

| GOSPEL FLUENCY: SESSION 3 |

In this session we will pick up where we left off in Session 2. Remember, lead your group to always point one another back to Jesus, remembering that everything is fully provided in him. We don't primarily need good advice, life coaching, or encouragement to keep trying - *we need Jesus!* Here is the next set of methods to practice and grow in helping your group learn to point one another back to Christ.

Method 4: Digging Deeper with the Gospel U Chart

The following chart can be used to help people move along a progression of questions to apply the gospel to life circumstances. The goal is to move someone towards a correct understanding of God and how that should impact their own actions and feelings. Start in the top left section and follow the arrows around to the top right, creating a U.

Action/Feeling	New Action/Feeling
↓	↑
Belief about self	Truth about self
↓	↑
Belief about God	Truth about God/Revealed in the Gospel
→	

Method 5: Confession, Repentance, and Communion

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

Mark 1:15

Confession and repentance should be a normal part of how your group operates, and they give you a clear time to remind one another of the gospel. As Christians, we confess our sin to one another. The only way we are able to consistently do this is through a genuine belief in the gospel. When we confess, we are confessing two things at once: 1) Our sin 2) Our Savior. Confession *is* practicing gospel fluency. As Christians, we are called to repentance and faith. That's it. See your sin and turn from it to Jesus. See your sin *and* your Savior. When we practice repentance and confession in our groups we cannot stop on step one. We have to get to Jesus.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

As you practice confession and repentance as a group, you can also take the Lord's Supper together as a tangible reminder to get to Jesus. Taking communion together as a group is a simple way to intentionally point one another to the truth and power of the gospel. Have everyone take a few minutes to pray and think about how they currently need Jesus - where they need to repent, where they have doubt and frustration, where their actions indicate unbelief, etc. This may be awkward, so you may want to play some music in the background.

After everyone has had time to pray and think, go around the room sharing where you need the gospel. When someone has shared where they are struggling/sinning/failing to believe, the group will share with them the good news of the gospel in light of their situations, and then offer them the bread and juice/wine. Communion is a tangible reminder of the gospel; not only of what Jesus did, but also *why* he did it - that we might be reconciled to God. Taking communion together allows us to remember that the gospel is good news for us right now.

Method 6: One Step Further

Often, people in your group will know simple bible facts or truths about God. "Well we know God is in control," "God is good," "You can trust God." These are all true and can be helpful, but don't really help us understand how the gospel has set us free. So one simple way of getting to Jesus is to take it one step further and ask "How is that attribute of God proven in the gospel?"

God is not just sovereign - his sovereignty is proven in what appears to be chaos surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus, but is actually God's eternal will being carried out. God is not simply good, but his goodness is proven by the sacrifice of his Son on the cross to save humanity.

Don't forget to Celebrate

The Gospel is good news - act like it! It is easy to overlook the good things that happen in your group and focus on all that is going wrong. It is often in the midst of conflict and problems that this is most needed. The gospel shines brightest when we are in our darkest times. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. There will be times when you need to stop everything and celebrate. This can be big, like throwing a party because someone has been sober for 6 months. Or it can be small, like pausing your group to say "You're repenting of sin! You see that? That's amazing." "You just addressed them with the gospel rather than good advice - that's a huge win!" The gospel is good news all the time. Remember to celebrate the freedom brought to us by Jesus. We can rest. We can laugh. We can play. We're free!