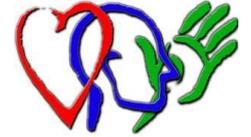


Recap of Effective Evangelism Equipping Classes and The Way Forward

Midweek
24 April 2019

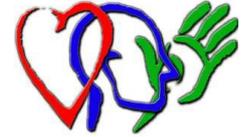
Worldviews



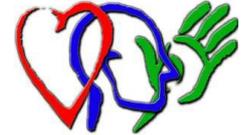
A person's worldview represents his most fundamental beliefs and assumptions about the universe he inhabits. It reflects how we answer all the “big questions” of human existence e.g. Who am I? Where do I come from? Where do I belong? What is the meaning of life?, etc.

We should be able to identify the major non-Christian worldviews that compete for dominance in our society, to understand where they fundamentally differ from the Christian worldview, and to make a well-reasoned case that the Christian worldview alone is true, good and beautiful.

Worldviews



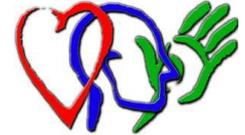
Pre-modernism



- Antiquity to 17th century
- People's sense of self and purpose was expressed by **faith in some form of deity**, be it in a single God or in many gods
- **Ultimate Truth could be known** and the way to this knowledge was through **divine revelation**
- Religious **authority** was the primary source of authority
- **Tradition** was sacred and unchanging
- There was **not a distinct sense of individuality**
- **Social order** was strictly enforced through ceremony and moral codes

Is it from God/the gods?

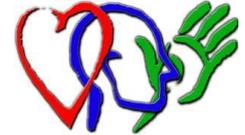
Modernism



- Mid 17th – late 20th century
- Is belief in ‘**progress**’, ‘**rationality**’, and ‘**absolute knowledge**’ and the search for knowledge through rational inquiry
- Driven by **scientific discovery** and the invention of the scientific method
- **Progress** of the world will be achieved through intellectual advancement and the search for truth

Is it true/Is it proven by facts?

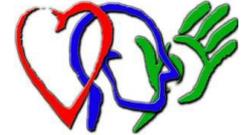
Post-modernism



- Started in late 20th century
- There are **very few (if any) objective truths** - most of the things we hold to be “true” are only true for our experiences - someone with a different set of experiences might come up with a different set of “truths,” and those “truths” are just as valid as my “truths”
- There are **no objective or absolute moral values**
- **Sceptical of** the metanarratives and ideologies of **modernism**
- A premium is placed on **experiences**

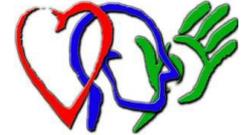
Is it plausible/Is it real?

Summary



	Pre-modernism	Modernism	Post-modernism
Time period	Antiquity – mid 1800s	Mid 1800s – late 1900s	Late 1900s – present
Starting point	Absolute God/gods	Mankind	Self
Knowledge foundation	Revelation	Reason	Relativism
Truth is ...	Objective & knowable	Objective & knowable	Relative & unknowable (many truths)
Major causes	Historical claims of Christianity	Religious wars (1550 - 1650)	Totalitarianism, Scientific Wars esp. WW1 & WW2
Ultimate authority	God/other deity	Science & human reason	No ultimate authority/ each to his own
Spiritual realm	Supernatural	Anti-supernatural	Non-authoritative spirituality, Mysticism
Worldviews	Theism, Polytheism, Superstition, Gnosticism	Deism, Atheism, Humanism, Modern Gnosticism	Agnosticism, Pantheism, Relativism, Pluralism, MTD, Existentialism, New Ageism, Nihilism, Narcissism, Post-modern Gnosticism

Cultural Christianity



- product of **post-modernism**
- **sceptical of traditional** churches and ways of doing church
- **adopts** non-Biblical worldviews to be more “relevant”
- seeks to have the **best of both worlds** by not submitting fully to Jesus as Lord
- pursue **the God they want** instead of the God who is
- puts the **individual at the centre** rather than God and His family
- Is flourishing under the **post-modernist** worldview, especially amongst **millennials**:
 - Experience over reason
 - Feelings over facts
 - Subjectivity over objectivity
 - Spirituality over religion

Cultural Christianity



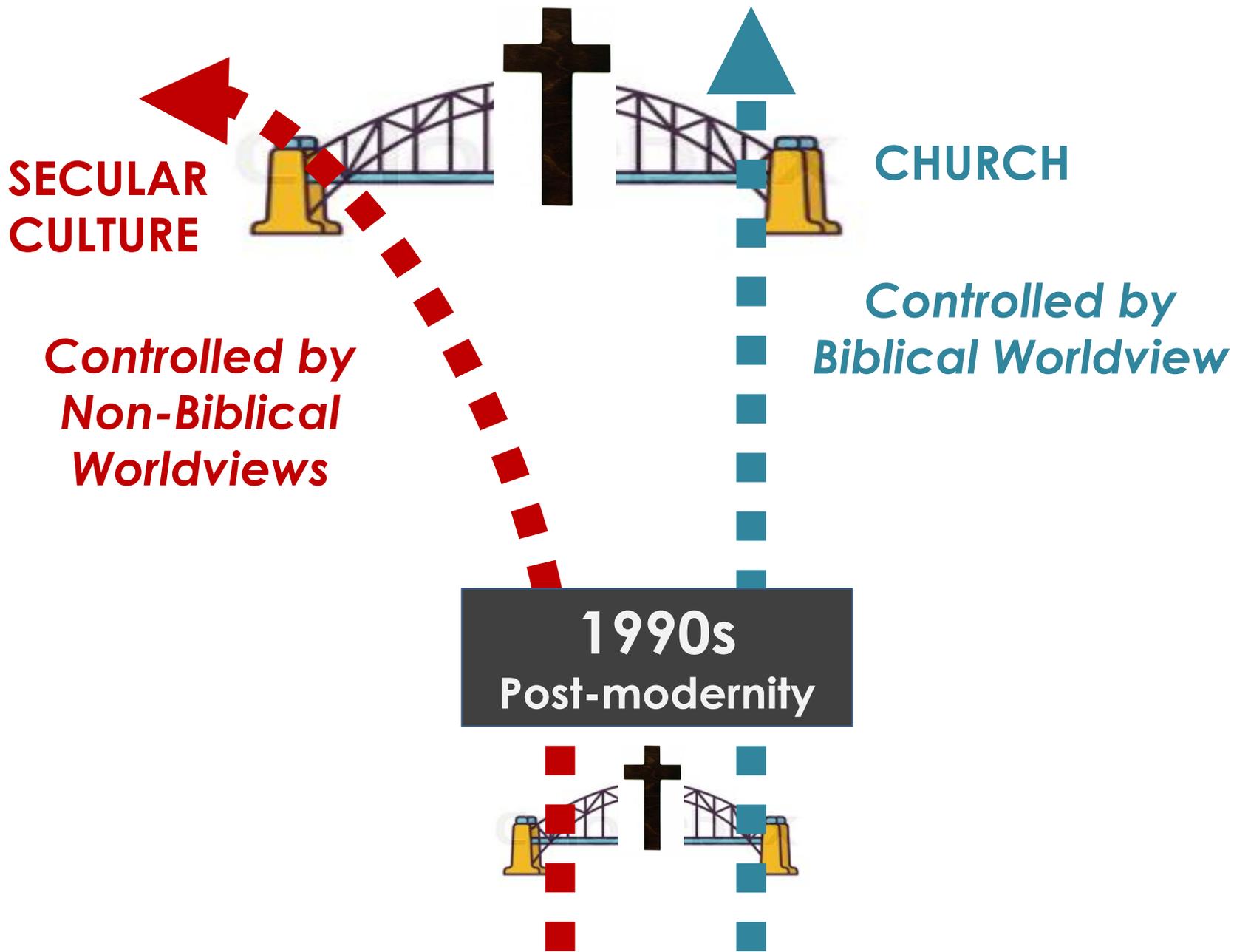
Rob Bell

Pastor: Mars Hill Church
and “Emergent Church”
movement leader

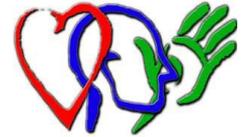
“This is part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that “Scripture alone” is our guide. It sounds nice, but it is not true.”

