

## Growth Projects - The Gospel and Leadership

Work on these from October 15 until November 12

<https://equipthepeople.com/leadership-track/session-5-the-gospel-and-leadership/>

### Head - Knowing the Gospel

- ✓ **Read Scripture** – Rom. 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 15:1-8, 2 Tim. 1:8-10, Eph. 1:13-14, 2 Cor. 5:21. Jot down the basics of the gospel from these verses.
- ✓ **Read** – Chapter 4-5 of *Gospel Fluency* by Jeff Vanderstelt, “What is the Gospel?” summary sheet by Gilbert, “The Gospel – Key to Change” article by Keller.
- ✓ **Write** – Summarize the gospel in a paragraph. Include Scripture references and a basic definition of the essential elements of the gospel message.

### Heart - Loving the Gospel

- ✓ **Read** – “How Christ Changes Us” by Lane and Tripp & “Idol Shattering” by Patrick.
- ✓ **Watch** – [The Gospel in 6 Minutes \(John Piper\)](#) speaking on the gospel and how he applied the preaching the gospel to yourself method related to his cancer.
- ✓ **Meditate** – List your idols and how gospel speaks to them. Write out a few ideas on how you will speak the gospel to yourself this week/month. Use the session notes two tree diagram, formation time sheet, and articles to help you.

### Hands - Living the Gospel

- ✓ **Read Scripture** – Colossians 4:2-6; Matthew 9:36-38; Ephesians 6:18-21
- ✓ **Write** – your prayer for your friends based on these verses.

### Discussion Ideas for Cohort Time

1. What are a couple ideas that stood out to you as important or meaningful from the readings and video for this month?
2. Share your gospel summary paragraphs and your favorite verses.
3. Share your idols and how the gospel speaks to them. Pray over these together.
4. Pray for your friends together using the verses in the hands section.

### For Further Study (optional)

- *Gospel Fluency* by Jeff Vanderstelt
- *What is the Gospel?* by Greg Gilbert
- *Living the Cross Centered Life* by C.J. Mahaney
- *The Gospel for Real Life* by Jerry Bridges
- *The Explicit Gospel* by Matt Chandler
- *Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller
- *How People Change* by Lane and Tripp

## Leadership Track #5: The Gospel

### **Praying as we Share the Gospel**

#### **Ephesians 6:18-20**

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

- **Pray for...BOLDNESS**

#### **Colossians 4:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- **Pray for...OPPORTUNITIES**
- **Pray for...CLARITY**
- **Pray for...LIVES THAT BACK UP THE GOSPEL**
- **Pray for...SPEECH THAT BACKS UP THE GOSPEL**

#### **Matthew 9:36-38**

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

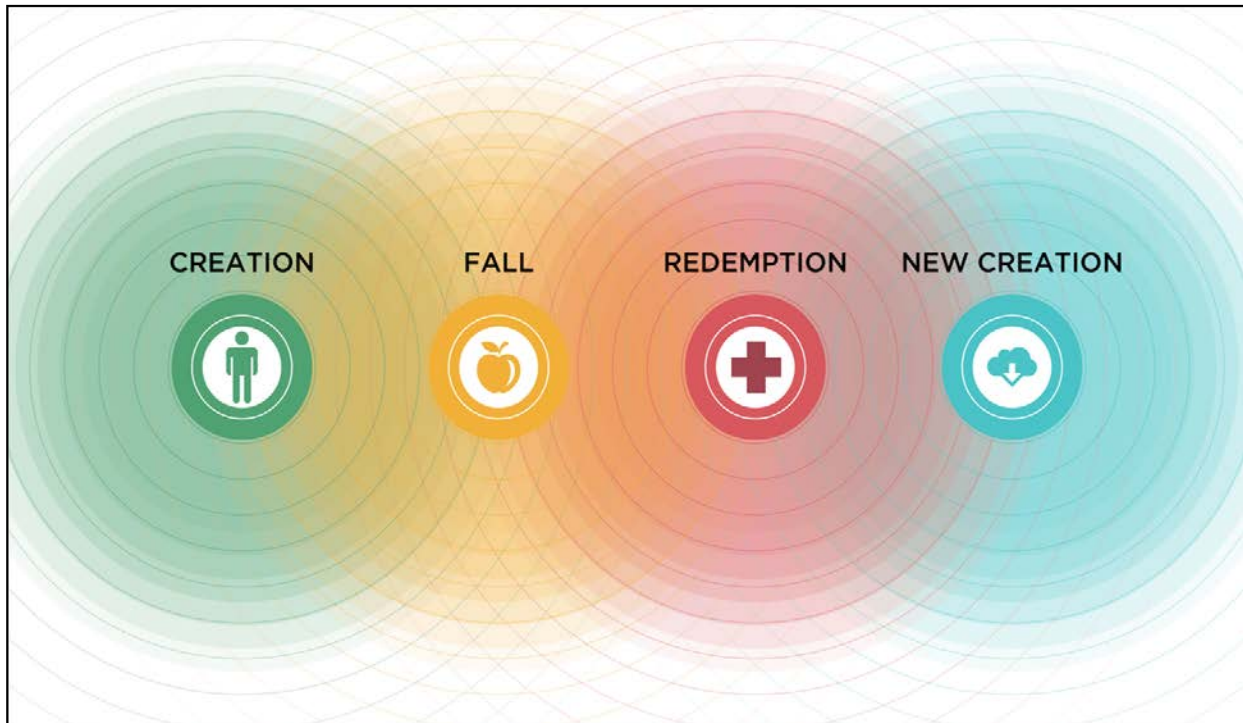
- **Pray for...GOD TO SEND SOMEONE TO THEM**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:4**

