

GOD'S PLAN - THE BIG STORY – THE THREE CIRCLES

Date: 3/23

(2 HOURS)

- OBJECTIVES:** After working through this lesson, participants will be able to:
1. Understand how the Creation, Fall, and Redemption stories impact the way we define poverty and approach community transformation.
 2. To ponder on the Big Story and share to others the Big Story

OVERVIEW FOR TRAINERS: This lesson uses the Disciple Making Movement approach. The lesson can be divided into two shorter lessons

PART ONE: CREATION—GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENTION

Role Play: One person reads the following sentences while 3 others act the drama. The emphasis must be on the fact that God created everything good, and that He was pleased/in harmony with everything He created.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1st Day | God created the light, which He called day and darkness, which He called night. God saw that the light <u>was good</u> . |
| 2nd Day | God created the heavens and God saw that it <u>was good</u> . |
| 3rd Day | God created the earth, the sea and the plants. God saw that it <u>was good</u> . |
| 4th Day | God created the sun, the moon and the stars. God saw that it <u>was good</u> . |
| 5th Day | God created the fish and the birds. God saw that it <u>was good</u> . |
| 6th Day | God created the animals and human beings. God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. |
| 7th Day | God rested from His work. |

----SH questions----

S = What do you See?

H = What was Happening?

I. CREATION—GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENTION (10")

A. What are key points about creation of man and woman in Genesis 1:26-31?

Read together Genesis 1:26-31 and answer the question. Ask scribe to list key points on board or paper.

1. God made the first man in His image
2. God is perfect. Therefore, men made in His image are also perfect.
3. Man and woman lived in harmony/peace with God in the beginning
4. Man and woman lived in harmony with themselves, with others and nature
5. God said that "it was very good".
6. Man AND woman are created in God's image. They are different but equal.
7. Man is the steward of the earth. He has the responsibility of growing things and managing its resources.
8. Man is blessed to carry out a task – work is sacred.
9. God gave man complete legal authority over the earth.

II. FOUR FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS_(30")

A. From the Bible passage we just read, what are four fundamental relationships that man has?

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Draw the picture of the four fundamental relationships of man without labeling them.

Add them to the picture as they are named.

1. With God
2. With self
3. With others
4. With the rest of creation. When these relationships work well, we have harmony= peace= shalom

B. What does it mean to live in harmony in these four fundamental relationships?

Divide into four small groups. Ask each group to answer one question and report back. Facilitator may add some key points.

1. What does it mean to live in harmony with God (as it was at the Creation)?
2. What does it mean to live in harmony with oneself?
3. What does it mean to live in harmony with others (or between Adam and Eve)?
4. What does it mean to live in harmony with the rest of creation?

C. What does living in harmony with God (as it was at the Creation) mean?

1. Having a relationship with God
2. Being a living being, God breathed into his nostrils. Gen 2: 7
3. Talking with God regularly and listening to him (friendship with God)
4. Seeking His will and obeying Him
5. Praising Him and giving Him glory
6. Submitting to God
7. Wanting to please Him
8. Trusting Him
9. Exercise authority given by Him on earth
10. Blessed by God to work and develop the land
11. We received honour from God

D. What does living in harmony with oneself mean?

1. Understanding we are created body, soul and spirit and each one needs to be cared for.
2. Understanding we are created in God's image, but with human limits - Gen 2:16-17
3. Discovering our own identity and the honor that God gives us.
4. Seeing ourselves as God sees us
5. Understanding that our peace is based on our relationship with God
6. Maintaining good emotional, physical, social and spiritual health

E. What does living in harmony with others (or between Adam and Eve) mean?

1. Understanding they are equal, but different
2. Man and woman know their own identity and accept the identity of the other one (healthy bond, no covetousness, no rejection, no gender confusion)
3. Man provides security to his wife
4. Sexuality is part of this harmony
5. Communion and Unity as they rule over the earth
6. Understanding our own limits and the limits of the other
7. Multiplying is part of this harmony
8. Love your neighbor as yourself and as created by God

F. What does living in harmony with the rest of creation mean?

1. Rule over the animals and the earth

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2. God created nature with physical laws (such as gravity) and we need to discover them
3. Conserving and developing God's resources
4. Understanding how to develop the land
5. Understanding how to use the resources of the land and nature
6. God created a perfect world, but the full potential of this world was to be discovered and developed
7. God created us to be stewards of his creation (Gen 1:28-30)

G. Summary: We are created to live in harmony with

1. God
2. Self
3. Each other
4. The rest of nature

When these four relationships work well, we have shalom—God's peace and wholeness. This is the KINGDOM and REIGN of GOD where we are called to live.

Stand up and stretch

PART TWO: THE FALL-THE REBELLION OF MAN-WHAT'S WRONG IN THIS WORLD

III. THE FALL - THE REBELLION (10")

Introduction: (5")

Explain: The Big Story has another Chapter.

