

An aerial photograph of a long, straight asphalt road stretching through a vast, arid desert landscape. The road is flanked by sandy terrain with sparse, low-lying vegetation and scattered rocks. In the distance, rugged mountains rise against a clear sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of isolation and a journey through a harsh environment.

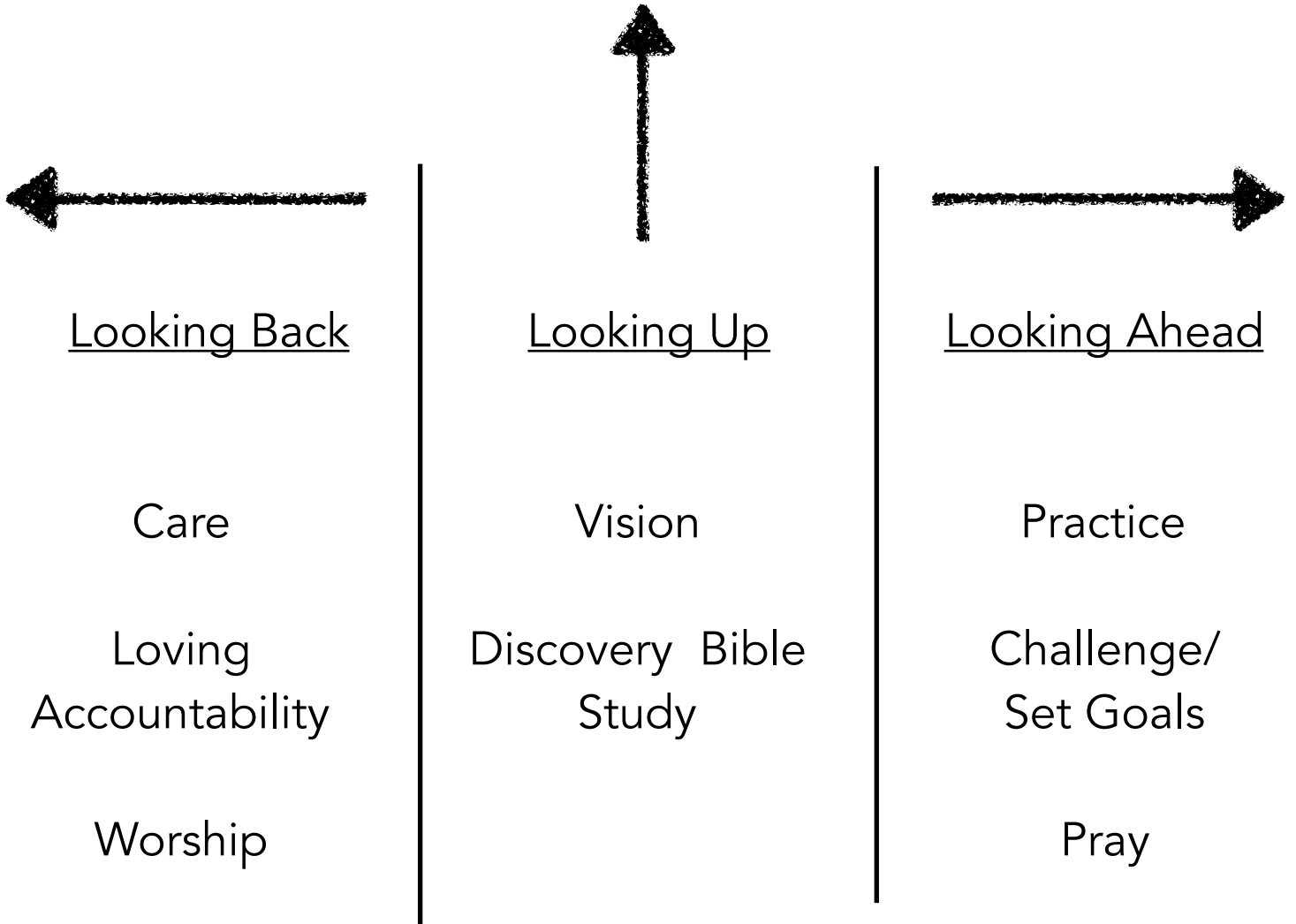
The Story

A Discovery Bible Study
explaining how it all began,
and how it will never end...¹

