

# Talk It Over

I'M ALL IN  
(Week 5)  
Followers say, "Follow Me"

## SMALL TALK

1. Name a product, restaurant, or service that you would rate and review with 5 stars and be happy to tell someone else you know about it.

## VIEWPOINT

2. **READ 1 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; 1 Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:7.** Why is VVCC's core statement "Followers say 'Follow Me'" and VVCC's Life practice "Engage Missionally" so important?
3. **READ Acts 1:8 & Luke 6:46.** If you aren't talking about Jesus very much with others who don't yet know him, what are some reasons for that, and what are some solutions?
4. How do you imitate (follow) Jesus? What is the difference between a "white knuckle" effort, and the Gospel (good news) of grace? What does it look like for imperfect people to live as models of Jesus' life and message?

## GETTING PERSONAL

5. Who do you love who does not yet know Jesus? How can we be praying for them and you?

## PRACTICE!

6. Devote Daily, Pursue Relationally, Guide Biblically, Live Authentically, Engage Missionally (3 Qs to help):
  1. How are you feeding your soul?
  2. How are you feeding your sinful desires?
  3. How are you feeding others?

August 29, 2021

## I'm All In (Week 5) Followers Say Follow Me

A guy gets on an empty city bus, walks to the back of the bus, and sits down. *Lord, he prays, if you want me to speak to someone about you, please give me a sign.* At the next stop a passenger boards the bus, passes all the empty seats then sits down right next to the guy who just prayed that prayer, and asks, *"Can you help me? I need to know more about Jesus being a savior. Do you know anything about Jesus?"*

The guy says, *"Excuse me for a moment."* Then he bows his head and once silently prays, *"Lord, if you really want me to talk to this stranger, I need just one more sign. Please turn the bus driver into an armadillo."*

Now there is a guy who has not overcome his reluctance to talk about Jesus.

### I. You TALK about what FILLS your heart.

It is easy to talk about what you are really into.

*Luke 6:45 (CSB) A good person produces good out of the good stored up in his heart. . . for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.*

If you aren't talking about Jesus with others very much, the first thing to do is fill your heart with more of Jesus!

### II. Build a BRIDGE

Build a relational bridge that will bear the weight of truth. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

### III. FORM questions

Don't just form questions; use "FORM" questions. F is for family, O is for occupation, R is for religious background, M is for message (transition).

#### **F-family.**

- How long have you lived here?
- Where did you or your family come from?
- Married? How did you two meet? etc...

#### **O-occupation.**

- What line of work are you in? Or

- Are you going to school? What are you studying?
- How did you get into this line of work?
- How do you like it?
- That is interesting, what exactly do you do in that job? etc...

**R-religious background**

- Do you have a religious or a faith background?
- Tell me more about that? (etc...)
- Listen and show sincere interest. (Just asking, not attacking).

**M-message (Transition)**

- Would you be interested to hear something I have learned (and am still learning) that really helps my messed up life?

#### **IV. Tell your 3 CIRCLE story**

Let's say I was in a conversation with a man who was telling me about his troubled marriage. He's obviously very upset. Whenever anyone talks about their problems, or issues, it might be a perfect opportunity to talk about Jesus. I could say something like this.

**TRANSITION:** I haven't experienced exactly the same problem you are experiencing, but I've definitely experienced similar problems, and similar pain. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?

**GOD'S DESIGN (CIRCLE 1):** I grew up learning about God. I learned about God's design for my life. But knowing God's will didn't help me live it. Although I believed in God, I didn't follow God's design. Do you know what this is NOT called? This is not called a "mistake".

**SIN (arrow 1):** "Mistakes" are accidents and these were not accidents. I knew it was wrong, and did it anyway--that's called SIN. Each of us has departed in some way from God's design for us. This is called "Sin". And "Sin" leads to another Brokenness!

