

THE 3 CIRCLES

COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL TO A BROKEN WORLD

In 2008, a pastor named Jimmy Scroggins moved from Kentucky to Florida to lead a fellowship. Having left the Bible Belt, he soon realized that he needed a way to explain the gospel to people with little church background.

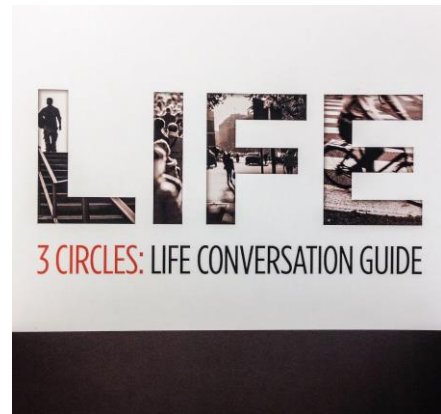
Scroggins eventually found that he and others could connect with the unchurched through a universal experience: brokenness. Everyone experiences the brokenness and pain of our world, regardless of race, religion, or social standing. Ruptured relationships, random accidents, rampant disease, financial uncertainty, racial discrimination, domestic abuse, violent crime, addictions, and death are examples of brokenness that people encounter. Problems are universal, and as a consequence, they are frequent topics of conversations.

As a result, Scroggins developed a tool called the 3 Circles: a way to share the gospel by drawing a simple diagram. The 3 Circles method begins with brokenness and uses it to transition to a drawing that explains the source and remedy for brokenness. The drawing consists of three circles and three arrows that move from God's Design, Sin, and Brokenness to the Gospel, Repentance and Faith, and Recovery of God's Design.

3 CIRCLES: THE LIFE CONVERSATION GUIDE, A VIDEO & AN APP

A few years ago, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) took the presentation and created the 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide. It is a short booklet that uses the circles to explain the gospel. The guide is a tool for learning the 3 Circles, and it is a resource to give to lost people to read. *Copies are available* in the Education Office (Room 1333).

NAMB has also produced videos related to the 3 Circles. Below we include a link to a great one by Jimmy Scroggins as he demonstrates how to use the 3 Circles. Watching the video will help you learn the method.



3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide Demonstration (4:12): vimeo.com/227782208.

Jimmy Scroggins demonstrates the method by writing on a board. He does a good job of limiting churchy words and explaining concepts like "sin."

Additionally, NAMB has a phone app that can be downloaded and used to share the gospel. To find it, open the app store on your phone and search for “3 circles.”

3 CIRCLES: LEARNING THE TOOL

There are as many ways to learn this method as there are people, but here are some suggestions:

1. **Watch** the Jimmy Scroggins’ video *twice*. Do not try to memorize every word. Rather, focus on the main elements.
2. **Try** to draw and explain the 3 Circles in your own words. Don’t look at the video, app, or booklet.
3. **Rewatch** the Jimmy Scroggins’ video.
4. **Draw** and explain the 3 Circles again.
5. **Practice** again, this time pretending that you are transitioning a conversation about problems into a conversation about the gospel.

Understand that the problems and pain people discuss are potential transition points to sharing the 3 Circles. For example, let’s say a friend is discussing injustice in the world. You might say, “The world is filled with injustice. It is sad. The interesting thing is that God designed our lives and the world to be beautiful and harmonious. Can I briefly share why the world is broken and the hope for a better life?”

6. **Review and practice** until you feel comfortable sharing the 3 Circles in *3 minutes*.

