

Adullam, Discipleship Training – Assignment #3

This assignment may seem like an easy exercise, but you'll likely find it to be a challenging and ongoing process over time.

To recap, you have been considering your relationships and praying for your friends for the past few months. Specifically, taking time to pray that they would have receptive hearts towards the gospel. As you have been praying, you have also been considering the gospel needs of these relationships as well. Perhaps, using the example of Jim (see assignment #2), you have been praying for your co-worker to recognize his weary striving and need of a better Saviour than his workaholicism and desire to win the acceptance of others. It is, however, much easier to observe someone else and perceive what they are missing than to accurately diagnose ourselves. For example, have you ever witnessed someone trying to parallel park their vehicle with much difficulty? As a passerby, you have the vantage point of seeing what they cannot while sitting in the driver's seat looking through small mirrors. From the sidewalk, it can seem glaringly obvious what needs correction or support. Okay, it's not a perfect example; but it may help you understand that assessing someone else's blind spots is more straight forward than assessing your own. However, part of sharing the gospel is understanding how it daily applies to one's heart as well. In fact, this is the primary task. As followers of Jesus, we are to share what Jesus has done, and continues to do, in us and for us. Gospel fluency, as we have been discussing, comes from an everyday familiarity and internal use as well.

This assignment, therefore, is no exception to building the sort of everyday practice of developing gospel fluency that is part of ongoing growth in Jesus. As such, we ask you to continue praying for your list of names (and add to it, as others come to mind), and to take the necessary time require to examine yourself as well.

Ask, where do I struggle to believe the gospel? What has become my functional saviour instead of Christ?

Perhaps, while professing your trust in Jesus, it is that you have wrongly placed your actual ("functional") hope in a good job, reputation, relationship, or talent? So long as that "thing" is doing well, so are you. Christians are surprising creatures who exist simultaneously as sinners being transformed into the image of Jesus through a deepening faith and maturity in Christ – we readily recognize and succumb to the same folly as the world from which we have been saved. Fluency, therefore, is developed as we are reordered from the inside out through the gospel and partnered work of the Holy Spirit. To assess what may be acting as your functional saviour, ask, "what do I trust will provide me a promising future?" Or, "what do I fear losing most in life?" We need to be constantly applying the gospel to our hearts. In doing so with regularity, you will become fluent to share the gospel with others.

For Day #3, come prepared to share (in about 2 minutes) how and where you have needed to apply the gospel in your life.

Adullam, Discipleship Training – Assignment #2

In our first session together, we discussed the gospel – what it is and what it is not. As you read Jeff Vanderstelt’s *Gospel Fluency* book and continue praying for the names on your list, begin making notes beside each name (or in a separate notebook) answering the question: *What aspect of the gospel does this person need in his/her life?* You could also ask, *what hope of the gospel is this person needing?* In your new rhythms of prayer, begin praying for these names in light of their gospel needs – this may include praying that the Lord begins revealing this to you as well.

SEE EXAMPLES BELOW

Resistant	Uninterested	Pre-Christian	Newborn	Maturing
<p>Someone who is antagonistic or resistant to the gospel.</p>	<p>While not resistant, but uninterested in the gospel.</p> <p><i>Jim - Jim could be described as a workaholic. He’s always striving to please others and has confided in you that he is exhausted...</i></p> <p><i>Jim’s value is found in how others view his performance – how would you pray for Jim?</i></p> <p><i>Jesus, I ask that Jim will come to know that he is valued by you, and will only ever be approved of by the work you’ve done for him.</i></p>	<p>Not yet a believer, but receptive to the gospel.</p>	<p>New believer – open to the gospel, but lacking clarity.</p> <p><i>Sue - Sue is new Christian. She loves connecting with the group but will drop everything when a guy gives her the slightest attention. She’s been heartbroken many times...</i></p> <p><i>Although a believer, Sue finds her acceptance in romantic pursuit – how would you pray for Sue?</i></p> <p><i>Jesus, remind Sue you pursued her and win her heart anew.</i></p>	<p>Mature – able to articulate the gospel and help others grow.</p>

