question applies directly to “O” and “S” in our GOSPEL acronym.

Watch Week 3 video, and complete discussion questions before the next meeting.