



# FULL CIRCLE

MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

**LEADER'S GUIDE**



DARE 2 SHARE

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"Prayer, Care, Share" is adapted from Mission America.

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## A WORD TO YOUTH LEADERS

Jesus said, *“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”* John 20:21

Spreading His gospel message and making disciples who make disciples is “The Cause” Jesus has called all of us to—including your students.

As a youth leader, there’s **nothing** more exciting and rewarding in youth ministry than seeing students reaching students with the hope of Jesus! Students can take the gospel farther and faster than you or I ever can—into their circles of influence, at their schools, on their social media platforms and in their families. As their youth leader, you have the exciting privilege and awesome responsibility of helping them learn how to relationally share their faith with their friends.

*Full Circle* is designed to help you do just that!

### THE CAUSE CIRCLE: PRAYER, CARE, SHARE

Throughout His public life and ministry, Jesus lived out a continuous pattern of “Prayer, Care and Share” in His interactions with those He was trying to reach. Jesus often went off to be alone and spend time in Prayer. His Care for the needs of those He encountered—helping and healing their physical, emotional and relational needs—fill the Gospels. His Prayer and Care for people laid a foundation that helped them open up so that He could more effectively Share His message. At Dare 2 Share, we refer to this “Prayer, Care, Share” approach as “The Cause Circle.”

Using Luke 5:15-26, *Full Circle* explores how Jesus modeled Prayer, Care, Share. Each lesson unpacks insights and practical tools to help your students incorporate these principles as they reach out to their own circle of friends with the gospel. But we’re to be about more than “conversions.” As eternally important as the point of trusting Christ is, Jesus calls all of us—including our students—to do more than convert souls. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says, *“go and make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* It’s not just about bringing people into a relationship with God. It’s about helping these new believers come “full circle” so they, too, become disciples who make disciples.

My prayer is that *Full Circle* will help your group become an exciting, growing, dynamic Gospel Advancing Ministry where every student is motivated and mobilized to make disciples who make disciples!

Greg Stier,  
CEO, Dare 2 Share

## HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

*Full Circle* is designed to challenge and equip your students to be both more relational and more intentional when reaching out to their friends with the gospel. This four-lesson curriculum is suitable for mid-week youth group meetings, small groups, Sunday mornings or retreat settings.

### What's included?

The *Full Circle* download folder includes the following:

- Leader's Guide
- Videos:
  - *Full Circle*
  - *A 4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith*
  - Bonus Training Video: *Life in 6 Words Mobile App Tutorial*
- Screen Graphics

You and your students will also want to download the free Dare 2 Share mobile app from Apple or Google Play. Since students live on their phones, we've built the app into the weekly lessons. The app puts a variety of faith-sharing tips and tools directly into the hands of your students which they can use long after your *Full Circle* series has ended. A low tech backup options is also built into each lesson for students who do not have a smartphone.

### PREPARING EACH WEEK'S LESSON

As you prepare for each week's lesson, start with prayer! Then grab your Leader's Guide and the Dare 2 Share app. As you read through the Leader's Guide, note that the words in bold provide a sample spoken script, while the non-bolded words provide logistical directions or answer cues for you. For your convenience, you have permission to make copies of the Leader's Guide, videos and Lesson 1 and 2 student handouts for use within your own church.

The structure for each lesson is built around the following grid:

- **HEADS UP** offers a big picture overview
- **GEAR UP** provides a supply list
- **WARM UP** launches your gathering with a fun opening activity
- **FUEL UP** unpacks the Scripture passage
- **STEP UP** provides practical faith-sharing insights or tools, and challenges students with a practical application for the coming week; it also includes a gospel presentation and invitation to trust Christ
- **CIRCLE UP** rallies your group around The Cause of making disciples who make disciples and sends them out on mission to live out the Prayer, Care, Share approach to sharing their faith.

## CUSTOMIZING YOUR LESSONS

You understand your group best and know what will (and won't) work. Treat this Leader's Guide as a springboard to a more tailored experience. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading during your discussions and stay flexible and willing to adjust to whatever's going on. **However, don't shy away from the weekly "Step Up" challenges that nudge your students out of their comfort zone!** If you're so inclined, you can customize the editable slides in the "Screen Graphics" subfolder and incorporate them into your lessons.

# WEEK 1: THE CAUSE CIRCLE: PRAYER, CARE, SHARE

## ► HEADS UP

### KEY IDEA

Jesus is calling you to share His gospel message with others. The Cause Circle—consisting of a Prayer, Care, Share approach to sharing your faith—can help you be both more relational and more intentional about reaching out to your friends with the gospel.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 19:10
- John 20:21
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Luke 5:15-26

## ► GEAR UP

- Video projection equipment
- *Full Circle* video
- Bibles
- Whiteboard or flip chart and markers
- Copies of the “My Cause Circle” cards located at the end of this lesson - 2 cards per student, one for them to keep and one for them to turn in to you
- Pens/pencils/markers
- *Dare 2 Share* mobile app - Download the app ahead of time and get familiar with it. During the lesson, you’ll be encouraging your students to download the app.





- **LOW TECH OPTION:** For students who do not have a smartphone, make them aware that many of the same faith-sharing resources on the app are available via [www.lifein6words.com](http://www.lifein6words.com) and [www.dare2share.org/worldviews](http://www.dare2share.org/worldviews)
- **OPTIONAL:** Presentation slides and projection equipment – customized for your lesson

## ► **WARM UP**

### **Would You Rather?**

Gather your group's attention and ask the following "Would You Rather" questions. Students must quickly decide which of the two options they prefer. Have them indicate their choices by moving to opposite sides of the room (i.e., those who'd rather donate money to buy mosquito nets go to the left side of the room vs. those who'd rather donate to stop human trafficking go to the right side of the room.) The only rule is that everyone has to pick one or the other choice— "both" or "neither" aren't options!

1. If you had \$100 to donate, would you rather donate the money to buy mosquito nets for needy families in Africa or to help stop human trafficking in Southeast Asia?
2. Would you rather volunteer to go dig a well for safe drinking water in Nepal or volunteer to hold high-need babies born to drug-addicted mothers at a hospital in Guatemala?
3. Would you rather try to save a friend from a rattlesnake on a desert hike or try to save a friend by sharing the gospel with them in the school cafeteria?
4. Would you rather spend a month volunteering at an orphanage in India or volunteer to serve meals at a local homeless shelter?
5. Would you rather share the gospel with an unreached friend or with a stranger?

