THE FIRST MILESTONE · THE GOSPEL RECEIVED

Believing.

Every Christian has a moment when the message of Jesus becomes personal. It may not be a date you remember, but it is the moment you stop trusting yourself and place your faith in Christ. We call that milestone **Believing** because the journey of a true disciple begins when they are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Christ. Conversations that point non-believers to Jesus happen in everyday relationships as God uses the gospel to draw people to Himself. So whether you have just trusted Christ yourself, or you are helping someone else take their first steps, this resource is for you.



WHAT'S INSIDE · HOW THIS DOCUMENT MOVES

01 **Understand** — How saving faith happens.

02 **Equip** — Tools for a gospel conversation.

03 **Respond** — Recognizing faith, leading in prayer.

04 **Obey** — Baptism, sharing, church family.

NEXT **Belonging** — The second milestone.

How does Believing happen?

Saving faith is God's work. He draws people to Himself through the good news of Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit opens blind eyes and grants repentance and faith. That may happen in a worship service, but just as often it happens in the ordinary places of everyday life: a kitchen table, a work truck, a front porch, or a hospital room. Our responsibility is not to produce conversions but to faithfully proclaim Christ, trusting God to save people through His Word.

> *"He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*
>
> COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

Two mission fields, one gospel

When we think about reaching people for Christ, our minds naturally go outside the walls of the church, to friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and others who have never trusted Jesus. And they should. God has sent us into the world to proclaim the gospel.

But there is another mission field He has entrusted to us, one we must never overlook: **the children growing up among us.** Long before they become adults, they need to hear, understand, and personally believe the good news for themselves. They are not Christians because their parents are Christians or because they attend church. They, too, must be born again.

> *"These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road."*
>
> DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7

A healthy church keeps both mission fields in view. We equip every believer to lovingly share Christ with those outside the church, and we equip every parent to faithfully disciple the children God has entrusted to them. One mission reaches outward; the other reaches inward. Both proclaim the same gospel and pray for the same miracle: that God would grant repentance and faith through Jesus Christ.

MISSION FIELD ONE

Reaching outward

WHO
Friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and extended family.

PRIMARY STEWARD
Every believer.

TYPICAL PACE
Weeks, months, or maybe years of gospel conversations.

PRIMARY EQUIPPING
Believers equipped to share the gospel clearly.

MISSION FIELD TWO

Reaching inward

WHO
The children God has entrusted to believing parents.

PRIMARY STEWARD
Parents, supported by the church.

TYPICAL PACE
Years of faithful discipleship in everyday life.

PRIMARY EQUIPPING
Parents equipped to disciple their children, strengthened by a faithful church family.

Though the mission fields are different, the destination is the same. Every person must come to Christ by grace through faith. Every believer experiences the same new birth. Every disciple begins the same journey.

Equipping every believer

God has chosen to spread the gospel through ordinary people. Throughout Scripture, the good news moved from one believer to another: from homes, workplaces, meals, friendships, and everyday conversations. That is still His plan today. Most of us were never taught how to share our faith, and that's okay. Evangelism is not a gift reserved for a few confident Christians; it is a skill every believer can grow in. Our responsibility as a church is to equip one another with simple, reproducible tools that help us begin conversations, clearly explain the gospel, and lovingly invite people to respond.

But every gospel conversation starts before the conversation. Ask God to show you who to talk to before you ever open your mouth. He is the one who softens hearts and opens doors; our job is to be ready when He does.

> BEFORE EVERY CONVERSATION, PRAY
>
> - Ask God to bring specific names to mind: the people already in your life who need Christ.
> - Ask Him to open a natural door for a conversation.
> - Ask Him to give you boldness and the right words when the moment comes.

Once you've prayed, every gospel conversation has three simple movements:

START IT | SHARE IT | LAND IT

Start it. Turn an ordinary conversation toward spiritual things.
Share it. Clearly explain the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Land it. Lovingly invite a response and recognize a genuine profession of faith.

Why these tools? We know these are not the only faithful ways to share the gospel. Christians have used many effective methods throughout history. We use these because they are biblical, simple, reproducible, and easy to teach. Our goal isn't to master every evangelism method… it's to become confident enough to faithfully share Jesus wherever God gives us the opportunity.

