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This Workbook is for ordinary Christians who want to be ready when God opens a door for a real conversation. It is meant for group use, not just individual reading. Leaders can read portions aloud and use the built-in questions to guide discussion.

1.1 Your Heart in Every Conversation

This Workbook is not about winning arguments. It is about being ready when God opens a door for a real conversation with a real person. The Bible calls us to “always be prepared to give an answer” for the hope we have, but also to do this “with gentleness and respect.”

Before you think about other beliefs, think about your own heart. A simple way to remember your posture is to hold together:

Deep conviction – You really believe the gospel is true and good.

Genuine curiosity – You truly want to understand the person in front of you.

Quiet confidence – You trust God’s Word and Spirit more than your cleverness.

Humility – You remember that you were rescued by grace, not by your own wisdom.

Love – You care about the person, not just the topic or the win.

GROUP EXERCISE (PAIRS)

- Share with one other person: Which of these is hardest for you right now, and why?
- After a few minutes, leaders can invite 2–3 people to share briefly with the whole group.

Optionally, close this mini-section with a short prayer asking God to shape your hearts.

BIBLE PASSAGE TO READ TOGETHER

1 Peter 3:15–16

The verse behind this whole Workbook: revere Christ as Lord, be ready to give the reason for your hope, and do it with gentleness and respect.

1.2 The Bible's Big Story in Four Moves

The Bible is a big book, but its main story can be remembered in four simple moves. If you can remember these, you always have a way to tell the story of the Bible in a few minutes.

The four moves are:

Creation – God made everything good

God created the heavens and the earth.

He made people in His image, to know Him, love Him, and represent Him.

The world was good, purposeful, and full of meaning. Life is not an accident.

Fall – We rebelled and broke the world

Our first parents disobeyed God and tried to live on their own terms.

Sin entered the world, bringing guilt, shame, death, and brokenness.

Ever since, every person has a sinful nature and chooses sin.

Rescue – God's plan centered on Jesus

God did not leave the world in its fallen state.

He chose a people, made promises, and in the fullness of time sent His Son, Jesus.

Jesus lived the perfect life we failed to live, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again.

New Creation – Jesus will make all things new

Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

God will renew heaven and earth; His people will live with Him forever, free from sin and death.

Those who trust Christ will enjoy eternal life; those who reject Him will face judgment.

GROUP EXERCISE (WHOLE GROUP)

- On a board or large paper, write the four headings: Creation, Fall, Rescue, New Creation.
- Ask volunteers to offer one sentence under each heading in their own words.
- Discuss: Where do your friends most feel the “Fall”—the brokenness of the world?
- Discuss: Where do they long for “Rescue” or “New Creation” without using those words?

1.3 The Core Gospel in Plain Language

The big story gives us the frame. The core gospel is the clear message at the center of that story.

Who God is

There is one living and true God, the Creator and Lord of all.

God is holy: pure, set apart from evil, and perfectly good.

God is loving: rich in mercy, full of steadfast love and compassion.

God has made Himself known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God in three Persons.

Who we are and what went wrong

We are made in God’s image, with real dignity and worth.

We have all sinned—turned away from God and broken His commands.

Our biggest problem is not just lack of information or bad habits, but guilt and separation from a holy God.

Who Jesus is and what He did

Jesus is God the Son, fully God and fully man.

He lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead.

On the cross, Jesus took the punishment our sins deserve so that we can be forgiven and brought back to God.

How we are saved

Salvation is by grace alone – God’s undeserved kindness, not something we earn.

We receive it through faith alone – trusting Jesus, not ourselves.

It is in Christ alone – no other savior, no other way.

Good works are the fruit of salvation, not the cause of it; God saves us to live a new life.

BIBLE PASSAGE TO READ TOGETHER

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

The gospel in its simplest, earliest form: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day—all according to Scripture.

GROUP EXERCISE (TRIADS)

In groups of three, each person takes 1–2 minutes to explain the gospel in 3–4 sentences, using their own words but touching on:

- Who God is
- Who we are
- Who Jesus is and what He did

- How we respond

Listeners notice:

- Was it clear?
- Was it centered on Jesus' cross and resurrection?
- Did it sound like good news, not just advice?

If time allows, ask 1–2 volunteers to share their summary with the whole group.