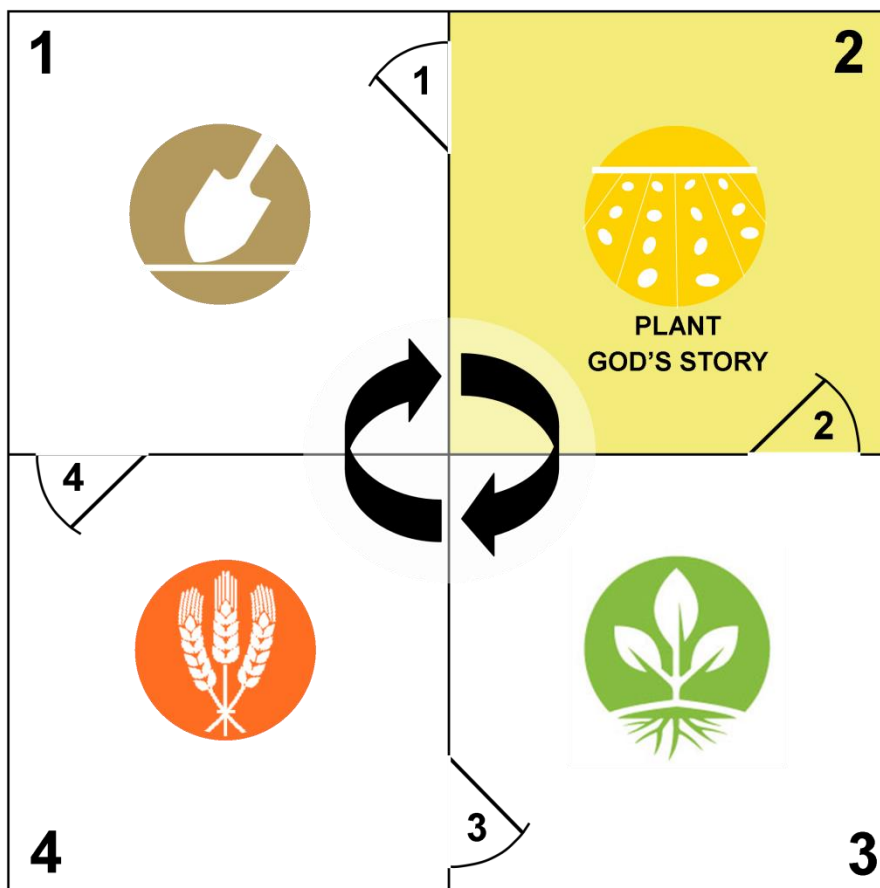


DISCIPLESHIP CYCLE

- Field 2 -



7 Stories of Hope

a group process to help you discover the real Jesus

INTRODUCTION:

The 7 Stories of Hope have proven to be an effective tool for sharing Jesus with Americans living in our “Post-Christian” society. Many who are far from God are inoculated against a one-time-event-based-Gospel-presentation, and are sincerely interested in learning about the life & teachings of Jesus in an informal, non-threatening manner. The function of the 7 Stories is to provide an extended Gospel presentation that allows people to see their need for Jesus, and lead them to committed faith in Him.

Who are the 7 Stories of Hope meant to be shared with?

The 7 Stories of Hope are meant to be shared with a person of peace. A person of peace is a person far from God whose heart has already been prepared by God for His Good News. See Luke 10.

Where should the 7 Stories of Hope be shared at?

In the home of a person of peace, also known as a home of peace.

How many people can a Story of Hope be shared with at one time?

Since you will most often be sharing the Stories of Hope in a person’s home, you are often limited to the size of their living room, but this is a good thing as the most effective group size is smaller than 10 people at a time. Have more than 10 people to share with? Train others to start new groups.

How long should it take to share a Story of Hope?

The 7 Stories of Hope are meant to be shared one at a time in about an hour to an hour and a half.

How frequently do you share the 7 Stories of Hope with a person of peace?

Typically the 7 Stories of Hope are shared once a week.

While sharing the 7 Stories of Hope should I make a more direct Gospel presentation?

- While sharing the 7 Stories of Hope you may see people confess sin and Christ all on their own.
- If you are prompted by the Holy Spirit to share a direct Gospel presentation then go for it.
- If not prompted to share a direct Gospel presentation, allow the 7 Stories of Hope to do their heart work AND then the final Story is a direct Gospel presentation.

What if everyone in my group accepts Jesus by week 4, then what?

If this happens, disciple them; teach them to obey the commandments of Jesus. We do this through short-term discipling which introduces new disciples to the foundational commandments of Jesus. This resource is called “Learning To Follow Jesus.”

What if no one in my group accepts Jesus after finishing the 7 Stories of Hope?