## **TRANSITION**

### EXPLAIN

**That was an interesting activity. It was fun to see some of your choices.**

### ASK

- **Were you surprised by some of the choices you saw others making?**
- **Was it sometimes hard to decide which thing you would rather do? Why or why not?**
- **Perhaps you noticed...there was a theme to these choices, wasn't there? What was it? Anybody want to try to summarize it for us?**



## EXPLAIN

**The choices I gave you had to do with sharing the love of God with others. Some of the choices involved various kinds of “causes”—like helping the homeless, stopping human trafficking or helping orphans. “Causes” are a big deal in our culture.**

## ASK

- **What are some other examples of popular “causes” you’re familiar with?** [i.e., Save the Planet; Eat Local; Save the Black Rhino; etc.]
- **There are all kinds of causes we can choose to get involved with and invest our time and money toward. How do you go about deciding whether or not to get involved with a cause?**

## ► FUEL UP

## EXPLAIN

**This week, we’re launching into a four-week series about a very particular cause that Jesus was all about. Before we dive in, let’s open in prayer.**

**Dear God, in our better moments we really do want to share your love with others and live lives that make a difference for You and for Your Kingdom. We want to know You and make You known. Help us take a step in that direction now as we unpack Your Word and explore Your call on our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

**Could I please have three volunteers read the following verses for us? Luke 19:10, John 20:21 and Matthew 28:19-20. In each of these verses, Jesus is speaking. As you listen, see if you can spot the “cause” that was near and dear to His heart.**

## ASK

- **How would you describe this cause Jesus is talking about in your own words?** [Reaching the lost with the gospel, making disciples who make disciples, A.K.A. The Great Commission]
- **Was this cause just something that Jesus was into, or did He pass it along to His followers with the expectation that they would be all about it too?**

**Luke 19:10**

[Jesus said,] *"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."*

**John 20:21**

Again he [Jesus] said, *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."*

**Matthew 28:19-20**

[Jesus said,] *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

## EXPLAIN

**In many respects, this cause of making disciples who make disciples is the ultimate cause. Because this cause has the potential to change everything. When someone puts their trust in Christ and becomes a follower of Jesus, it not only changes the eternal destiny of their soul, it also changes how they live their life.**

**Truly devoted followers of Jesus will do the kinds of things Jesus did. They'll heal. They'll help. They'll serve. In short, they'll make the world a better place to live. And then, in turn, the disciple making process will multiply out as they introduce others to Jesus, too, who will do the same. Until everyone, everywhere not only hears the good news that Jesus died for them, but feels the good news poured out on them by the love of those of us who want to be like Jesus.**

## ASK

- **How many of you think that what I'm talking about here sounds like something we hire pastors and missionaries to do?**
- **Is it reasonable to expect ordinary people—and including teenagers—to do this? Why or why not?**
- **As a youth group, do you think we're currently doing a very good job living this out? Why or why not?**

### EXPLAIN

**This calling to spread Jesus' message is something that He asked all of His followers to do—and that includes you and me. It's not just for a select few who are willing to be pastors or missionaries. It's for every one of us who calls ourselves a Christian. It's for here and now, right where God has you and I planted now—in your current circle of friends, at your school, on your team, in your neighborhood, in your family. Because it's THE Cause Jesus has invited all of us to join Him in. YOU have an important part to play in seeing "His kingdom come and His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10) by sharing His message.**



### ASK

- **Yet many of us don't actively share our faith. Why is that, do you think?**

### EXPLAIN

**For some of us, it's because we're apathetic—we just don't care. If that describes you, a first step for you would be to pray that God would move your heart to a different place and that your compassion for those who don't know Jesus would grow.**

**But for many of us, we don't talk to others about Jesus because we think it feels awkward to try to talk about spiritual things with others. So how might we more naturally and effectively go about engaging our friends about spiritual things? Let's start by taking our cue from Jesus Himself as we watch this short video.**

PLAY the video *Full Circle*.

### EXPLAIN

**The Cause Circle of Prayer, Care, Share—this is the Jesus way of engaging with those who don't have a personal relationship with God.**

**Over these next few weeks we're going to be focusing in on each of these three elements of the faith-sharing process. We'll be using a story about Jesus found in Luke 5 to do this. We're going to start this week by reading the whole passage, to get the bigger context of the story, but then in coming weeks we'll drill down into it further. So let's all look up Luke 5:15-26 in our Bibles, and then I'd like to have a few volunteers read the passage for us.**

**Luke 5:15-26**

<sup>15</sup> But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

<sup>17</sup> One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, <sup>19</sup> but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>21</sup> But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

<sup>25</sup> And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

ASK

- **This is such a great story! Let's talk a bit about the cast of characters we find here. Who are some of the characters in this story?** [Use a whiteboard or flip chart to list your students' responses: Jesus, the crowds, Pharisees and religious teachers, paralyzed man, his friends.]

- **OK, let's talk a little about some of the possible motives each of these characters bring to their actions in this story. Why do you think they're here in this crowded room on this particular day?** [Write your students responses on your chart.]

CHARACTER	MOTIVES
Jesus	Cared about people, Taught truth about God
Crowds	Maybe looking for entertainment/help/spiritual truth
Pharisees and religious teachers	Skeptical, questioning, challenging Jesus' claims
Paralyzed man	Needed physical help
Friends	Determined to bring their friend to Jesus

- **Which character do you most identify with in the story?**

#### EXPLAIN

**Many of us identify with the friends. Don't you just love the audacity of those guys? They were so determined to do whatever it took to get their disabled friend to Jesus to be healed. So when they realized they couldn't get inside because of the crowd, they climbed up to the roof, ripped off some roof tiles and lower their friend down for some face time with Jesus. It's a great picture of the kind of determination and outside-the-box thinking that's sometimes necessary when it comes to bringing our own friends to Jesus.**

#### ASK

- **But now let's go a little bit different direction with this story. Let's zero in on Jesus and what the story tells us about what He's doing. What do you see happening here that fits the Prayer, Care, Share breakout we saw in the video we just watched?**

#### EXPLAIN

**We get a glimpse here of how Jesus wove a continuous cycle of Prayer, Care and Share into His interactions with those He was trying to reach with His message. And we can also see how people responded to Him. Many were open and interested; some were doubtful and challenging.**

## ► STEP UP

### EXPLAIN

**So what does Jesus' Prayer, Care, Share approach mean for us? In the coming weeks, we'll unpack the Cause Circle step-by-step and spend a week each on Prayer, Care and Share. But right now, I'm guessing that some of you are thinking to yourselves, I don't know how to talk to people about the Jesus or the gospel. I don't know the first thing about how to do that. Well, we'll be talking about that some in future weeks, but I want to introduce you to an app that is a very practical training and faith-sharing tool to have in your pocket. This app will really help you if you don't feel very confident about the "how to's" of sharing your faith.**



**So pull out your smartphones and go to your app store and download the free Dare 2 Share app right now. And in just a few moments we'll briefly walk through the app together.** [If you have students who don't have smartphones, pair them up with someone who does, so they can look on during this process, and make them aware that many of the same faith-sharing resources on the app are available via [www.lifein6words.com](http://www.lifein6words.com) and [www.dare2share.org/worldviews](http://www.dare2share.org/worldviews).]

Do a high level walkthrough of the general structure of the app with your students:

- **Why 2 Share:** The videos in this section provide an overview of the app and explain why a conversation about the gospel is “The Conversation That Matters Most.”
- **What 2 Share:** These videos teach you how to explain the gospel.
- **How 2 Share:** This section is packed with tools and tips that will help you maneuver through a gospel conversation from takeoff to touchdown.
- **Plan 2 Share:** Here's where you'll find a graphic and a video explaining the Cause Circle.
- **Share Now:** This section features tools you can use during your gospel conversations. In fact, we're going to use one of them right now, because before we close, with all this focus on sharing the gospel, I realize there may be some here who have never put their faith in Jesus.

**So please navigate to the “Share Now” tab of the app and click on the 6 Words option in the nav panel. Let's walk through those 6 Words together right now.** [Walk through the 6 Words of the GOSPEL acrostic.]

