

## Teens Cycle One-Shift Two

### Learning to Share My Faith

#### Primary Objective

Encouraging, equipping, and exciting students to share the Gospel.

**Note** - This is a typical time for churches to engage teens in DiscipleNow weekends. These ideas can be integrated into teaching material. DiscipleNow weekends are a great way to propel the faith of your teens and to reach out to the unchurched. If you are not familiar, a DiscipleNow weekend is essentially an at-home weekend retreat hosted by families of your church in their homes with groups of six to ten teens in each group.

Go here to learn more: <https://dnowstudies.com/what-is-dnow/>

#### How This Can Help You Reach Teens

The best people to reach teens are other teens. They encounter hundreds and thousands of peers each week that are never touched by the staff or leadership in the local church. While their culture is continually changing, the Gospel is always relevant. In the Bible belt, many teenagers may have attended church all their lives, but they have never heard the Gospel clearly taught. For some, their baptism was more of a rite of passage than a response of repentance and faith. For those reasons alone, too many either lack assurance of their salvation, do not have a good grasp of the gospel message itself, or have the “want to” but lack the “how to.” This resource will provide best practices and ideas for equipping and exciting students to share the Gospel with confidence, power, and joy...regardless of the size of their church or community.

#### Suggested Strategy

##### 1. Provide Gospel Clarity

There is a saying, “You can’t share what you don’t know, any better than you can come back from where you’ve never been.” A solid understanding of, and faith in, the Gospel is imperative to confidently sharing the Gospel.

Step 1: Teach your teens the 10,000 feet view by sharing the Gospel in one sentence. David Platt states it this way:

*“This is the gospel: The just and loving Creator of the universe has looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who trust in Him will be reconciled to God forever.”*

Step 2: Teach the up-close-and-personal view by teaching the components of how God saves you. Here is an example:

- I heard the gospel.
- I was convicted of my sin and need for a Savior.
- I believed that though I was separated from God by my sin, God provided everything necessary for me to be forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who died for my sin and in my place, and was raised from the dead that I might have eternal life.
- I turned away from my rebellion against God and surrendered my life to God.
- I am now forever saved and secured by God to live for His glory.

## **2. Practice Prayer Empowerment**

The best way to prepare a teenager to share the Gospel, and prepare the person who will hear the Gospel, is through either evangelistic prayer or praying for lost people by name. Based on Roman 10:1 and Acts 4:31, this practice both reinforces the Gospel message in the person praying and empowers them with God's confidence for sharing the Gospel with those for whom they are praying.

There are various models for praying for the lost, some of which are attached with this resource. The key to this component is praying scripturally with the understanding that God answers our prayers through preparing the heart of the lost person for the Gospel conversation. This is a great starting point for teens and the least that they should do.

## **3. Present Conversation Models**

When it comes to Gospel sharing models, share examples of several but focus on teaching one that can be practiced between two believers. The *3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide* is perhaps the newest and best for helping teenagers (and adults) get the conversation going and weaving the Gospel message into the conversation naturally and confidently. Partner teenagers who have never shared their faith with those who have and let them practice their conversations in a non-threatening environment; and to pray together for God to open doors and hearts for the Gospel presentations.

## **4. Give the Teens a Challenge and Chance to Share the Gospel.**

Integrate the three steps above and always review what has already taken place, as you lead your students in the process of learning to share their faith. You may take the following and customize and apply over the time frame what works best with the group that you lead. Here is a 10-week example:

**Week One:** Ask each student to write down the name of three friends who do not know Christ and ask them to pray daily for those friends.

**Week Two:** Take time to pray over "friend lists" and share David Platt's summary of the Gospel from point number one above.

**Week Three:** Ask each student to write down on one page their life before Christ, how they came to realize they needed Christ, how and where they trusted Christ as Savior, and how their life has

been affected by Christ in recent days. Place teens in pairs and have them read these personal testimonies to one another.

Week Four: Read over all the testimonies that the teens wrote in week three. Do all have clear testimonies? If not, initiate personal conversations and share the Gospel where and if needed. When the group gathers in week four, ask students to get in groups of three and encourage them to give a verbal summary of the testimony they wrote the previous week.

Week Five: Ask the students to invite the three friends they have been praying for to a service, Bible study, or event where they Gospel will be shared. Also, ask each student to share their testimony (the one they wrote out in week three) with their parents and to explain to their parents their understanding of how a person comes to faith in Christ. They do this by sharing with their parents that this is an assignment.

Week Six: Teach the teens a Gospel presentation that is simple. Use one of the resources included or develop your own. An example would be:

1. All have sinned. (Romans 3:23)
2. The wages of sin. (Romans 6:23)
3. Jesus paid the price. (John 3:16)
4. We can receive Him. (John 1:10)

Ask the teens to get in pairs and share with their partner how a person can have a personal relationship with Christ, using their own words and drawing from their testimony and the Gospel presentation.

Week Seven: Ask the teens to speak with a Christian peer who is not in the group and allow them to verbally share their testimony and the Gospel with the friend.

Week Eight: Share with another Christian friend. Spend time discussing ways to get a spiritual conversation going, how to bring a person to a point of decision, and how we measure success when sharing Christ (*which is based on our obedience to share, not the response of the other person*).

Week Nine: Ask one or more of the three friends on their prayer lists if they can share (the Gospel) what they have been learning in their group about how a person comes to faith in Christ.

Week Ten: Ask the members of the group to share with someone, who is not on their prayer list and who is not a believer (to their knowledge), about how a person comes to faith in Christ.

## **Suggested Resources**

- *Sharing Jesus (Without Freaking Out)* by Alvin Reid
- *3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide*  
Video: <https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide>  
Booklets: <http://www.nambstore.com/products/life-on-mission-conversation-guide>
- *Praying for the Lost* Bible study with fill-in-the-blank format: Email [rmullinax@gabaptist.org](mailto:rmullinax@gabaptist.org) for copy
- *Praying for the Lost* PowerPoint: <https://www.slideshare.net/onlyfoundation/praying-for-the-lost-by-name-revival>
- [www.gospeladvancing.com](http://www.gospeladvancing.com)

- The Dare2ShareLIVE.org event has 59 locations for a simulcast teen and teen leader training event, followed by boots-on-the-street Gospel encounters, followed up by a praise party. They hope to record 300,000 Gospel conversations that day. 9/23/17
- VOKE – is a free app that allows you to send a link to a Gospel conversation starter video to any of your contacts. Then, you get notified when they watch the video ... which you can then follow-up with a text conversation about the Gospel.
- Life In 6 Words – is an interactive app that helps folks engage with the Gospel. . . it is like a tract on your phone.

## **Looking Ahead**

Preview: (4) *Summer Camp or Summer Surge*

Plan: (3) *Community Missions* projects coming up in April and May.

Gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia and the Cooperative Program enable us to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission.