



# Hot Seat Model #6 The Gospel Side of the Table

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This is the conclusion of the Hot Seat Model. In summary, the goal of the Hot Seat Model is to help you as an individual and community to move towards the Gospel in your life and your choices.

## Gospel Fluency

of

The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.”  
— John Calvin



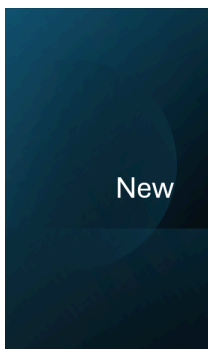
John Calvin wrote a good summary of the Gospel. This is the objective: To see the Gospel massaged into the deep recesses our lives; we help one another do this.

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

**Friends of God Practitioners**

New, Steadfast, Rooted

You are a friend of God in Jesus: I don't think we often think of it this way but this is from John 15:15. As you work together through this model, you are friends with God as you help others become friends with God. This makes you a “practitioner” of the faith. We are all in different places of this: some are new and some have been doing it a long time and are well rooted, like an oak tree.



### The Gospel of Matthew

- Introduces the life and teachings of Jesus in a clear, structured way.
- Emphasizes love, obedience, and what it means to live in God's Kingdom.

### The Letter of James

- Focuses on practical steps for living out your faith.
- Challenges believers to match their actions with their beliefs.

There is a practical reason for this: many of you read through the Bible every year. But really, you don't need to do this because it's really hard to understand the Old Testament without being really Gospel fluent. If you are new in the faith, I think you should read through Matthew and James over and over to the point where you can really understand these two books. There are good stories like the Sermon on the Mount that

emphasize God’s kingdom. James is practical: it will tell you what to do and will challenge your faith to match your behavior practically. After you have read through these 5-6X, then you may read a commentary.

Steadfast

John

- Full of rich, personal stories—Jesus with Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the blind man, and more.
- Helps us know who Jesus really is and teaches us to live closely connected to Him.

Ephesians

- Shows the big picture of God’s plan to bring everything together in Christ.
- Teaches us how to grow up in our faith—living with love, unity, and purpose.

If you are steadfast, then I think you should visit the Gospel of John and Ephesians. John has emotional, earthy stories. You need to internalize your relationship with God and be able to offer this to others. Ephesians is beautiful because it lays out how we are to walk with Jesus, how we can grow up in the faith.

Rooted

Psalms

- Offers deep emotional and spiritual language for every season of life.
- Helps mature believers stay honest and connected in their walk with God.

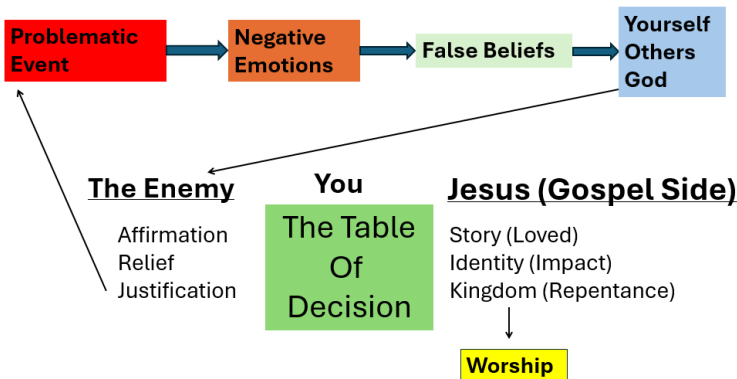
1 Peter

- Encourages faithfulness through suffering and trials.
- Provides hope and direction for living as a faithful presence in a broken world.

If you are a rooted tree, read through the Psalms because they give voice to emotions and God’s sovereignty and interactions with people. You can internalize this and help others step into it. The book of I Peter is like a rock and is a beautiful piece of literature in the NT...but I like it because it helps you make sense of suffering and trials and how to live in the bigger world.

A community that knows the Gospel can help each other: this is critical to the Hot Seat model.

Here is the Hot Seat Model: We start with a problematic event, as simple as someone cuts us off



in traffic or your spouse is in distress: anything that produces a negative emotion. Attached to these emotions are false beliefs from which you build a narrative.

You already made a poor decision based on the two questions everyone asks: **Am I loved** and **do I have impact?** When the answer is not satisfactory, we have a deep conversation with the enemy. We hear hyperbolic tapes in our minds that say

things that use words like “always and never” attached to stories about your past. The enemy gives your power back in the form of numbing relief and we justify the relief we choose.