“the Bible is a product of human work, not divine fiat”.

“I can’t find one place in the teachings of Jesus, or the Bible for that matter, where we are to identify ourselves first and foremost as sinners.



Spiritual War

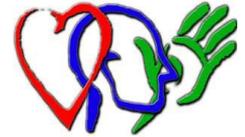


Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Eph 6:10-12

We are NOT at war with the secular culture itself, but with the spiritual forces of evil behind it

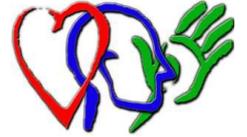
Metaphor of Exile



This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, **seek the peace and prosperity of the city** to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

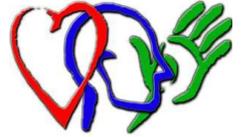
- *Jeremiah 29:4-7*

Life lessons in Evangelism



1. Know what holds us back
2. Only Jesus can heal brokenness
3. Pray, pray, pray!
4. Be friendly and sincere to connect
5. Share in own unique way
6. Share from a place of gratitude and love
7. The more we do it the easier it gets!

Life lessons in Evangelism



8. Adapt how we study the Bible
9. Help people become disciples & disciple makers
10. Teach and train people willingly
11. Share Jesus where you are
12. Everything we do should align with our mission
13. Invite people into your life
14. Know God's Big Story

Evangelism in a Postmodern Age

1. AUTHENTICITY

- The buzzword for millennials!
- Not “Is it true?” but “Is it real in our lives” (Are we living consistently with our beliefs?)
- Our message needs to be embodied in shared lives and trusted friendships

Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. - *1 Thess 1:5*

Evangelism in a Postmodern Age

2. HOSPITALITY

- Demonstrates that the gospel is real, authentic, believable, attractive and livable
- Hospitality provides space in which spiritual conversations can happen in a friendly & safe environment
- Hospitality follows the model of Jesus, who ate with sinners and tax collectors
- There is something special about having meals together ...

Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. - *Henri Nouwen*

Evangelism in a Postmodern Age

3. STORY TELLING

- All people connect with stories, especially when they can see themselves in them
- We should be able to tell God's story simply and accurately in a way that draws our hearers in
- Jesus was the master storyteller

Jesus' stories, people say, were just "earthly stories with heavenly meaning."

But that is rubbish. Stories are far more powerful than that. Stories create worlds. Tell the story differently, and you change the world. - *NT Wright*

