

# **GOSPEL THREADS**

**Foundations for Life in Christ and  
Leadership in the Church**

David Platt  
McLean Bible Church

## The Mission of MBC

We glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations,  
beginning in greater Washington, D.C.

## The Mission of Our Lives

- To enjoy God's grace in a relationship with Him.
- To exalt God's glory to the ends of the earth.

## How Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- We glorify God by growing as disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by making disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by multiplying churches that reflect Jesus.

## Where Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- Among all nations.

## One Conclusion...

- To be a disciple of Jesus is to let His global cause dictate everything you think, desire, and do.

## One Question...

- Do we really believe the Bible?
  - What the Bible says about the church?
  - What the Bible says about the lost?

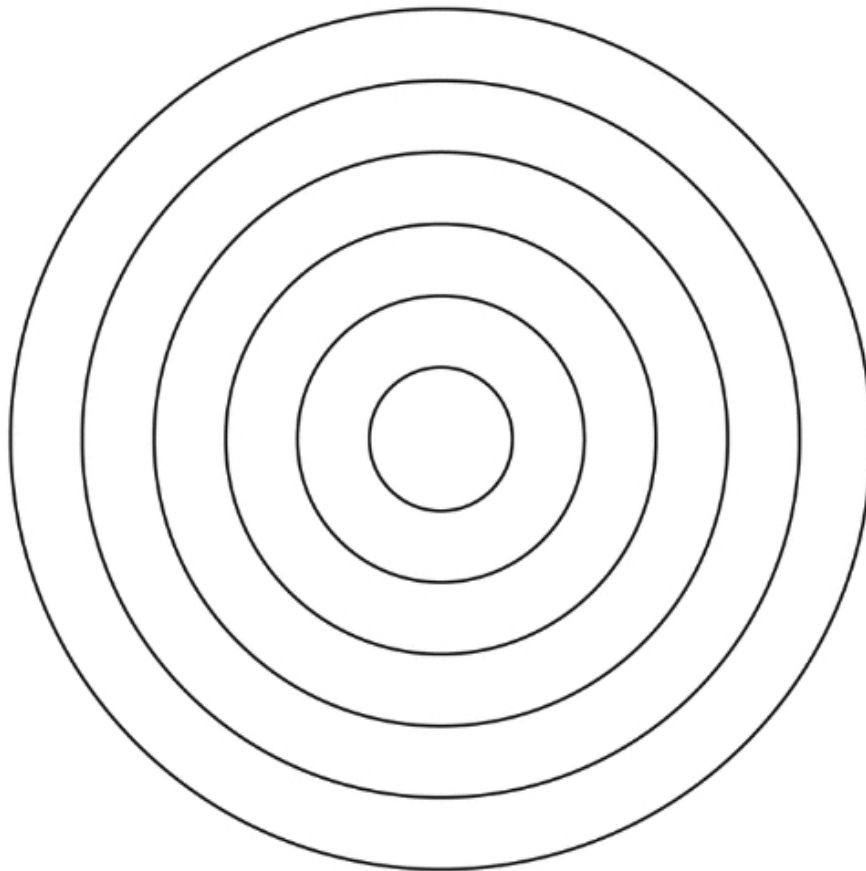
## The Story of Scripture...

- The Bible is the story of how God redeems His people for His kingdom.
- God is bringing His people to His place for His purpose.

## Walking with God...

- Praise: Worship God for who He is.
- Repent: Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.
- Ask: Petition for specific needs in your life and others' lives.
- Yield: Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever and however He leads you.
  
- Focus on God.
- Abstain from food.
- Substitute the time with prayer and meditation on God's Word.
- Taste and see that God is good.
  
- Meditate and Memorize.
- Apply.
- Pray.
- Share.

## Concentric Circles of Discipleship



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*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

*Acts 1:8*

- **G:** God's Character
- **O:** Offense of Sin
- **S:** Sufficiency of Christ
- **P:** Personal Response
- **E:** Eternal Urgency
- **L:** Life Transformation

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

### God's Character

*God is the loving Creator, sovereign King, and holy Judge of all.*

- Talk about God like He is Someone you know.
- Talk about God like He is Someone you worship.
- Talking about God as loving Creator...
  - Constantly point out evidences of God's love in and around you.
  - Consistently credit God as the source of everything good in and around you.
- Talking about God as sovereign King...
  - Acknowledge the glory of God in creation every chance you have.