If nobody in your group accepts Jesus after the final Story, which includes a direct Gospel Presentation and call for decision, then do not push them to make this decision! Let God do His work in their hearts...remember He is the one who transforms our hearts & minds, not us! If you feel prompted by the Holy Spirit to continue meeting with them to share and answer questions, then do so! But do not move on to the short-term discipleship process (“Learning To Follow Jesus”) until they have done so.

Can I use different stories or change the order of the current stories?

Yes. The process is much more important than the content. So feel free to experiment with different stories or the order as the Holy Spirit leads you. We recommend sticking to stories of Jesus from the Gospels that contrast Jesus with man. We do not recommend changing the 3 thirds process.

Why the 3 Thirds Process?

We use the 3 Thirds Process because (1) It creates well rounded mature Christians (2) It prevents the facilitator from focusing only on their tendency (3) It creates self-feeders because you’ve taught them a process they can reproduce without you!

First Story of Hope

The woman who wept at Jesus' feet Luke 7:36-50

- **Do** stick to this Bible story, don't talk about other stories and verses!
- **Do** only talk 20% and let the group talk 80%!
- **Do** let the Holy Spirit work, rather than correcting for right answers!
- **Do** have fun!
- **Don't** get stuck in one of the 3 thirds; once all 3 are finished go back to unmet needs!
- **Don't** chase "rabbits" (subjects which are appealing, but off topic)!
- **Don't** talk about politics or religion, either good or bad!
- **Don't** bring this outline with you!

1st Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Back**

(The first third of the first story of hope is always different than the following stories of hope.)

1. Trainer tells their own story about coming to Christ.
2. Trainer asks one or more to tell their story if they are comfortable doing so.

2nd Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Up**

1. **Vision** – Have people pair up and share a story from their life related to the Bible story.
 - Share a story about a time when others were judgmental towards you.
2. **Story** – Facilitator tells the story from memory, best they can.
 - Facilitator asks everyone to repeat the story, best they can. (In larger groups have people pair up.)
 - Pray a SHORT PRAYER asking the Holy Spirit to guide and teach us the truth about the story.
 - Read the story from the Bible, from two different translations.
3. **Discovery** – Discuss the story with the Cross questions: *(encourage ALL to participate)*
 1. What does this story say about Jesus or God?
 2. What does this story say about people?
 3. Are there any sins to avoid in this story?
 4. Are there any good examples to follow in this story?
 5. Are there any promises in this story?
 6. Who in this story reminds me of myself? Why?

3rd Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Ahead**

1. **Goals** – *(Be a doer)*
 - Following
 - Facilitator, personally share what you will do this week because of this story.
 - After discussing this story what are you feeling prompted to do?
 - Fishing
 - Who needs to hear this story of hope from you?
 - Who can you share this story of hope with this week?
2. **Practice** - *(What do we need to practice to achieve our goals?)*
 - Retell the story as a group or do a skit to retell the story. Have fun, be creative!
 - Ask for willing volunteers to retell the story to everyone.
3. **Pray** – *(Allow all to pray.)*
 - Ask how you can pray for them.
 - Pray for success at what we said we will do.

Second Story of Hope

Who does God accept? Luke 18:9-17

- **Do** stick to this Bible story, don't talk about other stories and verses!
- **Do** only talk 20% and let the group talk 80%!
- **Do** let the Holy Spirit work, rather than correcting for right answers!
- **Do** have fun!
- **Don't** get stuck in one of the 3 thirds; once all 3 are finished go back to unmet needs!
- **Don't** chase "rabbits" (subjects which are appealing, but off topic)!
- **Don't** talk about politics or religion, either good or bad!
- **Don't** bring this outline with you!

1st Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Back**

1. **Relationships** – How are you doing? How was your week?
2. **Appreciate** – Is there something you can thank God for?
3. **Accountability**
 - **Fishing:** Who did you retell last week's story to? How did it go? Were there challenges?
 - Pray for friends and people who heard the story that week!
 - **Following:** Last week you said you were going to do _____. Did you do that?
 - How did you live out the story from last week in your own life?

2nd Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Up**

1. **Vision** – Have people pair up and share a story from their life related to the Bible story.
 - Share about a time when you were not accepted?
2. **Story** – Facilitator tells the story from memory, best they can.
 - Facilitator asks everyone to repeat story, best they can. (In groups over 3 people pair up.)
 - Pray a SHORT PRAYER asking the Holy Spirit to guide & teach the truth about the story.
 - Read the story from the Bible, from two different translations.
3. **Discovery** – Discuss the story with the Cross questions: (*encourage ALL to participate*)
 1. What does this story say about Jesus or God?
 2. What does this story say about people?
 3. Are there any sins to avoid in this story?
 4. Are there any good examples to follow in this story?
 5. Are there any promises in this story?
 6. Who in this story reminds me of myself? Why?

