

Gospel Illustrations

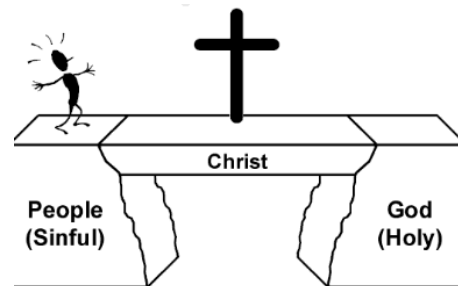
Cashing the check

If someone wrote you a check for a million dollars and gave it to you, would you be a millionaire? No, not yet! Not until you've cashed the check. You would just be a person with a million dollar check. In a similar way, God has written you a check paying for your sins and for your eternal life, but you have to cash it for it to apply. Just mentally believing that Jesus died is not enough according to the bible. God wants you to personally receive this gift. Will you pray to receive this gift? (John 1:12)

Pay to the order of : _____ YOU _____
_____ ETERNAL LIFE _____ DOLLARS
Jesus Christ _____ Signature

Jesus as the Bridge

The bible teaches that we are separated from God because he is loving and perfect, but we are selfish and sinful. The separation between us and God is like a giant chasm (like the Grand Canyon), and it's too far for us to reach the other side on our own. One person may be able to jump farther than the other, but no one can make it to the other side alone. We need a bridge to get us to God, and Christ is that bridge. (1 Timothy 2:4-6).

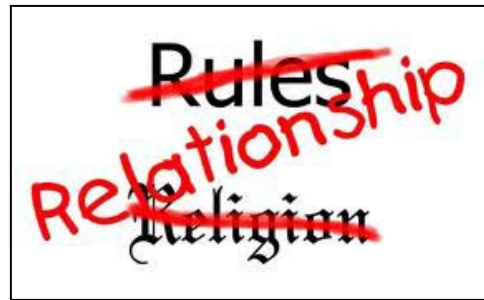


God shaped hole in our heart

The bible teaches that we were made in the image of God and created to be in a loving relationship with him. Because we have been separated from God we have an unquenchable thirst that can never be filled without him. No persons love is enough to make us happy, and material things only make you feel good for a short time. In John 7:37-38 Jesus invited all who were thirsty to come to Him for a drink that would fill our innermost being. If you feel that emptiness inside, it's because God Spirit does not live in you yet. Do you want to start a relationship with Christ?

Religion vs. Relationship

Religion teaches that we have to do good works and rituals to try to get God's acceptance. But we never know if we are good enough for heaven until we die. Christianity isn't about religion, it's about relationship! God doesn't want your religion; he wants a relationship with you!! The bible teaches that God wants to forgive us as a free gift. We don't have to earn his acceptance. (Ephesians 2:8-9)



A debt too large to pay

Say your friend loans you his x-box and you spill your Mountain Dew on it and break it. What happens? For one, you need to apologize and ask for forgiveness. But secondly, you need to pay him money or replace the item. Sin is similar- It's not only that we need forgiveness, but we need a payment for the damages we've made.

But what if damages were so expensive that you had no way to pay it back, or so personal that it couldn't be replaced? The bible says that our sin is an abhorrent to God and utterly offends him because he is so good, so perfect, and so holy. We owe God a huge debt, and we should have to pay for our sins, but we can't. Instead of punishing us, God has sent Jesus to pay for our sins. Now God wants to give us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. (Colossians 2:14)

Assignment

Write out a short gospel illustration in your own words. 2-5 minutes tops using one of these illustrations, or another that you like. Practice saying it out loud and making it appealing. This is something you can share with a non-Christian friend that can help them understand the gospel.

***Challenge-** Ask your cell leader if you can share the gospel at cell group using one of these illustrations

Transformational Testimony Worksheet

BC	What were you like (a key struggle) before you started deepening your relationship with Christ? (ungrateful, depressed, arrogant, worrier, selfish, misconception about God, etc.)	Key Words or Concepts for Outline <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as the solution to your needs? (bible teaching, what truth?, patience from key person, etc.)	
Conversion	How has God's love and grace inspired you? (A verse that affirms your salvation or point to heavenly rewards, seeing how grace applied to you sin, etc.)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Specifically, what was your dynamic prayer or interaction with God that began this change? (what did you say to God?)	
AD	How did your life begin to change after this? (felt closer to God, better friendships, eyes opened to spiritual world)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian or giving your life to Christ? (Especially think of those benefits that would best relate to the people you are reaching out to)	
How will you end your testimony?		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Reaching Jr. High Students

XSI 2014

Mark 10:13-16, 1 Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 22:6

What is unique about evangelism in Jr. High?

Jr. High at Xenos

What are the pros and cons for each of these structures (large and small group)?

Benefits of outreaching small group model:

Doing Evangelism on the Ground

What can we expect from our students?

Student roles:

Leader roles:

Why so much fun?

Principles of Empowering Students

Equip

Encourage

Engage

Outreach Ideas

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