

# EQUIPPED

## DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

### 01. GOSPEL

Your journey to being an Equipped Disciple starts here.

#### LEARN IT!

Choose one of the following primary resources to learn about sharing the gospel. Then feel free to take a look at the supplemental resources to go deeper and learn more.

#### PRIMARY RESOURCE

Revised Knowing God Personally

The Leader's Guide to Knowing God Personally (KGP)

Knowing God Personally

Revised Big 6 Questions

The Passage (Impact)

#### LIVE IT!

Now it is time to go out and share the gospel. We encourage you to take the following challenge before moving onto the next section of this resource.

**Share the gospel with one other person.**

It's always good to go to God's Word, the ultimate source. In addition to the resources listed, we have collected these Scripture passages on the message of Jesus for you to use, study and share as God leads.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Romans 6:23

Romans 3:23-24

John 3:16-17

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Titus 3:3-7

# EQUIPPED

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#### KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY

**GOD LOVES YOU** AND OFFERS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

##### GOD'S LOVE

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

##### GOD'S PLAN

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful]. John 10:10

WHY IS IT THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT EXPERIENCING THE ABUNDANT LIFE? BECAUSE ...

ALL OF US SIN, AND OUR **SIN HAS SEPARATED US FROM GOD.**

##### WE ARE SINFUL

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

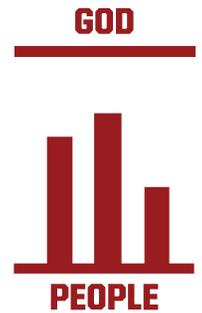
We were created to have fellowship with God; but because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

##### WE ARE SEPARATED

People separated are from God

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God].  
Romans 6:23

This diagram illustrates that God is holy, and people are sinful. A great gulf separates us. The arrows illustrate that we are continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through our own efforts -- such as being a good person, following a philosophy of good works or practicing religious mandates. But we inevitably fail.



THE THIRD LAW EXPLAINS THE ONLY WAY TO BRIDGE THIS GULF ...

**JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR OUR SIN.** THROUGH HIM WE CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

##### HE DIED IN OUR PLACE

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

##### HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures ... He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred ..." 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

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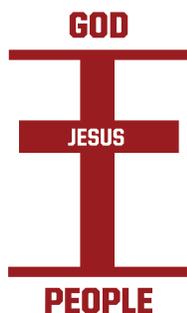
## DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

### HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

Jesus makes a way

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" John 14:6

This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.



IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO KNOW THESE THREE PRINCIPLES ...

**WE MUST INDIVIDUALLY RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD; THEN WE CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.**

### WE MUST RECEIVE CHRIST

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." John 1:12

### WE RECEIVE CHRIST THROUGH FAITH

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

### WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST, WE EXPERIENCE A NEW BIRTH

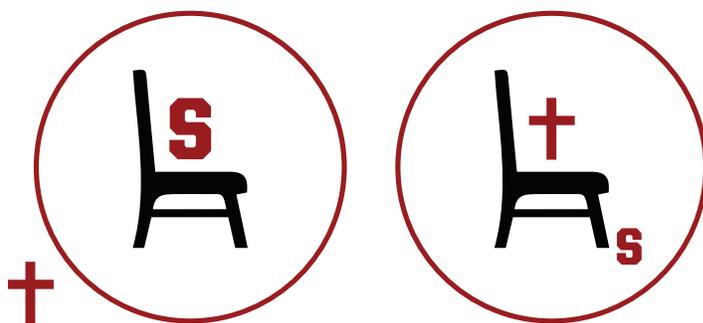
### WE RECEIVE CHRIST BY PERSONAL INVITATION

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." Revelation 3:20

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus

Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

### THESE TWO CIRCLES REPRESENT TWO KINDS OF LIVES:



Which circle best describes your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

### THE FOLLOWING EXPLAINS HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE CHRIST:

### YOU CAN RECEIVE CHRIST RIGHT NOW BY FAITH THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, then you can pray this prayer right now and Christ will come into your life as He promised.

### DOES THIS PRAYER EXPRESS THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART?

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## DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

### 01. GOSPEL

#### REVISED BIG SIX QUESTIONS

The most effective way to share the “Would You Like to Know God Personally?” booklet is to engage in meaningful dialogue with the person you are witnessing to. Eye contact and engaged body language should be displayed, questions should be both asked and answered, participation in reading various segments of the booklet should be asked of the person you are sharing with.

The booklet should be used to guide the conversation toward an understanding of the gospel: introducing people to the living Savior, Jesus Christ. If it is only read word for word without engagement, the booklet becomes an impersonal presentation of religious ideas and belief systems and does not address with any depth some of the key truths of the gospel.

With this in mind, it is important to understand key points to each of the four categories. Questions for engagement and understanding along with examples to clarify the truth are needed to make your communication of the gospel even more effective. Memorizing questions and examples will give you confidence and freedom to weigh if they are understanding the gospel message or not.

What follows are the Big Six Questions with examples and explanations for each question. These would be inserted into your presentation of the “Would You Like to Know God Personally?” booklet.

#### **QUESTION 1. HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE SIN?**

This can be answered 100 different ways. In fact, there is no wrong answer. Anything that is not pleasing to God or goes against His Word is sin. Everyone will get the answer to this question because there are many ways to sin. They're telling you in their own words what sin is by giving you one example.

Sin is our innate desire to take the place of God, not just the actions we do. People were created to be in relationship with God and to bear His image. But we are not God, and we have failed to portray His image accurately in the world.

#### **QUESTION 2: HAVE YOU EVER SINNED?**

This question on the surface sounds too simple, but it is perhaps the most significant in the booklet. To clearly and honestly admit that one has sinned, shows one's need for forgiveness. God's requirement to get into heaven is perfection. Nobody is perfect, so somehow we all need to find forgiveness in God's eyes. They will be in a dilemma after they've answered this question. Humanly speaking, there's no way to work back to perfection.

#### **QUESTION 3: WHY DID CHRIST DIE ON THE CROSS?**

Don't answer this question for them, let them tell you first. The answer is found in the first five words of the next verse you'll read in 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 “Christ died for our sins ...” That's the gospel message, the good news. You'll come back to review this point again.

#### **QUESTION 4: WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS VERSE IS SAYING? (REFERRING TO EPHESIANS 2:8,9)**

This is the big clarifying question in the booklet. It allows you to see if they fully understand the first three points in the booklet. The answer is, “We are saved by placing our trust in Christ's death on the cross to pay for our sins (by grace, gift of God), not by works (not from ourselves).” Go back and review pages 4-5 of the booklet by simply asking: “What is it that separates us

# EQUIPPED

## DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

from God?” The answer is sin. Look at “We Are Separated” in the booklet and ask: “Once again, why did Christ die on the cross?” The answer is, “to pay for our sin.” Ask: “Is there anything in our own power that we can do to get rid of our sin?” Answer: no.

In essence, what you’ve just done is reviewed the key points of the booklet again. This repetition is good and clarifies the gospel to them. They are telling you what the gospel is! Basically, you don’t have to memorize this extra dialogue, just memorize the Big Six Questions and then repeat them using your own words.

### **QUESTION 5: WHAT IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CIRCLE ON THE LEFT AND THE CIRCLE ON THE RIGHT?**

Again, always give the person the opportunity to answer first and think about it. The answer is, “where the cross is located.” In the circle on the left, Christ is outside the life. In the circle on the right, Christ is in the life. Ask: “If Christ is in someone’s life, what is one of the most important things that He’ll do for that person? Answer: He will forgive that person’s sins.

Ask: If Christ forgives someone’s sins, will anything then stand between (or separate) that person and God? Answer: No. Christ paid for everything.

Question five gives you a another opportunity to find out if they understand and can vocalize the gospel message as it is presented in the booklet.

### **QUESTION 6: WHAT IS THE MAIN THING THAT THIS PRAYER IS SAYING?**

Yes, this is the third opportunity to let them verbalize the message of the gospel. Answer: the third full line of the prayer, “I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord.”

Now you can re-ask the clarifying questions found under Questions Four and Five. By now they should know the message and will understand the commitment they’re making if they pray the prayer and decide to receive Christ.