

The Bridge

Sin and the Lostness of Man

The first step in sharing Christ with someone is showing them their need for forgiveness in light of their position before a Holy God.

Begin by asking them, "Can I share an illustration that describes the main theme of the Bible?"

Explain how you will be using one key verse that talks about the main theme of the Bible. Quote Romans 6:23 as you write it out at the top of the page in three lines.

Explain that you will be focusing on the main words, breaking down the verse line by line as you learn the main theme of the Bible through this verse. Go to the first main word...

WAGES -

Draw a box around the word wage and write on the left "cliff".

"What would you say a wages is?" (Something you earn.)

"Right, something you earn, what if your boss said "Well you worked 40 hours this week, here's your gift." That's not a gift. You worked for it and earned it. It is a wage."

For the wages of sin is death,
But the gift of God is eternal life
In Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23

wages = earn, payment

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wages = earn, payment

lying Sin stealing
adultery hell
murder idols

SIN

(The point of this section is to show that all men have sinned, and to show them that they are sinners along with all of mankind.)

"Now, what do you think a sin is? Let's name some sins."

Write SIN down the middle and make some blanks on each side to fill in.

Ask, "Have you ever committed any of these sins?" (yes)

"do you think I have?" (probably)

"That's right, the Bible says 'all have sinned and fall short of God's standard.'"

Go through the Ten Commandments and the things Jesus said;

"Murder is a sin but, Jesus said anyone who has hated his brother has committed murder in his heart." "How many people do you think have hated someone?" Jesus said that anyone who has looked upon a woman lustfully has committed adultery with her in his heart. "How many men have committed adultery in their hearts?" (all of them)

Continue until the person admits his or her shortcoming and confesses being a sinner according to Jesus' standard. Jesus makes the Law a heart issue not just keeping moral codes.

"What this verse says is that what we earn because of sin is Death."

DEATH

"Do you think this is spiritual or physical?
The point is that it is spiritual death.

"When a man sins he doesn't instantly die physically, therefore it is referring to his spiritual death. Spiritual death means being separated from God because of SIN. Hell is eternal punishment from God. Another way to understand that this death is a spiritual/eternal death is by the construction of the verse.

Notice that eternal life is contrasted with death. If it's talking about eternal life, it must also be talking about a spiritual/eternal death."
"I don't like to 'bash' that word around, but I do want you to understand that according to the Bible Hell is a real place. Jesus talks about it often. Hitler has to go somewhere right?"

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Summarize the first line:

“So the wages, or earning, what we deserve from sin, and how many people sin?”
“Everyone.”
“The earning from that is what?”
“Death.”
“And where is that spent?”
“Hell.”
“So everyone has earned what?”
“Hell.”
“Now when I look at that first line, I just think ‘hopeless.’ One of my favorite words in the Bible is ‘but’ because it says that there is something else coming. We don’t have to be stuck in the sin and death that we’ve earned.”

Salvation as a Free Gift by Faith in Jesus Alone as Lord and Savior

For the wages of sin is death = hopeless
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 In Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23

wages = earn, payment		
death = spiritual, hell	<u>lying</u> Sin <u>stealing</u>	
	<u>adultery</u> <u>hell</u>	
	<u>murder</u> <u>idols</u>	

Now that you have established that man is sinful, separated from God and not able to attain salvation through good works of their own, you are ready to show them what the Bible says about the work of Jesus and the offer of salvation. If someone disagrees that they are sinful, or feels that they have no need of a savior, you may consider re-explaining man’s state or waiting until they understand their need before showing them the rest of the presentation. This is only a suggestion and may be good for a situation when you are in a relationship with a person that you could continue dialoging with later. Prayerfully decide whether or not stopping is a wise choice for this person.

For the wages of sin is death = hopeless
 But the gift of God is eternal life
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wages = earn, payment		gift = given, accepted
death = spiritual, hell	<u>lying</u> Sin <u>stealing</u>	
	<u>adultery</u> <u>hell</u>	
	<u>murder</u> <u>idols</u>	

GIFT
Write gift on the right side and ask,
 “What is the difference between a gift and a wage?”
 “A gift is given.”
 “Right, you don’t do anything to earn the free gift. If I were to give you my pen, what would you have to do to receive it?”
 “Accept it and take it.”