**If you're here today and have never accepted this free gift of eternal life, I invite you to do that right now. (Pause.) And if you've just done that in the quietness of your own heart, I invite you to pray this prayer silently along with me right now.**



**So with every head bowed and every eye closed, let's pray...**

**Dear God, I know that my sins have broken my relationship with You and that nothing I could do could ever change that. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place and rose again from the dead. I trust in Him to forgive me for my sins. Through faith in Him, I am entering an eternal relationship with You. Thank You for this free gift! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Invite anyone who trusted Christ to come see you after the meeting so you can follow up with them.

**Today, we've just brushed the surface of "The Cause" and the Cause Circle, and we'll be going deeper into each element of it over the next three weeks, but I want to give you some time right now to think seriously about who it is in your life who should be in your Cause Circle. Who has God put in your life that doesn't know Jesus, that He wants you to reach out to and share your faith with? Who is God putting on your heart?**

**I'm handing out some Cause Circle cards so you can fill in the names of people in your life who you would love to see come to faith in Jesus. [Begin passing out cards.] I want each of you to take two cards to fill in—one that you will keep yourself, and one that you can give to me before you leave so I (and our other leaders) can be praying for you and with you about your friends you're trying to reach. There's also a spot on the card for you to put your name. Please fill that in, so we know who we're praying for. And in the center of the circle there are three blanks for you to put the names of people you sense God wants you to be praying for, caring for and sharing with. So take a moment right now to pray and ask God to show you whose names you should write down on your cards.**

Give your student a few minutes to pray and fill in both cards, but don't collect the second copy of the card from them until the following Circle Up activity.

**As you wrap up filling out your two cards, I want to challenge each of you to spend some personal time this week praying and asking God to give you an increased passion for reaching the lost. Ask Him to break your heart for your lost friends. Ask Him to begin to use you in these coming weeks to help your friends bump into Jesus and put their faith in Him. Ask Him to help you become more intentional about the Prayer, Care, Share process Jesus modeled so well.**

## ► **CIRCLE UP**

Gather your students in a large circle. Place an empty chair in the center of the circle. [If your group is large, consider breaking this activity out into smaller groups of 10-20 students.]





#### EXPLAIN

**That empty chair in the center of our circle represents the desire and potential we have as a youth group to see our friends come to Christ. Our hearts and our room are big enough to welcome many, many more teenagers into our midst. I'd like each of you to visualize one of your unreached friends sitting in that chair. Now close your eyes, and take just a couple more moments right now and say a prayer for their salvation.** (Pause for silent prayer.)

**And before we close together in prayer, I'd like each of you to take one of your Cause Circle cards that you've written your name and your friends' names on and come forward silently to place it on that chair.** (As students bring their cards forward to place on the chair, continue to explain the following.)

**In a few moments, we're going to pray together over all the names on those cards. The reason I want you to leave me with a copy of your Cause Circle is because I want to be praying for you and with you about your friends who need Jesus. I want to pray for you and for them by name.**

**Let's bow our heads and pray.**

**Lord God, we beg you for the salvation of our friends. Please give us the compassion, clarity and courage we need to reach out to them with Your gospel message. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

Send your students a couple texts during the week to let them know you are praying for them and with them about their friends who need Jesus.



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**MY CAUSE CIRCLE**

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**MY CAUSE CIRCLE**

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**MY CAUSE CIRCLE**

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# WEEK 2: PRAYER

## ► HEADS UP

### KEY IDEA

Prayer lays the foundation for your outreach efforts. It's always a good idea to talk to God about people, before you talk to people about God.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 5:15-16
- 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (MSG)

## ► GEAR UP

- Video projection equipment
- *Gravity* movie clip - cued up for timecode: 0:57:00 to 1:00:15.
- Bibles
- "How to Pray for Your Friends Who Need Jesus" handout found at the end of this lesson - one for each student
- OPTIONAL: Presentation slides and projection equipment - customized for your lesson



## ► WARM UP

### EXPLAIN

**Think of the scariest situation you ever experienced when you were a kid. Maybe you broke a bone or you were in a car accident or you learned your parent where going to split up or you got lost or whatever. Would a couple of you be willing to share your stories with us?**

Allow time for sharing.

**Thanks for sharing. Most of us have experienced some scary moments in our lives. As we launch into our discussion time today, I want to start by showing you a clip from the movie *Gravity*. If you've never seen the movie, Dr. Stone, the astronaut in this is scene, has just experienced a catastrophic accident in outer space and she's the only surviving crew member. She's in a scary, desperate situation. In this scene she is trying to make radio contact with Earth when she picks up a radio connection with a fisherman who only speaks Eskimo-Aleut. Let's watch what happens, but first let me open in prayer.**

### PRAY

PLAY the *Gravity* movie clip. Time code: 0:57:00 to 1:00:15.

### ASK

- **What are some one word descriptions of how Dr. Stone is feeling in this scene?**
- **Is she religious or spiritual in any sense of the word?**
- **Does she feel capable of praying for herself? Why or why not?**
- **Does being intelligent or well-educated automatically imply that you know how to pray?**
- **Why do you think she feels this urge to have someone pray for her even though she isn't a person of faith?**
- **In what ways might Dr. Stone's desperate need to be rescued be similar to our friends who haven't put their faith in Christ? In what ways is it different?**
- **Why do our friends who don't know Jesus need us to pray for their salvation?**

## ► FUEL UP

### EXPLAIN

**If you recall, last week we talked about "The Cause" and how Jesus is calling us to lovingly share His gospel message with those who don't know Him. We watched the short video about Jesus' Prayer, Care, Share approach when engaging people about His message. And we used the Cause Circle to help us begin to be more intentional about sharing our faith with our friends.**

**Last time, we read the story from Luke 5 about Jesus healing the paralyzed man. Today we're going to start by focusing in on just the first two verses of that passage as we zero in on Prayer. Could I please have a volunteer read Luke 5:15-16 for us?**

**Luke 5:15-16**

*<sup>15</sup>But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.*

## ASK

- **Do you get the sense from these verses that Jesus was one busy dude? Why do you think that?**
- **Does it sound like the things He was doing were “important”? Why or why not?**
- **So why do you think He withdrew to pray?**
- **Can you think of any other instances in Scripture where it talks about Jesus praying?** [He kicked off His ministry with 40 days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness, He taught the disciples The Lord's Prayer, in the Garden of Gethsemane, etc.]

