

Gospel Renewal Stories - Breakout groups - session 5

1. Share your name and whether you do chores first or after you relax or have fun
2. Slide #2 has the outline from the talk
3. Slide #3 has the scenario from last week and everyone's group notes follow
4. Go to new group slide and write a Gospel Renewal Story for Alex and Brian - Use the prompt questions for your outline and then turn it into a story
5. If you have time, share any false gods/idols you discovered this week, and for whomever is willing, write more Gospel Renewal Stories

Gospel Renewal Stories

A Gospel Renewal Story happens when one or more followers of Jesus sees the *wisdom of the Gospel* applied to the gods, gospels and salvations they are believing. In any situation, they prayerfully “think through” the Gospel like this:

Evaluate

Meet with God using Ps 139:23-24: “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Confess

As the Lord shows you a false god, its false gospel, and how this is bringing brokenness and death to any situation or relationship.

Repent

Turn from trusting the little “g” god/gospel/salvation and consider that God, His Gospel of grace, and waiting on Him to give blessing in His time, is better.

Believe

Turn to trusting God, His Gospel.

Scenario

Alex and Brian are followers of Jesus. They met at church and decided to share an apartment. They agreed to share in cleaning, keeping the place nice and other things about living together.

In the kitchen, Alex likes to only clean up, wash dishes about once or twice a week, when there are a good number of dirty plates, etc.

Brian prefers to have the kitchen cleaned every day. Brian found he was washing the dishes almost daily, washing Alex's dishes, and felt Alex was taking advantage of him.

Alex doesn't notice how irritated Brian is getting with this. Meanwhile, as Brian is feeling used by Alex, Brian is trying hard to keep with other agreements they made.

Alex goes to bed before Brian nearly every night and likes Brian to keep his music quiet so he can sleep. Brian likes to listen to music before going to bed to relax and likes to hear the music through speakers rather than through earphones so he can "feel" the music. Occasionally, Brian listens to loud music at night, and Alex comes out of his bedroom to ask him to turn it down. The conversation about this can get rather harsh some nights. Brian can tell he is doing this with a little bit of passive aggressive retaliation in mind for Alex making him wash all the dishes.

Is this how followers of Jesus should treat each other?

Group 1

1. Evaluate

- a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
- b. For what happiness are they longing?
- c. What is the sin beneath the sin?

2. Confess

- a. The false god can't deliver
- b. You can, Lord, and already have
- c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess

3. Repent

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to?
- b. How does this bring joy?

4. Believe

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
- b. What can they afford to do now? Why?

Gospel Renewal Story

1. loving them selves more than Jesus, wanting "control" according their own terms, trusting the agreement without clearly communicating the details of the agreement; sin = blame, quick to point at the other person, anger, resentment, passive-aggressiveness, loving yourself more than the other person/Jesus, selfishness;; sin beneath the sin = loving self more than Jesus; cannot evaluate because they're pointing fingers at each other, pride
2. False god can be the agreement that they had, confess that they both contribute to the problem, the need for communication & boundaries, confessing "i loved myself more than Jesus/you," confessing the desire for control according to selfish terms; "I confess" (individual prayer) and "we confess (despite the other person's confession)" (corporate prayer). Confess to God & each other
3. Turn from: non-communication (expecting the other person to understand without communicating), putting self first (control, wanting to change the other person according to selfish terms), pride (prevents reconciliation), trusting the agreement without communicating; self-righteousness

Turn to: God & towards each other, the truth that both are sinners and Christ died for both of them; Gospel - serve & sacrifice for each other (i.e. Pharisees)

Joy: changing perspective - joy in serving the other person than meeting my own wants; instead of following the agreement there is joy in willingly serving the other the person

4. See in Christ: Grace, patience, care, compassion, flexibility, serving heart/attitude,

Change: slow to anger, 1 Corinth 13, stronger brotherhood, joyfully living together instead of just agreeing to live together

