

SAMPLE: THE COMPASS

The Compass

A tool for disciplers

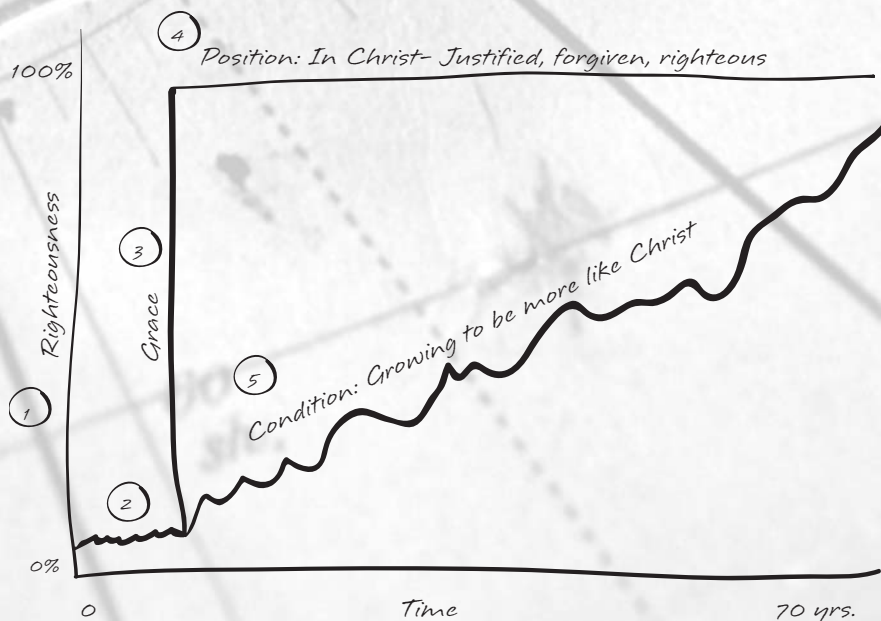
WALK BY FAITH



POSITION IN CHRIST

CONVERSATION ON THE JOURNEY

To help make the difference between our position and our condition clear, you can draw a simple diagram and share a few passages of Scripture. As you look through the following passages of Scripture and ask the following questions, draw the corresponding parts of the diagram.



1) The vertical axis is meant to show righteousness, while the horizontal denotes time over the course of your disciple's life.

Our Position

Before we knew Christ

2) Take a look at Ephesians 2:1-3.

What was true of us in our position in Adam before Christ?

Spiritually dead (no life of God within us), enslaved to sin.

Walked according to the world, flesh, and the devil.

We were children of wrath (confer John 3:36).

Rom. 5:12-19 - death, judgment, condemnation, made sinners.

THIS WEEK'S EXCURSION

Your objective in this lesson is to help your disciple understand his position and identity in Christ. Help him internalize that his position is secure because of what Christ has done, and is not based on the daily condition of his life.

We want to hear from you! Please send your feedback on this guide to centerfield@uscm.org

POSITION IN CHRIST • PG 2

MORE OF THE CONVERSATION

When Christ came into our lives

3) Now read Ephesians 2:4-7.

What motivated God to take action on our behalf?

His love and mercy.

What did God do for us at salvation?

He made us alive with Christ.

He raised us up with Him.

He seated us with Him in the heavenly places.

On what basis did He do it?

By grace, not because we deserved it, not based on our merit.

Grace means unmerited favor - "even when we were dead."

What does His action in saving us display to the world?

The surpassing riches of His grace.

Now that we are in Christ

What is true of us in the following passages since we are in Christ?

4) Romans 5:1-2

We are justified, declared not guilty, standing in grace.

Hebrews 10:11-18

We have complete forgiveness, and perfect standing before God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

We are righteous before God with the righteousness of Christ.

Our Daily Condition

5) Though we are "perfect" in our position in Christ, we obviously are not perfect in our daily condition. When we trusted Christ, He not only gave us a perfect position in Him, He also began the work of making our lives look more and more like His. We want to continue making "progress" in our daily walk, so that our life in this world becomes more like who we already are in Christ. This is a life-long process that involves several spiritual disciplines that God has given us to help us grow and mature. These disciplines will be discussed in other lessons. Phil. 2:12-13 and 3:12-14 are just a couple of the many exhortations to pursue growth and maturity.

Summary – Living out of our Position

The primary emphasis of this lesson is who we are in Christ and the fact that God wants us to see ourselves "in Christ" and focus on our position, not our condition. The enemy wants us to focus on our condition as the basis for our acceptance before God. If we are doing poorly, we tend to condemn ourselves and live in guilt. If we are doing well, we can be tempted with pride and thinking that God accepts and loves us more because of our spiritual performance.

The main point is that God's love and acceptance toward us has always been based on grace (unmerited favor). We have not earned it nor deserved it from the beginning, and never will deserve His love based on our spiritual performance. We are accepted by God based on the righteousness of Christ, not based on our own self-righteousness, which we often erroneously think comes from sinning less, or exercising certain spiritual disciplines, or attempting to act righteously. We stand in grace and rest in our new position. We employ spiritual disciplines, like prayer, Bible study, worship, etc., to grow and get to know God better, but not to gain favor and right standing with God. We already have right standing because of who we are in Christ.

NEXT STEPS

Here are some questions you can ask your disciple:

1. What are some ways that you try to earn right standing before God?
2. When do you doubt God's love and acceptance of you?
3. When you sin, instead of claiming God's forgiveness and acceptance by faith based on His grace, what are some things you do to try to work your way back into believing that God loves and accepts you?
4. In what ways have you begun to see God change you in practice toward what you already are positionally?
5. Why do you think God does this through a process? What is gained?

Memory verse to meditate on :

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

SIDE TRAILS

Justification by Faith Alone.

Sproul, MacArthur, Beeke. Soli Deo Gloria Books.

The Cross of Christ. John Stott. IV Press.

Discovering your Identity in Christ (#17 In touch series).

Charles Stanley. Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Order at christianbook.com

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ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

CONVERSATION ON THE JOURNEY

Colossians 3:1-2 will be your primary text with references to others as well. I recommend that you primarily stay in Colossians and just refer to most of the other passages, since it would take too long to look up all of the other ones in parentheses. You may want to look at them all in your preparation, and choose a few to show your disciple, in addition to this Colossians passage. If you really want to look at all of them, this lesson could be done over 2 appointments, because there is a lot in this one.

In light of our position in Christ, being with Him in the heavenly places, what does Paul exhort us to do and not do?

1. Keep seeking the things above
2. Set your mind on the things above
3. Not set your mind on earthly things

Why does Paul urge us to focus on things above? Ask your disciple to their share thoughts on this question and then discuss also a couple reasons mentioned below.

1. Things above are eternal.

God is eternal and our relationship with Him is the only relationship that will last forever. (John 10:27-31)

Souls of men and women are eternal – all people will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell. (John 3:16-18,36; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thes. 1:5-12)

His Word will never pass away. (Matt. 5:17-18) The writings of every other teacher or philosopher will fade away, but the wisdom of God in Scripture will remain forever.

2. Because Jesus taught that He was coming back and that we should always be ready and looking for His coming (Matt. 24-25).

He will give out rewards to us for faithful service, and in fact, His expectation is that we will be faithful in using what He has entrusted to us.

Back to Colossians 3:2

Why are we not to set our minds on earthly things?

Because earthly things are temporal – they won't last. Our life here on earth is so brief and is passing away. Consider these verses:

James 4:13-14 Our life is like a vapor; it appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

THIS WEEK'S EXCURSION

Your goal in this lesson is to help your disciple understand the brevity and temporal nature of life on earth. You want them to see the far greater importance of eternity. Motivate them to live for eternal, rather than temporal, things and to evaluate their priorities in light of that which is eternally significant.

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ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE • PG 2

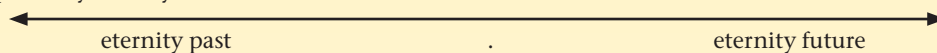
MORE OF THE CONVERSATION

1 John 2:15-18 The world is passing away and also its lusts – earthly glory, fame, and worldly recognition is all fading and will pass away.

Matt. 6:19-24 Do not lay up treasures on earth, because rust and moth destroy them. Earthly wealth will not last, so Jesus told us to lay up treasures in Heaven.

Phil. 3:17-20 - Paul taught that our real citizenship is in Heaven, not on earth.

Consider a line representing eternity – infinite in both directions – how would you represent your 70 years on earth on that line?



We must consider how we will invest our lives – for the dot or for eternity?

Back to Colossians 3:3-4

Because we are totally identified with Christ—actually hidden—secure in Him, belonging to Him, protected in Him, and also suffering with Him. But one day we will also be glorified with Christ.

Consider these 3 future things we can look forward to.

1. We will share in His glory – when He is exalted and honored, when every knee bows to acknowledge He is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11). We, as saints, also will share in His glory and be honored with Him.
2. This future reality of glory helps us endure suffering in the present. Paul spoke of this clearly in Rom. 8:18 and 2 Cor. 4:17. He speaks of an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison – the joys and pleasures of Heaven, seeing the Lord face to face, no more sin, pain, or death.
3. We will receive actual rewards at the Judgment seat of Christ – rewards for faithful service (2 Cor. 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 4:5, Matt. 25:14-30). The rewards that Scripture indicates seem to be:
 - We will reign with Christ in His coming kingdom.
 - We will receive crowns that we can throw back at His feet to express our gratitude for what He has done for us.
 - Personal praise from Jesus for being faithful servants.

In light of the brevity of life and all that lies ahead in eternity, reflect with your disciple on these questions:

1. Where are you setting your mind at this time in your life? Why? Why is it so difficult to keep our mind on things above?
2. Are you living for the dot or the line?
3. Are there any changes you need to make to live more for eternity in your every day life? Changes in what you value? Changes in how you spend your time? Changes in your priorities?
4. When you look back on your life, what things will you want to have accomplished or been true of you?
5. What would you want to be on your tombstone?
6. How can even the temporal things we do, be done in such a way as to gain eternal reward?

NEXT STEPS

Here are a few application suggestions to drive this home with your disciple:

1. Study the topic of the Judgment Seat of Christ found in 2 Cor. 5 & 1 Cor. 3:10-15.
2. Read and reflect on Matt. 24 & 25.
3. Go with your disciple to visit a cemetery and look over tombstones. Note what people said about life, and reflect and pray over the brevity of life, especially of a life not lived in light of eternity.

SIDE TRAILS

Transferable Concept: How You Can Help Fulfill the Great Commission. Bill Bright. New Life Publications.

Order at campuscrusade.com

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. Winter and Hawthorne. William Carey Library.

Order at www.gospelcom.net/wclbooks

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TIME MANAGEMENT

CONVERSATION ON THE JOURNEY

Time is one of those elusive things in life...it slips through our fingers, we never seem to get a grip on it (or have enough), and it can never be regained. The Byrds put King Solomon's reflections in Ecclesiastes 3 to music:

*To everything, turn, turn, turn,
There is a season, turn, turn, turn
And a time for every purpose
Under heaven*

Cell phones, palm pilots, email, and instant messaging are modern day conveniences designed to help us maximize our time effectively, allowing us more opportunities for "real" life and relationships with family and friends. But these "tools" of modern society can quickly turn from aids and helpers to tyrannical rulers who demand attention and dictate how we spend our time.

Have you felt burdened by voicemail or the number of screens open for IM?

We can make busyness a standard of our personal value and importance. At meetings we try to out do one another with how many exams we have, how behind we are in studies, how many email messages we have to reply to, etc. The popular thought is, *If I am busier than someone (i.e., if my life is more hectic and I am more stressed out), then I must be valuable and important.* Remember Solomon's response? He calls it "meaningless" or "vanity" (useless, futile, worthless).

Is that living a full life? Is that what Jesus meant when He said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that may have life, and have it to the full.?" (John 10:10) Or, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.?" (Matthew 11:28-30)

God says He is a God of order, not chaos, which means there can be order for your daily life, too.

What a schedule can do for you

A weekly schedule can help bring order to your life. It can help you organize and prioritize how you spend your time. It will show you where your empty times are, and illustrate how you utilize chunks of your day. A schedule can also bring an element of freedom to your life, for there is freedom within the structure of a general schedule.

THIS WEEK'S EXCURSION

Time is one of our most precious resources. Once spent, it can never be gained again, for time is every moment that has ever been, or ever will be. Paul says in Ephesians 5:15-17, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Three objectives for this lesson:

- To recognize that time is a resource.
- To think about our time and spend it wisely so as to honor God.
- To pinpoint potential changes in schedule, time usage, and attitude.

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TIME MANAGEMENT • PG 2

MORE OF THE CONVERSATION

If you are not a structured person, a schedule can help you remember your obligations, and help you keep up with your verbal commitments and intentions.

Time Management Math

Go to the additional resources and print out the file “Time Management Math” for this appointment. Have your disciple fill out the chart giving them additional categories like: cell phone, I.M., reading, video games, shopping, lifting, doing nothing. Then ask some questions.

Is there anything that is a surprise now that you see it on paper? What does your time show about your priorities? Are you involved in too many activities? Are you going to class and studying? What about sleep? Are you connecting with other people? How much of your time is spent in spiritual development? How much time would you say you waste? What are the things you feel you never have time for? If there were one thing that would make you a better steward of your time what would it be?

Weekly Schedule

Finally you want to ask them if, or what, they are using to keep track of their time. You can do a few things here: you could print out the weekly schedule and help them to make some changes, you could help them to set up a daily planner of some sort (or give them one), or you could walk them through yours as an example, showing how you manage your time.

NEXT STEPS

Try to fast from complaining about busyness and stress for 7 days. What do you really talk about when you are with people?

Try the Time Management Math exercise to find hidden hours, and make room for events that will refresh your soul.

Try graphing out your week for a visual representation of how you spend your time. An empty weekly schedule is included with this lesson.

SIDE TRAILS

Time Management Math.pdf

Weekly Schedule.pdf

Included on this CD.

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COMMUNICATE



SHARING YOUR STORY

CONVERSATION ON THE JOURNEY

We all love to listen to a good story. Throughout the ages, stories have been used to entertain, correct, and instruct. Bards and minstrels entertained the masses as they journeyed. Jesus understood the power of the story (His parables) and used it effectively to teach profound truths.

Every time we tell our story, our testimony, we give honor and glory to God. And He is pleased with that. Why? Well, our story is actually the story of how God rescued us...saved us. It's the eye-witness (or "I-witness") account of how our lives have changed. It's the story of His pursuit of a lost, helpless, hell-bound soul (you!) and the dramatic rescue to tear you from the clutches of the mortal enemy and bring you safely into His eternal kingdom. It's the stuff movies are made of. And that retelling of your redemption highlights His character. That's what we call "glorifying God"... giving Him credit, highlighting His character, and acknowledging His work.

We like to think that because it's our story, we don't have to put any effort into telling it. We were there when it happened, and we're living it now. But it's easy to get jumbled, flustered, off the point, and onto a tangent that can distract, bore, annoy, or confuse your listener. We want to glorify God and be listener-friendly. That's why a little planning and practice are so valuable when helping your disciple prepare their story. You get to help them discover their story, and when they've learned to communicate it well, it can become an effective tool for evangelism.

Preparing to Share Your Story

There are five basic parts of "Your Story": the opening, your life before Christ, how you came to Christ, your life after Christ, and the closing. And your disciple should be able to talk through all five parts clearly and succinctly within 3-5 minutes. Even the talkative disciples! Let's take a look at how to put it together, section by section.

The Opening. Identify a theme. What did your life revolve around that God used to help bring you to Him? Try to illustrate your theme with a word picture that your audience can identify with.

Your Life Before Christ. You want to paint a picture of what your life was like before you came to Christ, but don't dwell on how bad you used to be or glory in past sin. Share only the details that relate to your theme, and give enough details to show your need for Christ. This is not the time to give your resume.

How You Came to Christ. Ah, this is it. Make sure you speak in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can under-

THIS WEEK'S EXCURSION

Our culture is heavily influenced by stories. Everyone has a story to tell: the story of his or her life journey. Today you want to help your disciple understand:

- The power of stories.
- How his spiritual journey is a story that people want to hear.
- How it can be used to draw others to Christ while giving Him glory.

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SHARING YOUR STORY • PG 2

MORE OF THE CONVERSATION

stand how you became a Christian, and how they can become a Christian, too. Give only the details that are important to communicate why and how you became a Christian.

This is an educational aspect to your story, so that even if your listener is not interested right now, he'll be able to make that decision down the road because you've equipped him with the right information.

Your Life After Christ. Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to your theme. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude, and perspective, not just the mere changes in behavior.

And be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, isn't it? But what makes it different for you now? Be honest, and God will use your personal experience regardless of how "unspectacular" you may think it is.

The Closing. Close it out with a summary statement that ties your story together according to your theme. You could close with a verse, but don't throw one in to sound spiritual. Use it if it is meaningful and relates to the story you've just told.

Some Helpful Hints for Sharing Your Story

- We all need practice to become good at a skill or sport. And telling your story is no different. Actually write your story, and edit it. Be specific and give enough details to capture attention and paint a picture, but leave the gory details out.
- Don't mention any denominations: that can alienate someone listening to you. Making any kind of statement that reflects poorly on churches, organizations, or other people can reflect poorly on you.
- Be natural...and that means practice! Be confident in what you are going to say, and know the outline so that you can keep it flowing even if interrupted for questions.
- Now that you are a Christian, you probably have adopted some new vocabulary. Be aware of this "Christian-ese" when you speak. Words like: saved, sanctified, sin, justified, atonement, wonderful, joyful, peaceful, and happy, can cause confusion, so be ready to explain, or just avoid these words.

Remember the K.I.S.S. principle from high school speech class? Keep It Short and Simple. You should be able to share your story in 3-5 minutes. Any longer than that and your audience may feel like you are taking advantage of them. And who wants to listen to you for that long, anyway?

NEXT STEPS

On the next page is a work sheet that will help your disciple prepare their story. Help your disciple think through each category by asking questions. Work on it a little bit together, and next week have your disciple practice it with you. Be sure to give good, critical feedback to refine and improve. And don't forget to time it!

Encourage your disciple to use their story often with their friends in class and to practice it in Bible study. Maybe you can help your disciple tell their story at Cru.

Together, you could ask different people for their stories during today's appointment. If they are believers, you could discuss the story afterwards to learn from it. If the storyteller is not a believer, you could reciprocate by telling your story and modeling to your disciple the benefits of a 3-5 minute story. Then your disciple could practice telling their story. And that's evangelism, too!

SIDE TRAILS

The Power of Story. Leighton Ford. Nav Press.

Order from christianbook.com

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COMMUNICATE

STORY WORKSHEET

The Opening

What did your life revolve around that God used to help bring you to Him? What were some of your values and priorities?

What word picture could you use?

Life Before Christ

What details do we need to understand?

How you Came to Christ

How'd it happen?

What's the basic Gospel message that anyone needs to understand?

Life After Receiving Christ

What are some of the changes in your character, attitude and behavior?

Closing

Summarize and tie it all together with your opening.