## EXPLAIN

**Throughout His ministry, Jesus often headed off to be alone so He could pray. He knew that in order to effectively talk to people about God, He must talk to God about people. Through Jesus' times of Prayer, the Father filled Him with compassion, clarity and courage. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for the strength to do whatever it took to reach the lost...even dying on a cross. In the same way, we must not only pray for our lost friends to be reached, but for the courage within ourselves to do whatever it takes to reach them, even if sharing our faith with our friends feels a little scary because we might be risking our image or our popularity.**

**Now you may be thinking, well, Jesus was God, so why did He need to pray for those who are lost? But Jesus was not only fully God, He was also fully human. And as a human, He showed us the importance of praying to God the Father for those who are lost. Suffice it to say if Jesus as the God/human took prayer seriously, then we, as humans, need to take prayer seriously too!**

**In addition to this passage of Scripture, there are other verses that tackle the importance of praying for our lost friends head-on. Could I please have a volunteer read 1 Timothy 2:1-6 in *The Message* paraphrase?** [If no one has a copy of *The Message*, read the passage yourself from the following Bible Box.] **This is the Apostle Paul writing to his young friend Timothy, but as we read it, I want you to imagine that these words are being written to you personally, so listen carefully with that in mind. And then we'll talk about some of the “who, what, when, why and how” that's being communicated here in these verses.**

**1 Timothy 2:1-6**

*<sup>1-3</sup> The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live.*

*<sup>4-6</sup> He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned: that there's one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free (MSG).*

## ASK

- **Let's start with "What"?** What's the big topic that's being addressed here? [Prayer—specifically Prayer for others—intercessory Prayer]
- **"Who?" Who should we pray for?** [Everyone you know]
- **"When?" When are we supposed to pray?** [First thing—Prayer is a top priority!]
- **"Why?" Why are we supposed to pray?** [Because our Savior God wants everyone to be saved and to know the truth about God]
- **"How?" How are we supposed to pray?** [Every way you know how!]

## EXPLAIN

**It's pretty straightforward here, isn't it? You and I are supposed to make it a priority to pray for the salvation of those we know who have not trusted Jesus as their Savior, because our God wants everyone to be saved. We're supposed to pray "Every way we know how."**

**Now back to that scene from *Gravity*. Sometimes it's more that no one ever actually taught us what we need to know about spiritual things like prayer and faith and Jesus' message. And sometimes when it comes to praying for other people's salvation, we don't quite know how to go about it. Particularly if, deep down inside, we sort of honestly feel like they're a "lost cause"—like the chances of them coming to faith in Jesus seem like they're slim to none.**



## ► STEP UP

**Of course, there are a lot of different ways to pray. But as we start to practically unpack what this kind of Prayer might look like in our everyday lives, let's think about it this way. There are logistics—like the details of when and where, that sort of practical stuff. And then there's content—like what to actually talk to God about when you're praying for your unreached friends.**

**So to help you some with both of these—both the logistics and the content, I'm passing out a "How to Pray" handout. [Found at the end of this lesson.] I think you'll find it really helpful.**

Walk through the "4 Logistical Keys" section of the handout with your group. Encourage your students to fill in the blanks as you talk about each point. Challenge them to pick at least one of the "Build in Accountability" options to help them build a habit of regular intercessory Prayer.

### EXPLAIN

**Now that we've talked through some of the logistics that can help us build the habit of intercessory Prayer, my challenge to you for the coming week is that you build time into your routine and begin to regularly pray for your friends who need Jesus.**

**To give you a taste of what this can look like, we're going to do some intercessory praying right now. We're going to circle up in groups of three or four and use the second part of your handout to actually pray together. You'll find four specific examples there of ways to intercede for your friends. They break out like this:**

- 1. Pray for Salvation – These are single sentence prayers you can pray for your friend. You can pray just one line, or several or all of them together.**
- 2. Pray The Lord's Prayer – This is pretty much what it sounds like...except that you are praying it for your unreached friend and inserting their name into it.**
- 3. Pray a Name of God – With this type of Prayer, you are pleading with God to reveal various aspect of His character to your friend.**
- 4. Pray a Question – This more reflective Prayer approach requires you to ask God a question, and get guidance from the Holy Spirit as to how He would have you reach out to your friends. This Prayer approach is best done when you're praying alone.**

**These four are just samples you can use. And of course, you are free use your own approach, as well. But before we circle up to pray, I want to speak briefly to anyone here today who doesn't have a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus as your Savior. If you've never made the decision to trust in Jesus, I want to quickly explain the gospel message to you. It goes like this...**

**G**od created us to be with Him. But...  
**O**urs sins separate us from God. These...  
**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds. But...  
**P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. So that...  
**E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. And this...  
**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

**So if you've never received this free gift of forgiveness for sin and Jesus' offer of eternal life, I encourage you to silently do that right now. (Pause.) And if you've just put your trust in Christ, I invite you to pray this prayer of thanksgiving silently along with me. So with every head bowed and every eye closed, let's pray...**

**Dear God, I know that my sins have broken my relationship with You and that nothing I could do could ever change that. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place and rose again from the dead. I trust in Him to forgive me for my sins. Through faith in Him, I am entering an eternal relationship with You. Thank You for this free gift and help me pass it along to others who need to hear about you too! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Invite anyone who trusted Christ to come see you after the meeting so you can follow up with them.

## ► **CIRCLE UP**

**So now I'd like all of you to circle up in small groups of three or four and pray. We have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes set aside for this activity, so pace yourselves so everyone in your group gets a chance to pray aloud. Feel free to use one or more of these Prayer ideas on your handout. Or go freestyle if you prefer. As you come to the blank lines in the prayers on your sheet, let's stick with first names only. And, if for some reason, you aren't comfortable using even the first name of your friend, it's fine to just refer to them as "my friend" in your Prayer.**

Gather your students' attention back up front and challenge them again to pray regularly this week for their friends who need Jesus. Then close in prayer.

**Father, we pray that You will give us an increased passion for Your Cause of reaching the lost. Together, right now, we lift up the names of all our friends who we want to reach with Your gospel message. Help each of us become more intentional about the Prayer, Care, Share process Jesus modeled so well. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Send your students a couple texts during the coming week to remind them to pray and to let them know you are praying too.

# HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR FRIENDS WHO NEED JESUS

## 4 LOGISTICAL KEYS TO INTERCESSORY PRAYER

- 1. Who?** Identify three friends you want to share the gospel with so you can start praying for them. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Where?** Pick a place. "I do my best praying while in \_\_\_\_\_ (place to pray)."
- 3. When?** Pick a time. "I do my best praying at this time(s) \_\_\_\_\_."
- 4. Build in accountability.** (Pick one or more.)
  - ☐ Set my phone alarm.
  - ☐ Find a prayer partner, text reminders.
  - ☐ Hit my knees, before my feet hit the floor.
  - ☐ Every time I \_\_\_\_\_, I'll pray.
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.



## 4 SIMPLE WAYS TO PRAY FOR YOUR FRIENDS

### 1. Pray for Salvation

Dear God, please...

Rescue \_\_\_\_\_.

Reveal Yourself to \_\_\_\_\_.

Remove the darkness and confusion \_\_\_\_\_ has about who You are and what You want from them.

Give \_\_\_\_\_ the wisdom to see the truth about Jesus being the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Give \_\_\_\_\_ a longing deep down inside to know You personally. Make them restless until they find their rest in You.

Send Your Spirit to prick \_\_\_\_\_'s conscious and show them their need for You and for Your grace and forgiveness.

Draw \_\_\_\_\_ to You like a magnet.

Open \_\_\_\_\_'s spiritual eyes so they see You clearly.

Prod \_\_\_\_\_'s soul so they truly consider Jesus' gospel message and chose faith and life in Him.

Here I am, Lord. Send me! Give me opportunities to share Your grace and truth—in word and deed—so that \_\_\_\_\_ can both see and hear about the difference Jesus makes.

## 2. Pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

*<sup>9</sup> "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*

[God, You are so awesome! Thank you for being my Heavenly Daddy. Reveal Your awesomeness to \_\_\_\_\_].

