



### **Introduction: The Ache**

Would you like to hear the core message of Jesus or the basic storyline of the Bible? (or use intro from Proxe station)

What's our world like? What do you see on the news?

- Draw the world (outer circle) and the people within in, slightly apart.

Then we agree that the world is messed up?

- Draw a squiggly line over the outer circle to represent a world in damage and shock.

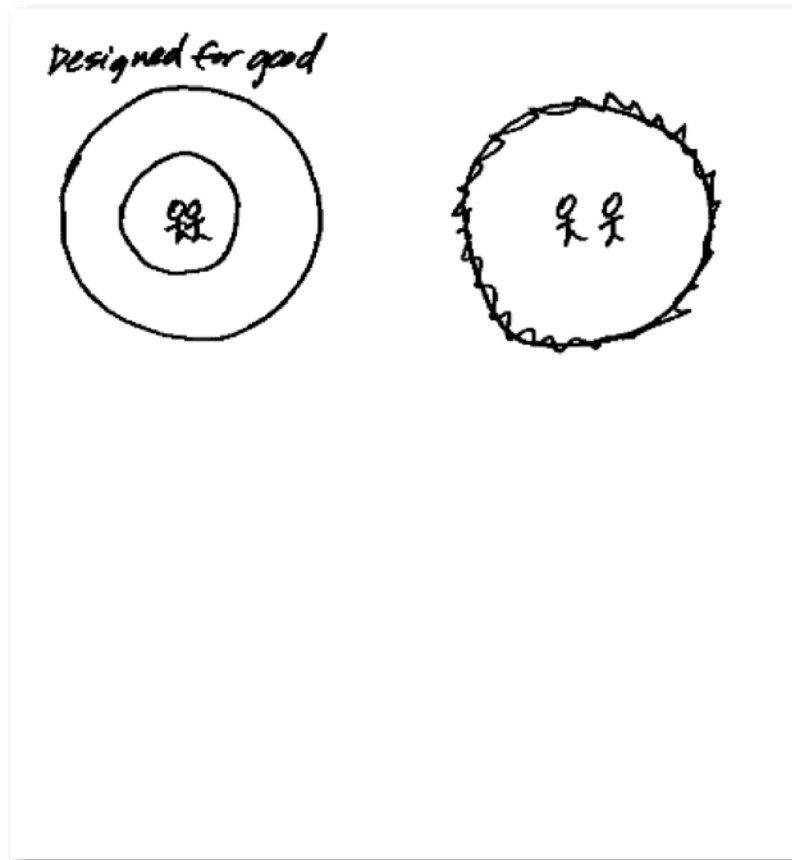
The world is messed up; that's obvious. But what's more interesting is the human response: how do you feel about this kind of world?

No normal person thinks that suffering, violence and oppression are good things. No one throws a party for the bloodbath in Darfur, when a child is infected with AIDS, or when the Towers fell in New York.

So what does this mean? **Most people ache for a better world.**

But our universal ache speaks of something more. The storyline of the Bible indicates the reason you have this ache is because such a world once existed and will exist one day.

# World Relationships God



## Part 1: Designed for good

In the Christian worldview, God created a good world and it worked beautifully. All creation was under his leadership and enjoyed Him as the source of life. We were collaborators with God's creative intentions in the world.

- Draw a new circle in the top left corner representing the world. Draw people, who are not necessarily Adam and Eve, close together to represent intimacy and community.
- Write down three words: "World," "Relationships," and "God." Use these three words to point to throughout the presentation.

On a **bigger level**, the world was designed to take care of us and we were designed to take care of the world. We were made to be interdependent on each other. We brought God's life into the world.

On a **relational level**, people were designed to take care of each other. They were made to be in true community, with the freedom to love and be loved, to serve and be served, to be themselves without shame in front of each other.

**Most importantly, on a personal level**, we were each designed to be in a relationship with God. Our view of God was untainted and we saw him accurately, that he was good, loving and just. Our relationship was characterized by trust, intimacy and joy and we enjoyed living under his leadership. In our relationship with God, we could become who we were meant to be.

- Draw the inner circle to represent God's presence with us.

**The world and all that's in it was designed for good.**

- Write the words "Designed for good" at the top.

But what happened to this good world? How did we get to where we are today?

## World Relationships God

When we lived under God's leadership, we experienced a good world. But we rejected God's leadership, took charge, put ourselves in the center and essentially became our own God. By doing so, we broke our relationship with God, separating ourselves from the source of life, leaving ourselves and our world in a state of death. Instead of collaborating with God's creative intentions, we work against his purposes by damaging God's world at all levels.

- Draw the arrows that point inward to the people that represent self-centeredness.

