

HOW TO LEAD A PERSON TO CHRIST



We are all looking forward to the return of the Lord Jesus! What a glorious day that will be. However there are millions who do not know him and many of those have not heard the message of salvation. This is what Jesus has called us to do, but often Christians are unsure what they should say. In this session we will learn the fundamentals of the gospel message so we are prepared to share the good news, at any time and in any place.

The Gospel

✠ How does the Holy Spirit equip us to share the gospel? Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:6-8

✠ What can the message of the gospel do in people's lives? Romans 1:16, 10:14-17

God wants to use each one of us. He has given us his Spirit to live within us, and so we do not need to be afraid to share the gospel with others. As we speak, God's power will work through us, so that others will come to believe in Jesus and receive salvation.

What is the Gospel?

✠ What is the message of the gospel? Discuss.

We will go through the gospel message step by step. It is important that these truths are fixed in our hearts. First of all we need to understand these truths and be sure that we have received God's gift of salvation ourselves, then we will have confidence to share them with others. Although we may know these truths we need to learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as to when and how we share them. So let's begin:-

What is the message we are to share?

1. God's Plan: New Life

First of all we need to share how much God loves us and that God has a purpose for our lives. God wants to have a relationship with us, as he is our Creator, and he desires for us to experience life, the way he intended it to be.

When you share the gospel it is good to read verses from the Bible with the person. You could also use your smart phone or tablet! Seeing and hearing God's Word is powerful. Here are two verses that tell us about God's love and his plan for our lives.

God's love - 1 John 4:9

'This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.'

New life - John 10:10b

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

2. Man's Problem: Sin

Secondly we need to share about the reality of sin. We must be careful not to sound judgemental, but rather show that we can only have this relationship with God and receive new life when we turn away from sin. Explain what sin is. It is not only cheating, stealing, lying and adultery, although these are sinful actions, but sin is not living up to God's standards. We have all sinned and so a meaningful relationship with God is impossible.

All have sinned – Romans 3:23

'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.'

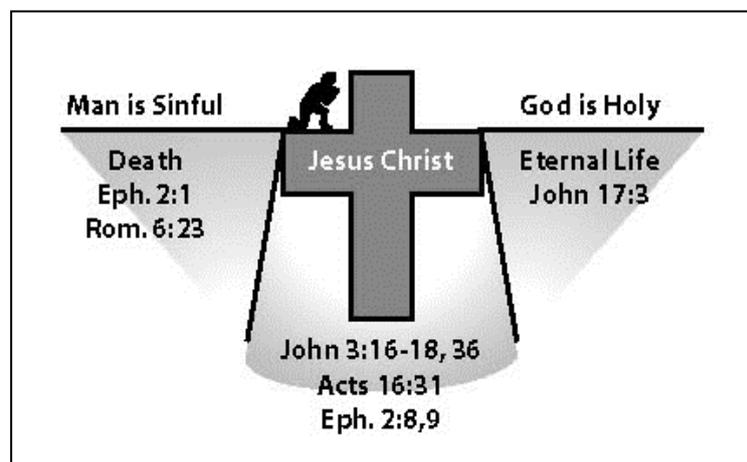
We are separated from God – Isaiah 59:2

'But your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.'

3. God's Remedy: The Cross

Then we tell them about Jesus! God sent Jesus, his Son, into this world to die on the cross and take the punishment for the sin of mankind. Our sin had separated us from God, but God has made a way for us to be forgiven and cleansed from our sin, so we can return to him.

It is good to give an illustration to demonstrate this truth. As the Chinese proverb says, 'a picture speaks a thousand words'. Here is an example of a simple illustration:-



God sent Jesus – Romans 5:8

'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

Jesus is the way – John 14:6

'Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

4. Man's Response: Repent & Receive Christ

a. Repent

When you have shared the gospel and sense the other person is open to the message, tell them what they must do to receive Christ. The first thing is to repent of their sin. Explain that this means to be truly sorry for the wrong and sinful things they have done, and for not following God's way, and being willing to turn away from their old life and follow Jesus.

Repent – Acts 3:19

'Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

b. Receive Christ

The last step is to receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Assure them that if they do this sincerely God will hear their prayer, forgive their sin, and Jesus will come to live within them by his Spirit.

Receive – Revelation 3:20

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.'

Now it is time to ask if they would like to pray to receive Christ. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Some will be ready, but others may not. If they are not ready encourage them to think about it, as it is an important decision.

If the person is ready to respond, then offer to help them pray. Here is a simply guideline, but you can also use your own words.

"Dear Father, I know that I have been separated from you. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed his blood for my sins, and I now ask you to forgive me. I am willing to turn away from my sin and follow your way. Jesus I invite you to come into my life and be my personal Saviour. I want to follow and obey you as the Lord of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen."

After you have prayed with the person, don't be afraid of a moment of quietness. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to their hearts. Following this, you may like to pray for them, thanking God for what he has done in their lives and praying that Jesus will keep them in his love.

Then ask the person, "What has God done in your life?" They may say, "He has forgiven me", or "He has come into my life." Encourage them and remind them of what God has promised in his Word. (If they seem unsure of what has happened you may need to go back and explain some things again.)

Jesus said, 'There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'
We too will experience joy when we share the message of salvation with others! Let's do it!