And we value reproducibility over novelty. **We'd rather equip every believer with one clear gospel presentation than ask every believer to master several different ones.**

START IT

Your Personal Testimony

Your story is one of the most powerful tools God has given you. Learn to tell it in three to five minutes: who you were before Christ, how He saved you, and how He has changed your life. Every believer already has a testimony, making it the easiest place to begin.

SHARE IT ★ OUR ANCHOR

NAMB's 3 Circles

This is the primary gospel presentation we teach across our church. Using three simple circles (God's Design, Brokenness, and the Gospel), every member learns to explain the same message in the same clear way. Shared language builds confidence and multiplies disciples.

LAND IT

Share Jesus Without Fear

Many believers know how to explain the gospel but aren't sure how to invite someone to respond. This tool provides simple, gracious questions that help move from explanation to invitation while recognizing a credible profession of faith. **The same four questions land the conversation whether you got there through your testimony or through the 3 Circles.** Once someone understands the gospel, ask them.

- Does this make sense?
- Do you believe this is true?
- Is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ today?
- Would you like to place your faith in Jesus right now?

Don't memorize the script. Memorize the progression · Understand → Believe → Obstacle → Invitation

Practice before you share

A tool only works if you've used it before the moment matters. Use the space below to rough out your testimony and get the shape of the 3 Circles into your hand before you ever share either one out loud. This is brainstorming, not a script.

01 · MY LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

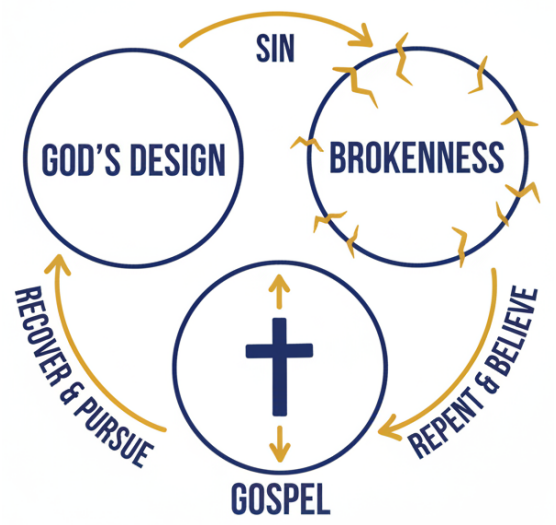
02 · HOW I CAME TO TRUST CHRIST

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

03 · WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

REFERENCE · THE 3 CIRCLES



NOW YOU TRY. DRAW IT FROM MEMORY.

Recognizing a credible profession of faith

We cannot see the heart; only God can. But we can **listen carefully and shepherd wisely.**

> *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation."*
>
> ROMANS 10:9-10

THE MARKER

A credible profession of faith.

A credible profession includes:

- ✓ **A clear understanding of the gospel.** They can explain in their own words who Jesus is, what He has done, and why they are trusting Him.
- ✓ **Repentance and faith.** They understand that following Jesus means turning from sin and trusting Christ rather than themselves.
- ✓ **A personal profession.** This is their faith… not merely their parents', spouse's, friend's, or church's.

We are not looking for theological maturity. **They are a newborn believer.** We are simply listening for a genuine understanding of the gospel and a sincere trust in Christ.

Helping someone respond and receive Jesus

When someone expresses a desire to trust Christ, don't feel like you need to schedule a meeting with a pastor so they can lead them to Jesus. **God has already chosen to use you in this moment.** If they understand the gospel and are ready to respond, you can prayerfully lead them to place their faith in Christ right then and there.

Take a moment to answer any remaining questions and make sure they understand the gospel. Then invite them to respond to Jesus in prayer.

A SIMPLE PRAYER OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH MAY INCLUDE

- Thanking God for His love and grace.
- Confessing their sin and need for forgiveness.
- Professing trust in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as their only hope.
- Turning from sin and surrendering their life to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The exact words are not important. **God is not listening for a formula; He is looking at the heart.** Encourage them to pray in their own words as they place their faith in Christ, and then pray with them as they begin their new life in Him.

Once that profession is clear, **we do not delay discipleship.** We help the new believer begin obeying Jesus right away.

The first steps of obedience

1

Be baptized

Publicly identify with Christ through believer's baptism.

2

Begin sharing

Begin sharing the story of what Christ has done and the gospel just believed.

3

Get plugged in

Connect to a local church family where faith can grow, surrounded by teaching, encouragement, and care.