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- **Pray for...GOD TO OPEN THEIR EYES**

## GOD'S GOSPEL STORY



From *Visual Theology*, 64-77

### Why Study the Story of God?

#### 1. It helps us make sense of the world

- Creation—who am I? Why do I exist? What are we here for?
- Fall—what is wrong with the world?
- Redemption—is there a solution to this mess?
- New Creation—is there hope for the future?

“The Bible has a narrative arc that begins at creation, rises over all that has been and will be, and lands at the end of all things... Isn’t it a relief that the world’s plot is not limited to the brief span of our lives? We make sense of our days in light of this overarching narrative. The big plot of the Bible, with its guarantee of resurrection and new creation, gives confidence even in the face of death. The Bible’s big story opens the windows on stale, stuffy rooms of deadlines and due dates, deaths, and disappointments, and fresh winds of the creation-to-new-creation breezes blow through.”

James Hamilton

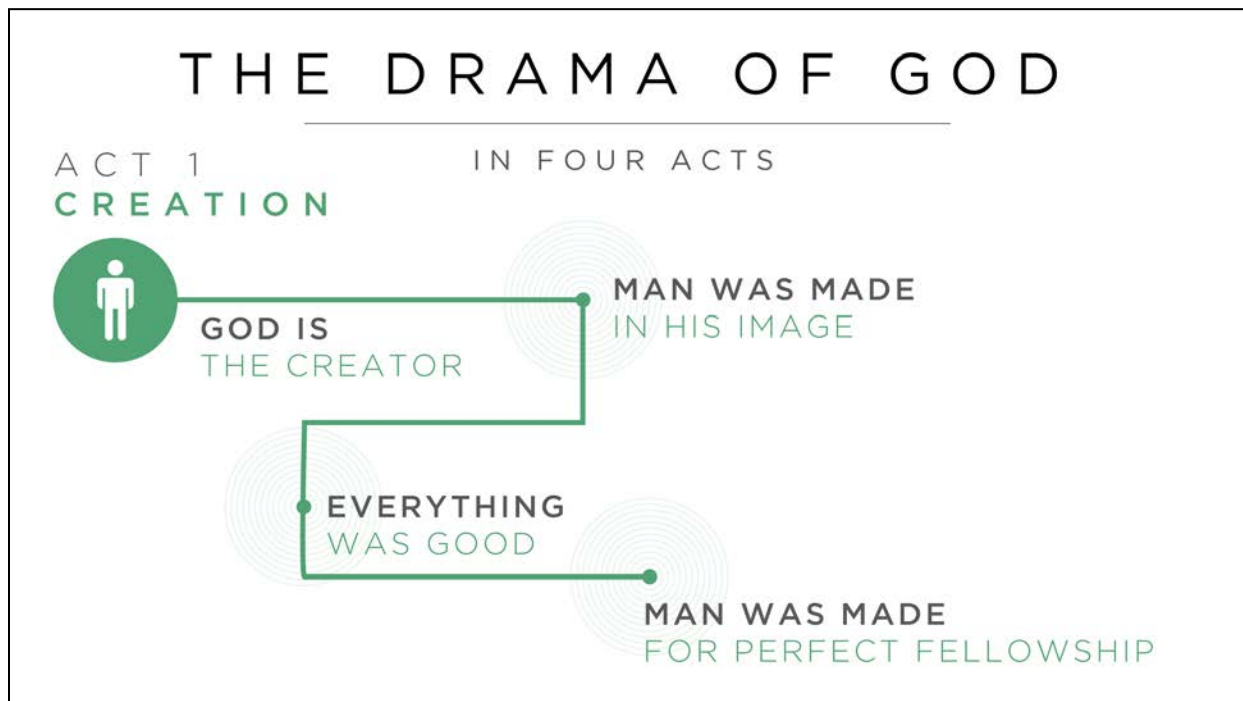
#### 2. It provides us with purpose, meaning

- We have an **identity** in his image, to image—reflect.
- We are **part of a larger story**, work of God in world.

- We have a **Purpose**, to glorify our Creator plug into his great work!

“The Christian faith is, first and foremost, an unfolding drama... This story runs from Genesis to Revelation, centering on Christ, not only richly informs our mind; it captivates the heart and the imagination, animating and motivating our action in the world”  
Michael Horton

## CREATION – Act 1



### (1) God is the Creator

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Gn 1:1

### (2) We are made in God’s image

“Then God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness...let them have dominion...so God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them... be fruitful and multiply.” (Genesis 1:27)  
Gen 9:6; James 3:9

- We are saved, “to be conformed to the image of his Son.” (Rom 8:29)
- We are “being transformed into his image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Cor 3:18)

### (3) Everything was good (Gn 1:31).

Repeated them during creation, “it was good...very good”

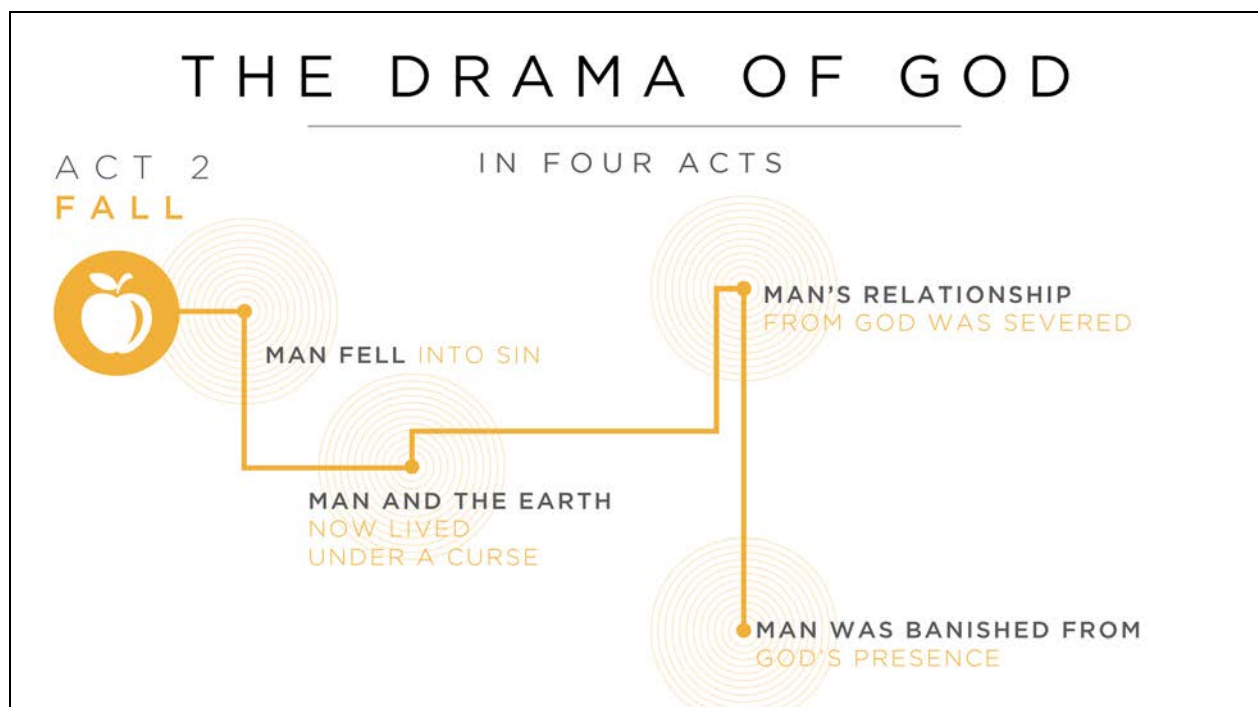
### (4) Man was made for perfect fellowship

“It was very good” (Gn 1:31)

“know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture...for the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever, his faithfulness continues throughout all generations.”

(Ps 100:3, 5)

## FALL – Act 2



### (1) Man fell into sin (Gn 3:6-7).

Adam & Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, great consequences

- “fall” humanity’s downfall—fell from perfection into sinfulness, corruption.

### (2) Man and the earth now are under a curse

“A curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt” (Is 24:6).

- Curse result—**human nature** is corrupted, we have a sinful nature—propensity  
“Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all men because all sinned.” (Rom 5:12)  
Later “led to condemnation” for us all (Rom 5:19)

### (3) Man's relationship from God was severed

"Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Is 59:2).

- Where there was peace, because of sin, there is rebellion/separation
- **Consequence** of this: Means that we will be **punished** and there is no hope apart from Christ (2 Thess 1:9) (Jn 3:17-18).

### (4) So, Man was banished from God's presence

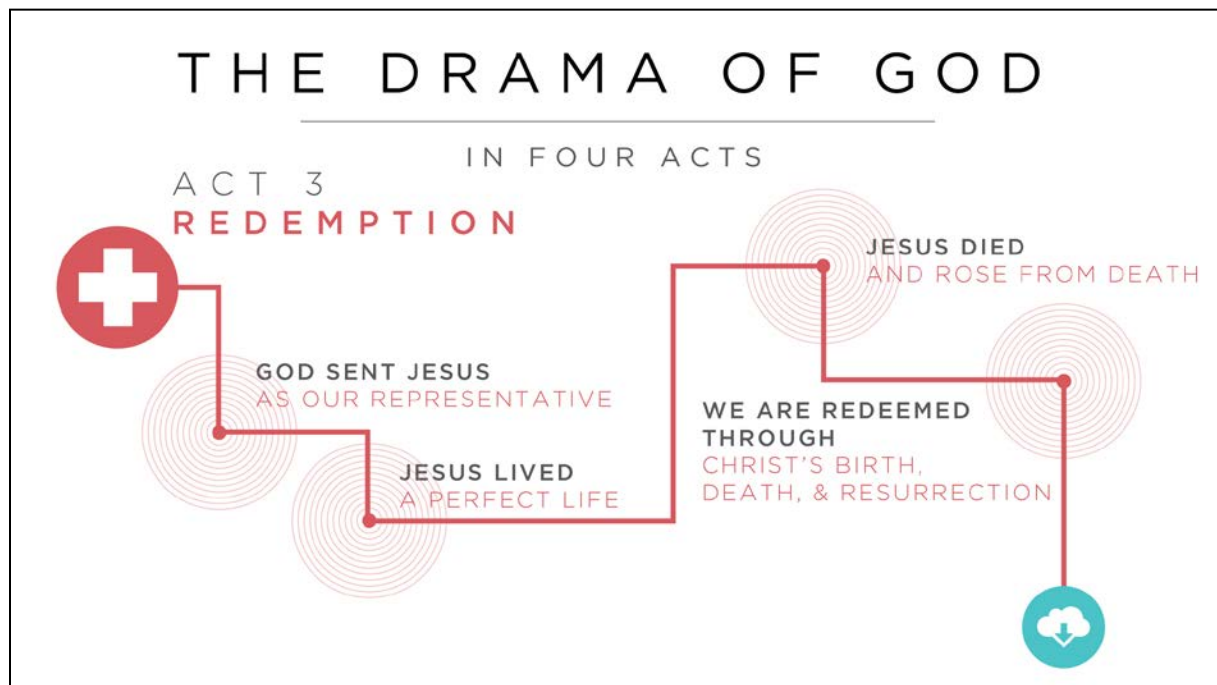
"Therefore the Lord God send him out from the garden of Eden."