**BROKENNESS (CIRCLE 2):** My brokenness is slightly different from yours, but we have all experienced brokenness. **Brokenness is the pain that comes with a departure from God's design.**

I remember feeling so broken, when I listened to my wife's deep hurt, and I knew I was the problem. I was no longer the hero and knight in Shining Armor that had captured her heart. She didn't say this, but I knew that my self-centeredness and pride had bucked me off the horse; and there I lay in my dented armor covered in horse poop! **Brokenness screams for change.** None of my efforts seemed to work to change the deeply ingrained patterns of thought and behavior. My effort to fix things didn't work. Escape or numbing the or "White knuckling" it (squiggly line arrows), didn't work.

I have learned that **sin is not a problem that can be solved by SELF HELP. How can self help, help, when self is the problem!** Fortunately there is a better solution.

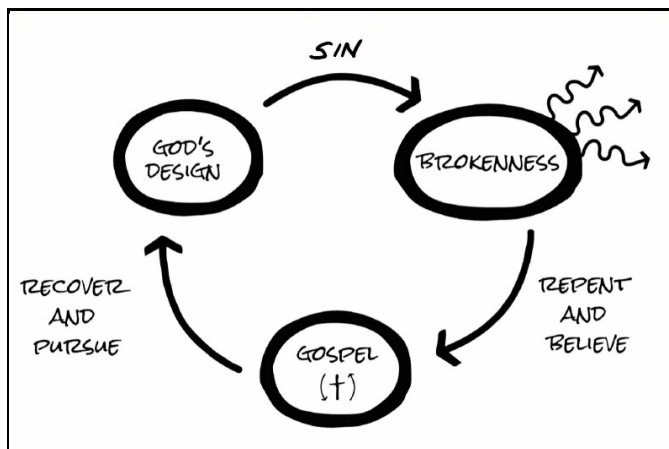
**GOSPEL (CIRCLE 3)** means good news. What is the Gospel? It's the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life (down arrow), die the death we deserve because of our sin (cross), and be raised from the dead (up arrow). When Jesus died on the cross, God made a major miracle possible for me and for you. He made it possible for my sins to be absorbed by Jesus in his body, on the cross, then buried. Then He made it possible for me to be forgiven, and Jesus' goodness to be deposited into me with His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) taking up residence inside me. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, now works in me to help me make changes! Jesus gives me a new desire for living the good and beautiful life he created me for. I can't do this on my own. He helps me. It's a gift. And the way to **receive** it is to repent and believe.

**REPENT AND BELIEVE (arrow 2):** You receive it. You cannot achieve it. However, the way to receive it is to "REPENT and BELIEVE". "**Repent**" means to "turn", it is a "change of mind" that means a "change of direction". It means you confess, "My way was wrong! I turn to you, your way is good and beautiful."

"Believe" means that we trust that Jesus is who can make us right with God when we unite with his death, burial, and resurrection. This isn't

SELF-HELP. This isn't religion. This is a relationship made possible with the truly resurrected Jesus.

**RECOVER AND PURSUE (arrow 3):** Once we repent and believe, we get a do-over. Repenting and believing doesn't immediately fix everything like a magic pill. It reestablishes a connection with God's Spirit. Then we learn to walk with the Spirit's help in this change process. With the Spirit's help we now can recover and pursue God's design. He gives us the desire and the power to do this.



This do over circle doesn't happen just once, it is a new way of life! Any time we depart from God's design we can quickly close the loop. The sooner the better.

Gina and I are by God's grace experiencing a deeper and closer relationship than ever before. Jesus is the knight in shining armor.

Does this diagram make sense to you? As you look at it, where do you see yourself in this diagram?

Is there anything that would prevent you from repenting and believing the Gospel today?

(There are really only three basic responses possible: Red light, Yellow light, Green light. In the coaches training we will offer simple strategies for all three types of responses).

If you get a green light, lead them in a prayer, something like...

*Dear Jesus,*

*My life is broken.*

*It's because of my sin.*

*I need you.*

*I turn to you.*

*I believe in you.*

*You paid for my sin.*

*You buried my sin.*

*You conquered my sin.*

*You rose from the dead!*

*You set me free from my sins.*

*I will live for you.*

*Thank you for your Spirit.*

*I reclaim your design for me.*

*I pursue your design for me.*

*I trust you.*

*I love you.*

*I worship you.*

***In Jesus Name Amen!***