Afford: time & energy to serve others outside of the home because home became a peaceful place; "clean your own room first before you make demands of others to change for you" ; practicing serving at home - carries over to other areas of life

Group 2

1. Evaluate

- a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
-Their preferences
- b. For what happiness are they longing? --The other person to conform to *their* rules/preferences.
- c. What is the sin beneath the sin? - Selfishness, Pride

2. Confess

- a. The false god can't deliver
- b. You can, Lord, and already have
- c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess -
Acknowledge their poor posture to the Lord/Get right with God; putting own desires above friendship;

3. Repent

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to? - think through what Jesus would do; confess to each other (humble themselves)
- b. How does this bring joy? - repair their relationship

4. Believe

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
- b. What can they afford to do now? Why? -Realize their own individual responsibility

Gospel Renewal Story

Alex realizes he's being passive aggressive; the Lord convicts his heart of selfishness and pride. He spends some time in the Word and acknowledges he needs to humble himself and reconcile with Brian.

"Hey, Brian, can we chat? I've been feeling some resentment towards you, and I'd like to talk about why," confesses Alex.

"Yeah, I've noticed it, too. Let's talk," Brian agrees.

The two lay out ground rules for how to communicate clearly in their home. They promise to let each other know it's important to be honest about their comfort levels in the home (dishes, etc.) They both endeavor to be more conscientious--follow their words with action.

And, they lived, happily ever AFTER! :) :)

Group 3

1. Evaluate
 - a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
 - b. For what happiness are they longing?
 - c. What is the sin beneath the sin?
2. Confess
 - a. The false god can't deliver
 - b. You can, Lord, and already have
 - c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess
3. Repent
 - a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to?
 - b. How does this bring joy?
4. Believe
 - a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
 - b. What can they afford to do now? Why?

Gospel Renewal Story

What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus? **Themselves. Being right. Both want an ideal situation. One wants peace and quiet versus the other desires control over when the dishes get washed. False idol → order / peace.**

Confess selfishness, where they have wronged the other person,

Brian: House isn't his own, needs to seek understanding on how Alex prefers things and goes about life. Confess bitterness / pride in his heart towards Alex for not washing the dishes.

Alex: Self-aware, living with someone else, considering Brian's standards. Confess how he neglects taking part in household chores, possibly confess laziness.

Turn from self to Christ. Perhaps can go to a

Group 4

1. Evaluate

- a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
- b. For what happiness are they longing?
- c. What is the sin beneath the sin?

2. Confess

- a. The false god can't deliver
- b. You can, Lord, and already have
- c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess

3. Repent

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to?
- b. How does this bring joy?

4. Believe

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
- b. What can they afford to do now? Why?

Gospel Renewal Story

Once upon a time, Alex and Brian were angry with their pride towards each other. Alex and Brian both held grievances against each other because they gave too much meaning to something other than God.

On a dark night, both of their grievances grew deeper and entrenched in their hearts. Their angered hearts then acted in retaliation towards each other by not considering the other, instead looking to irritate the other in what they considered justice. That night, Alex snapped and they engaged in a very heated argument but, realizing how ugly their words were, they decided to sit down and talk through their grievances seriously.

As both talked through their housing arrangement, both realized that what they wanted was peace with each other and within the house. So they began acknowledging to one other the anger, resentment, and pride they had towards one another, exposing these freely, asking for forgiveness. Reflecting on how they started their friendship, they coincidentally checked their email at the same time and happened upon a relationship series taught by Bob Klein, and they realized that they should start proactively engaging in God's word.

They decided to take turns praying and each realized that they felt more sorry towards God for letting something so trivial hurt the fellowship that He had blessed them with. During their prayer, both felt a feeling of relief and happiness washing over them and both Alex and Brian felt at that moment the importance of centering God in their relationship. With Christ at the center, God has opened their eyes to see how their relationship in unity is used more powerfully by God in others by opening up their home for friends and others to host Bible studies, where they now both (together) clean dishes for others.

