

*Week One*  
*Morph Me*

# MY WORLD



## INTRODUCTION

This particular *Morph* module, *Be the Body*, is designed to motivate and equip participants to change the world by passionately participating in the body of Christ. To facilitate lasting impact, and to protect against the “do nothing” flaw mentioned in the Week Zero reading, over the eight weeks of this module, you will be asked to build what we call *My Portfolio*. *My Portfolio* is a personalized assessment of how you can best impact the world in and through the body of Christ. The assessment will be done from eight vantage points:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| My World         | My Gifts     |
| My Opportunities | My Resources |
| My Self          | My Network   |
| My Weaknesses    | My Plan      |

## INTRODUCTION TO MY WORLD

This week’s vantage point, *My World*, is based on two observations.

First, no two people have identical relationships and opportunities in all aspects of their lives. Yes, our relational worlds overlap, but everyone has their own unique relational network. It is in this sense that we mean *My World*.

Second, in order to influence the world, we must see the world. By “see the world,” we do not mean physically see the world, but a seeing of the world as it truly is. Physical eyes may see physical affluence, for example, while spiritual eyes see emotional, relational, or spiritual poverty.

The exercise that follows might be classified as a prayer. You will be asked to talk to God about what you see and hear in the world around you. This exercise is begun immediately, but it is intended to initiate an ongoing conversation with God about the needs of your world—which means, this isn’t an exercise you truly finish. As insight grows, you’re encouraged to return to these pages throughout the week, or even throughout this *Morph* experience, to record further thoughts, insights, and ideas.

## MY WORLD

## FIRST STAGE MY WORLD

Scripture addresses a critical problem among humanity: “They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear” (Ezekiel 12:2). This problem is manifest in numerous ways, not the least of which is our common failure to see the true nature of life’s hardships. In speaking to the church in Laodicea, Christ said, “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (Revelation 3:17).

Those who wish for depth of impact in this world must have depth of insight. Ever-increasingly, we must see things as God sees them and hear things as God hears them. To that end, we begin the building of our portfolios with prayer. Very simply, and in your own words, you are asked and encouraged to write a prayer to God. **The purpose of this prayer is to ask God for guidance and insight, for eyes to see and ears to hear.** What hardships does God see in the world that you experience each day? What oppression is there in the lives of those with whom you relate?

The following is an example of the kind of prayer you could write, but this is merely an example. You are very much encouraged to do this in your own words, and with your own thoughts, on the pages that follow.

*Dear God,*

*My life moves fast. Sometimes I like it that way. Other times it just wears me out. Nearly all the time, though, it keeps me from seeing the lives of those I touch each and every day. I want the coming weeks of this Morph experience to be an adventure of hearing and following your voice. I ask that I would be open to what you want me to see and hear.*

*I bring my own assumptions and perspectives, and I ask that these not get in the way of what you want me to see. Where is the true pain and true hardship in the world as I experience it? Who in my world is hurting? Who in my world is deceived? Who in my world is oppressed or experiencing injustice? I have my own hardship, and that’s very real, but help me to increasingly see what you see and increasingly hear what you hear.*

*I will listen, and I will watch. As I walk through this exercise today and in the coming weeks, may I not miss what you have for me. Get my attention. May I not just see the surface-level problems. May I have depth of insight and discernment. Protect me from judgment. I want to see the hardship through the lenses of humility. I hope it won’t overwhelm me, but if it does, maybe that’s appropriate. I simply ask that I see what you want me to see.*

*Sincerely,*

*Me*

## MY WORLD

*[Insert Journal Pages]*

**MY WORLD**

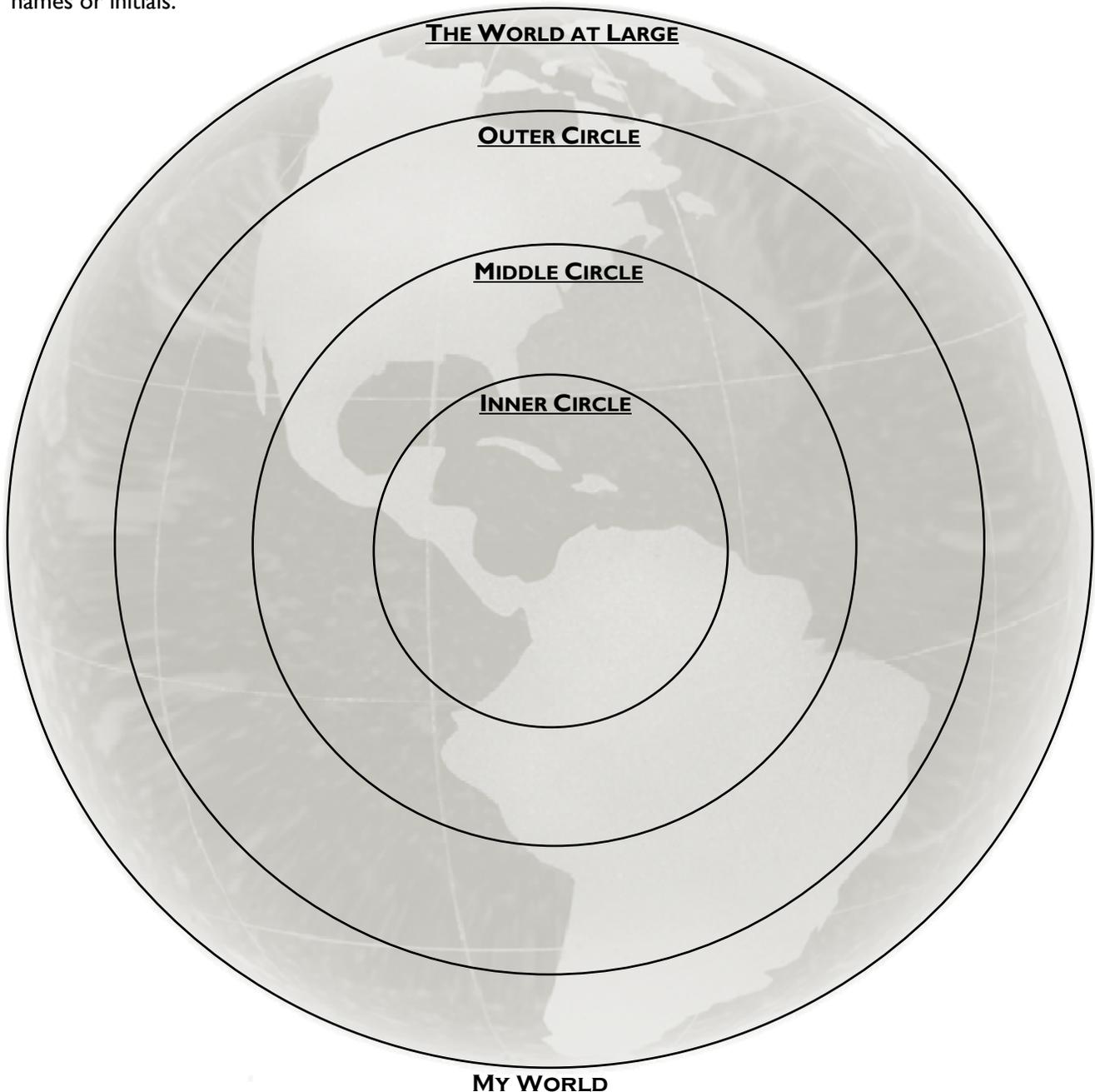
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## SECOND STAGE CIRCLES OF MY WORLD

In a continued spirit of prayer, give thought to your own relational world. On the map provided, write names or initials for...

- ▶ **Inner circle:** Those with whom you feel closely connected
- ▶ **Middle circle:** Those with whom you have repeated contact, but with whom you do not feel closely connected (neighbors, co-workers, friends of friends)
- ▶ **Outer circle:** Those with whom your path crosses occasionally, but with whom you have very little connection or interaction (barista, bank teller, unknown neighbors)
- ▶ **The world at large:** Those throughout the world you influence or have interest in (blogging or Internet interactions, global work relationships, interests in particular countries or needs, etc.)

Fill this in as comprehensively as you are able right now, and then listen and watch in the days and weeks ahead for others God brings to mind. As this happens, you're encouraged to return to this page and record their names or initials.



### THIRD STAGE LISTEN AND OBSERVE

With your initial prayer in mind, and with the names you have written in mind, continue your conversation with God about hardship not just in *the* world, but hardship in *your* world. “*What do you want me to see? What do you want me to hear? What do you want me to know?*” Write initial thoughts on this page, and then continue listening in the days and weeks to come. You’re encouraged to return to these pages to collect and record thoughts and observations.

To assist in your listening and observing, a collection of passages follows these pages that display God’s heart toward various needs and hardships in the world. In your listening, ask God if there is anything in these passages you need to hear or observe.



### MY WORLD

## GOD'S RESPONSE TO BROKENNESS

### INJUSTICE

**Psalm 11:7** For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.

**Proverbs 29:26** Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.

**Psalm 33:5** The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**Psalm 72:2** He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

**Isaiah 58:6** Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

**Luke 18:7-8** And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

**Romans 12:19** "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

### OPPRESSION

**Nehemiah 9:27** But when they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies.

**Psalm 9:9** The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

**Psalm 10:17-18** You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

**Psalm 103:6** The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

**Psalm 146:7-8** He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

**Isaiah 58:6** Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

### ADDICTION

**Psalm 69:33** The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people.

**Psalm 102:19-20** The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death.

**Psalm 146:7-8** He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

**John 8:34** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

## HARDSHIP

**2 Chronicles 20:9** If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.

**Psalm 107:13** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

**Psalm 37:18-19** The days of the blameless are known to the LORD, and their inheritance will endure forever. In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

**Proverbs 3:25-26** Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

**Isaiah 63:9** In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

## LOSS

**Deuteronomy 10:18** He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

**Psalm 10:14** But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.

**Psalm 34:18** The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**Psalm 68:6** God sets the lonely in families.

**Psalm 147:3** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

**Jeremiah 31:13** I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

## REJECTION

**Deuteronomy 31:8** The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

**1 Samuel 12:22** For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

**Psalm 27:10** Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

**Psalm 34:18** The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**Psalm 94:14** For the LORD will not reject his people; he will never forsake his inheritance.

**Psalm 147:3** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

## **SICKNESS**

**Luke 4:40** When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

## **POVERTY**

**Isaiah 41:17** The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

**Psalms 102:17** He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

**Psalms 140:12** I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

**Isaiah 11:3-4** He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

**1 Samuel 2:8** He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.

**Psalms 14:6** You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.

**Psalms 22:26** The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever!

**Psalms 34:6** This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

**Psalms 35:10** Who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.

**Psalms 140:12** I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

**MY WORLD**

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