

MISSIONAL LIVING WHEEL



LEARNING GOAL:

Since we can no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view, that means we are always on mission. Always. This means there are people in your life waiting to hear more about Jesus. How do we get into those relationships? Into those conversations? This wheel breaks down every relational and conversational barrier that typically stands in the way of people sharing the Good News.

PRIMARY TEXT: *2nd Corinthians 5:16-19*

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

TERMS TO BE UNDERSTOOD:

BARRIERS – The things that keep us from moving deeper in conversation and relationship with those that God has placed in our life.

MISSIONAL LIVING – To live a life of daily Gospel intentionality. To see people in your life as ministry and not scenery or machinery.

TRUTH TO BE LEARNED:

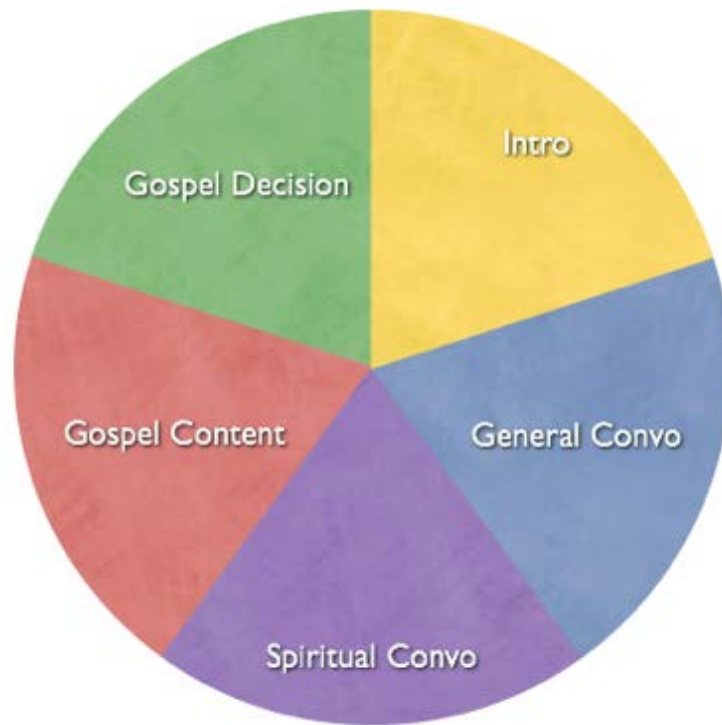
Before Jesus went back to heaven, He looked at His followers and said, “Go into all the world and make disciples.” For His followers then and now, this is a clear command. This is what followers of Jesus do - there is no getting around it. We are called to tell people what He has done. We are called to look different because He has made us different. We can no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view, but we are tasked with seeing them the way Jesus does - people who desperately need the ministry of reconciliation as much as we do.

Tim Chester, author of *Total Church*, writes:

“We have a tendency to promote a kind of evangelism that is without proclamation. Acts of good service are done or we just invite people to our events or to experience church with us. Without words, these are pointless because they only point back to our good works. God is at the center of the Gospel word. Oftentimes evangelism can place us in that position. The Gospel that Jesus proclaimed was that a Savior came to seek and save the lost, not just meet your needs and make you feel good.”



PICTURE TO BE COMMUNICATED:



MISSIONAL LIVING WHEEL:

Stage 1: INTRO TO CONVERSATION

Stage 1 is about getting outside of the Christian bubble. Your neighbor, your local barista, the people at your gym, workplace, class, and neighborhood are within your sphere of influence. Before you can share the Gospel with them, you have to introduce yourself, to know their name. Every day we choose to see people as either Scenery, (whooshing past people we see every day and ignoring that they have a story. This could be your neighbor, your fellow class or work mates), Machinery (treating people like they are just there to perform a task for you. This could be your mechanic, your barista, your mailman, your professor, etc.), or Ministry (treating people like God's sons and daughters, desperate for the ministry of reconciliation to Himself).

Checkpoint questions:

- Have you been treating people in your life as scenery, machinery, or ministry?
- Who is someone you need to break past the intro barrier with and finally introduce yourself to?



Stage 2: GENERAL CONVERSATION

Stage 2 is about building relationships. Care for the people in your life who don't know Jesus. Have ears to hear where they are hurting and eyes to see how you and your Christian community can come around them and serve them tangibly. Introduce your Christian community to them. Find ways to hang out outside of the context in which you know each other (ie, classroom, workplace, coffee shop). Ask questions that uncover needs and listen for areas where you can see a need for a Savior. Remember the things they share with you and follow up often with questions. Really, this stage is about being a good friend in a world where trust and relationships have been trampled on.

Check point questions:

- Who is God asking me to pray for as I work to build a stronger relationship with them?
- Where is God asking me to step out and serve the needs of someone around me?

Stage 3: SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Stage 3 is about spiritual journey. Everyone is on one. An atheist is on a spiritual journey - he is rejecting the idea of a God, and that is a spiritual thing. Someone who grew up in the church is on a spiritual journey, and we must not assume they have already arrived at Jesus as their destination. This is something perfectly normal and not taboo to talk about! Ask what they believe about the world, ask why they believe that, ask every question you can think of - it is not weird to break into this conversation barrier! Hear them out on what they believe, people love to talk about what they think about the world and why. Wait for the Spirit to open doors for you to share what you believe with them. Let us not be afraid of the awkward and miss out on being a part of God moving in their life. You may be one of the few to ask them what they think about God, heaven, and the meaning of life.

Checkpoint questions:

- Are there people in my life who I know almost everything about except what they think about spirituality?
- Who in my life is God asking me to pray for as I look to have a spiritual conversation with them?

Stage 4: GOSPEL CONVERSATION

Stage 4 is about boldness and proclaiming the truth. As we learn from the Gospel, we were dead in our sin and we have been brought to life in Jesus. At some point, this must be told. Your faith cannot just sit as one of your many hobbies or interests portrayed to your friends. You have been made alive, and Jesus commands us to go and tell others. In one of the conversation stages up until this point, there will be a moment where you are asked a question back or where you are invited to speak. Trust God as you break past this barrier. Pray for those moments. Speak boldly. Pray for receptive hearts.

Check point questions:

- With whom is God asking me to pray for an opportunity to share the Good News?
- What are ways I can get into more Gospel conversations?



Stage 5: GOSPEL DECISION

Stage 5 is about decision. Everyone has to decide to accept the free gift of salvation. May we never talk about the life we have been given without immediately and often offering it to those we share with! After sharing the Gospel, immediately ask what they think. Ask if this is something they want. They could decide immediately following you sharing the Gospel, or it could take 40 years of sharing the gospel and your life with someone. Do your part to be faithful and obedient in whatever that process looks like. But offer it.

Check point questions:

- Who has heard the good news, whether from me or not, but has not yet made a decision to follow Jesus?
- How can I partner with God in bringing people in my life to a point of decision?

KAIROS MOMENT:

- Ask each other the checkpoint questions.
- Pray and ask God for 5 names of people in your life that are somewhere on this wheel. Share those with your huddle. Pray as a huddle for the rest of the semester for those names, and hold each other accountable to break those barriers in conversations.
- Break each barrier this week.