(Gn 3:23).

- Eden becomes a picture of perfect harmony of humanity with God, perfect peace and purity... being sent out of the garden represents a severing of relationship
- Being banished shows seriousness of the consequences of sin.

**END of act 2**, sobering realities, but must understand them fully in order to grasp grace of God in Christ, which is the heart of the gospel and the center of the story of God.

## REDEMPTION – Act 3



### (1) God sent Jesus as our representative.

2 Corinthians 5:21, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

**(2) Jesus lived a perfect life.**

Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

**(3) Jesus died and rose from the dead.**

1 Corinthians 15:3–4, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

**(4) We are redeemed through Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection.**

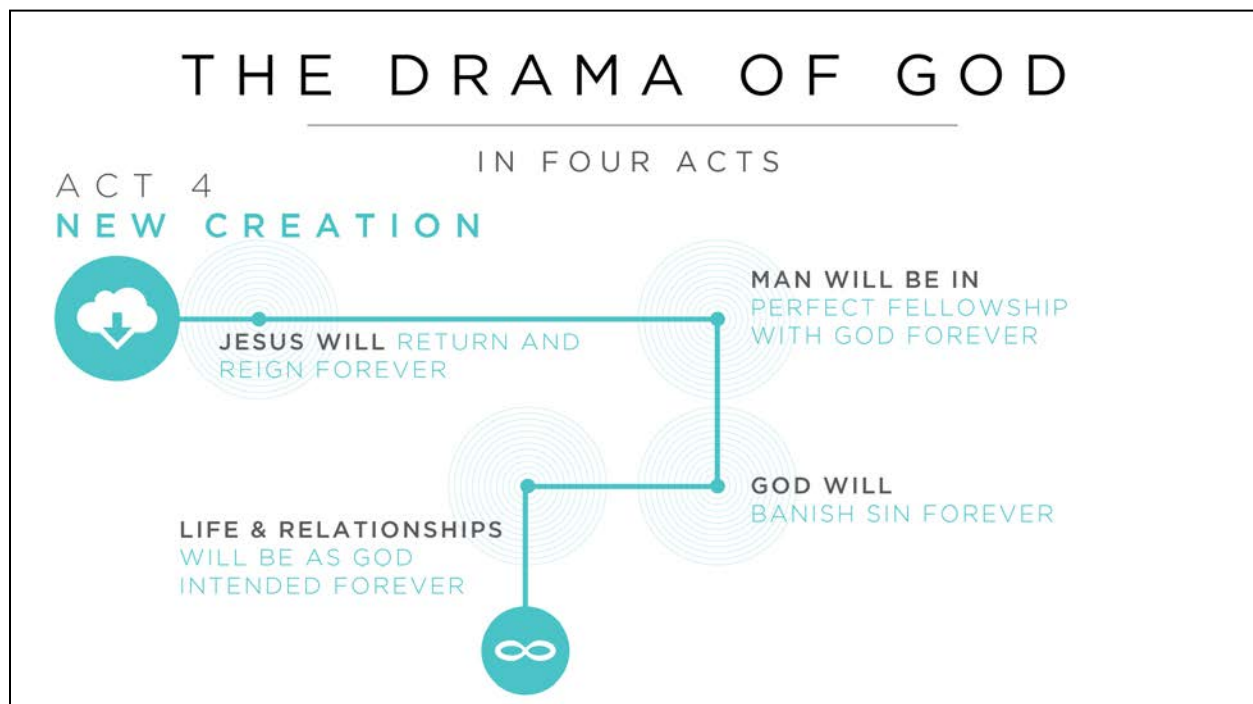
Ephesians 1:7, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

“To redeem is to **buy back** or **secure the release** of someone from slavery or from captivity by the payment of a ransom. Redemption, then, is **the action to secure release**; the ransom is the price paid to effect the action.” Jerry Bridges

Ransom = Jesus’ death on cross (Mk 10:45)

The saving work of Jesus Christ as he “bought back” (redeemed) sinners out of their slavery to sin through the payment of a ransom.

**ACT 4, NEW CREATION**





**(1) Jesus will return and reign forever.**

Luke 1:32–33, “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**(2) God will banish sin forever.**

Psalm 103:12, “As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”

**(3) Man will be in perfect fellowship with God forever.**

2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

**(4) Life and relationships will be as God intended forever.**

Revelation 21:4, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

**APPLICATION**

**Gospel Story, Our Story within His Story – a framework for telling our testimony**

1. **Creation** – key word: *identity*. Where did I find my identity or sense of purpose or significance?
2. **Fall** – key word: *problem*. Who or what was the problem in my life? What brokenness was in my life – what sinful beliefs led to sinful behaviors?
3. **Redemption** – key word: *Savior*. Who or what is our savior? Who or what did I look for to save me from brokenness and how is Christ the better Savior, rescuing and redeeming from slavery to it?
4. **New Creation** – key words: *change* and *hope*. What has changed since trusting in Christ? How has Christ transformed me and what changes in the future new creation do I place my hope?

*Gospel Fluency, 161-167*



# A SIMPLE WAY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Often times, we're scared to start because we don't know where or how to start a gospel conversation with someone. We think evangelism is for the elite. We overcomplicate. We hesitate. So let's simplify and get going!

The thing to remember when you share the gospel is that you have absolutely no power to save anyone. None. This propels our hearts to prayer and complete dependence on God alone (2 Corinthians 1:9). We are but humble instruments with a transforming truth.

## GOSPEL BASICS

**GOD** — They need to hear that God is the good and holy creator of all things.

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isaiah 6:3)

**MAN** — They need to hear about their deepest problem that they cannot solve: they are sinners and God is a just judge who will punish sin.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

**CHRIST** — They need to hear the good news that Jesus came and lived a perfect life, died in the place of sinners to rescue them, and rose again, defeating death.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

**RESPONSE** — They need to hear that they can be saved. This comes through repentance of sin and faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross and nothing else.

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. (Romans 10:9)

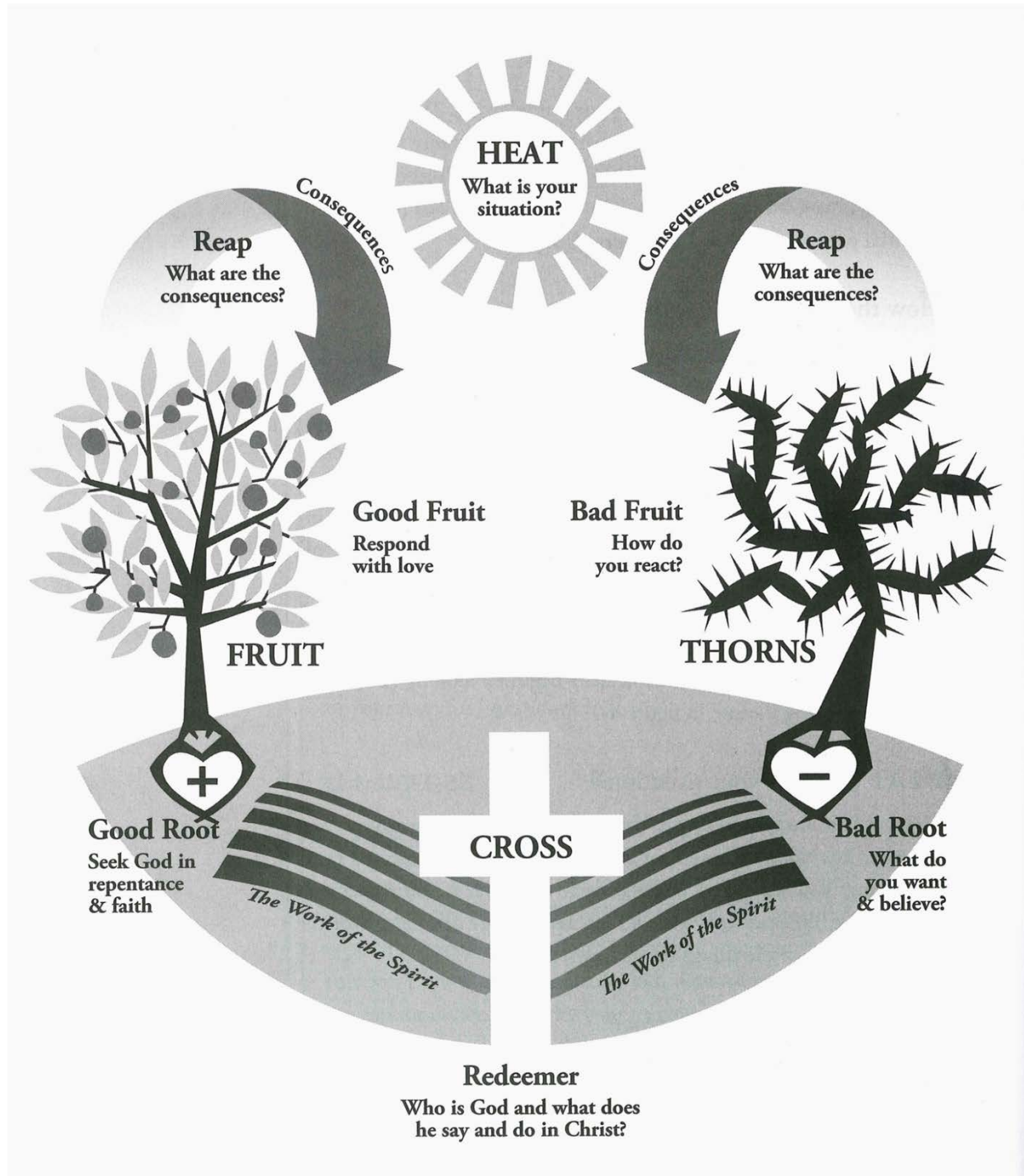
So, how do we get to this conversation?

This resource is from Austin Stone Church.  
It is based on Greg Gilbert's book *What is the Gospel?*

## GOSPEL IN US – loving the gospel & seeing gospel transformation in community

- Two tree illustration: Jeremiah 17:5-8

**HEAT – THORNS – CROSS – FRUIT**



From *How People Change* by Lane and Tripp

**QUESTIONS** to ask each other based on the illustration:

**HEAT**—what is your situation?

(a sin, a difficulty, a trial or stressor, something that is hard or painful, something on your mind recently).

**THORNS**—

*Fruit* - what are your **negative reactions**?

*Consequences* - what are the negative **consequences** of those reactions?

*Root* - What is at the root of this, what do you **want and believe**?

**CROSS**—

Who is **God** and who is **Christ** (see lists below) and how does this speak the situation?

How does the **gospel** speak to your situation?

What lies and beliefs (idols of the heart) do you need to **turn** from and trust God?

**FRUIT**—

*Root* - what are the positive **beliefs** you need to adopt?

*Fruit* - What positive **fruit or actions** can come from this situation?

*Consequences* - What are the **consequences** of my renewed beliefs and actions?

**Use the Formation Time Guide to uncover root idols and lies. Read how the gospel transforms the particular root idol you see.**

## CHARACTER OF GOD AND OUR IDOLS (what we trust in)



### THE POWER OF WHO JESUS IS AND THE CROSS

**Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:10)**—he will take care of you and your future.

**Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life (Jn. 14:6)**—he saves you, forgives sin, and gives you peace.

**Jesus is the Redeemer (Eph. 1:7; Php. 1:6)**—he make this situation into something good.

**Jesus is the Provider (M. 6:33)**—he will take care of all your needs as you seek him first.

**Jesus is the Truth (Jn. 14:6)**—he will set you free from your sin, fears, and anxieties.

**Jesus is the Word of God (Jn. 1:14)**—he will show you what is best and help you grow.

- Use statements of your identity in Christ to speak gospel truths into your situation.

