



college ministry of prairie lakes church

## Four Circles Script Guidelines

### Introduction

Would it be okay if I shared a brief illustration that gives of an overview of what our ministry is all about?

(Sure!)

Great! This illustration is called Four Circles (creative name, I know!).

In all of these pictures the big circle represents our world, the little circle represents God, and the people represent...well...people! People and their relationships.

### Circle Two (begin here!)

We begin with the second circle. I'm going to scratch out the border of the world, because we all know **we live in a broken world**. Even though lots of aspects of life are good and enjoyable, the world is a pretty messed up place. We can all agree that the world is not how it should be.

**What are some examples that come to mind for you of how the world is broken?**

(They give answers...you write them off to the side, agree and interact with their answers briefly).

**Indeed. The world isn't as it should be. But, according to the Bible, it wasn't always this way.**

### Circle One

The first circle reminds us that **in the beginning, God designed the world for good**.

[You write down the phrase: "Designed for Good"].

Everything was as it should be. Human beings lived in perfect relationship with God, each other, and the world around them. It was great!

Genesis 1:31 explains this well, "*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good*".

### Circle Two (again!)

However, things didn't remain this way. **Human beings decided they knew better than God, and that they wanted to live apart from him and his good design. This is what the Bible calls, "sin".**

**At this point, the world was damaged by sin.** [Write: "Damaged by Sin"]

Not only has sin caused a broken world, it also damaged our relationships with God and with each other. [Scratch out appropriate lines.]

This is the state our world is currently in. It's not a pretty picture. But any time that human beings, including us, choose to be selfish, to hurt others, or to ignore God, we add more damage to the world.

Thankfully, God loves us and our world so much, that he decided to intervene. He wasn't okay leaving the world in this mess.

Genesis 6:5-6 explains how God felt about this damaged world, "*God saw how wicked the human race had become...and his heart was deeply troubled*".

### Circle Three

The way God chose to intervene was by coming into the world himself as the man Jesus Christ. Jesus came into a world that was broken. [Scribble out the broken world again, draw in the cross to symbolize Jesus.]

But in the midst of this messed up world, Jesus was perfect in every way. He showed us the good design God intended for our world.

Yet despite how loving and good he was, he was killed. **He became a victim of our damaged world. On the cross, Jesus received the consequences of our sin. That's what the cross is all about.** [Scribble out the cross to show that Jesus received our brokenness and was damaged by our sin.]

**It's only through the cross that restored relationship with God becomes possible again.** [Write: "Restored through Jesus".] **Our sin is forgiven because Jesus received the penalty for it.** 2 Corinthians 5:21 explains this idea beautifully: *"God made him who had no sin (that's Jesus!) to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

But the story doesn't end there. **Not only did Jesus die on the cross for our sin, he also rose from the dead!** Here we go to the fourth circle.

### Circle Four

Jesus came back to life in a world that was still broken [Scribble out the big circle for the world], **but his death and resurrection healed our relationships with God and each other.** [Point to smaller circle and people. Draw another cross between the people.] **Now everyone who has trusted in Jesus gets to follow him to heal and restore our world.** [Write: "Sent Together to Heal". Draw arrows going outward from center.] Micah 6:8 explains this new mission for the church: *"He has shown you what is good: to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"*.

So that's what our college ministry is all about! Following Jesus to know him more and to join him in being a blessing to our world.

### **Debrief Questions:**

What is something from this illustration that was familiar to you?

What is something new from the illustration you'd never heard before?

Was anything confusing or unclear?

### **Faith Line Questions:**

So, that's the big picture of what the Bible is all about. Now, the question is: what does this have to do with us? **The Bible talks about the need for placing our faith in Jesus, so at our church we talk about the "Faith Line".** [Draw diagonal dotted line through the "Restored through Jesus" picture.] **The question is, do we want to continue to live a life damaged by sin, and keep bringing more damage into the world, OR do we want to trust in Jesus, receive forgiveness, and join him in healing the world?** Where would you say you are in relation to the Faith Line? **If you've never trusted Jesus before,** would you like to begin trusting him today? **If you are following Jesus,** do you have a community to follow him with? I'd love for you to **join my small group** so we can learn to follow Jesus together.