Evangelism in a Postmodern Age

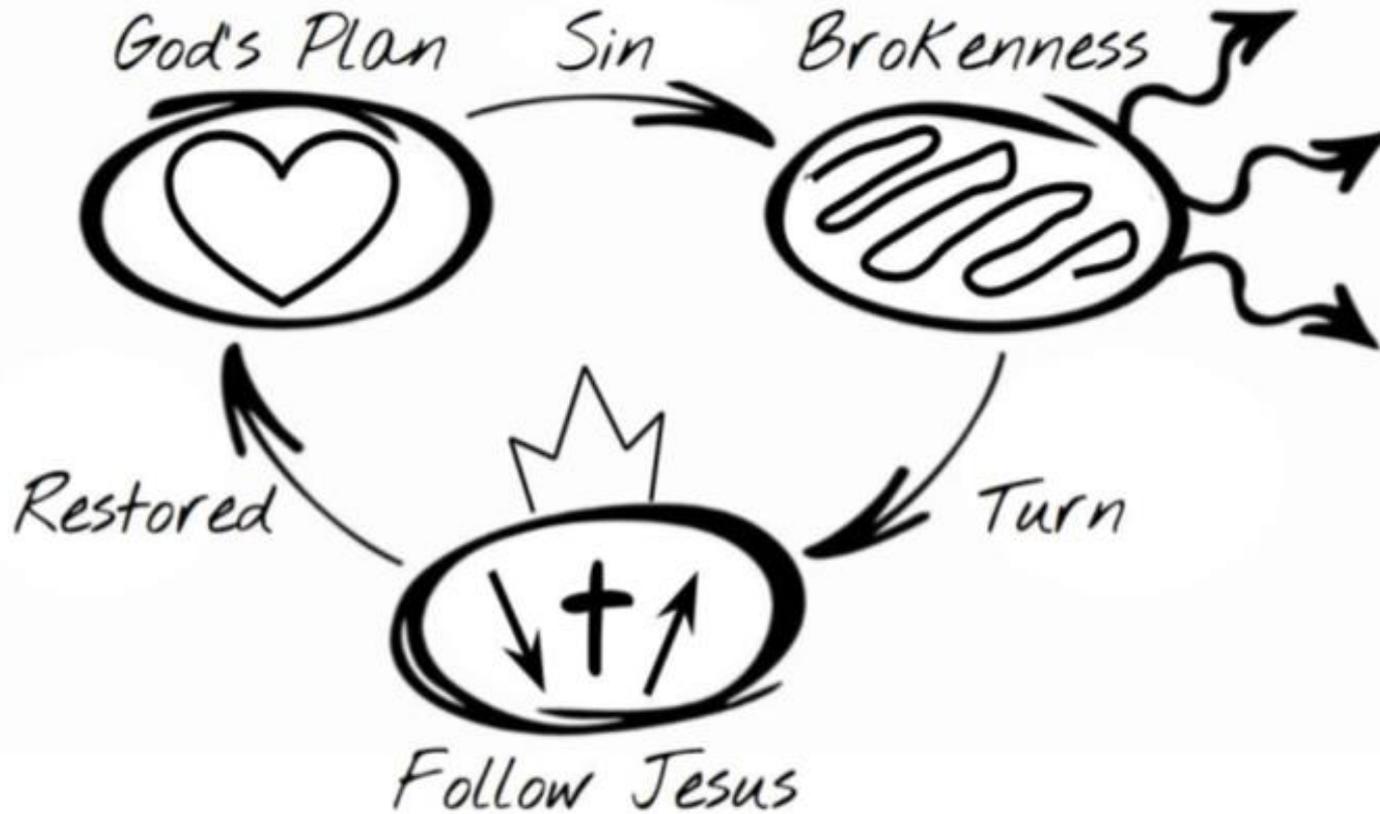
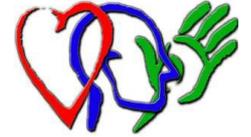
4. TESTIMONY

- *Modernists: "Give me the facts"*
- *Postmodernists: "Show me why I should believe you"*
- Our life stories help to address the credibility question
- People can argue against a truth claim, but not against a personal story
- Our testimony demonstrates that the gospel works, esp. when we tell it in a way that the person can relate to

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life. - 1 John 1:1-2

Presenting the Gospel

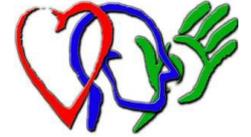
Three Circles



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7mURm-8cOI>



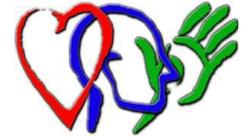
Presenting the Gospel



Small Group Exercise

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Three Circles approach to presenting the Gospel to people?