¹ A study based off The Story Film by spreadtruth. Find full video at <https://thestoryfilm.com/watch/en>

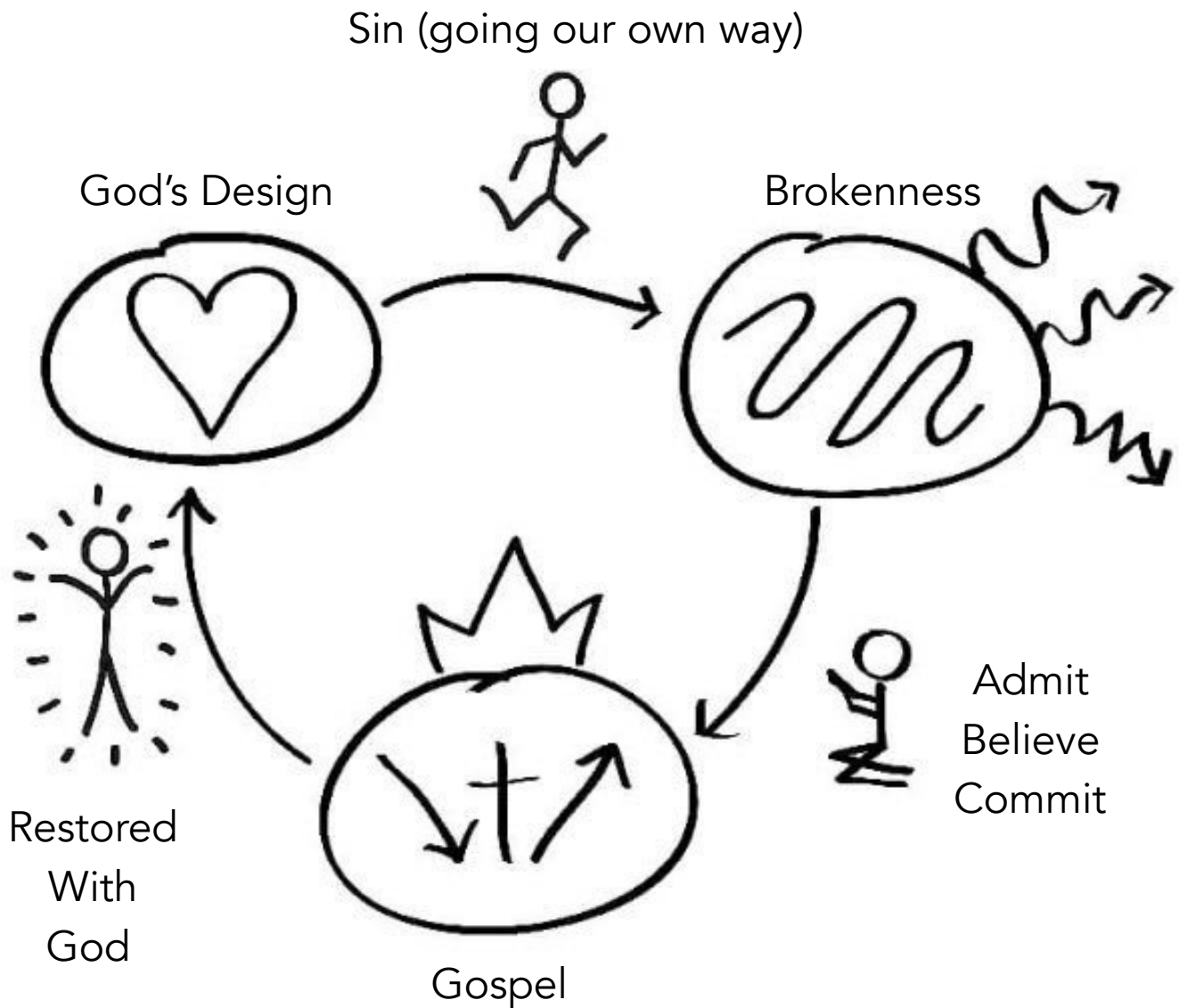
3/3rds Method

a simple framework for the meeting time



3 Circles Gospel Tool

The 3 Circles starts with God's Design. From there, our departure from God's design as sinful people leads us into brokenness. We try everything we can to get out of brokenness and fix our lives (illustrated by the squiggly arrows). Our relief from brokenness is found in repentance. We must **admit** we are separated from God by Sin, **believe** the Gospel, and **commit** our lives to Jesus 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.