*<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,*

[May Your kingdom come and reign in \_\_\_\_\_'s soul as a result of them putting their faith in Jesus.]

*your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

[May Your will be done as You draw \_\_\_\_\_ into a personal relationship with You.]

*<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.*

[Show me anything I should do to care for the needs of \_\_\_\_\_, so I can reflect your love, goodness and care to them.]

*<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

[Help me live out Your grace and forgiveness in my life, so \_\_\_\_\_ can see what a loving, forgiving relationship with You looks like.]

*<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

[Help me live a life of godly character that represents You well, so that \_\_\_\_\_ can see You at work in my life.]

## 3. Pray a Name of God

Dear God, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would experience You as their...

...Savior (Acts 5:31)

...Abba Father—Daddy (Galatians 4:6)

...King (1 Timothy 6:15)

...Refuge (2 Samuel 22:3)

...Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)

## 4. Pray a Question

How can I help \_\_\_\_\_ come to know You?

What kindness could I do or question could I ask that might prompt \_\_\_\_\_ to consider the truth of your gospel?

# WEEK 3: CARE

## ► HEADS UP

### KEY IDEA

People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 5:17-20; 24-25
- 1 Corinthians 13:2-7 (MSG)

## ► GEAR UP

- Bibles
- Tower building supplies—  
for quantities see the  
“Build a Tower” warm up  
activity below
  - Paper cups
  - Straws
  - Construction paper
  - Masking tape
- Prize: Bag of candy
- Whiteboard or flip chart and markers
- Presentation slides provided in your Screen Graphics subfolder and projection equipment
  - Prayer, Care, Share slide
  - 1 Corinthians 13:2-7 from *The Message* slide
  - [thehopeline.com/ebooks](http://thehopeline.com/ebooks) slide



## ► WARM UP

### **Build a Tower**

Divide your students into groups of 4-5. Give each group the following building supplies:

- 10 paper cups
- 5 straws
- 4 sheets of construction paper
- a 12" strip of masking tape (wound around a pen)

Each team must work together to build the tallest free-standing tower they can with the supplies given. ("Free-standing" means they can't tape their tower to another object like a table, floor or wall.) Give a prize to the team with the tallest tower.

Point of the game: Tower building generally works better if you start with a good foundation. In the same way, gospel conversations generally work better if you build a good relational foundation with someone before you bring the gospel up. Whether you lay that relational foundation in three minutes, three weeks or three months, the Prayer and Care elements of the Cause Circle help provide that foundation.

ASK

- **Raise your hand if you helped build a tower! What worked well?**
- **What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?**
- **Did you build the tallest tower you could? Why or why not?**
- **Were there any general building principles that seemed to be common among those teams with the taller towers?** [Laying down a good foundation for the tower is typically helpful.]

## ► FUEL UP

Open in prayer.

**To review, these past couple weeks we've been talking about "The Cause" and how Jesus is calling us to share His gospel message with those who don't know Him, so they can be reconnected to God. We've been talking about how Jesus modeled a Prayer, Care, Share approach when engaging with people about His message.**

**In Jesus' life and ministry, the Prayer, Care, Share elements broke out like this:** [Use the presentation slides of the Cause Circle as you review each of the following three elements.]

**Prayer: Jesus often went off to be alone to spend time in prayer.**

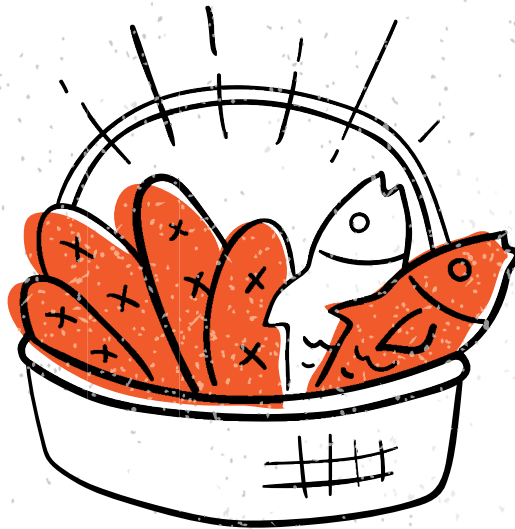
**Care: He cared deeply for those in need—helping and healing people's physical, emotional and relational needs.**

**Share: Prayer and Care laid the foundation and helped people open up so that He could more effectively Share His message—out loud, with words.**

**Last week we zeroed in on Prayer. This week, we're focusing in on Care.**

ASK

- **What are a few examples of stories about Jesus that come to mind that demonstrate how central love and care were in His life and ministry?** [Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, forgiving sins, dying on the cross, crying over Jerusalem, etc.]



EXPLAIN

**Stories about how Jesus demonstrated His Care for people are all over the Gospels. Jesus didn't just talk about caring for others, He actually did it. And one of the most radical things about how He loved and cared for people was that He wasn't afraid to love the "losers"—the bad, the bullied and the broken. His Care extended to those who were marginalized by the "popular and powerful" crowd. In fact, that was one of Jesus' biggest frustration with the "popular and powerful" Jewish people of that day—they were being mean. They were creating their own religious rules that put up barriers that kept ordinary people from connecting with God. And they were using those rules to be harshly judgmental—to bully and exclude people.**

**If you recall, we've been using the story in Luke 5 about Jesus healing the paralyzed man as a snapshot of how He modeled the Cause Circle of Prayer, Care, Share. I want to re-read just a few verses from that passage today. As I read them, be thinking about how you see Care being demonstrated in this part of the story.**



**Luke 5:17-20; 24-25**

<sup>17</sup> One day while Jesus was teaching...<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, <sup>19</sup> but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven..."

<sup>24</sup> "...So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

<sup>25</sup> And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God.

## ASK

- **How do you see Care being demonstrated here?**
- **What do you imagine it would be like to live your life as a paralyzed person back in Jesus' day?** [No wheelchair access, no medical care, no government safety net for the disabled, no way to earn a living, etc.]

## EXPLAIN

**So this man was pretty desperate. It would have taken a sizeable commitment to be his friend, given all his neediness. It's kind of amazing, really, given how high-maintenance he obviously was, that he even had these friends in this story who cared about him enough to go to all this effort to get him to Jesus. But these men demonstrated remarkable Care for the paralyzed man.**

**And Jesus demonstrated Care in the story by healing the guy. Throughout the Gospels we see this pattern over and over, Jesus didn't just "preach" at the people who came to Him with their hurts and heavy loads, He cared for them. They weren't "projects," they were people. He cared for them as a whole person.**

**Maybe you've heard the old saying: "I don't care how much you know, until I know how much you care." These are wise words for us as we seek to introduce others to Jesus. One of the great passage in the Bible about how to love others well is found in 1 Corinthians 13. It may be a familiar passage to many of you, but this time I want us to take a fresh look at it by reading it from *The Message* paraphrase.**

**But before we read this together with our own Cause Circle of friends in mind, let me explain something about the word "love." In the English language, we have just one word for love. But in Greek, which is the original language the New Testament was written in, there are three different words for love, depending on what type of love you're talking about. The Greek word *agape*, describes the love of God. This is the kind of love that Jesus**

**demonstrated for us when He came and sacrificed His life by dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Agape love is distinctly different from romantic or sexual love (eros) or brotherly love (philia). This passage in 1 Corinthians 13 is describing agape love.**

**As we read each segment of this passage, we're going to pause and summarize it in our own words.**

Use the presentation slides to project the verses in *The Message* paraphrase. Note your students' brief summations as you go through the passage line by line on a flip chart or whiteboard.

## BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX

### 1 Corinthians 13:2-7 (MSG)

VERSE	SUMMARY
<i>If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.</i>	We must share God's truth with love
<i>If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.</i>	Living the Christian life without love = spiritual bankruptcy
<b>Love is...</b>	<b>Love is...</b>
<i>Love never gives up.</i>	Patient
<i>Love cares more for others than for self.</i>	Kind/Generous
<i>Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.</i>	Content
<i>Love doesn't strut,</i>	Modest
<i>Doesn't have a swelled head,</i>	Humble
<i>Doesn't force itself on others,</i>	Polite/Respectful
<i>Isn't always "me first,"</i>	Considerate
<i>Doesn't fly off the handle,</i>	Even-tempered
<i>Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,</i>	Forgiving
<i>Doesn't revel when others grovel,</i>	Gracious/Grace-giving
<i>Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,</i>	Truthful/Truth-speaking
<i>Puts up with anything,</i>	Unswerving/Undeterred
<i>Trusts God always,</i>	Faithful
<i>Always looks for the best,</i>	Positive
<i>Never looks back,</i>	Hopeful
<i>But keeps going to the end...</i>	Enduring

**God calls us to extend His *agape* love to others, in His name and through His power at work within us. This is a big calling. We're here to be salt and light for the sake of Jesus and His kingdom. We're here to live out the love of God by "being God with skin on" to the people around us. Because people don't care how much you know "about" God, if you don't care about them as individuals. Like that first verse we just read put it, *"If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, ...but I don't love, I'm nothing."***

**The act of showing someone the *agape* love of God can wear a lot of different faces. It can happen across three minutes, three weeks or three years. Whatever the length of your relationship with someone, demonstrating Care can happen in loads of different, creative ways. So let's get really practical for a few minutes now, and do some brainstorming about what this can look like in our own lives as we think about the people in our own Cause Circle we're seeking to Care for with the love of Christ.**

Use a new page on your flip chart or a clean section of your whiteboard to record a list of your students' responses to the following question.

ASK

- **What are some examples of ways we could demonstrate Care for others this week?**  
[Time, help, listening ear, gifts, notes, acts of kindness, standing up if someone's being bullied, sitting with someone at lunch, offering to pray, etc.]

EXPLAIN

**And quite honestly, sometimes you may have friends who are struggling with things that are really heavy. If they're hurting, meet them in their place of need and seek to bring them to the Healer.**

**I want to pass along a website you can go to that has several helpful, free eBooks about some of the tough issues teens face—like depression, bullying, self-harm, suicide, addiction, relationship problems and more. [Display the slide with the web address.]**

**If you go to [thehopeline.com/ebooks](http://thehopeline.com/ebooks), you'll find eBooks for teens on about two dozen different topics that might help you come alongside a friend who is struggling. These eBooks each have a section in the back that specifically talks about how you can come alongside a friend who is struggling with that issue. And I also want you to know that you can always come to me for help with a friend, if you ever run into a serious problem that requires adult help. Or TheHopeLine also offers a free 24/7 hotline anyone can call for help.**

### Youth Leader Help Box

TheHopeLine® eBooks are free, visually engaging, teen-targeted resources that contain radio calls, videos and true stories. The advice they provide is practical and relevant. You can check them out yourself before recommending them to your students by going to [thehopeline.com/ebooks](http://thehopeline.com/ebooks). The titles currently include:

Understanding Depression  
Understanding Self-Worth and Self-Hate  
Understanding Substance Abuse  
Understanding PTSD  
Understanding Cheating  
“A Relationship Series”  
Understanding Suicide  
Understanding Bullying  
Understanding Lying  
Understanding Anxiety  
Understanding Eating Disorders  
Understanding Self-Harm and Cutting

Understanding Dating  
“A Relationship Series”  
Understanding Sexual Abuse  
Understanding Porn Addiction  
Understanding Divorce  
Understanding Forgiveness  
Understanding Abandonment  
Getting Over a Broken Heart  
Understanding Grief and Loss  
Understanding Screen Addiction  
Understanding Friendships

**TheHopeLine®**

Thanks to our friends at TheHopeLine for allowing us to share these helpful resources.

## ► STEP UP

### EXPLAIN

**So here’s the challenge for this coming week. Take one or two of these ideas we just brainstormed—or come up with your own—and use it to reach out to the person in your Cause Circle who is most “paralyzed” (most hurting) right now—perhaps they’re “paralyzed” by anxiety, depression, addiction, emotional pain, relationship struggles or whatever. Whatever their struggle is, step up and do something this week that shows you Care. This is a “report back” assignment, so come back next week ready to share about what you did and what happened.**

**And finally, before our closing activity, I want to take a moment and speak specifically to any of you here who may have realized that you’ve never actually experienced the kind of unconditional *agape* love of God that we’ve been talking about today. The really great news is that God’s unconditional love is freely available, just for the asking.**

**You see, God made us to be with Him—He loved us deeply and purely. But then we humans rejected that perfect relationship with God and we sinned—we turned away from Him. Our sin created a chasm between us and our holy, perfect God. The Bible makes it clear that our sins can't be removed by the good things we do. It's only Jesus' death and resurrection that paid the price and made it possible for us to get back into a restored relationship with God. Now everyone who trusts in Him alone can receive the free gift of eternal life that begins here and now and last for all eternity.**

**If you've never put your trust in Jesus, you can make that decision right now in the quietness of your own heart. (Pause.)**

**And if you've just put your trust in Christ, I invite you to pray this prayer of thanksgiving silently along with me. So with every head bowed and every eye closed, let's pray...**

**Dear God, I know that my sins have broken my relationship with You and that nothing I could do could ever change that. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place and rose again from the dead. I trust in Him to forgive me for my sins. Through faith in Him, I am entering an eternal relationship with You. Thank You for this free gift and for defeating death through your work on the cross! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Invite anyone who trusted Christ to come see you after the meeting so you can follow up with them. Then gather your students in a large circle and place an empty chair in the center of the circle. Have a second chair available nearby to add to the circle as the following activity unfolds.

## ► CIRCLE UP

### EXPLAIN

**When we closed our gathering the first week of this series, you might remember that I asked each of you to visualize one of your unreached friends sitting in that chair. Today I want you to imagine your most “paralyzed” friend sitting in that chair. Consider some of the personal struggles and challenges that are weighing them down. Whatever their load looks like, just picture them sitting there alone trying to carry it all by themselves.**

**Now I'm going to put a second chair in our circle. I want you to image yourself sitting down in that second chair, right next to your friend. God has put you in their life for a reason. Close your eyes now and silently ask God what it might look like for you to come alongside your friend and demonstrate God's *agape* love as you seek to Care for them.**

After a few moments of silence, close in prayer for these friends and for the courage and compassion to reach out to them in Jesus' name this week.