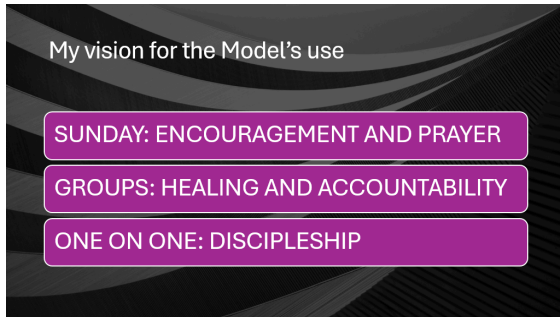
Jesus is sitting there in that decision inviting you to NOT choose relief and not listen to the enemy: he wants to assure you that that you ARE loved and invites you to live out a life of repentance in the Kingdom of God. We are then able to stand firm against the enemy and enter into worship.

The goal of the model is this:

## The Goal of the Model

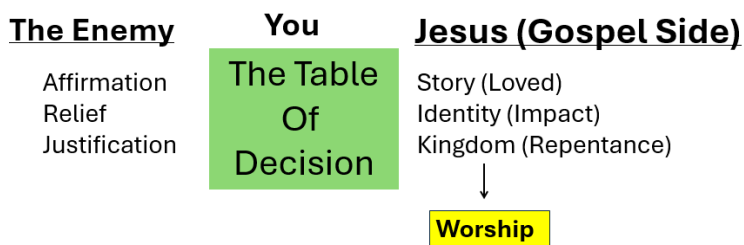
Luke 10:38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, **who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said.**

We find deep peace at the table: the emptiness doesn't go away until we are at Jesus’s feet, listening to what he is saying. We can get to a sacred discontentment in a fallen world: we need to be rooted in the gospel.



You know how to encourage people on Sundays and in Pilgrim Groups: we take on the Gospel and are held accountable in community. The Hot Seat Model is also used in one-on-one discipleship. This may not be diagrammed but questions reflect use of this model.

### Getting Across the Table



Today we want to talk about getting across the table. You have an event, emotions, false beliefs, and have chosen relief and justified it. But how do we anchor ourselves in the Gospel? The first thing to note is that we are all asking the same two questions: Am I loved? and Do I have impact?

## Longings

Longing – It's the deep desire for love, purpose, and connection placed in us by God.

Longing requires waiting – It won't be fully met by people or relief—only by God's presence and timing.

So the first thing we do is to discover what the longing is for. This process usually requires waiting: God's presence and timing.

## Demands

**Demand** is distorted longing – It's what happens when we stop trusting and start controlling.

**Demand** seeks relief, not relationship – It uses people or things to ease pain on our terms.

**Demand** leads to sin – It justifies self-protection and blocks us from receiving what God actually wants to give.

Everyone has longings; they happen in every event of life. However, we turn longings into demands:

To get across the table, we must know what a person's longing is; here are some questions to help discover longings :

## Helping people connect to their longings

- 1. What were you really hoping someone would give you in that moment?** – *Invites clarity and honesty—beyond the reaction.*
- 2. What kind of love or care were you quietly reaching for?** – *Uncovers desire beneath defensiveness or anger.*
- 3. What were you longing to hear, feel, or receive from them?** – *Gets into the unspoken expectation of the heart.*
- 4. What did your heart most need from the people around you?** – *Centers the desire, not the outcome.*
- 5. If you were fully honest, what good thing were you asking for—even if you didn't say it out loud?** – *Names the hidden request.*

There is something we want/long for to uncover. This may feel touchy feely but the reason the world suffers is because we don't have people who care about what we really long for. It is healing to have someone ask these questions!

## Listening to the voice of Jesus through the Spirit

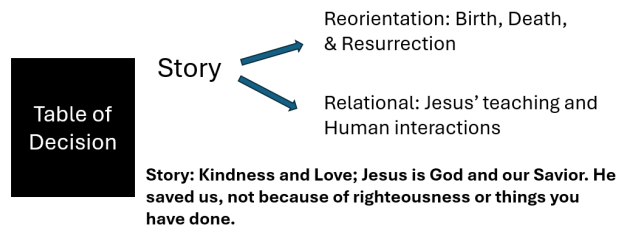
**John 10:27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

**John 14:25** “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you



The next step is to listen! When I have a friend whom I think likes me, I want to tell them things! If Jesus is my friend, he wants to tell me things. To hear from Jesus, you have to STOP during the Hot Seat: you say out loud, “We are all friends of Jesus and He wants to talk to us. Sit and listen for five minutes. God will communicate in your brain with random thoughts, visions/images. Just listen with that person or with the group. And then ask “Did you hear anything?”