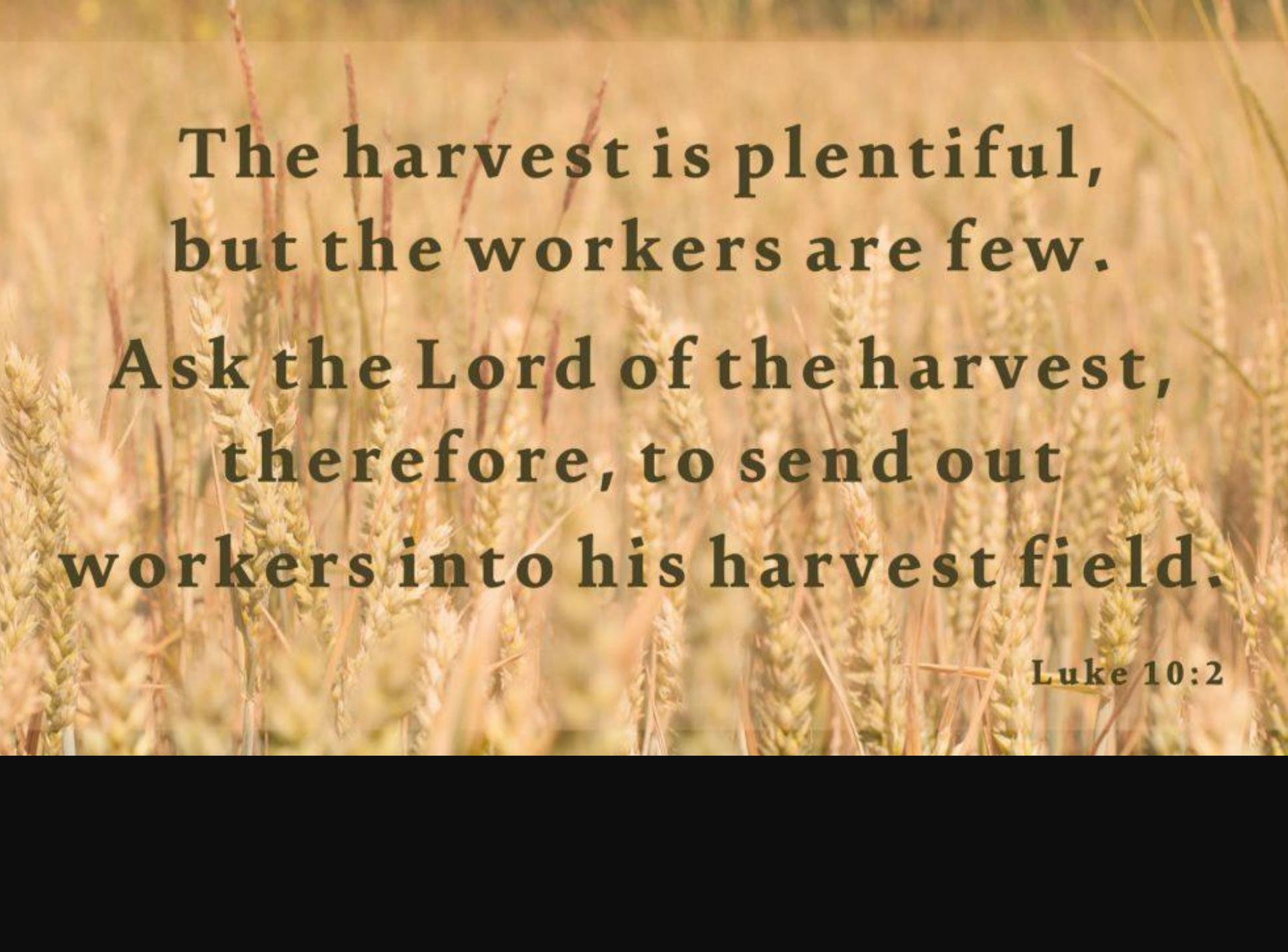
Way Forward



1. Practice telling God's story using the Three Circles tool
2. Can the tool be refined to better represent God's story and what we stand for? If so, how?
3. What key passages would you use to explain each of the circles?
4. Map each of our "Making Disciples" Core Studies against this framework
5. In addition to our Core Studies, are there any other topics that you think need to be covered to explain God's story this way, and to invite people into it?

Discuss in Family Groups and share at next Midweek

You can cover all or some of the above, and you can present in whatever way you choose. Have fun and be creative!



**The harvest is plentiful,
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out
workers into his harvest field.**

Luke 10:2