Group 5

1. Evaluate

- a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
- b. For what happiness are they longing?
- c. What is the sin beneath the sin?

2. Confess

- a. The false god can't deliver
- b. You can, Lord, and already have
- c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess

3. Repent

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to?
- b. How does this bring joy?

4. Believe

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
- b. What can they afford to do now? Why?

Gospel Renewal Story

1. idolizing comfort and control. idolizing idea of peace. response to what makes them upset. both had idea of preserving the peace but couldn't confront the other person leading to passive aggressiveness
2. idealized image of them to have a harmonious life; doesn't include opportunities for them to change and have hard conversations. Confess complacency-- let the situation fester. need to hold each other accountable.
3. Need to resolve and make amends to one another to become one before God. Turn away from their false idols. Brian-- Alex-- turns to comfort of sleeping/ avoids dishes/wants Brian to conform to his lifestyle. Brian letting irritation fester. Spirit of vengeance can be dangerous. Turning to judgement.
4. Forgive each other. That comes from realizing we are first forgiven by Christ. Humility because Christ died for them. they are liberated from law/requirements. Showing and practicing grace. The way we treat each other after being saved is through the lens of Christ. The servant

Group 6

1. Evaluate

- a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
 - i. their immediate self interest, comfort (look at **false god** below)
- b. For what happiness are they longing?
 - i. immediate gratification to get their needs met and served
- c. What is the sin beneath the sin?
 - i. self-serving instead of serving others; not being able to be honest, courageous to have a tough conversation

2. Confess

- a. The **false god** (desire for comfort, expectations on others to get our needs met, assuming the other person to read our mind without being honest, focusing on one's need rather than thinking of the other's needs) can't deliver
 - i. peace and harmony, solution that benefits/blesses both parties, provide true comfort
- b. You can, Lord, and already have
 - i. already provided spiritual restoration/renewal, accepted us whether or not we meet other people's expectations; others can't meet our needs
- c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess
 - i. confess their selfishness, wanting things to be done certain way rather than compromising and discussing, not prioritizing on loving the other person

3. Repent

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to?
 - i. turn away from being selfish, try to seek other's interest; turn away from loving themselves more than loving God
- b. How does this bring joy?
 - i. healthy confrontation will restore the relationship and bring peace, joy and harmony

4. Believe

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
 - i. Christ sacrificial love; Christ speaks in truth and grace; restoring their relationship will strengthen their personal relationship with God
- b. What can they afford to do now? Why?
 - i. play loud music while doing the dishes??; grab a meal together; start a conversation asking on their well being with compassion

Group 7

1. Evaluate

- a. What are Alex and Brian loving more than Jesus?
- b. For what happiness are they longing?
- c. What is the sin beneath the sin?

2. Confess

- a. The false god can't deliver
- b. You can, Lord, and already have
- c. What do Alex and Brian need to confess

3. Repent

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to turn from? What do they turn to?
- b. How does this bring joy?

4. Believe

- a. What do Alex and Brian need to see in Christ? How does this change them?
- b. What can they afford to do now? Why?

Gospel Renewal Story

1. love their comfort, convenience, their ideal way of living, self-righteousness, pride (my way or the highway), non-confrontation and avoiding conflict,

They long for peace/utopia,

Sin beneath the sin is pride,

2. The false god can't deliver peace, harmony

Need to confess self-righteousness and pride, that causes this conflict. Resentment leads from one thing to another.

They wake up the next morning. Brian is listening to music, disgruntled, and is trying to do it gospel-centered. What's going on in Brian's mind, what does he say...

Maybe I should just let it go... wait a couple weeks for this to blow over. But you know what I want to do this right and love on Alex in a gospel-centered way. Ask Alex to brunch and get choco nut pancakes. Confess sin of pride, selfrighteousness,