

## **Your Story**

### *Being clear about what God has done for you*

God has a story. And you have a story. The intersection of his story and your story is unique and powerful. Revelation 12:11 says, “They triumphed over him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb [Jesus] and by the word of their testimony.”

**Your testimony is simply sharing what you have seen and heard first hand.**

Develop your answers to the following questions and “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

1. What is Jesus doing in your life? What have you seen and heard?
2. What story is God weaving in your life? What is your gospel story?
3. What are you learning? How are you changing?
4. What hurtful, negative, or painful things have you experienced, felt, or done that no longer bind you because of Jesus?
5. From what has Jesus freed you?
6. Because of Jesus in you, in what ways are you experiencing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control these days?
7. Because of Christ’s presence in your life, how are you different from what you used to be?

# God's GIFT

Romans 6:23 – *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**G**od loves me [and has a plan for my life].

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**I** am a sinner [and separated from God].

Romans 3:23 – *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

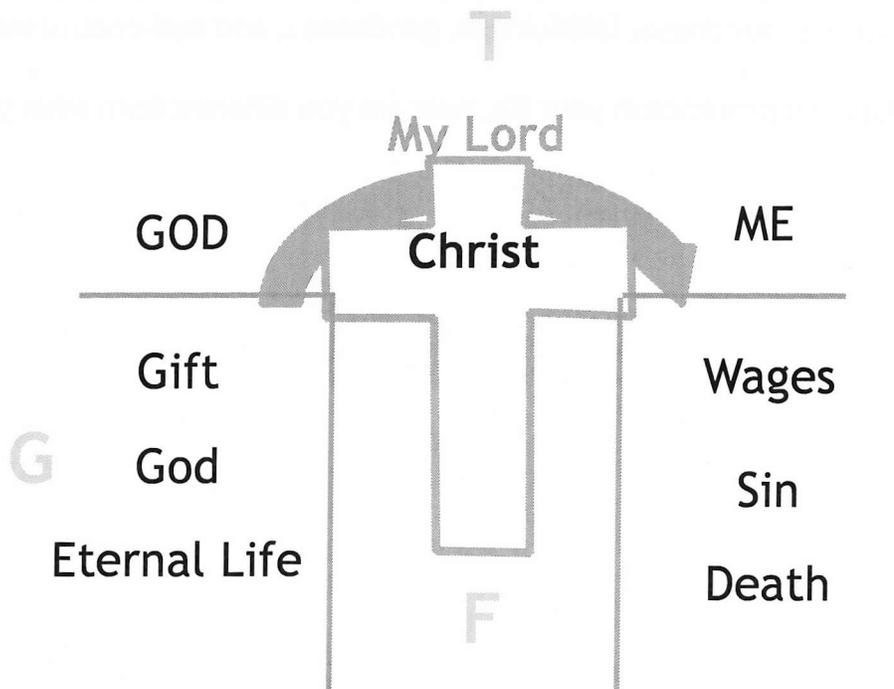
**F**orgiveness [of sins is offered] in Jesus only.

Romans 5:8 – *But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.*

John 14:6 – *Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

**T**rust in Jesus alone [for eternal life with God].

Romans 10:9 – *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*



## God's GIFT – “Play-by-play”

### *A word-for-word example*

“**G**” is for God loves me and has a plan for my life. [Write *God* on the top of the left hand box, or use your left hand to demonstrate]

1. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world.” He loves each of us personally.
2. The Bible also says, “The *gift of God is eternal life.*” [Write the italicized words] God wants us to enjoy life with him forever. [ILLUSTRATION – Cell Phone Designer . . . Use the phone as it was designed.]
3. But there’s a problem.

“**I**” is for I am a sinner and separated from God. [Write *Me*, or draw a person, on the top of the right-hand box, or use your right hand to demonstrate.]

1. The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Every one of us has done something wrong in thoughts, words, or actions. We fail God’s perfect standard.
2. The Bible also says, “For the *wages of sin is death.*” [Write italics words in the right-hand box.] Wages are what you earn if you work. Because of our work of sin, which we all do, we deserve to die. [ILLUSTRATION – Swim from CA to Hawaii . . . even if God grades on the curve, we all drown!]
3. This is the biggest problem ever. How can God – who loves us and has a plan for our lives – get past our sin that violates his perfect holiness and separates us from him? He wants to give us life. But we deserve to die because we have sinned.

“**F**” is for Forgiveness of sins is offered in Jesus only. Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” [Draw a cross.]

1. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. [Write *Christ Jesus* on the cross. By this point, the first three pieces of the bridge illustration should be drawn.]
2. The Bible says (and point to the sections of **G**, **I**, and **F** as this verse is quoted), “But God demonstrates his love (**G**) for us in this: While we were still sinners (**I**) Christ died for us (**F**).”
3. This is how God solved the biggest problem ever. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins so we wouldn’t have to. [ILLUSTRATION – Giving a gift . . . it must be accepted.]

“**T**” is for Trust in Jesus alone for an eternal relationship with God. [Draw arrow.]

1. The Bible says, “Everyone who believes in him [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”
2. Trust. Believe. Faith. They mean the same thing – counting on Jesus’ sacrifice for sin so we don’t have to die for our sins. Trusting in Jesus is how we accept God’s GIFT. [ILLUSTRATION – Blondin, the tightrope walker over Niagara Falls . . . True faith takes action.]
3. For the wages of sin is death (**I**), but the gift of God is eternal life (**G**) in Christ Jesus (**F**) *our Lord* (**T**). [Point to each section of GIFT. Write *My Lord* on the arrow.]
4. The Bible says, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

John 3:16 provides a summary of God’s GIFT: “For God so loved the world (**G**) that he gave his only Son (**F**), that whoever believes in him (**T**) should not perish (**I**) but have eternal life (**G**). [Point to each section of GIFT as you quote this verse.]

Do you have any questions about this GIFT that God is offering to you? [Q&A]

Is there any reason you wouldn’t want to receive the gift of eternal life that God is offering to you?

Proceed to Closing.