

## SHARING THE GOSPEL | FOR SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

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### SHARING THE GOSPEL

The GOSPEL is the ultimate love story! It should be a great joy to share it with other people, especially those you love. Romans 1:16-17 tells us:

*I refuse to be ashamed of the wonderful message of God's liberating power unleashed in us through Christ! For I am thrilled to preach that everyone who believes is saved - the Jew first, and then people everywhere! This gospel unveils a continual revelation of God's righteousness - a perfect righteousness given to us when we believe. And it moves us from receiving life through faith, to the power of living by faith. This is what the Scripture means when it says: "We are right with God through life-giving faith!"*

**Romans 1:16-17 (TPT)**

A great summary of the Good News of our salvation is:

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

**Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

The acrostic "GOSPEL" below will help you remember what to share with others.

**G**od created us to be with Him. (Genesis 1-2)  
**O**ur sin separates us from God. (Genesis 3)  
**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds. (Genesis 4-Malachi 4)  
**P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. (Matthew-Luke)  
**E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. (John)  
**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever. (Acts-Revelation)

We recommend that you share the Gospel in a form we call the "Personal Testimony Tool." There is not a more powerful way to introduce someone you know to Christ than to share what He has done in your life. In 2 Thessalonians 1, Paul talks about the saving power of the gospel through the testimony of the apostles.

*On the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.*

**2 Thessalonians 1:10 (NIV)**

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Paul says this (salvation) will happen to all those who believed his testimony. How awesome to see that God values the story of His work in our lives. When God opens the door to share your faith with those you care about, begin with your personal story of transformation.

The Bible says that the next step is to share the "Good News".

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.*

**1 Corinthians 15:3 (NIV)**

Paul says the five most important words in human history are, "Christ died for our sins." If you can say this, friend, you can share the Good News of Jesus. The Bible makes it clear that we are all sinners in Romans 3:23.

*... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Romans 3:23 (NIV)**

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

**Romans 6:23 (NIV)**

So many churches and religions teach that salvation depends on the individual. If you try to be good, or give your money to the poor, or change your bad habits and have better habits, God might forgive you. Many teach that you must be a member of their religion or church, but the Bible says these are all lies. The only person that will spend eternity in heaven is the one who trusts in Jesus Christ for their salvation. When Jesus died over 2000 years ago, he paid for all the sins of the *entire world*.

One important element that is often overlooked is that "all sins" mean the sins you commit before you trust in Him and the sins you will commit after you trust in Him.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)**

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This does not give us an excuse to sin, but a reason to serve. When you share your faith with an unbeliever, let them know that you serve God now, not to try to get to heaven, but because you are already going to heaven.

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

**1 John 5:13** (NIV)

*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*

**John 10:28-30** (NIV)

Your testimony is a powerful tool to introduce this message of hope to a lost person; however, your testimony is not enough without the Gospel. It is the step ladder to raise the conversation to eternal subjects, but it is Christ's death that paid for the sins of the world. It is His resurrection that seals the deal. Jesus is risen and lives in the life of every believer, in the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory.*

**Ephesians 1:13-14** (NIV)

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8** (NIV)

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Here is a simple list of how to share the Good News of our salvation. Remember, there is no right way to share this information. If you ask God to help you, He will give you the words to speak.

1. Share how God has changed your life.
  - a. God doesn't make our life perfect, but He is always with us and walks with us through good times and bad.
2. Explain we are all sinners.
  - a. Adam and Eve were given free will and chose to sin.
  - b. We all have a sinful nature and are unable to be with God because he is perfectly holy (there is no "good enough" standard to be with God).
3. Explain God loves everyone and doesn't want anyone to perish.
  - a. Eternity can be spent with God or separated from God.
  - b. He wants us to spend eternity with Him.
4. God sent Jesus to die for our sins and He rose again 3 days later.
  - a. By living a perfect, sin-free life, Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.
  - b. By rising again 3 days after His death, Jesus conquered sin and death for us.
  - c. It is only by Jesus's death and resurrection that we can be seen as whole, holy, and righteous and live in God's presence after our death.
5. If you believe that Jesus took the punishment for your sins by dying on the cross, you receive the free gift of salvation.

If you share the Gospel and the person you have shared with says they want to invite Jesus to be their savior, then rejoice with them, and offer to guide them in a prayer to ask Jesus into their life. If they don't have a church home, invite them to attend Grace Church with you. If they do visit Grace Church, encourage them to let us know that they are a new believer and we can help them get started on their spiritual journey.

If they don't accept Jesus as their savior right then, don't feel bad. God has still used you in an important way and you've planted a seed! It is up to God to reveal Himself to people. It is up to us to follow God's word of sharing what Jesus has done because of His love for us.