GOD
Draw a box around “God” and write “God” on top of the right “cliff.”
 “What do you know about God?” “How does the Bible describe Him?”
 “Good, righteous, knows all...”
 “A couple of words that the Bible uses is ‘holy’ and ‘just.’”
 “Holy means, pure, set apart, good – everything that is the opposite of sin.” “God cannot condone sin by allowing it in his presence and must separate himself from sin and any person with sin.”

Illustrate Holiness
 “If a glass of is totally pure and you drop one speck of dust in it is it pure anymore? No. What if it was an ocean of pure water and you dropped a speck of dust into it, is it pure? No. God is completely Holy and pure, and He cannot allow sin to dwell in heaven in His presence because this would make Him no longer completely Holy.”

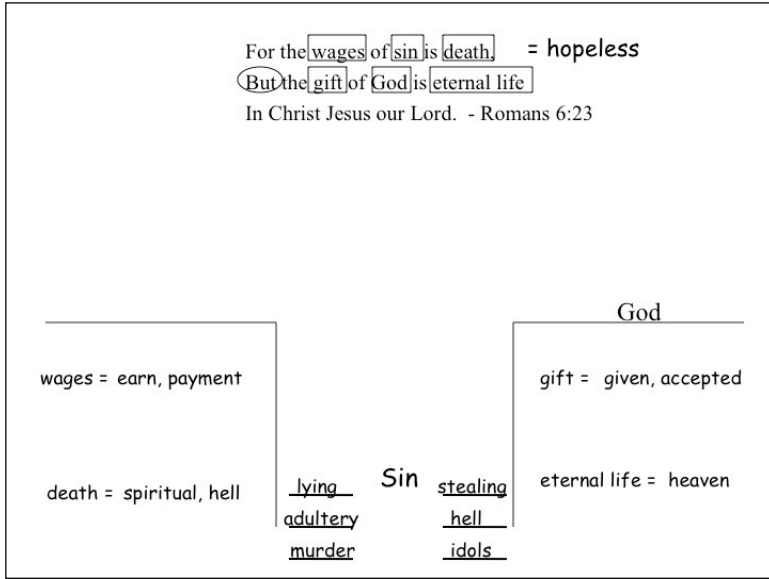
“Another word used to describe God is ‘just.’”

Illustrate Justice
 “Let’s say that your sister was murdered by a guy and they caught him and took him to trial. You and your family found the most respected Judge in all of the US and got him to hear the case. This judge has a reputation for always acting justly and making a just decision. The day of the trial they show all the evidence, they have eyewitnesses, the murder weapon with his fingerprints and name carved into it, he

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even pleads guilty. But then, when he comes out, the judge says, “You know, I know that this guy is probably guilty, the evidence shows him guilty and he even said he did it but, he has cleaned himself up, combed his hair, I heard he has been nice to the guards and has started sharing with the other inmates. I think I’m going to overlook all this and let him go.” Crack of the gavel. What would you do? Is that a righteous Judge? No. God will not overlook sin, no matter how “good” a person is, God is a righteous judge, he has to punish sin.”



ETERNAL LIFE

“Is that physical or spiritual? Spiritual. If Spiritual death is being separated from God, what is Eternal life? (Being in the presence of God) Heaven.”

“I know that people have weird views of heaven, like babies riding on clouds with toilet paper, but according to the Bible, heaven is eternity with God. Enjoying the person who made us for ultimate pleasure for all of eternity. The Bible also talks about abundant life now though. That this gift isn’t just about getting to heaven, but living out our relationship with God while we’re here on earth.”

SUMMARIZE THE SECOND LINE

“So what we see from the second line is that God wants to give us a gift, and what is that gift?”

“Eternal life”

“But what’s the problem”

“There is sin between us and God.”

“That’s right, we have sin that God must judge us for, since He is a righteous judge. Some people try to reach eternal life by themselves and think ‘if I do enough good, or if I go to church, surely God will give me eternal life.’ But do you know people who are good but still sin? Do you know people who go to church but still sin?”

(Optional Verses if time allows)

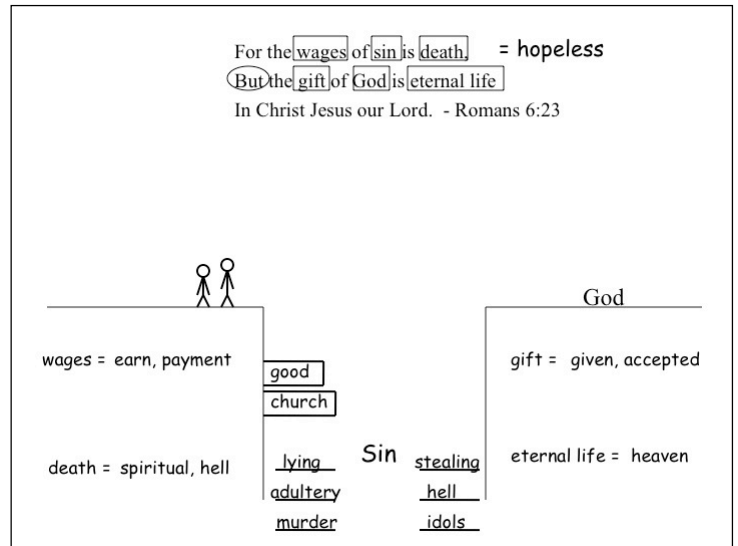
Let them read James 2:10,

“Anyone who keeps the whole law yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

“According to James 2:10, How many sins does it take to send someone to Hell? Just like the speck of dust, no matter how small, the issue is God’s holiness, not comparing yourself with others but with a Holy God as the standard.”

Have them read Eph 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5,

“What does that passage say about good works?”



“No matter what man does God cannot overlook sin because He is a righteous judge (Psalm 7:11) and He will act with justice.”

“So God had to provide a way to pay the penalty of sin and give us eternal life. He packaged this gift ‘in’ Christ Jesus our Lord.”

CHRIST JESUS

Draw a cross and write Jesus in the cross

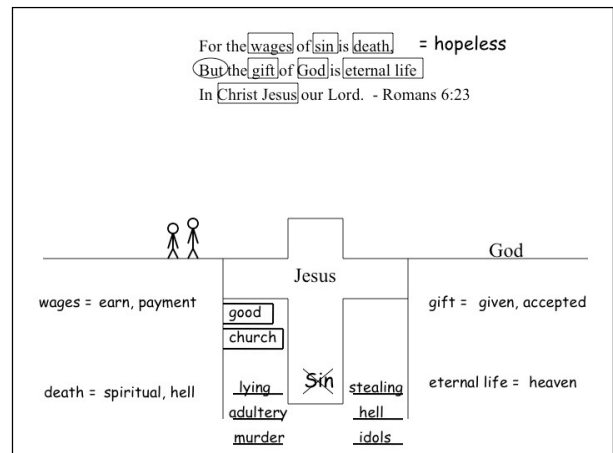
“What do you know about Jesus”

“He was a good person, taught, and died on a cross.”

“That’s right, the Bible says that Jesus lived a perfect life, it says that he knew no sin. Because of that, what did he not have to pay for?”

“Sin”

“But, the death you should have paid that you earned because of sin, Jesus paid by dying in your place. All the good works that you should have done, Jesus did by living a perfect in your place. He not only cancelled all your debt, but He credited all of His righteousness to your account. Since He had no sin, death had no power over him and could not hold Him. That is why He rose from the grave and lives today in heaven. Because He conquered death, He is able to save us from eternal death and separation from God.”



LORD

Draw a box around "Lord"

"The Bible describes Jesus Christ as 'Lord.'

What does 'Lord' mean?"