This kind of listening will allow the Spirit to speak because humans like to fix others’ problems. But this is not a model to fix things: it’s about teaching others to be in relationship with Jesus.



The enemy affirms your false beliefs and makes you the center of the story but Jesus reorients us to making Jesus the center of the story with us as a part of his story.

The second part is what we are most unfamiliar with: the relational part. Jesus engages with people’s brokenness and stubbornness: we can find ourselves in His story.

Here are some questions to ask at this point:

## Story questions

If you were one of the people Jesus touched, noticed, or spoke to—who would you be in this moment?

Which moment in Jesus’ life, death, or resurrection feels most connected to what you’re experiencing right now?

What might Jesus be forming in you right now that couldn’t be formed any other way?

The key is that the reorientation on Satan’s side is built to allow you to **avoid suffering**. But Jesus knows that suffering forms us into being people of God.



Table of Decision

Identity

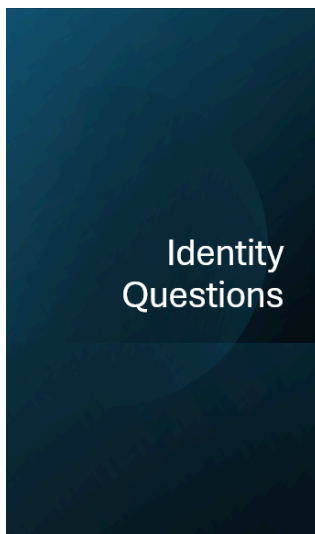
- Family: Son, daughter child
- Vocation: Holy Priest

Identity: I can't mess it up. I'm set apart to be like Jesus - my state isn't in my hands. I am Dearly loved and Christ indwelt (Col 3.11) Each is a well of cool water, and we must develop it as a source of Godly relief.

Our identity requires a family: this means priority. (Remember the flat tire story: I will prioritize helping my son). You also have a vocation: you are a holy priest, which is the way you operate in this world.

Our identities as a child and priest help us understand how to live out the gospel. **Identity counters RELIEF:** When we make demands, we aren't acting like a child

or a priest. What would be different if I had remembered I was deeply loved or that I was a priest? These help us wrestle with what it means to be a child and to be loved.



If you had remembered that you are deeply loved—what might you have done differently?

What would it have looked like to respond as a priest in that moment, instead of protecting yourself?

What small choice could have reflected your identity, even if the pain was still there?

Table of Decision

Kingdom

- Confession: Repentance And Renewal
- Ministry: Blessing and Repair

Kingdom: Loving action - the clothing part. Col 3 . . . clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Confession and ministry Be a person of forgiveness: **Blessing** someone is forgiving them, not enacting justice because you know that justice was done by Jesus.

**Repair** is to ask for forgiveness. This is a big part of ministry.

Here is a set of questions to help with this:

What do you need to confess—not just to God, but maybe to the person you impacted?

*Who do you need to repair with—and what would it look like to show up as your true self in that conversation?*

What would forgiveness look like here, if you trusted God with your pain?

What do you need to grieve about how your choice affected someone else?

What truth about who you are in Christ do you need to hold onto as you walk back into that relationship or moment?

What would it look like to worship God in this space—not just through right behavior, but through surrender?

Where might you need to keep renewing your mind, because the old belief keeps showing up?

How is Jesus inviting you to be part of His Kingdom here—right in the middle of the mess?

These are good questions to help you and others step into and be rooted in the Gospel. Our goal is to get someone to the point of thinking about these, not fix things, but to be able to confess an action and forgive and repair. Think about your relationships: you have had lots of opportunities to mess things up. Repair is critical. In a group or one-on-one time, prayer is key. What is God inviting a person to? You invite them to pray and then pray over them .

## Prayer

The Laying on of Hands

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Don't get caught up on "righteous." You were all made righteous through Jesus. You have the power of the spirit and a friend of Jesus who tells you.