Five Sessions.

1. Creation: How Did It All Begin?
2. Fall: What Went Wrong?
3. Rescue: Is There Any Hope? Part 1
4. Rescue: Is There Any Hope? Part 2
5. Restoration: What Will The Future Hold?

*Extra Notes (pages 13-15)

Teacher Tips When Leading The Discovery Bible Study (Looking Up)

1. **Pray** that God would give everyone eyes to see and ears to hear when reading this text.
2. **Read** the command, then **Read** the story
3. What do you **SEE**?
 - This is pure observation, no commentary. One person could retell everything they remember, or it could be a group effort. Also, if the text is long you may have them stop and observe smaller portions.
4. What does it **MEAN**?
 - Good starters here are what does it say about **God**? What does it say about **people**? You may add another specific question based on a major theme/topic, or just open it up and let them go for it.
5. What will I **DO**?
 - In light of this knowledge/truth what will I do. This is really important! It's setting the DNA for a true disciple of Christ. One who learns and then obeys.
6. Who will I **TELL** this story or the 3 Circles to?
 - Have them be specific here.

Getting Started...

Creation: How Did It All Begin?

Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3, 15-17

LOOKING BACK

Start Meeting Times With These Questions:

- Since we met last what is something you are **thankful** for?
- What is **stressing** you out? Listen, love & pray
- Take time to **worship** God together through reading a Psalm or asking these questions:
 - What is something you are **learning** about God?
 - What are your **favorite things** about God?

LOOKING UP

Cast Vision

- Read through Psalm 46:10 and meditate on it.

Discover From The Word (see teacher tips page 6)

- Read the **Story**: Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3, 15-17
- See Additional Discovery Questions for further discussion (page 14)

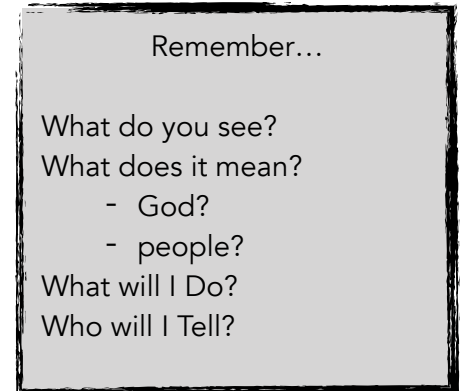
LOOKING AHEAD

Practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation.

Challenge/ Set Goals

- Challenge the group to read 1-2 chapters of scripture a day before next meeting.
 - Good starting places are the F260 Reading Plan OR start with the Gospel of Mark
- Restate **"What I will do"** and **"Who will I tell"** goals. Have someone write these down for every person.
 - Commit to **sharing** the 3 Circles with someone within the next 48 hours.
 - Set a weekly goal to share the gospel with **3-5 people**.

Pray that the group would know, love, and obey God this week.



Fall: What Went Wrong?

Genesis 3:1-24

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LOOKING UP

Cast Vision

- Who is near to you but far from God?
- Draw out your [oikos map](#) and pray.

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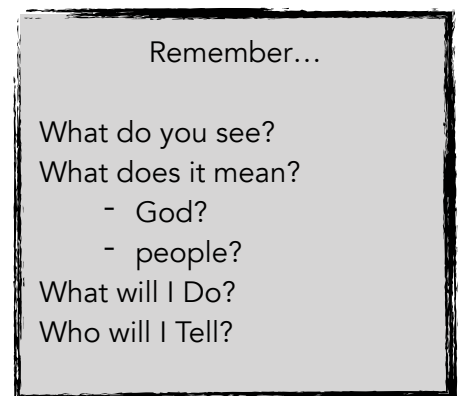
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Rescue: Is There Any Hope? (Part 1)