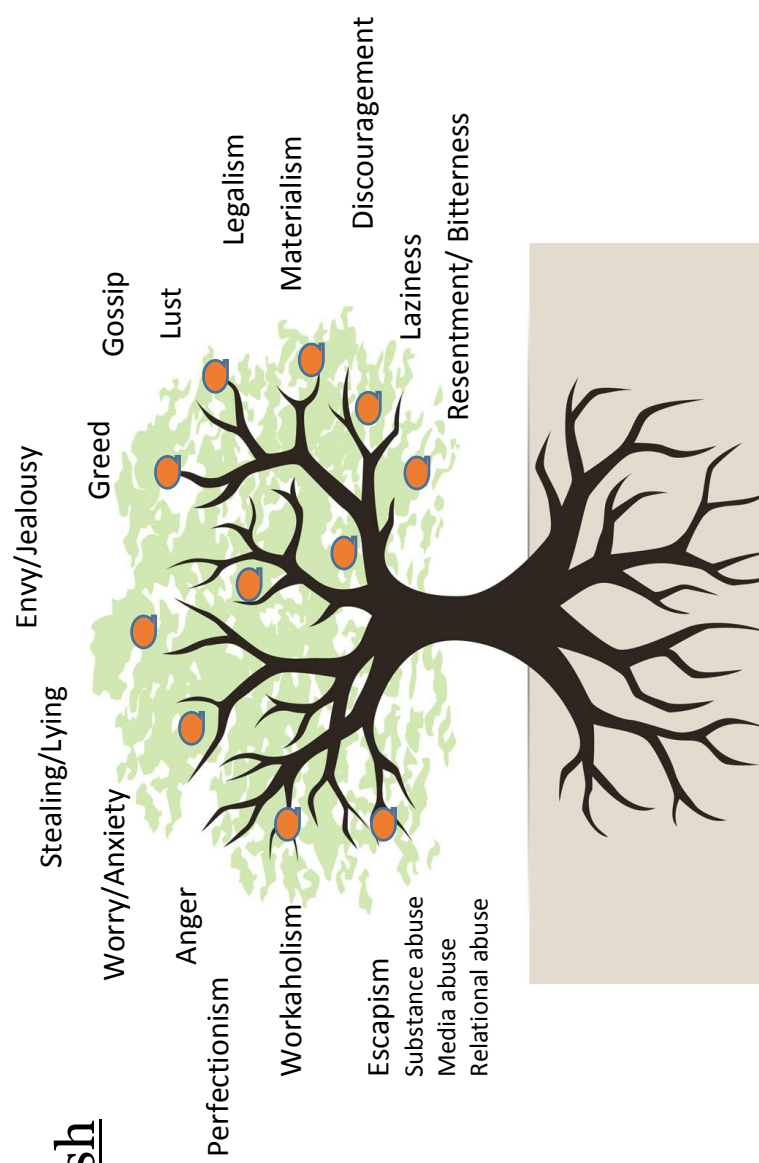
### Root to Fruit Questions

1. Who is God? In relation to my problem? (loving, powerful, in control, faithful)
2. What has God done in Christ that touches my problem? (cross, redemption, new creation, Holy Spirit)
3. What am I believing about myself in light of God's work? (loved, cared for, etc)
4. What am I experiencing now? How should I live? (love, joy, peace) *Fluency, ch. 9*

**APPLICATION** - Try out the **HEAT-THORNS-CROSS-FRUIT** tool. Pick something in your life now or in the past that brings HEAT (a sin, a difficulty, a trial or stressor, something that is hard or painful, something on your mind recently...) and ask each other the questions.

# Formation Time

To help one another identify and fight sin with the hope of the gospel



## Fruit of the Flesh

## Root Idols

“Sin underneath the sin”

Root Idols: <i>What is motivating fruit of the flesh?</i>	POWER	CONTROL	COMFORT	APPROVAL
<b>What am I treasuring?</b>	success, winning, influence	self-discipline, certainty, standards, security	privacy, lack of stress, freedom	affirmation, love, relationships
<b>What am I not believing?</b>	God is glorious and worthy of all power.	God is great and sovereign over everything.	God is good; he knows what is best for me.	God is gracious; he sees me as valuable
<b>How does the gospel transform this idol?</b>	<i>Because Jesus came...</i> I don't have to rule and conquer my life. I am free to lose because my worth is in His victory.	<i>Because Jesus came...</i> My future is secure and my efforts will not earn me anything. I am free to surrender because my life is in His hands.	<i>Because Jesus came...</i> My heart is ruled by His peace and I know joy that is unfading. I am free to give because I have found complete satisfaction in Him.	<i>Because Jesus came...</i> I have nothing to prove. My significance is found in who Jesus says I am. I am free to be rejected because I am chosen and cherished by Him.