1 Be baptized

Jesus calls you to publicly identify with Him through believer's baptism. **Baptism does not make you a Christian; it is the first act of obedience of someone who already is.**

It is a beautiful picture of what Christ has already done. As you go under the water, you identify with His death. As you come up again, you celebrate the new life He has given you.

> ROMANS 6:3-4
>
> *"Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?... just as Christ was raised from the dead... so we too may walk in newness of life."*

TIMING

Near, not delayed

Throughout the book of Acts, people were baptized soon after placing their faith in Christ. We want to follow that same pattern. Once you have made a credible profession of faith and understand the meaning of baptism, we encourage you to obey without unnecessary delay.

Whenever appropriate, we encourage the believer who helped lead you to Christ to participate in, or even perform, your baptism. Few moments better picture disciples making disciples.

WITNESS

Declared before the church

Baptism is both personal and public.

A private decision to follow Christ becomes a public declaration before God's people. The church celebrates God's saving work, welcomes you as a new brother or sister, and commits to walking beside you as you continue growing in Christ.

2 Begin sharing

One of the first signs of new life is the desire to tell someone else what Jesus has done.

You don't need years of Bible knowledge before you become a witness. **You already know the most important part of the story:** who you were before Christ, how you came to trust Him, and the difference He is already making in your life. Begin sharing that story right away.

The believer who first shared the gospel with you should keep walking beside you through those first conversations. Practice your testimony together. Review the Three Circles together.

Pray together. Then go together. **Confidence grows through obedience, not waiting.**

1 START IT **Start with your story.** Write and practice a simple three-to-five-minute testimony:

- My life before Christ.
- How I came to trust Christ.
- What has changed since following Him.

2 SHARE IT **Share the gospel together.** Learn to explain the gospel using the Three Circles. Don't simply be handed a tool; use it together with the believer discipling you until you are comfortable sharing it on your own.

3 LAND IT **Invite a response.** When the opportunity comes, lovingly invite others to respond using the same simple progression you experienced:

- Does this make sense?
- Do you believe this is true?
- Is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ today?
- Would you like to place your faith in Jesus right now?

We learn to make disciples by making disciples together.

3 Get plugged in

Following Jesus is personal, but it was never meant to be private. **The moment you trusted Christ, you became part of God's global family.** Now it's time to become part of a local church family where your faith can grow.

The believer who first walked with you should continue walking beside you during this season. Read Scripture together. Pray together. Answer questions. Worship together. Begin serving together. But they should also help you become connected to the larger church family. Healthy discipleship has always happened in both relationships: one believer investing personally, surrounded by the encouragement, teaching, and care of the local church.

YOUR NEXT STEP IS TO BEGIN BUILDING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS

- Meet the pastors and elders.
- Join a Life Group.
- Begin forming friendships with other believers.

As your faith grows, you'll discover that **the Christian life was never meant to be lived alone.**

This naturally leads to the next milestone in the pathway: **Belonging**. There you'll learn what it means to commit yourself to a local church family and begin walking the lifelong rhythms of discipleship together.

Believing brought you into God's family. Belonging will help you discover what it means to live as part of that family.

Your turn *Name your next step.*

Where are you today?

If you just trusted Christ

Congratulations! Your new life in Christ has begun. Now take your first steps of obedience.

- [ ] Be baptized as a public declaration of your faith.
- [ ] Begin sharing your story and the gospel with others.
- [ ] Join a local church family where you can continue growing.

MY NEXT STEP

_____

If you helped someone begin following Jesus

Your role isn't finished. It's just beginning. Walk with them as they take their first steps of obedience.

- [ ] Help them prepare for believer's baptism.
- [ ] Practice sharing their testimony and the Three Circles together.
- [ ] Walk with them into the life of the church and introduce them to discipling relationships.

THE PERSON I'M WALKING WITH

_____

My Field

THE PEOPLE GOD HAS ALREADY PLACED IN MY LIFE WHO NEED CHRIST

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Pray for them faithfully. Love them intentionally. Be ready when God opens the door.

This is where every disciple's journey begins... not with a program, but with people. Names. Conversations. Prayers. Faithful believers carrying the good news into the places God has already sent them. And when He saves, we'll rejoice together, baptize together, and welcome another brother or sister into the family of God.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." ROMANS 3:23-24