

How to Share the Gospel

Don't worry about memorizing the Bible passages, but be able to summarize what they say.

Below are some things you can say when you have the opportunity to share the Gospel with someone.

The Bible tells us that Jesus wants us to have a personal relationship with Him. If you do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus, or if you are not sure you do, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing that as we go through the steps of how to do it. But first, let's pray. *[Pray as you feel led.]*

We matter to God. He made us, and He wants to have a relationship with us. *[Write "Us" and "God" as shown below.]*

Us

God

We rebelled against God. We've all disobeyed Him. Our sins have separated us from Him, like this canyon. *[Draw the two cliffs, with the canyon separating "Us" from "God."]* Romans 3:23 says: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." *[Write "Romans 3:23" at the left.]*

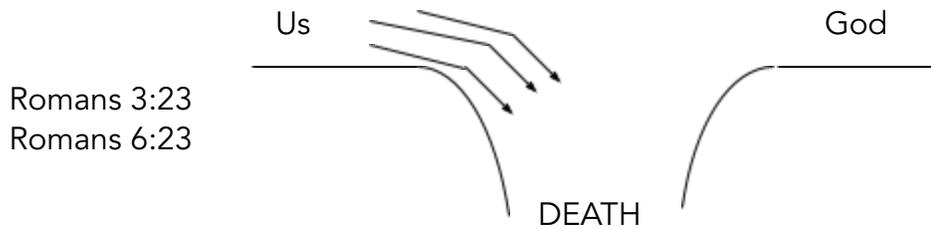
Us

God

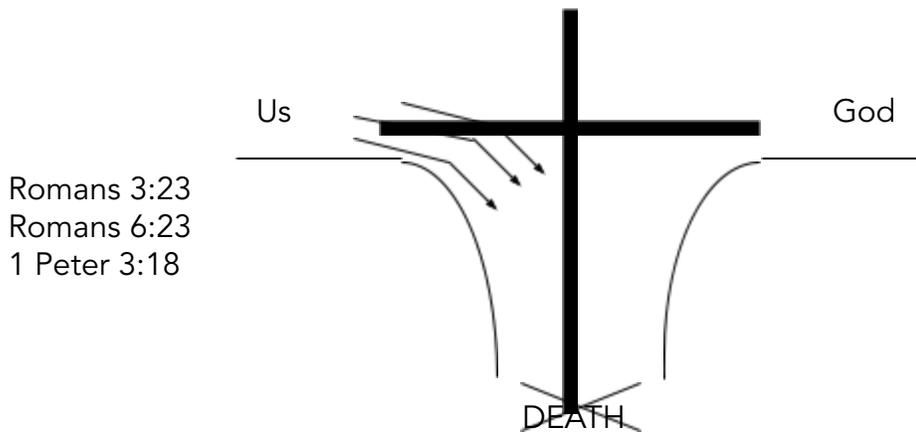
Romans 3:23



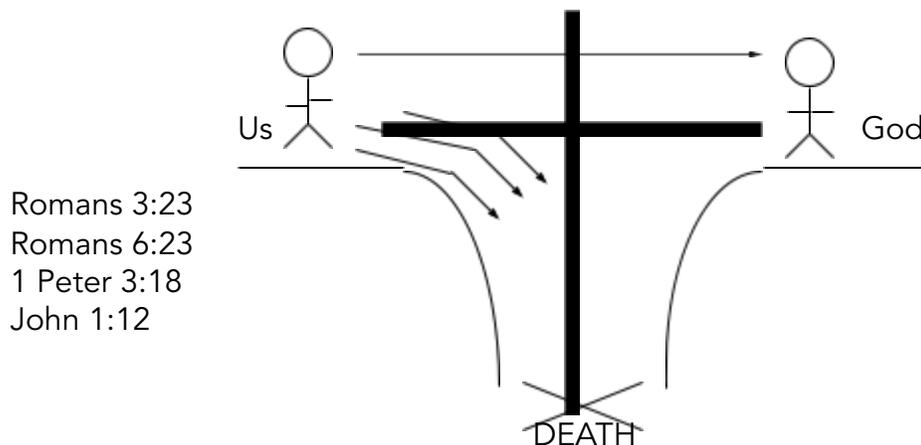
We try doing all sorts of things to try to get to God, like being a good person, being baptized, and going to church. *[Draw the arrows going over the cliff.]* There's nothing wrong with these, but the Bible makes it clear that none of these things can earn us forgiveness or re-establish our relationship with God. Our sins must be punished, and the penalty we owe is death. *[Write "Death" at the bottom of the canyon.]* Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." *[Write "Romans 6:23" at the left.]*



This looks bleak. But the good news is that we matter to God. He loves us. He has provided a bridge from us to Him. Jesus is that bridge. *[Draw the cross across the bridge, and X-out "Death."]* 1 Peter 3:18 says, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." *[Write "1 Peter 3:18" at the left.]*



This is the central message of the Bible. But it isn't enough to just know about it. We need to act on it. We do this by humbly admitting that we have rebelled against God, and that we need his forgiveness and leadership. That simple act of trust and obedience results in our sins being forgiven and our debt being paid. *[Draw a person moving from the "Us" side of the canyon to the "God" side.]* Our relationship with God is firmly established, and we are immediately adopted into God's family as His son or daughter. John 1:12 says, "to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." *[Write "John 1:12 to the left.]*



All of this is conceptually simple, but it is profound, and it is not easy. We cannot ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, yet not be willing to hand our lives over to Him and obey Him in all areas of our lives.

We will never be able to obey Jesus perfectly, because we will continue to sin. And we do not have to clean up *before* we come to Him – and in fact we cannot. But the desire of our hearts when we ask Him to be in relationship with us is that we die to our own desires and intend to *Follow Him*. This is called the pursuit of holiness, and only God gives us that desire and power.

When we decide to accept Jesus' free gift of forgiveness, and when we decide to hand our lives over to Him so that He is Lord of our life, we are *saved*.

Salvation has three parts:

1. Justification: We are justified, or made right, with God. You can think of "justified" as "just as if I'd" never sinned. Justification restores our relationship with God that was broken by sin.
2. Sanctification: This is the life-long process of becoming more holy, more like Jesus.
3. Glorification: This is being with Jesus in heaven after we die.

Sanctification and glorification are the evidence of justification. But all are involved in the salvation process.

When we are saved, we become Christians. A Christian is not just a "good person," or even just someone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and arose from the dead. A Christian is a person who has turned his/her life over to Christ and has been forgiven of his/her sins.

Does this make sense to you? Do you have questions? Would you like to move over the bridge by making Jesus your forgiver, leader, and friend? Let's bow our heads and pray. If you would like to ask Jesus into your life for the first time, you can pray along with me: "Jesus, I know that I have done wrong things. I have sinned. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. And I ask you to take control of my life."

If you have made this decision today, share it with your teacher, the people at your table, and others!

(parts of this section adapted from *Becoming a Contagious Christian*
by Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg)