

Trainer's Guide to Lesson 1

"Your Story and God's Story" / "Assurance of Salvation"

Desired Results for Trainees: Major Objective is for the trainees to develop a list of people with whom to share their faith story and the Gospel using "The Bridge."

Materials needed by the Trainer: Trainer's Guide for Lesson #1; Worksheets for Lesson #1 for each trainee; blank sheets of paper for each trainee; Bible.

First Third of the Lesson—LOOKING BACK

Pastoral Care:

You will not do the Pastoral Care section this first session. Each group member will briefly introduce himself or herself.

Worship:

During each session include some form of worship such as singing, listening to a song, reading a Scripture, or reading a devotional thought.

Vision-Casting:

Use this time each week to share stories, testimonies, and examples of how we can engage in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The T4T Story (learn this story to be able to tell it to your trainees)

Pastor Gary Stump went from gathering crowds to making disciples when he learned about T4T. In 2001 he was part of starting a new church that in its first 10 years (2001-2011) grew to over 1500 in worship and baptized 1000 people. According to church planting statistics this would place his church in the top one-half percent of ten-year-old church starts.

But then he learned about Ying Kai, a Chinese-American church planter, who in 2001-2011 was able to begin a movement in which 158,000 churches were started and 1.7 million people were baptized—1,000 baptized through our normal American church growth methods, compared to 1.7 million baptized using a simple approach that Ying developed called T4T.

How did Ying do this? He served with his wife Grace as a missionary in an Asian city where they were able to start a new church every year, but in the year 2000, Ying's assignment changed. He was asked to reach 20 million people in a corner of one of Asia's many crowded countries. Ying's new assignment was of such magnitude that ministry-as-usual would never succeed in reaching the teeming millions who were flooding into the cities and factories. In October 2000, as Ying sat in CPM (Church Planting Movements) training, his eyes and mind were fixed on a poster in the room: "How many of my people will hear the gospel today?" Ying knew that ministry as he had practiced it was not sufficient to win the millions of lost in this new area. Something had to change. As he prayed and meditated, the Lord brought the Great Commission to Ying's mind:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18–20, NIV84)

The Lord gave Ying these insights:

(1) **"Go, not come."** The Great Commission says we are to go, not invite people to come to us. We must go to where the lost are, and train the new believers to also go to the lost, into factories, homes, shops and neighborhoods.

(2) **"Everyone, not some."** We must make disciples of all, not just a few. We typically choose whom we want to share the gospel with, trying to pre-judge who might accept it. But God said for everyone to share with everyone. We cannot predict who will believe and whom God will use to birth a movement.

(3) "**Make disciples, not church members:**" We must not satisfy ourselves with making converts and church members. Jesus commanded much more. He wants true disciples. And what do true disciples do? They obey Jesus' command to witness to others and train these new believers to do the same. So every disciple must be a disciple-maker (trainer).

(4) "**Baptized them:**" as Ying thought on this he realized that baptism is like a person's testimony, so he determined to train everyone to be able to share their faith story in 2 minutes or less.

(5) "**Teach them:**" these new disciples must be taught God's word and must be able to teach others also.

(6) "**To obey:**" Ying determined that a major shift must be made from "knowledge-based" discipleship to "obedience-based" discipleship. It is not right to know God's word, but to obey it. The "three-thirds" process is a key part of teaching this shift to obedience.

Jesus promised that if we would do this, He would be with us always!

Through these insights a simple method of training disciples to train disciples emerged. He called this "Training for Trainers" which was shortened to T4T.

Now let's practice. What are the 6 key ideas (words) from the Great Commission that were used to develop the strategy of T4T? If we will do these six things, what did Jesus promise?

This is the purpose of these 6 T4T lessons: to teach us **WHY** we should make disciples; to point out **WHO** we should begin to reach; and finally, **HOW** we can make disciples and train others to do the same.

So the answer to **WHY MAKE DISCIPLES?** is very clear. Jesus commanded us to do so and promised that he would be with us to the end of the age.

Accountability:

Next, we need to answer the question of "**WHO** should I talk to?" The answer is our family, friends, and those closest to us. The Bible word used to describe this group of people is the Greek word "OIKOS."

(Choose a few of these examples of God saving the person and their family from this list of Scriptures)

Whenever God saved a person He intends to save their whole family ("oikos"):

- Genesis 6:17-18 – God saved not just Noah but his whole family.
- Genesis 19:12-16 – God saved Lot and his family along with him.
- Joshua 6:17 Rahab in Jericho, along with her family.
- Mark 5:18-20 – the Gadarene demoniac (especially verses 18-20)
- John 4:39-42 – the Samaritan woman (especially verse 39)
- Acts 2:38-39 – the promise is for them and their children.
- Acts 10:24 – Cornelius along with his family and friends.
- Act 16:14-15 – Lydia and her household
- Acts 16:27-34 – Philippian jailer and his whole family.
- Acts 18: 8 – Crispus and his household.

Ask them to write out a Name List of everyone they know who might be lost or far from God. Tell them to pray and ask God to bring to their minds who they should include on their list.

Once they have their list started, ask them to pray again and ask God who they should talk to first. Encourage them to identify 5 people they will share with first. Be sure to remind them to keep their list with them all week and to bring it with them to the next training session and be prepared to share their progress with others in the group.

Second and Final Third of the Lesson—LOOKING UP & ONWARD

(These two sections are combined for this first lesson)

New Lesson

During this part of the session you will answer the last question of **HOW** do I start witnessing to others.

- FAITH STORY: Hand out worksheet and help them develop their Faith Story using the instructions on the sheet. When they have finished, have them practice sharing it with each other. Encourage them to give suggestions & feedback to each other.

Give Feedback to Each Other:

- Eliminate anything that is confusing
- Eliminate big Bible words
- How can you make it more interesting?

- THE BRIDGE: Use reverse side of worksheet and work through The Bridge Gospel Presentation with them. Have them practice sharing it with someone.

Practice:

Have one or two people in each group explain the following:

1. The three main ideas of the Great Commission
2. The concept of Name List
3. How to write their Faith Story
4. How to use the Bridge to share the Gospel

OVERVIEW OF THE "THREE-THIRDS PROCESS" (three-thirds refers to dividing your group time into three equal time periods)

First Third	Second Third	Final Third
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Care • Worship • Accountability • Vision-Casting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Lesson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice • Set Goals & Prayer
LOOKING BACK	LOOKING UP	LOOKING ONWARD

Set Goals:

1. Add to their Name List and pray for first group of 5
2. Revise their Faith Story and share with 5 friends
3. Practice using the Bridge to share the Gospel with 5 friends

Remind everyone that they will share their results next week with their group.