3rd Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Ahead**

1. **Goals** - (*Be a doer*)
 - Following
 - Facilitator, personally share what you will do this week because of this story.
 - After discussing this story what are you feeling prompted to do?
 - Fishing
 - Who needs to hear this story of hope from you?
 - Who can you share this story of hope with this week?
2. **Practice** - (*What do we need to practice to achieve our goals?*)
 - Retell the story as a group or do a skit to retell the story. Have fun, be creative!
 - Ask for willing volunteers to retell the story to everyone.
3. **Pray** – (*Allow all to pray*)
 - Ask how you can pray for them.
 - Pray for success at what we said we will do.

3rd through 6th Stories of Hope

The 3rd through 6th stories of hope all follow the exact same process as the 2nd story of hope. Simply plug the remaining five stories of hope into the same process:

- 3rd Story of Hope: Two Lost Sons Luke 15:11-32
- 4th Story of Hope: Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37
- 5th Story of Hope: A hole in the roof Luke 5:17-26
- 6th Story of Hope: Jesus' death and resurrection Luke 22:66 through 24:12

7th Story of Hope

Use this session to help people repent and turn to Jesus in faith. After they have done so, then take them through the Field 3 Booklet: "Learning To Follow Jesus."

- 7th Story of Hope: Repent & Believe (see last sheet) Luke 19:1-10

NOTES:

Facilitator not Teacher

While leading the 7 Stories of Hope you are not teaching a lesson with a single application, you are facilitating an open ended environment that allows the Holy Spirit to lead each person to their own personal application. This means anyone can do this, one doesn't need the gift of teaching.

Optional stories of hope:

Who does Jesus call?	Luke 5:27-32	Forgiveness	Matt 18:21-35
Where is lasting wealth?	Luke 12:13-23	A hard road	Matt 16:21-26

About This Resource:

- Adapted from "T4T - Training For Trainers" (www.t4tonline.org) and models developed by "Last Frontiers, Intl." (www.lastfrontiersinternational.com).
- Produced by Catalyst Ministries NW (www.catalystnw.org) and Field USA (www.fieldusa.org).
- Open Source. This material is not copyrighted. Please feel free to edit content as you feel the Holy Spirit prompts, in order to tailor it to your situation. All we ask is that you share what's working/what's not so we can learn together.

3-Thirds Process: (Don't leave out the RED parts)



LOOK BACK (20-30 min.)

Relationships

Catch up with each other.
Ask open-ended questions.

Appreciate

Thanks & credit to God

Accountability

Following – How did you obey?
Fishing – Who did you share with?

LOOK UP (20-30 min.)

Vision

Encourage & motivate
Share a story, article, song, etc.

Story

Tell, re-tell, pray, read

Discovery

Cross Questions
Discipleship Questions



LOOK AHEAD (20-30 min.)

Goals

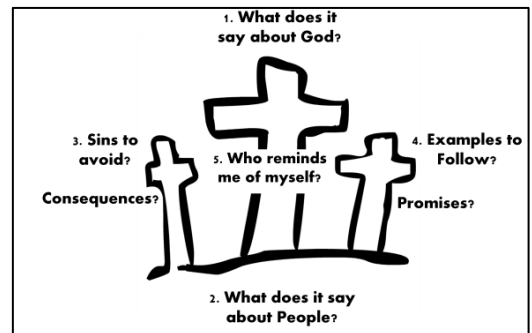
Following: How will you obey?
Fishing: Who will you share with?

Practice – Practice skills to achieve goals

Pray – For ourselves & others

The Cross Questions:

- 1** The Cross points up, reminding me to ask, **"What does this story say about Jesus / God?"**
- 2** The Cross points down, reminding me to ask, **"What does this story say about people?"**
- 3** The Cross points to the left and the right to the two thieves who died alongside Jesus. The first thief mocked Jesus, reminding me to ask, **"Are there any sins to flee from? Consequences to avoid?"**
- 4** The second thief admitted his sin & trusted Jesus, reminding me to ask, **"Are there any good examples to follow? Promises to embrace?"**
- 5** **"Who in this story reminds me of myself?" "Why?"**



7th Story of Hope Repent & Believe

*Jesus said, "The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15*

1st Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Back**

- **Relationships** – In this first session, spend time getting to know each other or catching up.
- **Appreciate** – Is there something you can thank God for?
- **Accountability**

2nd Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Up**

- **Vision** – Share a story, quote, anecdote, to encourage and inspire people about God's love
- **Story – Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10.**
- **Discovery – Share GOD'S STORY**
 - Share the 'Bookends' Object Lesson / Romans Road scriptures
 - *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

3rd Third (20-30 minutes): **Look Ahead**

- **Following** – (Be a doer. Follow Jesus.)
 - Have you ever confessed your belief in Jesus and accepted His gift of forgiveness?
 - If you haven't, why not now?
 - If so, how will you obey Jesus' command to repent and believe?
 - What else may God have put on your heart to do in obedience to Him?
 - Who will you share the story of Zacchaeus with this week?
- 4. **Practice**
- 5. **Pray** – (Allow all to pray.)
 - Pray for success at obeying what we said we will do.