Send your students a couple texts during the coming week to remind them to come to youth group next week with a story of how they demonstrated Care for someone in their Circle. Let them know you are praying for them.

# WEEK 4: SHARE

## ► HEADS UP

### KEY IDEA

Share the gospel—out loud, with words

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 5:18-24
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

## ► GEAR UP

- Video projection equipment
- *A 4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith* video  
– provided in your *Full Circle* Video subfolder (this video is also available on the *Dare 2 Share* app)
- Bibles
- Masking tape
- Two small prizes for game winners
- *Dare 2 Share* mobile app - Get familiar with the faith sharing tools found in the “Share Now” section of the app. During the lesson, you’ll be instructing your students to explore these sharing tools and role play using them, before challenging them to use one of them to initiate a spiritual conversation with an unreached friend.
- OPTIONAL: Presentation slides provided in your Screen Graphics subfolder and projection equipment  
– *Life in 6 Words* GOSPEL acrostic training slides
- LOW TECH OPTION: For students who do not have a smartphone, inform them that many of the same faith-sharing resources on the app are available at [www.lifein6words.com](http://www.lifein6words.com) and [www.dare2share.org/worldviews](http://www.dare2share.org/worldviews)



## ► WARM UP

### **Double Roll Race**

In a large open space, mark off a starting and ending line for your racecourse using masking tape. Recruit 4-8 players for this activity, depending on your space restrictions. Pair players up with a partner. Instruct each set of partners to lie stretched out on the floor with their feet touching at the starting line. The players must then roll the designated distance over the floor with their feet in permanent contact. (Assign an adult judge to each pair of players to keep everyone honest about staying in contact.) The aim of this game is for both partners to communicate with each other so they can remain touching while rolling quickly to the finish line. If they lose physical contact, they must go back and begin again. The point of the activity is to demonstrate that communicating out loud, with words, will yield better results than just hoping the other person will “get” what they’re supposed to be doing through body language, hints or inference. Award a small prize to the winners.

After the game, settle your students.

### ASK

- **For those of you who were competitors in the Double Roll, what challenges did your assignment present you and your partner?**
- **What was easy and what was hard about this activity?**
- **For those of you who were spectators, do you have any observations about why the pair who finished first in the Double Roll won?**

### EXPLAIN

**Communicating clearly, out loud, with words, tends to work better than relying on inferences, hints or assumptions, doesn't it? This communication principle is true in games, it's true in relationships and it's true in life. It's also true when sharing the gospel.**

**Which brings us to the final week of our series about the Cause Circle—Share. For the past few weeks we've been learning about the Cause Circle of Prayer, Care and Share. But before we dig into the Share component of the Circle, does anyone have a story about what they did (or tried to do) to demonstrate Care for someone in their Cause Circle since we met last time?**

Allow time for student stories. Stop and pray after each story for both the student sharing and their friend. Wrap this sharing time up by praying for today's lesson.

## ► FUEL UP

### EXPLAIN

**We've been using the story in Luke 5 about Jesus healing the paralyzed man to get a snapshot of how He modeled Prayer, Care and Share in His life and ministry. So this week,**



let's bring a different lens to these verses and look for how He is sharing the core of His gospel message here with the people He's interacting with. Could I please have a volunteer read Luke 5:18-24 aloud for us?

## BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX

BIBLE BOX BIBLE

### Luke 5:18-24

*<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, <sup>19</sup> but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."*

*<sup>21</sup> But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"*

*<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"*

### EXPLAIN

**Last week we talked about how Care was demonstrated in this situation, but this week let's focus in on Jesus' sharing the truth of His message out loud, with words.**

### ASK

- **What did Jesus say that got the Pharisees—the religious teachers of that day—so worked up?**
- **How do you think Jesus knew what they were thinking?**
- **Why do you think Jesus chose to bring their silent, simmering questions and skeptical thoughts out into the open to talk about them out loud?**
- **What is Jesus' main point here that He's trying to get across to them?**
- **How does His main point relate to the core message of the gospel?**

## EXPLAIN

**So we see Jesus moving beyond Prayer and Care to Share. He's sharing the truth of His message with those who didn't believe He was the Son of God with the power to forgive sins. Jesus infused some serious theology and spiritual clarity into the conversation, didn't He? And that's really the essence of what the Share part of the Cause Circle is all about. We too are called to carry this message of who Jesus was and why He came to our unreached friends in a clear, compelling, caring way.**

**Could someone please read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 out loud for us?**

## BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX BIBLE BOX

BIBLE BOX BIBLE

### **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" <sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

## EXPLAIN

**When you stop and really think about it, nothing else in this world compares to this hope the gospel message brings—this message that you and I as Christians are called to carry to others.**

**The truth is that sharing Jesus' message is the most impacting thing you will ever do, because the gospel can change someone's life at the deepest level—both now and for all eternity. Nothing else you could ever offer your friends could be more powerful and permanent than that!**

**And that's why it's so important that we learn what to Share.**

## ASK

- **What is the core of the message of the gospel? If someone asked you, how would you answer the following question: Since the Bible's such a big book, can you just give me a summary of what its main message is?**
- **Has fear about not knowing what to say ever kept you from sharing your faith with others?**

## EXPLAIN

**Being able to explain the gospel to someone in a simple, clear, concise way is so foundational that we're going to spend some time now learning (or reviewing) how to do it by watching a short video called *A 4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith*.**

Play the Dare 2 Share video *A 4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith*, found in your Video subfolder.

### Youth Leader Hint Box

#### **The GOSPEL Acrostic**

The GOSPEL acrostic [A.K.A. Life in 6 Words] is short, clear and easy to remember. These six simple truths summarize the “big picture” story of the entire Bible.

This acrostic isn't designed to be a “presentation.” Think of it more as an “outline” that will help your students cover the core truths someone needs to understand in order to make an informed decision about trusting in Christ.

**G**od created us to be with Him. But...

**O**urs sins separate us from God. These...

**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds. But...

**P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. So that...

**E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. And this...

**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

For a more comprehensive youth group curriculum on the GOSPEL acrostic, check out Dare 2 Share's *Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored*.

## ASK

- **How does the “Ask - Admire - Admit” approach described in the video help you start a gospel conversation?**
- **Do you think that mastering the basics of the GOSPEL acrostic would give you more confidence and help free you up to have more focused and informed conversations about Jesus’ message? Why or why not?** [OPTIONAL: If you would like to spend more time training your students on the GOSPEL acrostic, feel free to use the GOSPEL acrostic training slides located in your Screen Graphics subfolder.]
- **Which do you personally think is more challenging—bringing up the gospel in a conversation or wrapping up the conversation with an invitation to trust in Jesus?**

## EXPLAIN

**Speaking of invitations to trust in Jesus, perhaps you’re here today and when you heard the guy in the video explain the gospel, maybe you understood it for the first time. If that’s true for you and you’re ready to put your trust in Jesus and receive His free gift of eternal life, I invite you to do that right now. (Pause.)**

**If you’ve just made that decision in the quietness of your own heart, please pray this prayer silently along with me right now. While saying a prayer isn’t what opens the door to this life-transforming relationship with God, prayer is one way for you to express your thanks to God for His free gift of eternal life. So with every head bowed and every eye closed, let’s pray:**