Close in Prayer

Worksheet for Faith Story

My Personal Faith Story ("First Draft")—Name: _____ Date: _____

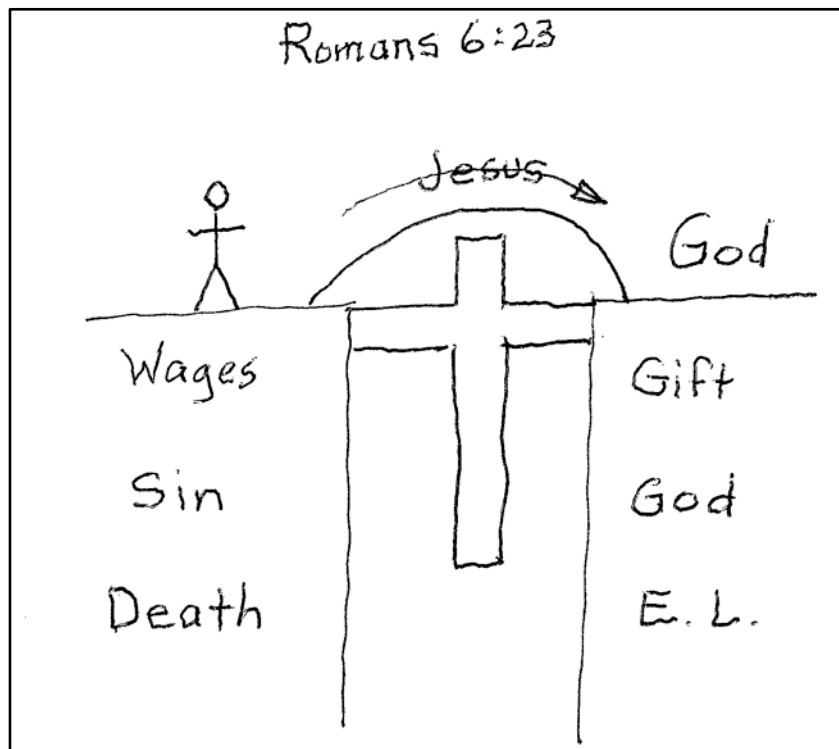
1. What my life was like before I trusted in Christ: In a word, how would you characterize your life before you began seriously following Jesus? Now write 2 or 3 sentences of explanation to describe this in more detail.

2. What happened when I decided to follow Jesus: Write 2 or 3 sentences of what happened when you decided to be a Christ-follower. It might be something on the order of: "I realized I needed to ask Jesus to forgive my sins and take control of my life..." Provide a few details of what you experienced—where, when, how.

3. What my life is like as a Christ-follower: In a word, how would you characterize the benefits of being a Christ-follower? Now explain this in more detail in 2 or 3 sentences. You are describing the benefits to you of being a Christian.

THE BRIDGE PRESENTATION

INSTRUCTIONS:	PRESENTATION:
Read Romans 6:23	Let me share how we have assurance of salvation... In the book of Romans chapter 6, verse 23, it says, <i>“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”</i>
Draw lines to indicate a great canyon between God and man. Draw a stick-man on one side and write “God” on the other.	You see, people are separated from God because of sin. It is as if we were on one side, and God was on the other side of a great canyon. What separates us from God is our sin. People have tried many ways to bridge the gap between themselves and God. They have tried good deeds, philosophy, even religion, but all of our efforts to bridge the gap fall short.
As you say it, write “wages,” “sin,” and “death” under the man.	The Bible says that what we have earned (wages) for being a sinner (sin) is death (death). Death means more than just physical death—it means separation from God.
On God’s side of the canyon write “gift,” and “God” and “E. L.”	But this verse goes on to say that a gift (gift) has been provided by God (God), and that this gift is eternal life (eternal life). On one side of the canyon we have <u>wages</u> and <u>sin</u> and <u>death</u> . And on the other side of the canyon we have <u>gift</u> and <u>God</u> and <u>eternal life</u> .
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On which side of the canyon would you like to be?
Draw an arch bridge over the canyon, then draw a large cross between the two sides of the canyon.	This is where the Bridge comes in. Jesus Christ is the Bridge that God has provided to give us the gift of eternal life. Through Jesus and His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we can cross over the canyon, and we will no longer be separated from God.
Write “Jesus” above the canyon; then draw an arrow through it.	This verse says that God provided the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. In order to cross over to God’s side of the canyon, we must go through Him. He is the Bridge!
	To cross over a canyon on a bridge, you would have to trust the bridge to hold you. In the same way, in order to cross over to God, you must trust that Jesus Christ will be able to provide the way to eternal life.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does eternal life in relationship with God sound like something you would like to experience for yourself?
If they say, “Yes...”	Let’s pray and ask God to tell him you are willing to believe in Jesus Christ...
Lead them in a prayer to trust in Christ.	(Help them put the Bridge in their own words as a prayer of repentance and belief.)



Here's what the finished picture should look like