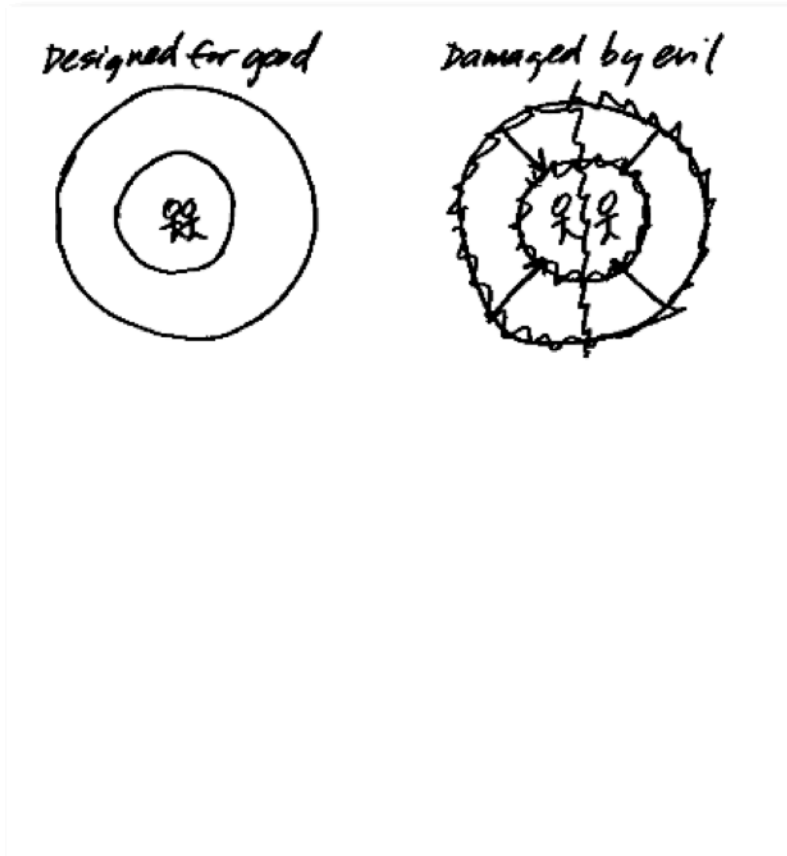
On the bigger level, we damaged our world. We destructively use the world and the people in it for our own benefit instead of serving the world and other people. We see this death in things such as slavery, injustice, oppression and genocide. [insert HIV example]

On a relational level, we damage each other and others hurt us — whether we mean to or not. When we reject God's leadership and replace it with our own, we harmfully use people instead of serving them, and our relationships become broken and characterized by shame, suspicion, and hatred. We can see death in conflicts, objectification, broken relationships and abuse.

- Draw a squiggly line right down the middle, splitting the people from each other.

And on a personal level, we damage our relationship with God. Instead of an untainted view of God, our perception of him is warped: We see him as \_\_\_\_\_ (domineering, whimsical, sadistic, malicious, aloof, uncaring, incompetent, weak, indulgent, petty, impersonal). Instead of trusting him, we are suspicious of him and avoid him and are alienated from him. But we are only hurting ourselves, and we will never be the kinds of people that we want and dream to be.

- Draw an inner circle, and then a squiggly line around the inner circle to represent shock and damage to our relationship with God.



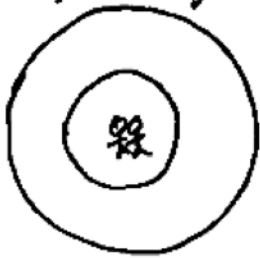
*We're all contributing to the mess. Despite our best efforts, we are not in charge. In the end, God, who is still in charge, holds us responsible for the damage we inflict in these three areas and its consequences.*

***We — and the world — are damaged by evil.***

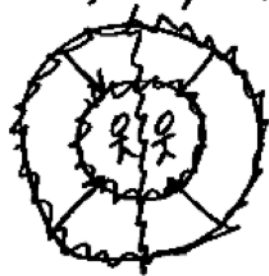
- *Write the words "Damaged by evil" in the top right.*

World  
Relationships  
God

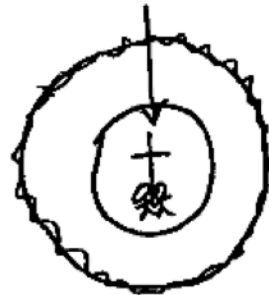
*Designed for good*



*Damaged by evil*



*Restored for better*



Identify  
Own  
Overcome

**Part 3: Restored for better**

**But God loved the world too much to leave it this way.**

- Draw the world (outer circle) again with the squiggly lines. Draw an arrow coming down from above into the world's mess, and a cross in the center of the circle.

God came to the world as Jesus 2,000 years ago and he brought his life to us. He started a resistance movement against evil.

**Jesus did three things:** (Write the three words on the side as you explain them)

**Identified:** The first is he identified with his damaged world and the people in it. He became one of us. He shared our skin, our air, our pain. He taught us a new way to live and began to reverse the damage around him.

**Owened:** The second is he owned the consequences for our damage of his world. How did he do this? Jesus died on the cross. Though innocent, he suffered under and accepted the consequences for our rejection of God's leadership, our self-centeredness, our damage to God's world, and the death we unleashed. He put this to death all of this on the cross, offering us forgiveness for all we have done and our indifference, inviting us to a new start.

**Overcame:** The third is that he overcame death and damage by rising again (three days after he died). Jesus' rising from the dead proves that he has power over death and the damage in his world.

On a **bigger level**, Jesus has the power to restore our damaged world. He has power over slavery, oppression and injustice. [insert HIV example]

On a **relational level**, He also has the power to restore our relationships, so that we can love, forgive, and serve each other without shame. Damaged relationships can be healed.

- Draw people at the foot of the cross, learning to be like Jesus.

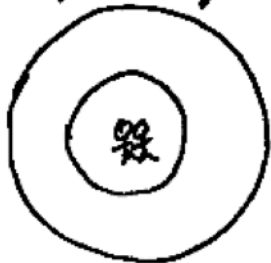
*On a **personal level**, Jesus has the power to restore our relationship with God. Jesus has shown that God is loving and good. Our relationship with God can be characterized by trust and friendship. He enables us to live under God's leadership again. We have hope of becoming who we were created to be.*

*• Draw an inner-circle representing God's presence, and write "Restored for better" at the top of this circle.*

*The good news: the healing of the damage has begun and we're all invited. **Jesus came to restore the world and everything in it for better.***

World  
Relationships  
God

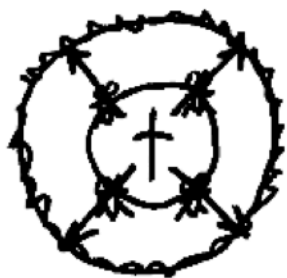
*Designed for good*



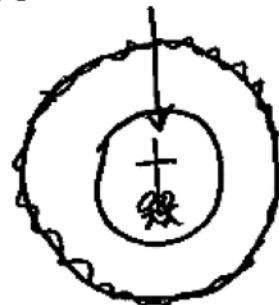
*Damaged by evil*



*Sent together to heal*



*Restored for better*



Identify  
Own  
Overcome

Identified  
Owned  
Overcame

**Part 4: Sent together to heal**

Jesus summons us again to live as if God is our leader and to connect back to God as our source of life. He also invites us to collaborate again with his creative intentions in the world by joining his resistance movement against evil. Instead of damaging God's world at all levels, we are called to heal and restore God's world at all levels.

**We are invited to three things:**

**Identify:** Just as Jesus identified with us, so now we are invited to say to him, "I want to identify with you." We choose his side. How do we identify with him?

**Own:** Just as Jesus owned the harmful consequences of our actions, so now we are invited to own the consequences of his actions, (which is) his work on the cross. This means we say to Jesus "I want your death to put to death the things in me that cause damage to our relationship, to people, and to the world, and your rising to bring new life into these areas. I receive your forgiveness and a new start."

**Overcome:** Just as Jesus overcame, so do we. The power that Jesus demonstrated in overcoming death and damage he now offers to us to overcome the death and damage around us in the world. That power is Jesus' Holy Spirit, who lives in those who follow him.

• Draw the outer circle again, again with the squiggly lines—because the fullness of the Kingdom of God has not yet arrived. Draw the cross in the center again.

On a personal level, we admit our contribution to the damage, and trust Jesus, letting him take charge of our lives instead. We come under Jesus' leadership and become the kind of good we want to see in the world.

• Draw the inner circle representing God's presence.