- Acknowledge the guidance of God in \_\_\_\_\_ specific \_\_\_\_\_ facets of life.
  - God is working in my life (in this way)...
  - God is blessing me (in this way)...
  - God is leading me (in this direction)...
  - God is guiding me (to make this decision)...
  - God is teaching me (this truth)...
  - God is showing me (this realization)...
- Talking about God as holy Judge...
  - Express confidence in God even when things go \_\_\_\_\_ wrong \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Express humility before God (and others) when you do something wrong.

### **Offense of Sin**

*Men and women are wonderfully and uniquely created by God, yet we have rebelled against Him, are separated from Him, and deserve death before Him.*

- Speak \_\_\_\_\_ respectfully \_\_\_\_\_ to and about all people as individuals created in the image of God.
- Look intentionally for opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ encourage \_\_\_\_\_ others.
- Talking about our rebellion...
  - Speak humbly about the \_\_\_\_\_ seriousness \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
  - Speak honestly about our propensity to sin.
- Talking about our separation...
  - Acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ root \_\_\_\_\_ of sin in and around you.
  - Acknowledge the consequences of sin in and around you.
- Talking about our deadness...
  - Constantly point to our dependence on God.
  - Constantly point to our \_\_\_\_\_ desperation \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

## Sufficiency of Christ

*Jesus is God in the flesh, the long-awaited King who has come to live a perfect and powerful life, to die a sacrificial and substitutionary death, and to rise from the grave in victory over sin, Satan, and death.*

- Take advantage of every opportunity you have to tell \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ story.
- Talking about Jesus' life...
  - Look for opportunities to share Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ teachings \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Look for opportunities to highlight Jesus' example.
  - Look for opportunities to communicate Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ power \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Look for opportunities to acknowledge Jesus' work in us.
  - Look for opportunities to point out Jesus' identification with \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_.
- Talking about Jesus' death...
  - Never stop emphasizing the gravity of sin.
  - Never stop talking about your \_\_\_\_\_ gratitude \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus.
- Talking about Jesus' resurrection...
  - Speak about difficulties with hope.
  - Speak about \_\_\_\_\_ death \_\_\_\_\_ with joy.

## Personal Response and Life Transformation

*God calls all people in all nations to repent and believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, turning from all idols to declare allegiance to Jesus alone as King and trusting in Jesus alone as Lord of one's life.*

- Take advantage of every opportunity you have to tell \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ story.
- Talking about turning...
  - Point out the ultimate emptiness of \_\_\_\_\_ idols \_\_\_\_\_ in this world.
  - Point out the complete confidence we can have in God.

- Point to the forgiveness of Jesus when people around you see their sin.
- Point to the presence of Jesus when people around you come to the end of themselves.
- Talking about trusting...
  - Encourage people around you to see the lordship of Jesus.
  - Urge people around you to receive and trust the love of Jesus.

### **Eternal Urgency**

*Hell is the eternal, horrifying destination for all who turn from Jesus, and Heaven is the eternal, satisfying dwelling place of God with all who trust in Jesus.*

- Minimize your conversations about temporal things.
- Maximize your conversations about eternal things.
- Talking about responding to the Gospel...
  - Be clear.
    - Trust the power of the Gospel.
  - Be Christ-centered.
    - Point people to an encounter with Jesus.
  - Be confident.
    - Trust the work of the Spirit.
  - Be careful.
    - Remember the goal is NOT decisions; the goal is disciples.
- Talking about Hell...
  - Speak about God's judgment with humble fear.
  - Speak about God's wrath with honest compassion..

- Talking about Heaven...
  - Take advantage of every opportunity to talk about the hope of being with God.
  - Take advantage of every opportunity to talk about the fact that dying is gain.

### **Practical Takeaway**

- Over the next week, intentionally share gospel threads with others, and pray and work to share the entire gospel message (including an invitation to follow Jesus) with one person.