Genesis 22:1-18

LOOKING BACK

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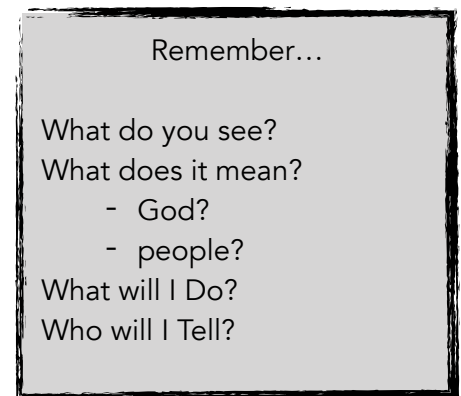
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Rescue: Is There Any Hope? (Part 2)

Mark 15:1-16:8

LOOKING BACK

Start Meeting Times With These Questions:

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LOOKING UP

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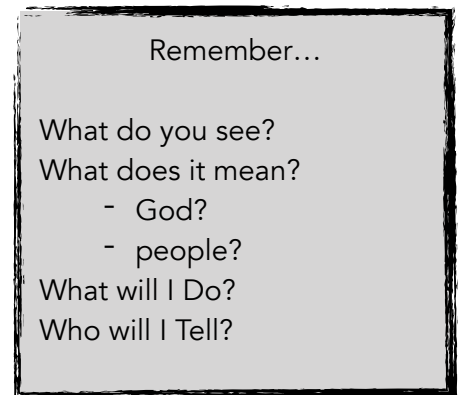
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Restoration: What Will The Future Hold?

Revelation 20:10-21:1-8

LOOKING BACK

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 - What are your **favorite things** about God?

LOOKING UP

Cast Vision

- Draw out your [oikos map](#) and pray.
- Talk about what happens after you reach your oikos.

Discover From The Word (see teacher tips page 6)

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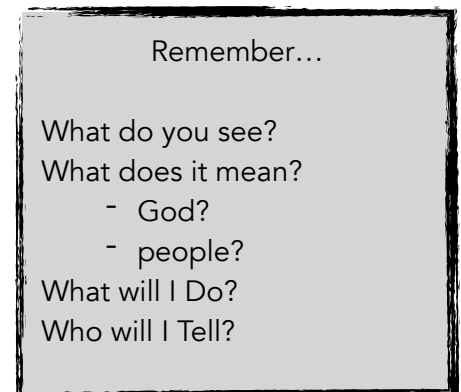
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Facilitator Notes To Help Connect The Dots

- **Gen. 4-21:** From sin's entrance into the world death and destruction permeate every aspect of creation. God destroys the earth with a flood and graciously preserves and starts over with a man named Noah & his family through whom the Rescuer will come. Once again death and destruction run rampant through every aspect of creation. God's plan unfolds through His choosing of an idol worshipping old man named, Abram. He promises to give him a son through whom people from every nation will be blessed/rescued.
- **Gen.22-Malachi:** (Isaac, Jacob/Israel, 12 sons/tribes, Enter Egypt via Joseph, Exodus, Law, Wandering in the wilderness, Tabernacle through Moses, promised land through Joshua, the judges, The kings: Saul, David, Solomon, Kingdom divided (10 northern tribes Israel, 2 southern tribes Judah), Exile, Prophets, Return to land, 400 years of waiting.)
- **In between the OT & NT:** Over 2000 years had passed since Abraham's death and God had not yet sent the Rescuer. Israel was awaiting the Rescuer, but their expectations were incomplete and self-serving. They looked for a conquering king who would crush their enemies (mainly Rome) and exalt them to political prominence in the world. The Rescuer God would send would be far better than this.
- **Life of Jesus:** Began his ministry around the age of 30. He proved that He was truly God by living a sinless life, teaching with great wisdom and power, healing the sick, walking on water, calming storms, casting out demons, knowing men's hearts, and raising the dead. He proved that He was truly human because He wept, laughed, ate, grew tired, bled, and was sorrowful. After 3 years of ministry...
- **Acts-Revelation:** After Jesus' resurrection, He remained with his disciples 40 days before ascending to heaven. His final command was for his followers to make disciples of all people and He promised to provide them with His power & presence to guarantee the missions success. He did this by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of them. As the disciples preached the good news of Jesus and loved loudly thousands of others decided to follow Jesus. This gathering of Jesus' followers was called the Church. For over two thousand year now the Church has grown throughout the world as Jesus' followers love Him and obey His commands. This will continue until the good news is proclaimed throughout the whole world, and then the end will come.

