

Evangelism Training Overview

(Based on James Choung's True Story)

Goals:

1. To encourage prayer for lost friends and family.
2. To encourage a heart for evangelism.
3. To equip for evangelism by teaching a method of sharing the gospel using James Choung's True Story illustration.

Overview: A five week course for small group patterned after James Choung's True Story illustration. Prayer for lost friends and family members are a part of each meeting.

This illustration allows the gospel to be presented in a clear manner on a napkin or piece of paper in a one-on-one setting. Three areas of relationships impacted by the fall and redemption are emphasized: spiritual, interpersonal, and world systems. There is no scripture memory required, but Biblical principles and concepts are presented.

Schedule:

1. Week one: Designed for Good
2. Week two: Damaged by Evil
3. Week three: Restored for Better
4. Week four: Sent Together to Heal
5. Week five: Put It All Together - Review and Practice

Meeting agenda each week: (allow 60-90 minutes)

1. Icebreaker – allows the group to warm up relationally
2. Biblical basis – search scripture that relates to this week's illustration
3. Application –how does this impact my life?
4. Practice – learn to present part of the illustration in pairs
5. Prayer – especially for lost friends and family

Preparation:

1. Read James Choung's book, True Story, and Based on a True Story booklet. Available from Amazon, Intersity Press, etc.
2. Order enough Based on a True Story booklets for your group.
3. Make enough copies of gospel illustration for your group.
4. Paper or 3x5 cards, pens, pencils for group.
5. Pray for each of your group members to benefit from the training, for a heart for evangelism for your group. Pray for conversions to result.
6. Schedule a 5 week time slot in your curriculum for the course.

Evangelism Lesson One: Designed for Good

Icebreaker: What about Nature most inspires or intrigues you? What could you spend hours looking at or thinking about in creation?

Read: Gen. 1:26-31. As created in God's image, what aspects of God's character do you think we express or display as humans? (self-reflection, creativity, relational, intimacy, emotional, producing work, organization, etc.)

Describe man's relationship to the rest of creation in Gen. 1:28-30. What responsibilities was he given?

Read Gen. 2:15. What might work have been like before the fall? What aspects of work are positive for you now?

Read Gen. 2:18-20. What was man's relationship to the animals like?

Read Gen. 2:21-25. What was the first human relationship like? What would relationships be like with "no shame"?

Read Gen. 3:9. This happened after the Fall, but what does it suggest about God's original relationship with man? (open access, constant communication)

How would you describe man's relationship with God as seen in these passages? (image-bearer, dependent, cared for, given responsibilities and ruling authority, needs met, open communication, shameless, etc.)

Application: What about the Garden of Eden relationships is most attractive to you? How do unbelievers display a yearning for these relationships?

Practice: Pass out copies of the "True Story" gospel diagram, Based on a True Story pamphlets, paper, pens. Explain the "Designed for Good" portion of the illustration. Have the group break up into pairs to practice drawing and explaining this portion of the diagram.

Close: Reassemble the group and ask for their feedback: "How did it go?"

Prayer: How can we pray for you this week? Ask group to pray for three friends/family (or ask God to lay three people on your heart to pray for).

Assignment: Read James Choung's booklet "Based on a True Story".

Evangelism Lesson Two: Damaged by Evil

Icebreaker: What loss of innocence do you most grieve for yourself or for your family?

Review: Brief overview of last weeks' lesson.

Read: Gen. 3:1-7. What was the act that caused the fall? (eating forbidden fruit – disobedience).

What underlying faulty thinking or attitude led to this? (3:4 “you will be like God”; 3:6 “good, pleasing, desirable...she took”).

What was the first result of the fall? (eyes opened, realized nakedness – shame)

What does shame do to relationships? (isolation, guarded, lack of intimacy-broken relationships)

Read: Gen. 3:8-13. What happened in man's relationship to God with the fall? (shame, fear, hiding, rationalizing, making excuses, blaming)

Read Gen.3:14-19. What broken systems have we inherited as a result of the fall? (see how many the group can come up with)

1. Evil/Satan – the struggle is institutionalized in this world
2. Physical pain – childbirth
3. Marital/relational struggles between the sexes (desire for husband/he will rule)
4. Ground cursed – painful toilsome labor for food/income, environmental problems.
5. Death/sickness
6. Other?

Application: Which of these kinds of broken relationships or systems do you most grieve over? Which of these areas do you think are most distressing to your unbelieving friends?

Practice: Draw and explain the “designed for good” and “damaged by evil” diagrams (use pgs. 206-210 in True Story). Have group members practice drawing and explaining it in pairs.

Close: Reassemble the group and ask for their feedback: “How did it go?” Did anyone read the Based on a True Story booklet? What were your impressions?

Prayer: What area of brokenness that we have discussed is on your heart today? How can we pray for you this week? Ask group to pray for three friends/family.

Evangelism Lesson Three: Restored for Better

Icebreaker: What place do you remember enjoying most from childhood? Why did you like to go there? Were there meals involved in your visits there?

Read: Romans 3:9-20. How can people pacify God, or repair their sense of guilt before God? How can people divorce themselves from their resentment, anger, or apathy toward God? (it can't be done) When did you first truly sense your sin and need for God? Share with group.

Read Romans 3:21-28. What can we do to make ourselves right before God? What has God done to provide for our need for righteousness? If you were on death row for legitimate reasons, what would the term **justify** mean to you? If you were a slave, what would the term **redemption** mean to you? If you were a Jew who brought an annual animal sacrifice to the temple, what would the term **atonement** mean?

Read Romans 5:1-11. What has happened to allow people to have peace with God? (see v.6-8. Christ died for us)

In Rom. 5: 9-11, what are other benefits of Christ's death? (justified, saved, reconciled, rejoice) Explain what each of these terms mean. Do these verses make you feel like you are in a safe, comfortable place? Do you feel like you're a guest at a banquet? Why or why not?

Application: Briefly share how you came to understand your need for Jesus. Encourage one or two others to share their stories briefly as well. Make these stories a topic of praise during the prayer time.

Practice: Draw and explain the "Restored for better" diagrams. You can read this from pg. 210-212 in True Story. Have group members practice drawing and explaining it in pairs.

Close: Reassemble the group and ask for their feedback: "How did it go?"

Prayer: How can we pray for you this week? Let's praise and thank God for what he's done in each of our lives to save us. Ask group to pray for three friends/family for salvation.

Evangelism Lesson Four: Sent Together to Heal

Icebreaker: Besides Christianity and the church, have you been involved in any other movements, causes, political efforts, etc? Explain why. How effective were you in achieving your goals through those groups?

[Alternative icebreaker: What would you say is the most difficult thing about being a manager or supervisor (for yourself or someone else)? Why? What are some examples? (expect answers such as relational issues, difficult personalities, tensions between enforcing company rules and pleasing employees, firing, etc.)]

Read: Ephesians 2:11-13. What are the two groups that Paul is addressing? What is dividing them? (circumcision, keeping the Jewish law – see v. 15) Read Eph. 2:14-22. What words are used to describe the relationship between these two groups? (v.14 “the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”, v.16 “hostility”). How did Christ bring the two groups together? What groups could be described today as being separated by hostility? What impact should Jesus’ redemption have on believers who are in conflict? Can you share an example of how Jesus has broken down relational barriers in your life or for others? How can relational struggles have a “now, but not yet” quality regarding oneness, even though there may be forgiveness and a measure of healing?

Read Colossians 1:15-20. Outside of our personal relationships with God, what does it mean for Him to have the supremacy in all things? (ruler over creation, Satan, world powers, etc.). What does it mean that He has “reconcile[d] to himself all things”? Why would animals and inanimate objects need to be reconciled?

Read Romans 8:18-27. In what sense is all of creation fallen? (brokenness, sickness, death, conflict are not unique to humans) What words are used to describe the rest of creation in human terms? (waits in eager expectation, frustration, bondage, brought into freedom, groaning, etc.) Notice three places the word “groan[ing]” is used. What might it mean that the rest of creation “groans” much as we do, waiting for things to be made right? How does God also share in this groaning? (v.26) Imagine what might it look like for all of creation to be redeemed?

Application: What are some areas of life that have an “already, but not yet” quality? In what area of life are you most groaning for full redemption?

Practice: Read from True Story pg. 213-215 and explain the “Sent Together to Heal” diagram. Break into pairs to practice drawing and explaining the “Sent Together to Heal” illustration.

Close: Reassemble the group and ask for their feedback: “How did it go?”

Prayer: How can we pray for you this week? Remember to praise God for examples of redemption and pray for three unsaved friends/family.

Evangelism Lesson Five

Icebreaker: What stories told by your grandparents are most memorable to you? What makes them so memorable? (Transition: we're learning how to share a true story that has life-changing potential. Let's learn to make it a memorable story to our audience.)

Review:

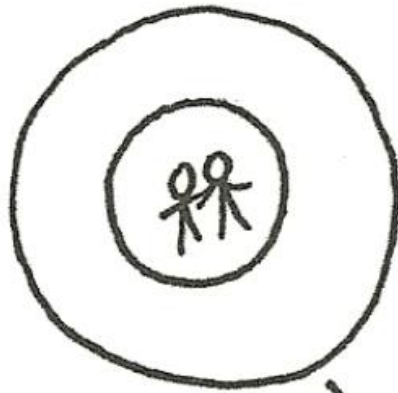
1. Designed for Good – Read Genesis 1:26, Gen. 2:15
Draw and explain the “Designed for Good” diagram for the group.
2. Damaged by Evil - Read Genesis 3:19
Draw and explain the “Damaged by Evil” diagram for the group.
3. Restored for Better –Read Romans 5:8
Draw and Explain the “Restored for Better” diagram for the group.
4. Sent Together to Heal –Read Romans 8:22-24a
Draw and explain the “Sent Together to Heal” diagram for the group.

Put It All Together - Review and Practice: Go through the entire diagram, explaining it to the group in your own words. Then have the group break into pairs and practice the whole diagram together.

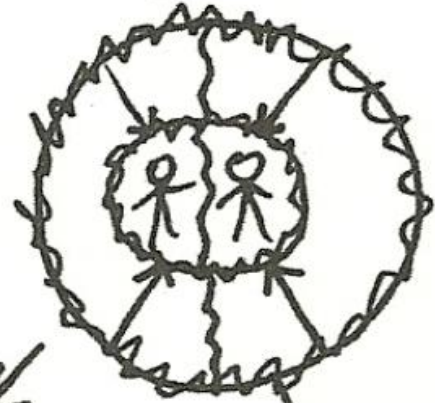
Prayer: Read Psalm 145 and use this as a basis for prayer and praise together. Pray together for unsaved friends, family and other requests.

True Story Diagram Handout

Designed for good



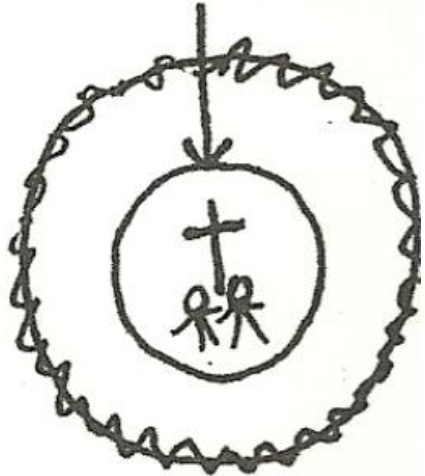
Damaged by evil



Sent together to heal

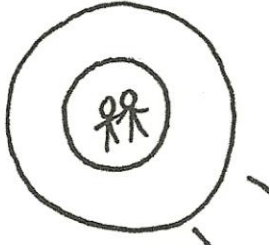


Restored for better



Lesson 5 Hoandout

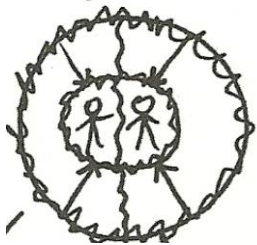
Designed for good



Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

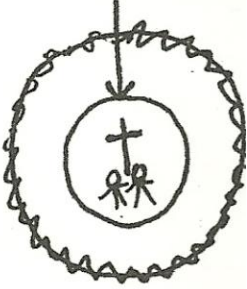
Gen. 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Damaged by evil



Gen. 3:19 "By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

Restored for better

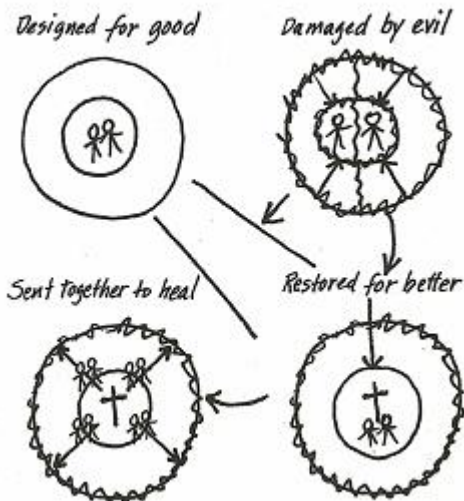


Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Sent together to heal



Rom. 8:22-24a We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.



Psalm 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of
praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
⁴ One generation commends your works to
another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of
your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful
works
⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome
works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹ The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.
¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
¹² so that all people may know of your
mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your
kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all
generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he
promises
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper
time.

¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living
thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear
him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love
him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the
LORD.

Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Small Group Evangelism Training Evaluation

The leader was prepared.....	Not Prepared				Very Prepared
	1	2	3	4	5
The issues covered were	Not Very Important				Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5
The discussion was	Unfocused				Focused
	1	2	3	4	5
The materials provided were	Confusing				Informative
	1	2	3	4	5
	Less than Adequate				More than Was Needed
		1	2	3	4 5
The meeting structure allowed	Limited Participation			Full Participation	
	1	2	3	4	5
People were treated	Rudely		Courteously, Fairly, With Dignity		
	1	2	3	4	5
The True Story illustration was explained..	Not so well				Clearly
	1	2	3	4	5
I think I am now prepared to use this illustration to share the Gospel with others.....					
	With Difficulty				Easily
	1	2	3	4	5
This training made me more likely to share the gospel with others.....					
	A Little				A Lot
	1	2	3	4	5

What I like about the True Story Evangelism illustration _____

What I don't like about the True Story Evangelism Illustration _____

Topics I'd like us to discuss at a future meeting: _____

I need more information on: _____