



loving people on purpose

By: Jim Murphy, Bernie Elliott III, Adam Bregou

www.mycircletraining.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Session One: Foundations for Missional Living	4
Activity: Spheres of Missional Influence	7
Session Two: Meaningful Gospel Presence	10
Activity: Living With Intentionality	13
Session Three: Gospel Proclamation	16
Activity: Sharing Your Grace Story	20
Session Four: Gospel Conversation	22
Activity: Articulating the Gospel	27
Session Five: Next Steps	30
Activity: Missional Strategy	31





Introduction

What if....?

What would it look like if every follower of Christ in a local congregation realized that God has placed them in the lives they live in, around the people they live with, for a purpose?

What would it look like if Christ followers also realized that purpose was to give those same people an opportunity to see the Gospel in action, to lovingly proclaim its message and give them a chance to respond?

The heart behind the MyCircle Initiative is to help equip the people of God to participate in God's redemptive mission within the context of their daily lives and relationships, by helping them understand how to:

1. Identify the network of relationships in the midst of which God has placed them; this is their circle.

- 2. Meaningfully engage their circle through prayer and a tangible Gospel presence.
- 3. Share their grace story as well as proclaim the Gospel to the people in their circle.

Whether a person is a new believer or a life-long follower, MyCircle will help equip them by giving practical ways to live a life of mission and understand the theology behind it, all within an ongoing framework of accountability, encouragement and prayer. Participants will have their hearts moved, minds expanded and wills challenged to not be satisfied with missional inactivity.

More than a training!

The MyCircle Training is designed to be just that...an initiative for the entire church. The goal is to work with local churches in establishing a comprehensive, corporate, small group, and family/individual follow-up strategy that assists and challenges the entire body to participate in God's redemptive mission.

Session One:

Foundations for Missional Living





Session One: Foundations for Missional Living

Foundational Questions

Why should we engage in sharing the Gospel with people who do not know Christ?

notes:

- For the glory of God (Isaiah 12:3-6; Psalm 115:1; Romans 11:33-36; Ephesians 3:20-21)
- We are commanded to by our Lord. (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)
- We are commanded by Him because people are in desperate need. (2 Peter 3:1-13; Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12; Romans 1 and 2)

Who are the people God desires to use in His redemption mission?

• Every person who belongs to Jesus (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; 1 Peter 2:9-12)

John 4:1-26

As Christ's people on mission with Him, we must be people that...

Do not allow any obstacle to hinder us from engaging people (*Hebrews 12:1-3*)

- Samaria
- Engaging a woman of ill repute
- "Wearied as He was from the journey"

Live with confidence

(2 Corinthians 5:13-15; Acts 26:24-29; John 4:10, 13-14, 26)

- In whom God has revealed Himself to be
- In the Gospel
- That God can and desires to work through us

4



Session One: Foundations for Missional Living cont'd

Live lives compelled by love

(2 Corinthians 5:11-16; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 1:40-42; John 3:16)

- For God and His glory
- For people (in general, in our lives)

Strive to live with intentionality

(Philippians 3:8-16; John 4:34-38; Ephesians 5:15)

- In our pursuit of Jesus
- In our relationships
- In every opportunity
- In the places we go and things we do

Proclaim the Gospel

(Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:10-12; Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

- By having meaningful Gospel presence in the lives of people.
- By sharing the Gospel story with others through its proclamation and our personal grace story, giving them an opportunity to respond to its life saving message.

notes:



Session One:

Foundations for Missional Living cont'd

Questions to consider:

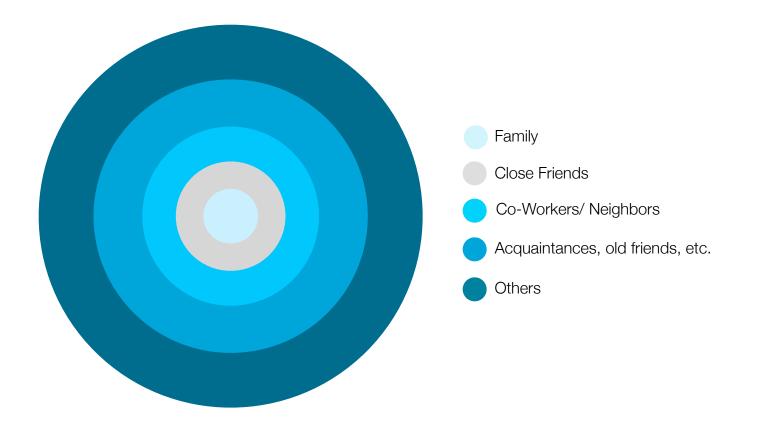
Discuss the following questions within your Small Group.

- What stops you from engaging people (i.e. fear, schedule, prejudices, selfishness, energy, not knowing how, etc.)?
- · How can you overcome these obstacles in order to share the Gospel?
- When do you find it difficult to have confidence in: God, His Gospel, His desire to work through you? In what ways can we build our confidence?
- Do you recognize the great love God has for you? Do you feel as though you should extend that same love to others?
- Does it bother you when you see God and His glory being mocked by sin? Why or Why not?
- God has kept His Church in the world to be on mission with Him. Do you see yourself as a missionary where you live? Why or why not?
- As you begin to step out with God in His mission, how can the Christian community you are a part of pray for you?



Activity: Spheres of Influence

This activity will help you identify your Circle of Accountability. Think about each of your Spheres of Influence. Take note of the non-believers with whom you can build intentional relationships. Get to know them, pray for them, serve them, and find opportunities to share your grace story and the Gospel. Are there any other believers in your spheres? If so, ask them to live missionally with you in your shared sphere.



Spheres of Influence activity continued next page



Activity: Spheres of Influence

Family:

non-believers	other believers

Close Friends:

non-believers	other believers

Co-workers/ Neighbors:

non-believers	other believers

Acquaintances/ Old Friends:

non-believers	other believers

Others:

non-believers	other believers

Session Two:

Meaningful Gospel Presence





Session Two: Meaningful Gospel Presence

How do I impact MyCircle through meaningful Gospel presence?

Pray

(John 15:1-7; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 & Colossians 4:2-4)

- God would open their eyes to see Jesus.
- God would open doors for you to share Christ.
- God would give you boldness to walk through the doors He opens.
- God would give you clarity in sharing the Gospel.
- God would bring other believers into their life.

Prayer Challenge:

• Pray daily for at least one person in your circle that does not know Christ.

Engage

(Matthew 5:13-16; John 1:14; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 2:11-12; James 2:14-19)

- Posture your life to be available.
- Spend time with them
 - -Meals, lunch hour, recreation, in a crisis, play dates, sports
 - -Invite them into your home.
 - -Invite them into your life.
 - -When they invite you into theirs, go.
 - -Do what you do and bring people with you.
 - -Being a missionary means you bring the Gospel to the forefront of what you do every day, around the people you are with every day... for the glory of God and the good of the other person.

notes:
notes:
·



Session Two: Meaningful Gospel Presence cont'd

	notes:
• Be a tangible blessing	
-Meet a need	
-Yard work, baby sit, food, home projects, listen, etc.	
-Acts of kindness/generosity	
 Pray with them in the name of Jesus. 	
-Ask their permission.	
-Pray the Gospel over them.	
 Invite them to a next step. 	
-Small group, church services, service projects, lunch, etc.	
Engage Challenge:	
Encade at least one person in your sirele per week whe does not know	
 Engage at least one person in your circle per week who does not know Christ. 	
• Be salt and light in their midst. (Matthew 5:13-16)	
-Live like you love Jesus.	
-Obey the Word of God (John 14:21-24)	
-Consider others as better than yourselves	
(Philippians 2:1-11)	
-Live with an open hand (2 Corinthians 8:9)	
-Love others well. (Ephesians 5:1-2)	
-Real love cannot be separated from sacrifice.	



Session Two: Meaningful Gospel Presence cont'd

Questions to consider:

Discuss missional living within your Small Group.

- What is the difference between being present in someone's life verses having a Gospel presence? Why is having a Gospel presence important?
- Why is prayer important in our personal evangelism?
- What obstacles hinder you from evangelistically praying daily for someone that is in your sphere of influence? How can you move beyond them?
- Jesus did not send His disciples into the mission alone. They have His Spirit, which is more than sufficient, and He also gave them The Church. Looking at who is in your circle, what other believers do you need to partner with in reaching your circle (in your family, neighborhood, workplace, etc.)?
- What are some of the biggest obstacles you face that prevent you from spending time with the lost people God has placed in your life? How can you move beyond these obstacles?
- Who in your life do you feel the biggest burden to share Christ with right now?
- Based on the names you put down on your spheres of missional influence, what are some tangible ways you can be a blessing to them in the name Jesus?
- There is no better time to start than now! Who will you pray for tomorrow? Whom will you engage in the next seven days by either spending time with them or blessing them in the name of Jesus?



Activity: Living with Intentionality

Take some time throughout this week and write down the activities you are a part of each week. This will help you identify specific activities you are a part of to begin living with intentionality as a Gospel presence.

Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:
Thursday:	Friday:	Saturday:
Sunday:	Other monthly activities:	_
		_

Consider these questions as you look over your activities:

- How could you use your regular activities to engage the people in your spheres of influence? (Look for things you could do with an unbeliever instead of doing them by yourself.)
- Do you need to remove any activities that keep you from engaging the people in your spheres of influence?
- Do you need to add any activities that would give you more opportunities to engage the people in your spheres of influence?

Session Three:

Gospel Conversation





Session Three: Gospel Conversation

How do	we go fror	n being meanir	ngfully prese	ent in ou	r circle to
having r	meaningful	conversations	that center	around ⁻	The Gospel?

Pursue God daily. (Ephesians 2:17-18; 1 Peter 3:18; Psalm 84:1-2; John 15:1-11; 1 John 1:1-3)

Trust the Holy Spirit. (John 16:5-15; Acts 1:8; Matthew 10:19-20)

Be you.

- Spiritual Gifts
- Personality
- Talents

Understand the power and sufficiency of Scripture.

(Psalm 19:7-9; Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 24:35)

- Do you have a growing and working knowledge of God's Word?
- Can you bring the Gospel into your daily life?
- Can you bring the Gospel into the lives of others?
- Place the Scriptures in the teaching position.
- Is there flagrant sin in your life?

Learn how to start spiritual conversations (Gospel entry points).

- Look for natural conversational bridges.
 - As you engage them (spending time, blessing them, praying with them)
 - Life situations
- <u>Ask</u> the right questions and <u>listen</u> to their answers.
 - -Potential questions:
 - --What is your spiritual background?
 - --How do you find comfort in difficult times?

questions	continuea	l next page

notes:

.....



Session Three: Gospel Conversation cont'd

Potential questions continued What will it take for you to feel at rest from your anxiety? Has there been a time in your life when it seemed God was not there for you when you really needed Him? With all this brokenness around us, do you think there is any hope	notes:
of things getting better?	
What is your understanding of The Gospel message?	
Who do you think Jesus is?	
In what or where do you find your ultimate hope?	
Share your grace story	
(John 9; Mark 5:1-20; Mark 7:31-8:10; John 4:27-42)	
- If possible, identify with their story, struggles, and life.	
- How has God moved in your life regarding the questions you have asked?	
- How has God's Word given you comfort, direction, and hope?	
- How did God draw you to Himself (personal salvation story)?	
"This was my life before Christ. This is my life now. Jesus made	
the difference." (John Soper)	
-Who were you before you met Christ?	
-How did you become convicted of your sin?	
-When did you embrace the work of Christ on the cross?	
-How has embracing Christ changed your life?	
 What causes you to continue to seek after Christ? 	
- What is God's activity in your life today?	
How has God demonstrated His faithfulness to you?	
How has God's Word shown itself to be true and powerful?	
How has the Gospel affected your view on life in the midst of	
difficult circumstances?	
Why do you and your family do the things you do and make the decisions you make?	
How has God used His people to bless you?	



Session Three: Gospel Conversation cont'd

 Invite them to engage a resource. This provides a great way for them to process the Gospel on their own. It is a great way to move the conversation forward. Engage in the resource with them. 	notes:
 Point them to the person of Jesus Christ and nothing else. (John 4:26; John 20:30-31; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Acts 2:14-41) Through your life and actions Through your questions Through your grace story Through appropriate resources 	
 Overcome the fear of rejection. Relax -It is not up to you to save themthat is God's job (2 Corinthians 4:1-6; John 4:41-44) Invest -Invest in the relationship and the person, not an outcome. Remember -If they reject the Gospel, they are not just rejecting you, they are rejecting Jesus (John 15:18-16:4) -The harvest is plentiful (Luke 10:1-3; John 4:34-38) -People are often more interested in spiritual matters than we realize. 	



Session Three: Gospel Conversation cont'd

Questions to consider:

Discuss missional living within your Small Group.

- Have you ever shared the Gospel with a non-Christian? If so, explain your experience.
- What is your greatest strength when it comes to proclaiming The Gospel?
- What is your greatest weakness when it comes to proclaiming The Gospel?
- In what ways are you being challenged in Gospel proclamation?
- What should you do in order to faithfully respond to how you are being challenged?
- How can your small group help you confidently share the Gospel?



Activity: Sharing Your Grace Story

Over the next few days write out your personal grace story. Be sure to keep your story simple and concise. Write your story so that it can be shared in 3 - 4 minutes. Use the structure below to guide you:

- What your life was like before Christ
- What your life is like now
- How Jesus made the difference
- What Jesus is doing in your life today
- Remember to include the Gospel in your grace story

Session Four:

Gospel Proclamation





Session Four: Gospel Proclamation

How do I faithfully articulate the Gospel to MyCircle in a way that points to Jesus and helps lead to a response?

It is important to remember:

- The Gospel does not change.
 (Matthew 28:18-19; Romans 1:16-17;1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 1:6-10)
 --There is only one Gospel.
 - --It is God's message, therefore it transcends culture, time, and humanity.
- The freedom and power of "I don't know"
 - --Admit you do not know.
 - --Affirm the question or thought.
 - --Ask for help.
 - --Learn what The Scriptures say.
 - --Share what you have learned.
- Learn where their beliefs do and/or do not align with Scripture.
 - --Ask questions and listen to their answers.
 - --This helps us know where to affirm their beliefs when appropriate.
 - --Share the Good News from the Scriptures when their beliefs do not line up with what God has revealed.
- Share the Good News and provide an opportunity for a response.

God the eternal Creator, worthy of our praise

- There is only one God.
 - --Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 46:8-10
- God is the source of everything, He is the Creator. --Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11

notes:



Session Four: Gospel Proclamation cont'd

God the eternal Creator, worthy of our praise continued

- God's greatness is limitless and He is worthy of our obedience and affection.
 --Psalm 145:3
- God is holy and loving.
 --Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 46:8-10; Psalm 145:8-9

Transition: If there is such a praiseworthy and powerful God who created everything, why does the world seem so broken? What happened? What is the problem?

Mankind has rejected God

• God uniquely created people to reflect, know, and serve Him, yet we are guilty of rejecting God's rule.

--Genesis 1:26

• We have all sinned, rejecting God and His plan for us. We have ignored His rightful place of authority and lived in defiance of His commands. We have placed our priorities and pleasures above His.

--Romans 3:19; 23

• Sin is not merely a set of actions or words. It is the basic orientation of our heart. We have rejected Him.

--Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:19

- Sin against our wonderful Creator is worthy of eternal punishment.
 --Matthew 25:30, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10
 - Transition: This is not turning out to be very good news. Can't this all powerful God do something to intervene? Can't we save ourselves?

notes:
notes:



Session Four: Gospel Proclamation cont'd

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"

• God the Father graciously sent God the Son, Jesus, to take on flesh. He joyfully came to do that which was required of us but were incapable of doing...obey the will of God perfectly. Jesus did this in His life, ministry, and death.

--John 1:14; Romans 8:3-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; John 14:31

• Jesus suffered a death that He did not earn. God's anger and wrath towards sin, our sin, was poured out on Jesus.

--1 John 4:10; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-6

 He willingly died as a substitute for those who would trust in Him. God the Father not only accepted the punishment of Jesus for those who would trust Him, but applied His obedience to them as well.

--Romans 3:21-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13-14

• Jesus rose from the dead on the third day showing His victory over sin, Satan, and death. This vindicated everything Jesus said and did.

--1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 55-57

Transition: What do you think your response to this message should be?

Trust in and follow Jesus

• We can never merit, earn, or deserve the acceptance of God. Remember, our hearts, not our actions, are the root of the problem.

--Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16-21

 We must trust completely in the value of Christ's perfect life, substitutionary death, and victorious resurrection. We must also turn from those things which rebel against and reject God. Our allegiance must turn from ourselves to God. Faith and repentance, as described, are the proper response.

--Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21

	notes:
,	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·



notes:

Session Four: Gospel Proclamation cont'd

Trust in and follow Jesus continued

Our lives are to be lived as He designed...for His glory.
 --Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:13

Transition: Is this something you would be ready to do today? If not, what specifically is preventing you from trusting in Jesus?

- You can embrace the rescue that Jesus provides by:
 - -- Admitting that you are powerless to save yourself and need to be rescued.
 - --Asking God to both forgive you and give you the power to turn from sin.
 - --Publicly identify with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection by being water baptized. In this you are proclaiming your death to an old way of life and resurrection to a new way of life as a part of God's people.
- If they are ready to trust in and follow Jesus, help them to:

--<u>Pray</u>

-Admitting their sin and their need for God to save them.
-Asking God to forgive them, to look at Jesus' life instead of their own, and to give them the power to turn from sin.
-Thanking Him for His grace.

--<u>Connect</u> with God through His Word and to God's people.

-Invite them into an initial discipleship process.

--<u>Identify</u> with Christ, His people, and new life through baptism.

The Challenge

- **Pursue** Jesus daily. (John 15:1-11)
- Identify your MyCircle.
- **Pray** for one person in your circle daily who does not know Christ.
- Engage one person in your circle per week who does not know Christ.
- Share the Gospel with at least one person per month in your circle.



Session Four: Gospel Conversation cont'd

Questions to consider:

Discuss Gospel proclamation within your Small Group.

- What is God saying to you about the Gospel?
- Do you have a "deep working knowledge of The Gospel" so that you can faithfully articulate it to others?
- How should this deeper understanding of the Gospel impact your own personal mission to bring this message to those in your circle?
- What is the most difficult component of the Gospel for you to share? Why?
- What could you do to be more effective in sharing the Gospel?
- For whom do you have the biggest burden to share God's message of hope? What steps should you begin to take in order to share it with them?
- How can others pray for you as you step out to share The Gospel?



Activity: Articulating the Gospel

Take some time throughout this week and write out how you would articulate the Gospel in your own words. Articulate the Gospel in story form and be sure to include scripture references. Use the structure below to guide your story:

- God the eternal Creator, worthy of our praise
- Mankind has rejected God
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son
- Trust in and follow Jesus

Session Five:

Next Steps: Missional Strategy





Session Five: Next Steps: Missional Strategy

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Spend 15 minutes discussing this passage of scripture.

- What is God saying to you through this passage?
- Who is leading you in victory?
- What does it mean to be the aroma of Christ?
- What have you been commissioned to do?

Group Activity: Sharing Your Grace Story

Spend time within your Small Group sharing your grace story.

- Have everyone split into pairs within your group and share their grace story.
- Rotate every 3-4 minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to hear each other's story.

Group Activity: Articulating the Gospel

Spend time within your Small Group articulating the Gospel.

- Have everyone split into pairs within your group and articulate the Gospel to each other.
- Rotate as often as possible so that everyone has multiple chances to practice articulating the Gospel.

Debrief Questions

- What was it like to share your grace story with others?
- Did you feel confident in sharing your story after sharing it several times?
- Did you feel equipped to articulate the Gospel? Why or why not?
- What can you do to continue building confidence in sharing your grace story and articulating the Gospel?



Activity: Missional Strategy

Take some time throughout this week to work on a missional strategy for how to begin engaging your circle. Refer to the activity from session one where you identified those within your spheres of influence, as well as the activities listed in session two. Use the guide below as a starting point to help you plan out your next steps.

- Activity: List one to four activities throughout your week that you know you can do to begin engaging someone in your circle.
- Non-believer: List the names of those involved in the activities previously listed and begin praying for them.
- **Believer:** List the names of other believers who are involved in these activities and who you can partner with to pray, love, and serve those you are trying to reach with the Gospel.
- Next Step: List the next step you can take in your relationship with those you have identified in order to move toward an opportunity for Gospel proclamation.

activity	non-believer	believer	next step
activity	 non-believer	believer	next step
activity	non-believer	Dellevel	Πεχι διεμ
activity	non-believer	believer	next step
activity	non-believer	believer	next step



EVERY MAN WOMAN & CHILD