

TEACHER TRAINING AUGUST 10 & 17:

# EVANGELISM - **BRIDGE ACROSS**

FALL 2022 DISCIPLESHIP EMPHASIS SEPTEMBER 11, 18 & 25

WEEK ONE SEPTEMBER 11

## **Path to the Bridge**

Relationship with the Father  
Fellowship with the Father  
Commission of the Father

Circles of Assurance: Justification  
Circles of Assurance: Sanctification  
Verses of Commission



WEEK TWO SEPTEMBER 18

## **Entering the Bridge**

Tools to Begin: "Tinker Toys to Avatars" to "Sometime"  
Testimonies: Jill's Story • Elliot's Testimony  
Too Many Distractions: Redeeming the Time Amidst Distractions



WEEK THREE SEPTEMBER 25

## **Crossing the Bridge**

Bridge Because It Matters  
Bridge + Holiness of God + Repentance + Gratefulness  
Bridge + Sinfulness of Man, Righteousness of Christ



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### **Introduction**

We will cover in two Wednesdays what you will have 3 Sundays in September to cover. This first week of training we will focus on the **Path to the Bridge**. Next week, we will focus on both **Entering the Bridge**, entering the conversation with the yet-to-believe; and **Crossing the Bridge**, the modified Bridge illustration, that includes an emphasis on God's holiness and our need for repentance.

Years ago, I was greatly influenced by the outline and explanation of Watchman Nee's survey of the book of Ephesians. The title, **Sit, Walk, Stand**, with the key chapters it presented, literally changed the course of my walk. For the first time, I realized that unless I "Sit," or rest in what Christ has done – then I am not ready to "Walk" worthy. To walk worthy is to be to abide and obey His Word. Unless first I "Walk", I am not ready to "Stand" in the battle, to live in the warfare and carry out the commission. My efforts of walking worthy on my own were confronted with the glorious truth of Ephesians 1-3 that I must rest in Christ alone, and it is He who ensures that I can walk worthy explained in Ephesians 4-5; and then to stand, found in Ephesians 6. Our approach tonight and your approach on the three Sundays in September will be a similar outline.

## **Path to the Bridge**

### **I. Relationship with the Father**

#### **Ephesians 2:6-9**

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

We will begin tonight by Marty using the illustration of the Circles of Assurance to highlight how we "Sit or Rest in Christ" by talking about justification. The personal **relationship** that is ours, that comes through our redemption in Jesus Christ, is not an academic effort. It is the foundation, the starting point from which everything is dependent. It is at this point that an infectious gratitude for our own rescue and a heart to share with others finds root. And that includes not only who we are in Christ, but also then talking about the importance of a secure relationship.

## II. Fellowship with the Father

### Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Secondly, Marty will talk about our sanctification, our **fellowship** with God through abiding and obeying. It is here that the Spirit-filled exercise of disciplines such as Bible study, prayer, and worship give visual testimony to "Walking Worthy." It is the process of Christian maturity, the evidence and cooperative response to our high calling. Lorne Sanny, who led the Navigators for 30 years said - "The greatest tool of evangelism is your QT."

## III. Commission of the Father

Finally, Jim will talk about "Standing" and the **commission** that is ours, of confronting the deception of the enemy with the truth of God's Word in our own life, and sharing God's Good News with all who will hear. Then as we move into next week, we will look at specific tools for bridging conversations and sharing the Good News with those around us!

### Ephesians 6:10-11

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

### Matthew 28:18-20

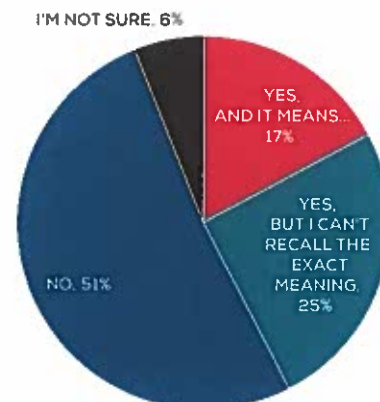
18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

So tonight is the Relationship brought about through Justification, Fellowship that is enjoyed through Sanctification, and the privilege of the Commission that rests on these foundational elements. God's plan is often referred to as The Great Commission, though many today do not understand its call on their life. On the [barna.com](http://barna.com) website, the following from 4 years ago helps illustrate just how important it is that we bring The Great Commission before our folks:

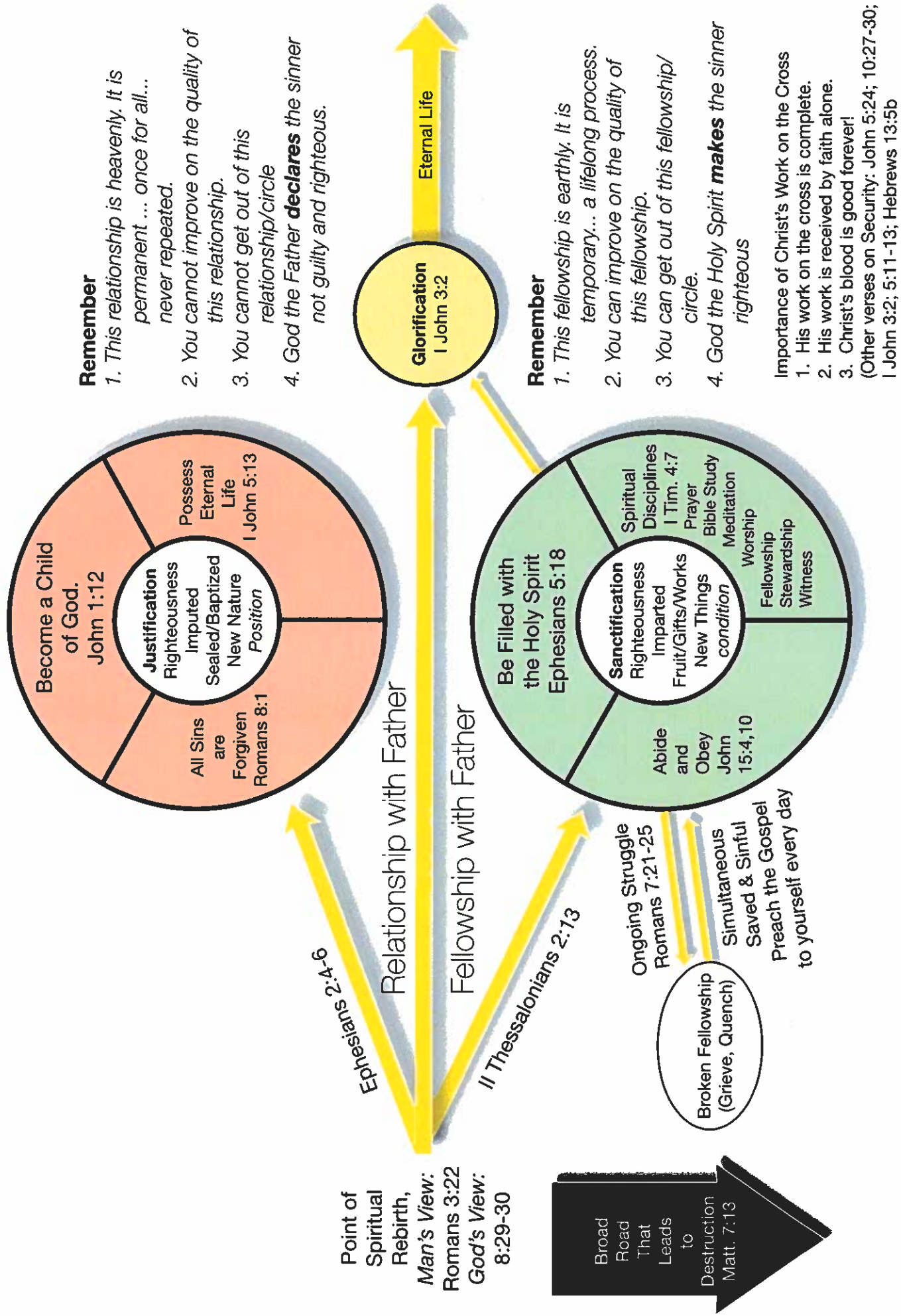
Matthew 28:18-20 is the most well-known biblical record of what is commonly referred to extra-biblically as "the Great Commission." But despite the significance of these and other verses that call Christians to "go and make disciples of all nations," a surprising proportion of churchgoing Christians in the U.S. are generally unaware of these famous words from Jesus... When asked if they had previously "heard of the Great Commission," half of U.S. churchgoers (51%) say they **do not know this term**. It would be reassuring to assume that the other half who know the term are also actually familiar with **the passage known by this name**, but that proportion is low (17%). Meanwhile, "the Great Commission" does ring a bell for one in four (25%), though they can't remember what it is. **Six percent** of churchgoers are simply **not sure whether they have heard this term "the Great Commission" before**.

### CHURCHGOERS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Barna



# Circles of Assurance



***Our Commission from the Father will always be met with Resistance***

Ephesians 6:10-14 \_\_\_\_\_

I Peter 1:13 KJV

v. 14b \_\_\_\_\_

v. 15 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_ I Thessalonians 5:8

Justified: I \_\_\_\_\_ saved from the \_\_\_\_\_

Sanctified: I am \_\_\_\_\_ saved from the \_\_\_\_\_

Glorified: I \_\_\_\_\_ saved from the \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17b \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_