

SCC SMALL GROUPS
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Extraordinary Conversations
November 6, 2022

Getting Started:

What was the highlight of your day today? (Everyone share something)

Now go around and someone from the group suggest a follow up question to each person's response. (For example: What motivated you to do that?)

How did this conversation and what you shared make you feel?

Have you seen any www.HeGetsUs.com spots on TV? What's your take on those? Does it accurately represent Jesus in your opinion?

Searching the Scriptures:

Noticing and caring

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

A. Discuss how frustration or curiosity can be bridges for sharing more deeply about what matters to us?

B. Based on these two verses, why is our approach to people in their current state of mind important?

God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. This is what God planned for the climax of all times. Ephesians 1:9-10 CEB

C. How would you describe “God’s design” in your own words, in one sentence?

Run (Rebellion & Sin)

*“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans **run** after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* Matthew 6:31-33

D. How is the above verse describing sin? Why does running after needs miss the intent of God? What’s the answer?

Realize (Repent & Believe)

*You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not **realize** that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”* Revelation 3:17

E. Repenting has do with a change of mind and a change of direction. How is this verse describing what is needed for repentance?

Recover (Restore & Reconcile)

*Jesus said: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and **recovery** of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”* Luke 4:18

F. In what ways is Recovering synonymous with Restoring and Reconciling?

Application

"I pray the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for Christ's service." Philemon 6 ESV

Take a few minutes to do a short run-through of the three circles in pairs, then switch.

If you need a refresher, here are some suggested things to say.

1. When you turn on the television or look at your Facebook feed, it's very clear that we live in a broken world. There's a lot of death, a lot of disease and suffering. (*Romans 1:18-32, Romans 8:18-21*) **(Draw circle and Brokenness)**
2. But we also see traces of beauty, like the beauty of a sunset or the laugh of a child, and that's because God's design was perfect when he made it. There was no death or disease or suffering. (*Genesis 1:24-31*) **(Draw Circle and God's design)**
3. But starting with the very first people, we as humans chose to go our own way and run from God's perfect design, (and that's called "sin" which means missing the mark – an archery term. *Genesis 3, Romans 3:9-12*) Sin is what led to brokenness in our world. **(Draw arrow, man running, and the word RUN - or SIN)**
4. Well, we don't like to be in brokenness, the state we were born in. So we try to get out. (*Romans 5:12*) **(Draw arrows coming out from Brokenness circle)**

So, for some, they try to get out on their own by climbing the ladder of success at work or at school thinking that will get them out. (*Philippians 3:4-9*)

Others try to get out themselves by doing good things, by being religious, or going to church and helping people. While those are great things, they don't get us out of brokenness. (*Isaiah 64:6, Titus 3:5*)

Some try to drown out the brokenness with drugs or alcohol, or attempts at suicide, or maybe even relationships. And these attempts to get out of brokenness ourselves end up snapping us back in like a bungee cord. (*Romans 1:28-32*)

5. But God loved us so much He didn't want us to stay in brokenness. So He did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. (*John 3:16, Romans 5:8*) **(Draw Circle with Jesus Cross, and little arrows)**

He provided the only way out and that is through His son Jesus. (*Romans 6:23*)

You see, Jesus came down into our world and allowed himself to be killed on a cross, taking on our sin. (*Matthew 27:35-54, Hebrews 10:19-22, 1 Peter 2:24*)

And three days later he rose from the dead. (*Matthew 28:1-10*)

6. At some point in our lives we may realize what Jesus did, and our hearts begin to change. **(Draw arrow, picture of person praying and the word REALIZE)**
7. He declared that if anyone would turn from their way and turn to him to him and believe that Jesus came, died on the cross, and rose from the dead and would be willing to make him their king or their Lord that they would be forgiven and made new. They would then be able to recover and experience God's perfect design for their life. (*Luke 24:44-49, Romans 6:22-23, Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 1:9-13*)
(Draw arrow, picture of person gleaming, and the word RECOVER)

Question to ask: Now of these three stick figures, which one do you relate to most?

(Run) Running into brokenness? What does the brokenness look like?

(Realize) Do you realize and believe Jesus did this? Where do you want to be?

(Recover) What do you think that looks like?

Is there anything that keeps you from turning from your own way and believing in the good news of Jesus and making him your Lord and your king? (*Mark 1:15*)

When I chose to make this decision I prayed a simple prayer, very similar to this picture, I just told God I was sorry for my sin, that I left his design, and for the ways I tried to get out of brokenness on my own. I told him I was ready to turn from my way and return to him and I believe this is true and I want to make him my Lord so I can become new and experience his design for my life.

Is that something you would like to do?

(*Matthew 11:28-30, John 1:12, Acts 2:38, 4:12, 1 John 1:9*)

Let's pray.

For additional equipping on this topic, check out the six day study plan: "How to Start Gospel Conversations" in the YouVersion Bible app <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/33146>