

# Sharing the Story of Jesus

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR FAITH

**1**

**God loves you and created you to know him personally. He has a wonderful plan for your life.**

### God's Love

*"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV).*

### God's Plan

*Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10, ESV) — that is, that life might be full and meaningful.*



*Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because ...*

**2**

**People are sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love.**

## OUR CONDITION

### We Are Sinful

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, ESV).*

We were created to have fellowship with God, but because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own way, and our fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is what the Bible calls sin.

# GOD



# PEOPLE

## We Are Separated

*"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23, ESV). Death is spiritual separation from God.*

This image illustrates that God is holy and people are sinful. A great gulf separates us. We are continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion – but we inevitably fail.



*The third principle explains the only way to bridge this gulf ...*

# 3

**Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.**

## OUR RESPONSE

### He Died in Our Place

*"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, NIV).*

# GOD

# JESUS

# PEOPLE

### He Rose From the Dead

*"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures ... He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6, NLT).*

### He Is the Only Way to God

*"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (John 14:6, ESV).*



God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

*It is not enough just to know these three principles ...*

SUNDAY, JULY 6TH  
**THE CHURCH HAS  
LEFT THE BUILDING**

# 4

**We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.**

## OUR RESPONSE (continued)

### We Must Receive Christ

*"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12, NKJV).*

### We Receive Christ Through Faith

*"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).*

### When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth.

*John 3:1-8*

### We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation

*Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20, ESV).*

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

## Which circle would you like to have represent your life?



### Christ-directed life

*Jesus is in control and you are following Him as Lord. People like this have received Jesus into their lives. They have been forgiven and experience God's love.*



### Self-directed life

*You are in control and Jesus has no influence in your life. People like this have never received Jesus into their lives. They remain guilty and cut off from God by their sin.*

## PRAYER IS TALKING WITH GOD

### **You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer.**

Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer. If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, then you can pray this prayer right now and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

*"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."*

### **Does This Prayer Express the Desire of Your Heart?**

If it does, pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

## HOW TO KNOW THAT CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE

### **Did You Receive Christ Into Your Life?**

According to His promise as recorded in Revelation 3:20, where is Christ right now in relation to you? Christ said that He would come into your life and be your Savior and friend so you can know Him personally. Would He mislead you? On what authority do you know that God has answered your prayer? (The trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word.)

### **The Bible Promises Eternal Life to All Who Receive Christ**

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 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 5:11-13)

## PRAYER IS TALKING WITH GOD

Thank God often that Christ is in your life and that He will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). You can know on the basis of His promise that Christ lives in you and that you have eternal life from the very moment you invite Him in.

### **Do Not Depend on Feelings**

The promise of God's Word, the Bible-not our feelings-is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the character of God Himself and His Word. This train diagram illustrates the relationship among fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21).

The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we as Christians do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the character of God and the promises of His Word.

## FACT - FAITH - FEELING



### Now That You Have Entered Into a Personal Relationship With Christ

*The moment you received Christ by faith, as an act of your will, many things happened, including the following:*

- *Christ came into your life (Revelation 3:20 and Colossians 1:27)*
- *Your sins were forgiven (Colornans 1.14)*
- *You became a child of God (John 1:12)*
- *You received eternal life (John 5:24)*
- *You began the great adventure for which God created you (John 10:10, 2 Connthians 5:17, and I Thessalonians 5:18)*