**GOD, I know You created me to be with You forever.**

**I understand OUR sin—my sin—separates me from You, Lord.**

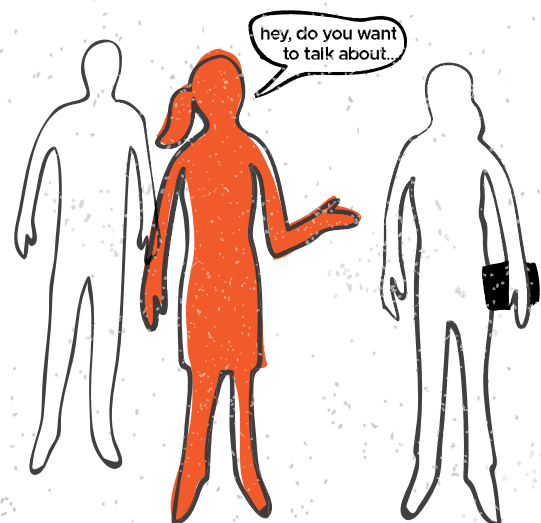
**I know my SINS cannot be removed by my good deeds.**

**I realize now that PAYING the price for sin,  
Jesus died and rose again for me.**

**Absolutely EVERYONE that trusts in Him  
alone has eternal life, and I want that!**

**I know You are the giver of LIFE and that  
eternal life with You starts now and lasts  
forever and ever.**

**Thank You for this free gift. I want to be a part  
of sharing this life-giving Truth with others,  
too! Amen.**



Invite anyone who trusted Christ to come see you after the meeting so you can follow up with them.

## ► STEP UP

### EXPLAIN

So now we're going to spend a little time pairing off and roleplaying having a gospel conversation with a friend. Please find a partner—and pair up so that at least one of you has the *Dare 2 Share* app. Then open your app and pull up the “Share Now” section of the app. There are several faith sharing tools in this part of your app that can help you initiate spiritual conversations with someone who isn't a Christian. Some of these are short videos, some are images. And there's also the screen that we used a couple weeks ago that lays out the 6 Words of the GOSPEL acrostic point by point.

I'm going to give you some time to explore this part of the app in pairs. And after you get familiar with these faith-sharing tools, I want you to each pick one video or image and role play with your partner how you might use it to initiate a spiritual conversation. Take turns with one of you roleplaying that you are a friend who isn't a Christian, and the other initiating a spiritual conversation. Also practice explaining the GOSPEL to the other person in this conversation. You can use the 6 Words screen in your app, if you need help explaining the GOSPEL.

Allow 15-20 minutes for this activity.

### ASK

- How did it go? Which one of these conversation-starting tools did you like the best?
- Did you learn anything from your roleplaying?

### EXPLAIN

Now that you've gotten familiar with some of these spiritual conversation-starting tools and you've had a little roleplaying practice using them, it's time for the real deal. Think of a friend in your Cause Circle. Now pull out your phone and get ready to share one of the

#### Youth Leader Help Box

##### *Life in 6 Words* Mobile App

Encourage your students to download the faith-sharing *Life in 6 Words* mobile app which is specifically designed for Christians to use with non-believers as a digital faith-sharing tool. The interactive app is a great springboard for initiating spiritual conversations. The striking graphics of the six words of the GOSPEL—God, Our, Sins, Paying, Everyone, Life clearly communicate Jesus' invitation to trust in Him. For more information, check out the bonus training video, *Life in 6 Words Mobile App Tutorial* located in your Video subfolder. It will prepare you to train your students on how to use this outreach app. [Learn more about the app here.](#)



**videos or images or simply write your own text that kicks off a gospel conversation with your friend. But before we all hit “send” together, we’re going to pause and pray together for these messages we’re about to Share. So cue up your message now, but wait to send it until after we’ve prayed together.**

Pause briefly to allow your students time to cue up their messages. If you have students who do not own a smartphone, encourage them to share the video “Life in 6 Words” with someone in their Cause Circle within the next 48 hours. The video can be viewed at [www.lifein6words.com](http://www.lifein6words.com).

## ► CIRCLE UP

You’ll need a total of four empty chairs for the following activity.

### EXPLAIN

**Is everyone cued up and ready? Then let’s circle up to pray. Bring your phones with you as we all gather in a large circle.** Place two empty chairs in the center of the circle. **Like last week, I want you to imagine a friend sitting in one of those chairs. They may be hurting or they may be happy and not even realize that they need a relationship with God to find deeper joy, greater purpose and eternal life. Either way, just picture your friend sitting there.**

**Next, visualize yourself in the second chair sitting next to them having a spiritual conversation. You’re listening and sharing—engaged in a real conversation about God and why He’s the most important thing in the whole world to you. But now I’m going to add a third chair.** Arrange the three chairs in a circle facing each other. Now I want you to image Jesus sitting in this third chair. **Visualize Him right there beside you in the midst of your conversation with your friend as you do your best to introduce your friend to Jesus. Because God is right there beside you in the midst of this whole Prayer, Care, Share process. He has promised He will be with us always and He will be your source of strength and spiritual power as you Share the gospel with your friend.**

**But wait, there’s more! Now imagine that your friend has made a decision to put their trust in Jesus! What joy! The angels in heaven are having a party! And once someone becomes a believer in Jesus, you need to help them get plugged into a youth group so they can grow deeper in their faith. So now I’m going to add a fourth chair, because this is where the Cause Circle process goes “full circle.”** Arrange the four chairs in a small circle. **When someone trusts in Christ, it doesn’t end there, you also need to help them grow deeper in their relationship with God and commit to The Cause, too.**

**They need to understand the Prayer, Care, Share process too, so they can begin to engage with their friends about Jesus. So that one day that fourth chair will be filled with someone who they lead to Christ. And on and on the cycle goes. This is what it looks like to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.**

**But how can they become believers in Jesus, if no one Shares the gospel with them? So right now, let’s pray together over these messages we’re about to send to our friends...**

**Dear God, we pray for our friends who are going to receive these conversation-starting messages from us. Soften their hearts and give them a thirst to know You personally. We pray they will be open to hearing about Jesus and that they will put their trust in Him and receive Your free gift of eternal life. Help us be brave and clear as we Share. Help us engage in this full circle of Prayer, Care, Share and continue to pursue others just like Jesus pursued us. We want to be disciples who make disciples who make disciples. Help us do that. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**Okay, let's all hit send! And let's all come back next week ready to share what happened as a result of what we just sent off to our friends.**

**If you're concerned that you don't fully understand everything you might need to know when you get into a deeper conversation with your friend, just remember the phrase "That's a great question, I don't know, but I'll do my best to find out. Let's meet again to talk again soon."**

**I also want to encourage you to watch the videos on the Dare 2 Share app in the "What 2 Share" section. They walk you through each point on the GOSPEL acrostic in greater depth, and will help you understand each point more fully. And *A 4 Minutes Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith* is also on the app in the "How 2 Share" section, so you can watch it again, if you'd like.**

**Prayer, Care, Share. During these four weeks, we've learned a lot about sharing the gospel with others in a prayer-soaked, loving, clear way! As you engage with your friends this week, I want you to know that I am praying for you!**

Send your students a couple text during the coming week to remind them to share the gospel and to come back to youth group next week with their story about what they did and what happened. Remind them you are praying for them.