Additional Discovery Questions

Only use if you have time and feel they would be helpful to the discussion.

Creation: How Did It All Begin?

1. Who is the Bible primarily about? God (Gen. 1:1)
2. How did God create, and why is this significant? By His Word and it is powerful and authoritative (Gen. 1:3)
3. What is significant about the repeated phrase "And God saw that it was good?" Highlights God's perfection and His original design for the world. (1:12)
4. What is God's purpose for the world & for humanity? To glorify/reflect Him (Psalm 19:1, Isa. 42:12, 43:7)
5. What makes humans distinct from the rest of creation? Created in God's image/likeness. (Gen. 1:26) Discuss some ways we are like God and the rest of creation is not. (We can know Him with our mind, love Him with our hearts, obey Him with our wills) We can have a relationship with God in a way the rest of creation cannot.
6. How do we glorify God? By loving Him above all else and joyfully obeying His commands. (Dt. 7:9)
7. What did God mean when He declared that the finished creation was "very good?" Everything worked the way it was supposed to work. There was perfect peace between God-People, People-People, & People-Creation, People-Self. We all long to live in this perfect world free of evil, pain, and death (Gen. 1:31)

Fall: What Went Wrong?

1. What is sin? Rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being who or doing what he requires, in his law/ commands. (Gen. 3:1-6,)
2. What is the consequence of sin? Death (Spiritual, Physical, and Eternal). Separation from God and brokenness (Gen. 3:7, 21, 24, Rom. 6:23a, 2 Thes. 1:9)
3. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God and cover themselves with fig leaves and why was this an insufficient remedy to their problem? Their relationship with God had been broken and they were filled with fear, guilt, shame and the desire to make things right again (beginning of works based religion). The penalty for sin is death, therefore no attempt by man to remedy sin through good works, or covering it up, is sufficient. (Gen. 3:7-8)
4. What does Adam and Eve's sin mean for us? That we are all born in sin and guilt, unable to perfectly love God and keep His law. (Psalm 51:5, Rom. 3:26,5:12)
5. What is our greatest need? For God to save us from Satan, sin, and death and restore us to himself. (Gen. 3:15, Ephesians 2:1-3)
6. Discuss evidences of brokenness in the world and in your life today? Keep in mind the 4 relationships we have: God, other people, the world, and within ourselves.

Rescue: Is There Any Hope? (Part 1)

1. What does this story teach us about God's rescue plan, and His future Rescuer?
2. What additional promises concerning the Rescuer do we see in the following texts?
 - 2 Sam. 7:8-16. Son of David, Sovereign King who brings eternal peace.
 - Isa. 53:1-12 A suffering servant who will live a sinless life, die a sacrificial death, and defeat death.
 - If the facilitator feels confident briefly story through the OT pausing to answer this question at these 2 texts.

Rescue: Is There Any Hope? (Part 2)

1. Who is Jesus? Truly human & truly God. (Heb. 1:1-3, 2:14-18 Philippians 2:5-11)
2. Why is Jesus' sinless life good news? He did what Adam, and the rest of us, could/would not do. (Heb. 4:15, JN 8:29, 2 Pt. 2:22)
3. Why is Jesus' death good news? Jesus has conquered sin. He willingly died the death we deserve in order to save us from the power and penalty of sin, and bring us to God. (2 Cor. 5:21, Col. 1:21-22, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18)
4. Why is Jesus' resurrection good news? Jesus has conquered death and offers us eternal life with God that we do not deserve. (JN 6:40, 11:25, Rom. 6:4, 1 Pt. 1:3)
5. What should our response to this good news be? Repent/Turn, Believe, & Follow Jesus (Mk. 1:15-18, JN 14:15)
 - Read Galatians 3:7-14 and think about God's rescue plan and our response to it. this story teach us about God's rescue plan, and His future Rescuer?

Restoration: What Will The Future Hold?

1. Does God desire for anyone to go to hell? No, He has provided a way for us to dwell with Him peacefully for all of eternity. (JN 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:3-4)
2. What type of people will hell be filled with? Sinners who have rejected God's free gift of salvation in Jesus. (Rev. 21:8)
3. What type of people will heaven be filled with? Those from every nation who love God more than anything else. (Rev. 7:9-10)
4. Discuss this quote: "The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?" - John Piper