Facilitator starts by telling: *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."* Genesis 2:15-17

What happens next? What is the story of the Fall of Man?

Option 1: *Each one of us will say a sentence to tell the story. If you don't know, don't worry, and pass to the person next to you.*

Option 2: *Have one person read Genesis 3:1-24 while the others act out the story.*

Story about the fall of man

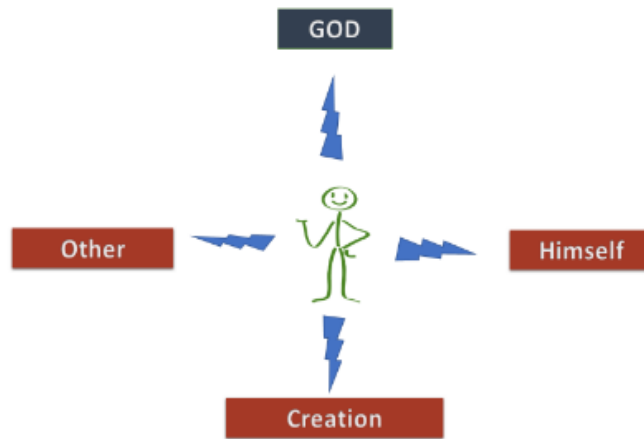
- 1) Satan enters garden disguised as serpent
- 2) He lies to Eve by telling her she will not die but will be like God
- 3) Eve believes Satan and begins to doubt what God told her
- 4) She eats the fruit
- 5) She gives to Adam and he eats
- 6) Their eyes are opened.
- 7) They realize they are naked and cover themselves
- 8) God kills an animal to make covering for Adam and Eve
- 9) He throws them out of the garden

What is the result? Relationship with God is broken.

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IV. IMPACT OF SIN/DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD_(20")

Draw the picture of Broken Relationships.



Return to the four small groups, with each group answering one question, or do it as a large group.

1. In what ways has our broken relationship with God affected our lives?
2. In what ways has our broken relationship with self impacted our lives?
3. In what ways has our broken relationship with others caused harm?
4. How has our broken relationship with creation caused suffering in our communities?

KEY POINTS

A. **In what ways has our broken relationship with God affected our lives?**

1. Sin causes distortion of our understanding of who God is
2. Sin caused fear, shame, loneliness, and separation from God.
3. The need for sacrifices to be made to try to be in a relationship with God. God sacrificed an animal to make clothes from them.
4. Adam and Eve lost eternal life; they would "return to dust" as death came to earth.
5. They were sent out of the Garden of Eden. They were far from the glorious presence of God. They lost their position of honor
6. Deny God exists and has authority in our lives
7. We seek to fill the void through possessions
8. We worship other things as idols
9. We become spiritually poor

B. **In what ways has our broken relationship with self impacted our lives?**

1. Sin caused human beings to forget who they are. They lost their identity
2. Rebellion, pride, rejection, fear, shame
3. Idolatry, sorcery, occult, sex, alcohol, drugs, work - attempts to recover peace and security
4. Low self esteem
5. Or inflated view of our own self
6. We become poor in our being

C. **In what ways has our broken relationship with others caused harm?**

1. Sin caused alienation from our neighbor.
2. Wrong understanding about authority
3. There is jealousy, unkindness and war.
4. There is fear of others

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5. There is covetousness, rejection and gender confusion
6. Exploitation and abuse
7. Focus on self rather than others.
8. We become poor in our relationships with others. We have nothing to give.

D. How has our broken relationship with creation caused suffering in our communities?

1. There is suffering and sickness.
2. The ground is cursed.
3. Work is difficult.
4. Exploitation of creation rather than stewardship
5. Become lazy or the opposite – workaholic
6. We become poor in resources.

V. GOD'S PLAN FOR RESTORATION/REDEMPTION (10")

"Is this the end of the story? Is there hope? Will it be possible to recover the Shalom or Harmony with God?"

Read Isaiah 53:5-6 and Colossians 1:19-20

Draw the Restoration of the Broken Relationships illustration and share the following

1. God had a plan
2. He sent Jesus, the Messiah
3. His birth and His life were extraordinary
4. Jesus preached and demonstrated the "good news" that He came to restore all things
5. Through His death on the cross and His resurrection, he disarmed Satan and took away his authority.
6. All the broken relationships have been reconciled and restored.
7. God put into right relationship all that he created.

Read Revelation 21:1-5 and Revelation 22:7

The final restoration will be when Jesus returns. The new heavens and new earth will reflect the perfect creation as it was in the Garden

VI. OUR ROLE AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST (5")

Write out 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 and read it aloud.

A. What does this say? What is our role?

1. Jesus reconciles man to God
2. We are His ambassadors.
3. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to reconcile broken relationships.
4. We are called to represent the Kingdom of God in this broken world. We are workers of the Kingdom.
5. As the church, we must be involved in the ministry of reconciliation with these 4 broken relationships in mind. The church fulfills the Great Commandment and Great Commission.
6. The Early Church was a model (give some examples if time)

VII. THE THREE CIRCLES: A SHORT VERSION OF THE BIG STORY (5")

Learn to tell the Big Story using the Three Circles

Pass out the Three Circles diagram or draw it for the group

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A. First Circle: God's Design

1. In the beginning, the world was according to God's design. If we live according to God's design, we can walk in God's blessing
2. We try to walk not according to God's design, but according to our own plan. The Bible calls this sin.

B. Second Circle: Brokenness

1. When we walk according to our ways, this leads to brokenness. We suffer in every area of our life. We feel shame, guilt, emptiness and pain.
2. When we are living in brokenness, we try to fix it through:
 - a) Trying to be more religious
 - b) Trying to make more money and accumulate things
 - c) Pursuing relationships to try to feel better
3. Brokenness can lead us to realize that we need change. But the change we need cannot come from within us.
4. The Bible tells us where this kind of change comes from.

C. Third Circle: Good News

1. Jesus is God's son. He came to earth and he did not depart from God's design. He lived the perfect life.
2. Jesus was killed on the cross. God took the punishment for our sins and put that punishment on Jesus.
3. Jesus died and was buried and 3 days later he rose from the dead.
4. His resurrection proves that he was who he said, the Son of God. It proves that he can do what he said he came to do, forgive our sins and heal the brokenness in our lives.
5. The change we need comes not from ourselves but from the Good News. When we find ourselves in brokenness we need to:
 - a) repent – turn away from doing things our way instead of God's way
 - b) believe – believe that Jesus was killed for our sins and raised from the dead
6. If we repent and believe, Jesus will come into our lives and begin to heal the broken places
7. If we do this, we can recover and begin to pursue God's design for our lives.

VIII. WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE BIG STORY TODAY? TELL THE BIG STORY (15")

Make groups of 3 and ask them to share the Big Story using the drawing.

One person in the group tells and draws the story of Creation (2")

One person in the group tells and draws the story of the Rebellion (2")

One person in the group tells and draws the story of the Restoration (2")

One person tell the good news using the Three Circles

Debrief the sharing of the Big Story.

ATTITUDE:

We understand the Big Story of the Bible.

SKILL:

Participants will be able to use the illustrations to tell the Big Story of the Bible.

EVALUATION:

Are the participants telling others what they have learned?

MATERIALS:

- Large sheets of paper, markers, masking tape -Bibles
 -Four Fundamental Relationships illustration with Broken Relationships
 -Restoration of the Broken Relationships illustration

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This lesson is used in: IDMM TOT 1

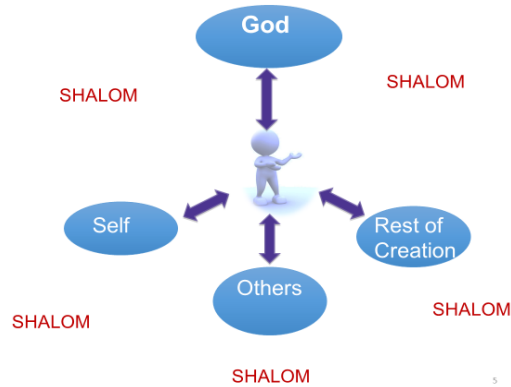
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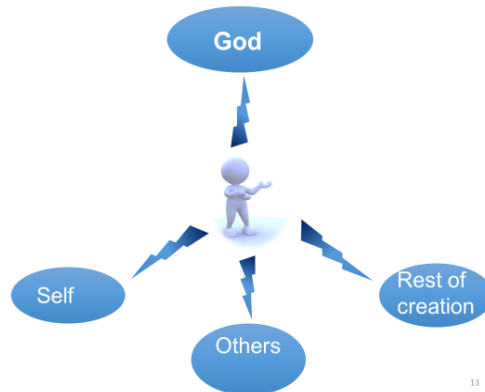
Facilitator prints one copy for narrator

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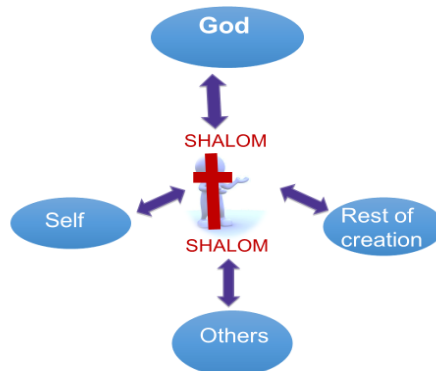
FOUR FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS



BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS



REDEMPTION



Big Story References

Genesis 1:26-31
 Genesis 3:15
 Genesis 2:15-17
 Genesis 3:1-24
 Hebrews 1:2-3
 Colossians 1:15-20

Luke 4:16-21
 Luke 4:43
 Matthew 4:23
 Matthew 9:35
 Luke 9:1-2
 Luke 10:8-9
 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

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