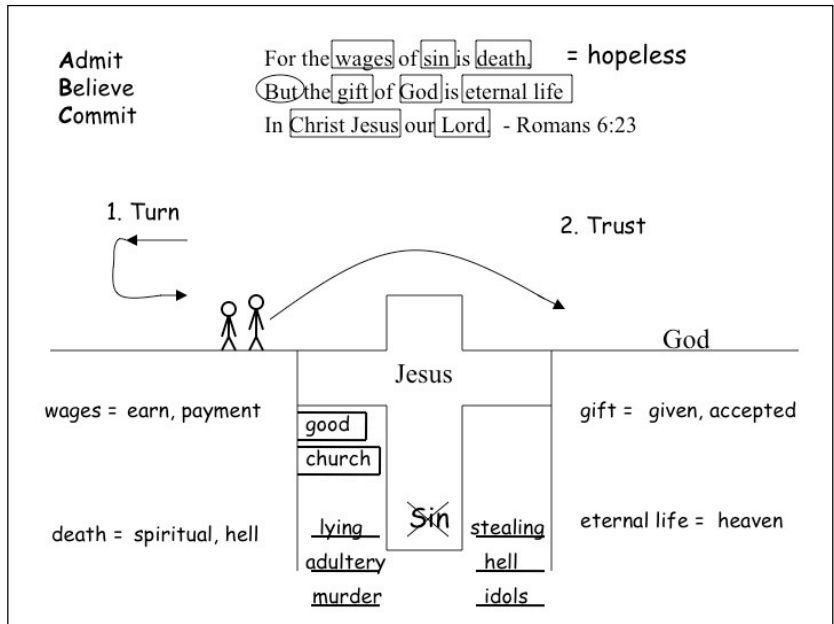
"Boss?"

"Yeah, I think of old England with the 'lord of the land' with the peasants. If the lord says, 'plow my potatoes' what do the peasants do?"

"Plow his potatoes."

"So when Christ says something, followers of Christ do it. But unlike many lords, the Bible describes Christ as a 'good Lord.' One who genuinely cares for his people. So, everything Christ commands is for our good."

"What it means to make Jesus 'Lord' is that we first turn from our sins and second we trust that His death and resurrection paid for the sin in our lives and allows us to follow him. How this looks in my life is that I realized that I was a sinner, and that I deserved eternity in Hell. But someone showed me that Jesus died for my sins and offered eternal life if I would simply admit I was a sinner, believe that Jesus died for my sins, and commit my life to Him as Lord of my life."



CLOSING QUESTIONS:

"If you were to die tonight which side would you put yourself on the MAN side or the GOD side? Why?"

If they claim that they are in the middle

"You can't be half way because it is just like the pen gift, it is either mine or yours, it is never floating in the middle."

Have them read 1 John 5:12, and ask them what are the two types of people listed in 1 John.

"There are only two types of people on the planet 1 John 5:12, he who has the son and he who doesn't. What two percentage chances are there of getting into heaven according to that verse? (0% or 100%) If someone is trusting Christ, He paid 100%. If someone is trusting in themselves, it is really zero. If someone said that they were 50% or 80% sure of their salvation, what is that really? (zero) Does 80% sound like they are trusting in Christ's work on the cross or in good works to save them?"

"Would you like to make Jesus Lord of your life right now?"

At this point you quit speaking and make them break the silence with their answer. It is very important that you let them answer without letting them off the hook. This may be the only time anyone will ever give them an opportunity to receive Christ.

"YES"

Tell them to tell God their decision. Explain that praying is simply talking to God. You can bow your head if they feel comfortable, or look up to heaven or look at a tree, it really doesn't matter – just talk to God and tell Him your decision. Don't lead them in a "sinner's prayer" that isn't their own.

Take them to 2 Corinthians 5:17 – explain that if their decision is genuine that they are a new creation. Show them verse 15 and explain that they should no longer live for themselves, but for Christ who died for them. Tell them that you would love to help them grow in their new faith by meeting regularly and learning how to follow Christ. Schedule a time as soon as possible to begin (that day or the next day preferably). Invite them to church, and begin to help them get in the Word.

"NO"

Ask them what obstacles are holding them back from following Christ. If possible, invite them to look at Christ's life by reading stories about Jesus from the book of John with you. Thank them for their time and schedule a time to reconnect.