

WEEK THREE SEPTEMBER 25

Crossing the Bridge

Bridges Because It Matters

Bridge ACross: Holiness of God + Repentance + Gratefulness

Bridge One Verse Evangelism +

Bridges Because It Matters

Phi Tun (illustrating “the great divide”)

How would you illustrate this from your life?

Jim Gattis (the work of the Holy Spirit)

How would you illustrate this from your life? How would you explain His work?

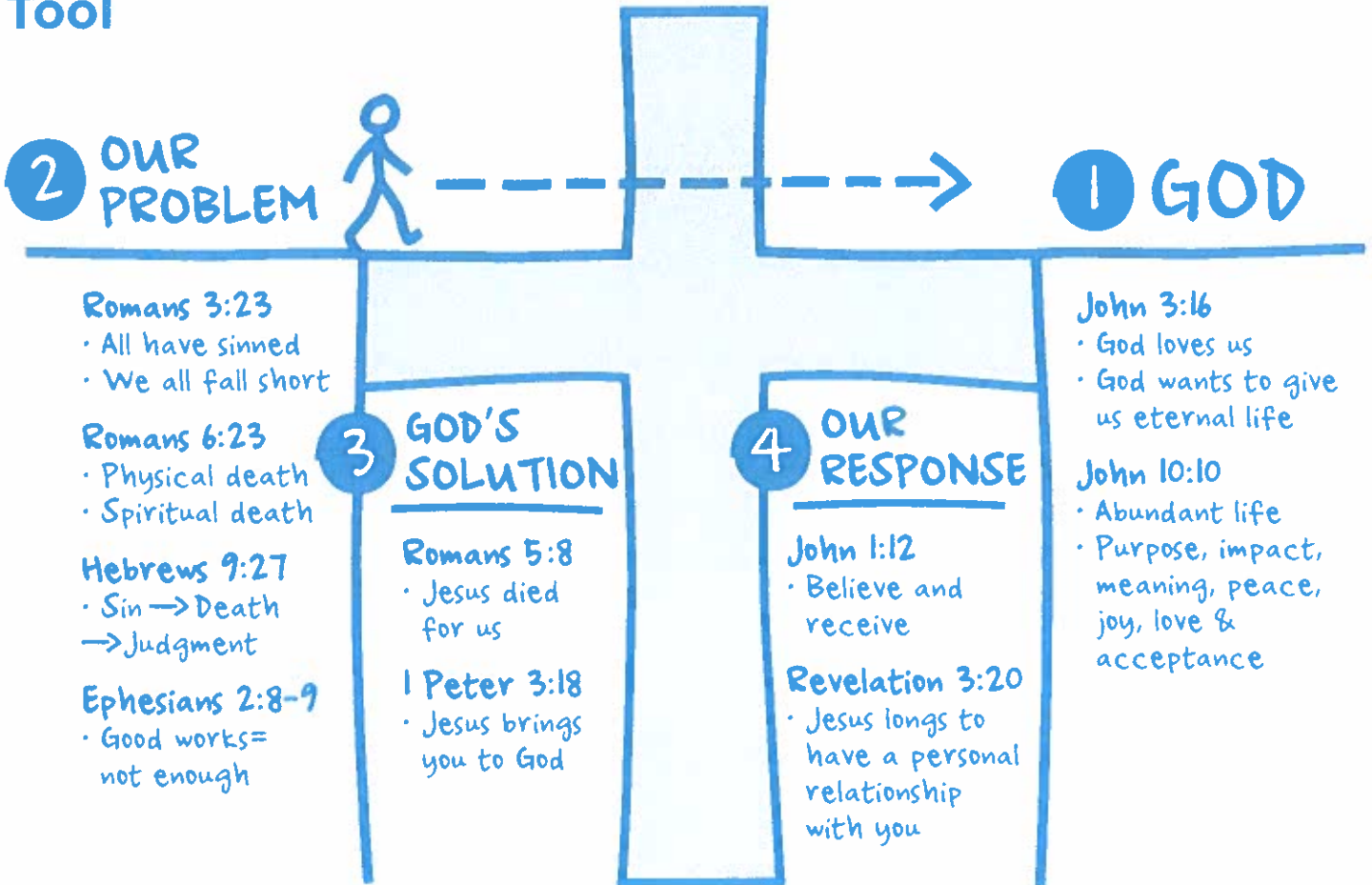
Loretta’s funeral (beyond the knowing to the doing)

What helps you to overcome your hesitancy?

What bridges do the folks in your groups need help getting over?



Navigators Discipleship Tool



THE BRIDGE TO LIFE

This tried-and-true resource gives you the Bible verses to explain why we need Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross to solve our greatest problem: separation from God.

When you're not sure if friends have surrendered their lives to Christ yet, this is a great way to help them make that decision.

Draw this diagram on a piece of paper to walk someone through the gospel step-by-step. It helps to have the verses handy, bookmarked in a Bible or Bible app. The numbers show you the order in which to share.

Question & Answer Discussion Guide

1 GOD

[Draw the horizontal line on the right side with "GOD" above it, then add the verses and bullets underneath the line as you share them]

God created us with purpose, to be in relationship with Him and to enjoy all the fullness of life with Him.

John 3:16

- What does God desire you to know in the first part of the verse? **(God loves us)**
- What does the last line say God wants you to have? **(God wants to give us eternal life)**

John 10:10

- What type of life does Jesus want to give you on earth? **(Abundant life)**
- What do you think would be some inner characteristics of this full, abundant life that Jesus wants to give you? **(Purpose, impact, meaning, peace, joy, love & acceptance)**
- Do you think everyone you know is experiencing this abundant life? Let's see what the Bible says about what prevents it.

2 OUR PROBLEM

[Draw the horizontal line on the left side with "OUR PROBLEM" above it]

We have a problem we can't fix on our own.

Romans 3:23

- What is humanity's problem? **(All have sinned)**
- What is sin? **(Like an arrow missing its target, we fall short of God's intent for us. All of us have done what we should not do and left undone what we should have done.)**
- What is the result of sin? **(Separation from God)**
[Draw two vertical lines to make a chasm]

Romans 6:23

- Wages are what we earn by our actions. What do we earn by our sin? **(Death)**
- There are two types of death. What are they? **(Physical and Spiritual)**

Our sin separates us from God for eternity unless somehow we are released from paying the price for it.

Hebrews 9:27

- What happens after we die? **(We face judgment for the sin we commit)**
- This looks bleak for us. What are some ways you or others you know have tried to get to God's side? **(Going to church, praying, helping people)**

God sees the hopeless situation we're in and provides a way out.

Ephesians 2:8-9

- Can our best efforts bridge the separation between us and God? **(No, we are saved by grace, which is unmerited love. Good works = not enough)**

3 GOD'S SOLUTION

[Draw the Cross]

We can't build a bridge to God, but Jesus Christ is God's bridge to us.

Romans 5:8

- How did God show He loves us even though we're sinners? **(Jesus died for us to pay the penalty for our sin)**

1 Peter 3:18

- Why is Jesus dying on the Cross and rising again such good news for us? **(It allows us to be with God now on Earth and forever in Heaven because Jesus conquered both our sin and death by dying and rising again. That is the Christian gospel!)**

4 OUR RESPONSE

Each of us needs to respond to what God is offering us.

John 1:12

- How does one become a child of God? **(By believing and receiving Jesus, trusting in his sacrifice as the payment for your own personal sin.)**

Revelation 3:20

- What is Jesus trying to show here, when he offers to come in and eat with us? **(That he longs to have a personal relationship with us)**

NEXT STEPS

Accept Jesus, Which is as Simple as A-B-C

Admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and ask God to forgive you and help you turn from sin.

Believe Jesus died for you and rose again, conquering sin and death.

Commit your life to following Jesus, putting your total trust in Him and giving Him decision-making authority as Lord of your life.

Talk to Jesus Right Now

You can talk to Jesus right now to receive him. You can repeat after me or put this in your own words: "Father God, I know that I am a sinner and that I need you to forgive me. I know that your son Jesus died a painful death and rose again so that my sins could be washed clean. Thank you. I want to make you the Lord of my life, and I will trust and follow You. Everything I have is yours now. In the name of Jesus, amen."

The Adventure Ahead

Now that we're restored in our relationship, we get to join him in the restoration of all things on Earth that are broken and damaged by sin! This includes helping your friends have a relationship with Jesus, bringing justice where there is injustice, healing where there is pain, and hope where there is despair.

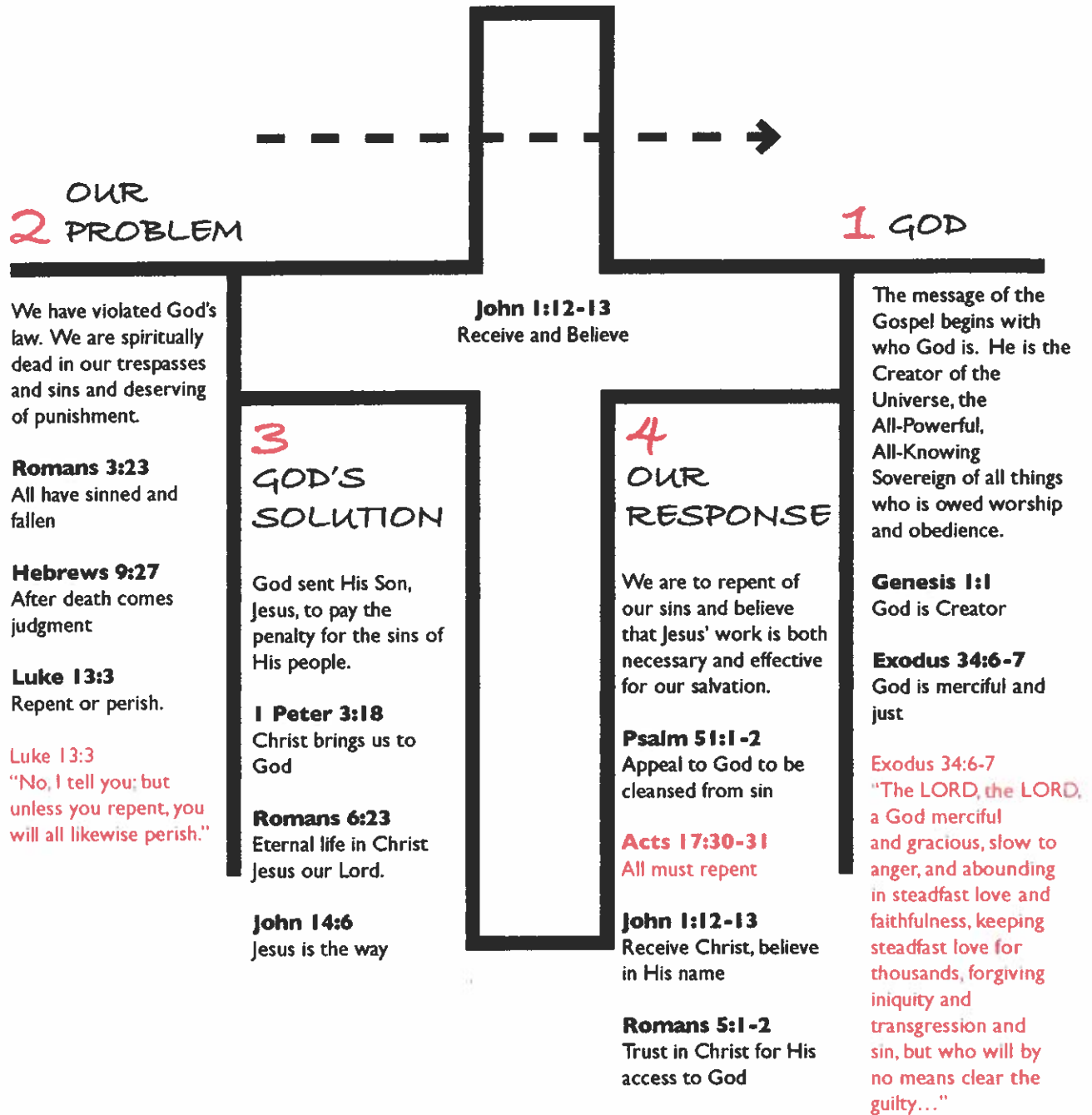
THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED.

To download The Bridge to Life illustration visit navlink.org/bridge

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Bridge ACross



The Bridge ACross is a teaching tool for examining other verses and emphases. While being obviously based on The Bridge, given on the previous page, it is not to be confused with The Bridge to Life ©1976 The Navigators, all rights reserved.

Using the Navigators' "The Bridge To Life" illustration as the basis for teaching a tool of evangelism to our folks, we are encouraging the consideration of verses that 1) address God's holiness and justice, as well as His love; 2) the pairing of repentance with believing; and 3) the emphasis of "Christ Alone" gratefulness for our salvation.

1) GOD

The message of the Gospel begins with who God is. He is the Creator of the Universe, the All-Powerful, All-Knowing Sovereign of all things who is owed worship and obedience. He is holy—that is, He is "other than" us (transcendent), pure and incorruptible. God is personal, in that He can be known. His character defines what righteousness is revealed generally through creation and specifically in the Scriptures. God is compassionate and merciful, and at the same time just in His judgments.

- "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)
- "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3)
- "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:3)
- "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty..." (Exodus 34:6-7)

2) OUR PROBLEM

We have violated God's law. We are spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins and deserving of punishment. To sin against an eternally holy God warrants an eternally equivalent judgment. There is a chasm between us and God because of our sin. Unless the wrath of God is satisfied, we will pay the penalty for our willful disobedience. Scripture describes a place of torment for those who break God's law. We are in desperate need of repentance and deliverance.

- "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
- "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind." (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- "...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)
- "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)
- "[He] will send His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:41-42)

3) GOD'S SOLUTION

God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for the sins of His people. Jesus accomplished this through His life of perfect obedience to the Father and His substitutionary death on the cross, burial and bodily resurrection. Jesus has done what we could not do for ourselves. We can only come to God through the merits of His Son.

- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
- "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

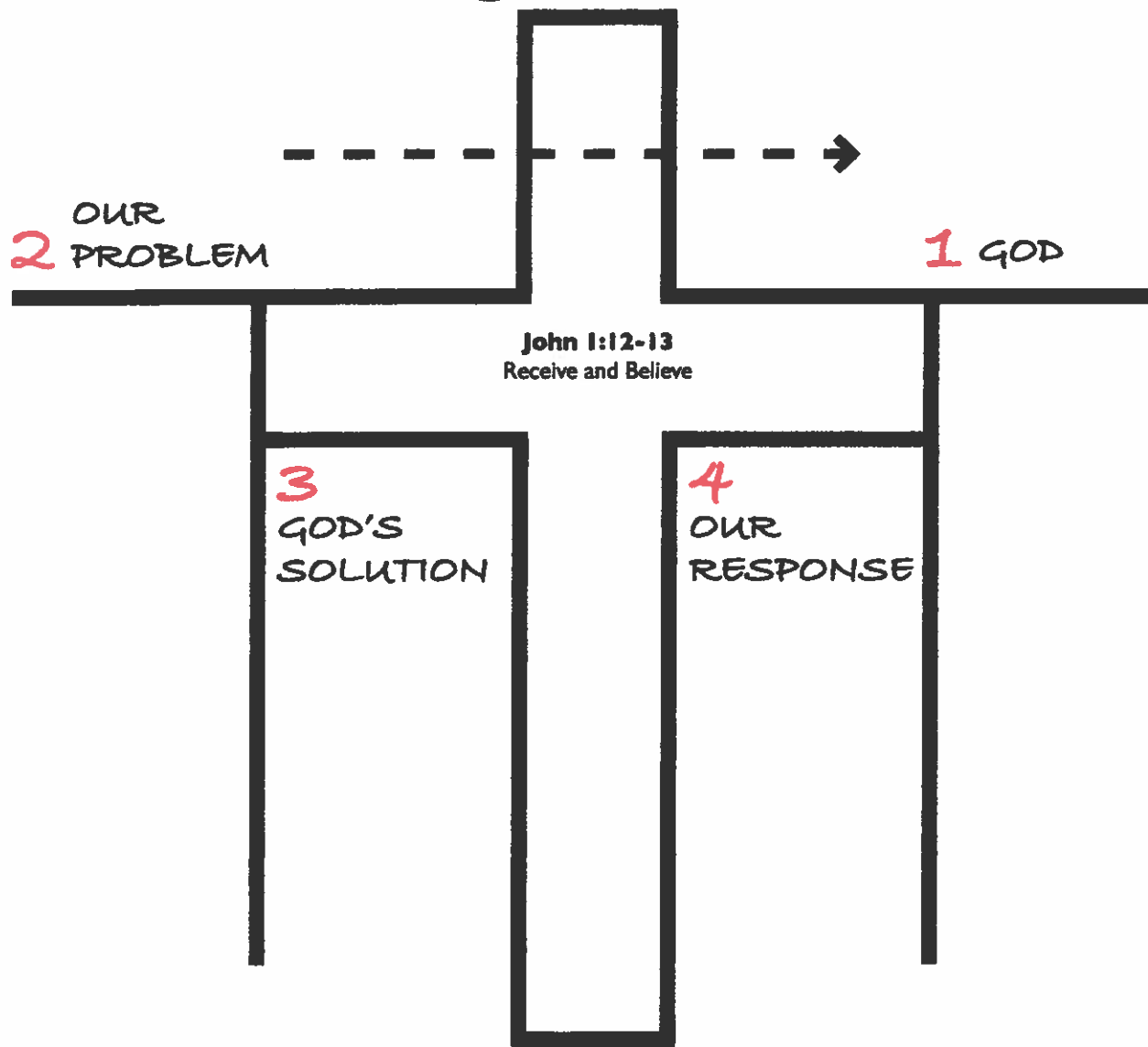
- "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit." (1 Peter 3:18)
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
- "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

4) OUR RESPONSE

We are to repent of our sins and believe that Jesus' work is both necessary and effective for our salvation. We cannot save ourselves, so we trust the only One who can. The faith we need to believe is graciously given to us by our loving and merciful God, who grants us spiritual life. We who were once His enemies and separated from God are now His adopted children, safe and secure forever with Him.

- "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom he has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31)
- "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!" (Psalm 51:1-2)
- "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)
- "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved." "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10)
- "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:1-2)

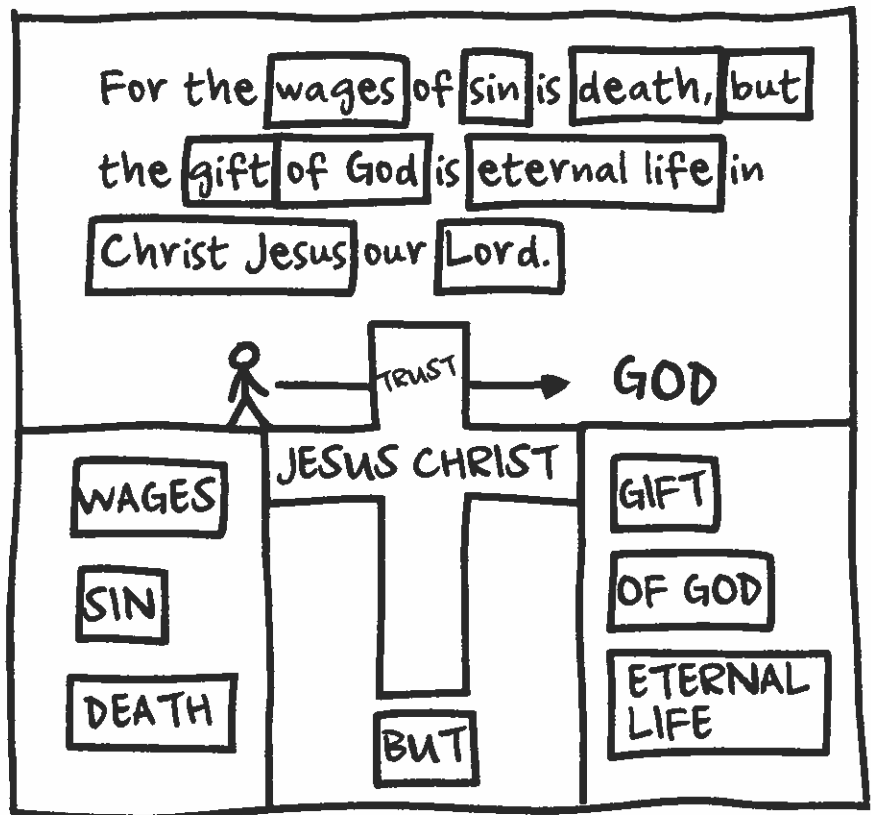
Bridge Across





Navigator Discipleship Tool

One-Verse Evangelism® is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. As you are in a conversation with a friend, you can illustrate Romans 6:23 on a napkin or piece of paper to explain God's relationship with people.



ONE VERSE EVANGELISM

Circle **WAGES** and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Of course, your friend would want justice, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve.

Draw a circle around **SIN**, asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

Circle **DEATH** and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

While circling the word **BUT** mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

Draw a circle around **GIFT**. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

Circle **OF GOD** and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

Circle **ETERNAL LIFE** next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

Write **JESUS CHRIST** so it creates a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

Write **TRUST** over the bridge. Explain that a true friend is a friend you can trust; Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Trusting Jesus means believing that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life.

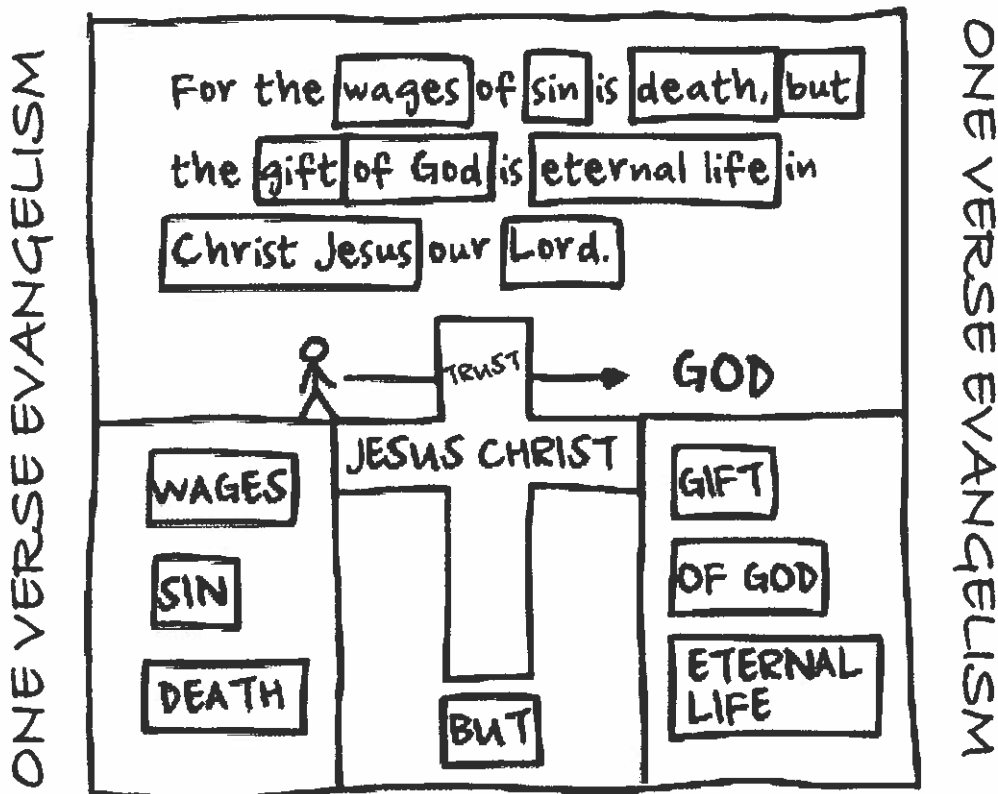
Now, ask your friend if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him and make him new. Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible.

ONE VERSE EVANGELISM +

Exodus 34:6-7 GOD IS MERCIFUL & JUST

"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty..."

ROMANS 6:23



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Luke 13:3 REPENT

"No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

The Gospel Hope

Our Neighbor's Condition • Our Father's Concern • Our Father's Course

In communicating to our church family about The Great Commission, let us survey a few passages that highlight the great and urgent need of those around us, the enormity of the Father's love and concern, and His plan for seeing The Great Commission brought about.

Our Neighbor's Condition

Romans 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Colossians 1:21-22

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

What is our lost neighbor's great and urgent need according to God's Word? _____

Our Father's Concern

Matthew 9:36

36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Titus 3:5

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Romans 10:13

13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

What do you learn about the enormity of our Father's love for people from these verses? _____

Our Father's Course

Matthew 28:19-20

1 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Colossians 1:28-29

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

II Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 3:21

21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Luke 10:2

2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Luke 24:46-47

46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 20:21

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

2 Peter 1:2-8

2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. 3 And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. 4 Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast."' 5 But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. 7 But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 Then he *said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.' 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

Acts 1:8

8 "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

1 Timothy 2:4

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

What do you learn about our Father's plan for seeing The Great Commission brought about? _____
