

# BRIDGING INTO CONVERSATION

*[Needed supplies: Pens and index cards, giant sticky-note easel or whiteboard, and appropriate markers]*

## PRAY FOR “CONTACTS”

### REVIEW:

- What are some “gold page” facts?
- What are some “dark page” facts?
- What are some “red page” facts?
- What are some possible “clean page” verses?
- What are some tools available to you for initial discipleship follow-up?
- What are important elements to include in a personal testimony?

## PRACTICING “BRIDGES” FOR DIFFERENT KINDS OF CONVERSATION

- **SCENARIO 1:** Sharing a gospel of John or a tract with someone you don’t know.
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- **SCENARIO 2:** Sharing the Wordless Book with a child in your VBS group.
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- **SCENARIO 3:** You intentionally start a conversation with...

• **SCENARIO 4:** A friend/neighbor/co-worker shares a trial

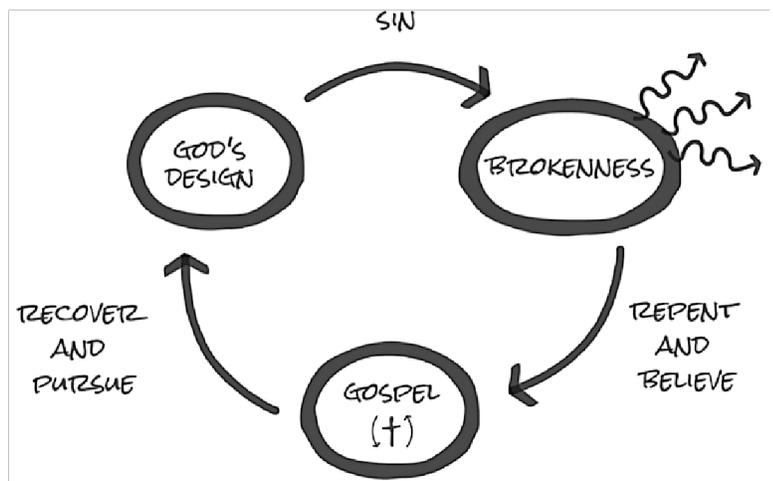
“**Work friend/Neighbor:** ‘I’m just struggling right now. Things aren’t that great at home. My spouse and I have totally different philosophies about how to raise our kids, and it’s causing a lot of arguments and frustration. ... I sometimes I wonder if it’s even worth it.’”

**TRANSITION:**

“**Christian:** ‘That’s really hard. I haven’t had the exact same problem, but I’ve definitely experienced similar problems. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?’

*“[...takes out a pen, grabs a napkin {or sticky note}, draws a circle, and writes ‘God’s design’ in it.]”*

“**Christian:** ‘I believe God has a design for our lives. We see God’s design all around us: in the beauty of creation—a golden sunrise or a pink sunset—and in our own amazing bodies. The Bible says God knit us together in our mothers’ wombs (Psalm 139). Knitting is delicate and intimate work, so we know that God personally designed us and has a purpose for our lives.’”



“Now, I have to tell you that, although I knew of God’s wonderful design early in life, I didn’t always accept it or appreciate it. Honestly, I rebelled against it. I didn’t want to be under anyone’s design or rule. I wanted to go my own way, be my own boss, make my own decisions, and do things the way I wanted them done. I basically decided to depart from God’s design.”

*“[...draws an arrow leading away from God’s design.]”*

“...The Bible has a word for this departure from God’s design—the word is ‘sin.’ The Bible actually says that all have sinned and departed from God’s design.”

<sup>1</sup> The following dialogue is taken from Jimmy Scroggins and Steve Wright with Leslee Bennett, *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* (Nashville, Ten.: B&H Publishing, 2016), 76-83.

*[...writes the word “sin” next to the line.]*

*[...then draws another circle and writes the word “brokenness” in it and draws some squiggly lines leading away from it.]*

**“Christian:** Unfortunately, our sin takes us all to a place of brokenness. Brokenness could look like struggling relationships, addiction, isolation, or despair. It’s guilty feelings, shame, and emptiness. It’s how we feel when we realize we’ve been used, or that we’ve used someone else. In fact, our whole world is broken. We see evidence of this everywhere—in every crime, in sickness, and even in death. These all are results of sin. We live in a broken world, and no one in this world is untouched by brokenness, but no one likes brokenness or wants to stay in it. If it’s broken, we want to fix it. There are entire industries built around getting people out of brokenness. There are counseling centers, self-help books, afternoon TV shows, treatment centers, and many more. We do our best to fix our brokenness.

*“... Our attempts to fix our brokenness usually only result in more brokenness.”*

Worst of all, our sin separates us from God and leads to eternal destruction.

*[...draws the third circle and writes the word “gospel” in it along with a down arrow, a cross, and an up arrow.]”*

#### **GOSPEL:**

**“Christian:** The word gospel means ‘good news.’ The good news is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life (down arrow), die the death we deserve because of our sin (cross), and be raised from the dead (up arrow). The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross, God did a miracle. He took all of our sin and put it on Jesus, and then He took all of Jesus’ righteousness and put it on anyone who believes in Jesus. This means that we are no longer broken in God’s eyes. We are made right with Him. All we have to do to get this right standing with God is repent and believe in Jesus.

*[...draws a second arrow away from brokenness pointing toward the gospel circle and writes “repent and believe.]”*

**“Christian:** The change we really need comes through the gospel. The word repent means a change of mind that’s followed by a change in direction. It means we were headed one way, trying to fix our own brokenness, and now we have turned from that and turned to Jesus. “Believe” means that we trust that Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection are what make us right with God. We believe it as much as we believe that the chairs we sit in are going to hold us up. Jesus Himself told people to “repent and believe in the good news!”—the gospel (Mark 1:15).

**“INVITATION:**

**“Christian:** Does this diagram make any sense to you? As you look at it, where do you see yourself?

**“Work friend:** She points to ‘brokenness’ and explains that she sees her marriage—and therefore, her life—as broken right now.”

**Christian:** God’s invitation is “whoever believes on Jesus will not perish, but have eternal life.”

*[Have students practice parts of these dialogues with each other.]*