*On a relational level, we are called to heal relationships, both our own and others'. We are free to serve and love each other. We ask for forgiveness, and forgive others.*

- *Draw the four pairs of people near the inner circle.*

*On a bigger level, we're called to collaborate with God and each other to heal the world. The Bible says, "Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless" (Psalm 82:3-4a). We're called to fight injustice and oppression, and care about the needs of the world like hunger and the HIV/ AIDS crisis. We become the hands and feet of Jesus [insert HIV example]. We bring God's life into the world.*

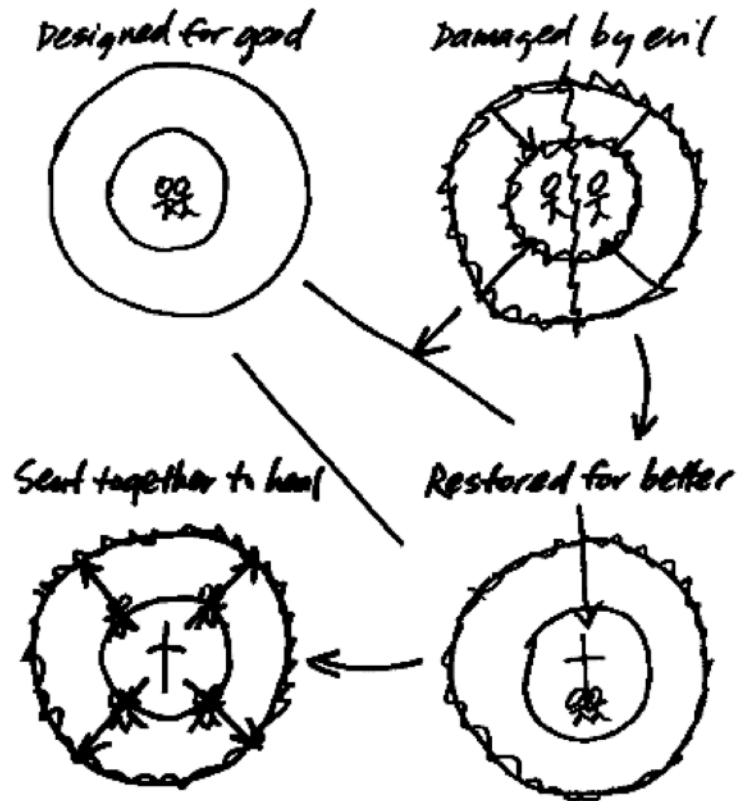
- *Draw the arrows leading outward, which represent God's Spirit.*
- *Write "Sent together to heal" at the top of this circle.*

*We don't go alone, but with the power of God's Spirit and the community of God's people with us.*

*With these resources, Jesus is asking us to be sent together to heal the world.*



World  
Relationships  
God



Identify  
Own  
Overcome

Identified  
Owned  
Overcame

Response

We can't go straight to the last circle. **We need to become the kind of good we want to see in the world.** The fourth world represents a partnership between God and his people in a mission of healing. By encountering Christ's work on the cross we deal with our own damage and are empowered to engage the damage in the world. **By trusting him, and giving him leadership over our lives, we can become the kind of good we want to see around us.**

- Draw a squiggly line separating worlds 2 and 4 and draw an arrow being blocked by it coming from world 2. Draw another 2 show a path to the 4th circle that is only through Jesus.

So, which one of these worlds do you relate to? In the first, everything's fine. second, you're aware of the world's problems or are experiencing personal damage. In the third, you've made some commitment to Jesus but are holding back. Fourth, you're in the movement of God with his people. Where are you?

- (If first circle): We have already discussed the suffering in the world. How do you reconcile this with the first world?

- (If second circle): tell me about it. Jesus is offering you a way to overcome it. Would you like to experience Jesus' personal healing, submit to his leadership [point to 3<sup>rd</sup> world], and join his movement to heal the world [point to 4<sup>th</sup> world]? [If they say no...] What is stopping you today from choosing to do these things?\*

- (If third circle): that's a great start. Have you ever experienced Jesus' personal healing and submitted to his leadership? [If they say 'no', then go back to circle 2 (would you like to?);

if they say 'yes', then ask...] — Would you like to join God's healing work in the world?

—Pray: *Jesus, I submit to your leadership. I receive your forgiveness and a new start! I choose to join your movement to heal the world. . I receive your Holy Spirit.*

—If No to previous question: *What is keeping you from joining God's healing work in the world?*

- *(If fourth circle): that's great. You are doing good in the world. Have you ever experienced Jesus' personal healing and submitted to his leadership?*

*[NO: the person is an activist but not a Christian] The fourth world represents an active partnership with God in his healing work in the world. It sounds like maybe what you've done is make some great efforts, but by yourself. To join Jesus in his healing work is to become part of a lasting solution, both inside you and outside you. It also means to have the resources of his people and his power. Would you like to experience Jesus' personal healing, submit to his leadership [point to 3<sup>rd</sup> world], and join his movement to heal the world [point to 4<sup>th</sup> world]? (pray as in circle 2) [If they say no....:] What is keeping you from experiencing Jesus' healing for yourself and submitting to his leadership and joining his purposes?*

*[YES: the person is a Christian who is engaged in mission]: Great! Are you part of a Christian community? [Give information about your fellowship.]*