

## “The Big Picture of the Bible” as an Evangelistic Tool

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The Greek mathematician Archimedes made this amazing statement: “Give me a fulcrum, a place to stand, and a lever long enough, and I could move the world.” Wow. What a difference the right tool makes!

**Christian soldiers need “fencing lessons” in how to best wield the “sword of the Spirit.”**

Fundamentally, the reason why so many are not sharing their faith is twofold: First of all, I believe for the most part the problem is not *motives*, but *motivation*, and secondly, **it is not want to but know how.**

Brethren, Christians need to be provided with *evangelistic tools* and shown how to use them! Once Christians are given a “track to run on” and begin to see conversions as a result, it is amazing how quickly a congregation can be turned around. Once this begins to occur, it is not long until a *culture of soul winning* is developed. *Success breeds success and enthusiasm.*

This article is about what many have found to be the most effective tool in this busy 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is a simple one-lesson approach that really works in our modern harried age, taken from Ken Craig’s excellent booklet “*The Big Picture of the Bible – looking at the Bible story from beginning to the end.*” It shows how the Old Testament and New Testament relate to one another and ties the whole Bible together in a clear and concise way. It is a very moving and persuasive presentation designed to move the “good and honest heart” (Lk. 8:15) to obedience to the gospel. If you have not read this excellent

booklet, you can order it from any of the brotherhood bookstores and, in some cases, if you order them in bulk you can get a substantial discount. If you don’t have a copy, please get a hold of this excellent booklet, so you can see the value of this gospel presentation yourself. I recommend soul-winners use the first 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the material and present it by using either PowerPoint slides or a flip chart (8 ½ by 5 ½) that can be kept in one’s Bible and shared at a moment’s notice in one hour or less. By the way, it is also available as a Bible Correspondence course, if desired. Go to [www.lowcountrychurch.org](http://www.lowcountrychurch.org) and click on

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“Bible studies” to see how it is used as a free BCC.

You can also download some “Big Picture Resources” from the congregational website where I preach: [www.kirklandchurchofChrist.com](http://www.kirklandchurchofChrist.com). You will find some “clip art” for creating Big Picture Business Cards (as a way to introduce people to the presentation), PowerPoint files in a PDF format so it can be used on an i-pad or smart phone, many audio files of the presentation actually being presented, along with some other

resources that relate to motivation for evangelism and congregational follow-up.

### Results Demand Respect

My heart thrills to hear of the great successes all over the globe that faithful Christians are having when they begin sharing this clear and concise message of the gospel. It is resulting in God bringing about an amazing increase of souls (1 Cor. 3: 6-7). Frankly, such **results demand respect!**

Ken Craig, the author, who is not a preacher, but an elder in the Lord’s church in Birmingham, Alabama, reports he consistently receives about a 50% response rate. That is an amazing result. I was hesitant to change from my old five or six week “multi-lesson approach,” but after hearing of so many success stories, I decided to dig in and try it for myself. I am amazed at how many people say “yes” when asked if they would like to hear a presentation on the theme of the Bible in

less than one hour! This Big Picture gospel lesson is the most effective presentation I have ever found. During the three years I labored with the congregation in El Cajon, CA (2010 to 2013), the church was blessed with 58 baptisms, most all of those from Big Picture presentations. I shared the presentation about 100 times during my stay there and was encouraged by the response to the gospel. In fact, there was a two-month period in 2011 when 13 people in a row responded that they were ready to “die with Christ” and

respond to the gospel message. It was amazing. What a thrill to be a part of that kind of bountiful harvest! I am not alone. Other evangelists have also had great evangelistic successes, in some cases, building congregations almost from scratch. They are using the Big Picture of the Bible presentations very effectively. You can too! In January of this year, I presented a series on "The Big Picture of the Bible and Evangelism" to the good church at Douglass Hills, in Louisville, KY. Within just two weeks, they experienced six baptisms from members talking up the Big Picture to their friends and neighbors. One Sunday, after witnessing four baptisms in one day, one of the elders stood up and said he could not remember witnessing this kind of response in the past thirty years he had been a part of the church. I could go on, but you get the idea.

### Let us start a revival in the church today!

You may already be using this presentation in one form or another, but either way, these articles on how to share the Big Picture of the Bible most effectively should be helpful. Beloved, let's start a real evangelistic fervor in the church focused on a renewed emphasis on sharing the gospel and teaching and equipping the saints (Eph. 4:12) to know how to do so! The need has never been greater, but sadly, in too many cases, we have "left the seed in the barn" (Haggai 2:19). Paul reminds us that "whosoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly" (2 Cor. 9:6). However, when the simple gospel is presented with passion by caring disciples, it does have a powerful impact!

Many elders, preachers, and church leaders are starving for scriptural, field-tested solutions! And most church leaders today are willing to

work *hard*, but they also want to work *smart*. They want to work as *effectively* as possible so that their efforts yield the most fruit possible. Jesus makes it clear that this is the desire of all true disciples! Jesus said, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." Here is a testimony I received from a young woman and what the Big Picture of the Bible meant to her.

### "The Big Picture of the Bible" by Krissy Bottomley

On Thursday night, January 31, 2013, I had the absolute blessing of submitting my life to Christ. With the help of Jesus pulling at my heart strings and a dear friend's love for me, I was baptized!



Picture of the Bible."

It only took fifty-five minutes, and my whole purpose in life was changed forever. The Big Picture is truly genius! I personally had little Bible knowledge but I desired to know more about coming to Christ and what the Holy Bible is really all about. I wanted to understand it, know it and apply it to my life; but when I opened the Bible I was often confused by the language and misunderstood what the messages were telling me. However,

Before I made my first public display of obedience to God, I was welcomed into the home of Brent and Gail Hunter. Surrounded by strangers who quickly became my church family, I was taught "The Big

The Big Picture explained all the key main points of what the truth is. As we flipped through each page and read out loud, with each sentence, I began to understand. We were not even half way through The Big Picture and the "light bulb" came on and I finally had my "Aha" moment! The way the presentation is so brilliantly and beautifully illustrated, made me completely understand just exactly the five W's: Who, What, Where, Why and When of the Bible. The Big Picture lesson is told in such a simple way, but had such a profound impact on my life. I never lost interest. I was like a sponge absorbing every bit of each illustration and each word on the page. I didn't even realize that I had finished the lesson in less than an hour. I'm living proof that when you keep things simple, short and sweet, like The Big Picture, the message that is taught to you is going to have an everlasting impact within you.

I'm truly grateful to Brent and those who cared enough to share "The Big Picture" message to me. I didn't think I could ever hear about the Bible's truth in such an incredible way!

Brethren, how many more Krissy's are there out there? Precious souls just waiting for someone to show them the way. What a difference having the right tool makes!

In our next installment we will look at why "The Big Picture" is getting such good results, and look at some tips for success.

**Remember, we are taught to teach, won to win, and saved to serve!**

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