

How To Give Away Your Faith

HANDOUT #5

Leading A Person To The Point of Decision

Introduction

1. Some helpful questions leading into the gospel:

- a. Tell me _____, is Christianity something new to you — or is it something that you grew _____ with?
- b. Were you raised in _____ particular denomination or church?
- c. By the way, _____ you happen to attend church anywhere?
- d. “I like to encourage people spiritually when I am given that privilege and knowing that in our day I can meet people who rarely _____ to church and some who regularly go to church. Some who have read the Bible through many times while others who do not even own a Bible. So my desire is to be sensitive to where people are in their spiritual journey. Can I ask you a question that would help me to understand where you are in your spiritual journey?
- e. “If you were to place yourself on a scale from 0 to 100 — with 0 meaning unsure and 100 meaning absolutely certain — how sure are you, if you were to die right now, that you would go to heaven? Would you say 25%, 50%, 75%, or 100%? Where would you place yourself on that _____?”
- f. “If your life were to end today and you suddenly found yourself standing before God, and He asked, ‘Why should I let you into heaven?’—how would you _____ Him?”
- g. “_____, from what you understand about Christianity as of now, what do you believe God requires for someone to _____ heaven?”
- h. “If you are not 100% certain what do you think you would have to _____ in order to change your current status?”
- i. “In the church you were raised in, what is your understanding as to _____ a person is able to go to heaven when they die?”
- j. “If your way *to heaven contradicts* the Bible, would you want to _____?”

2. Some helpful transitions into the gospel:

- a. _____, this Sunday at Community Bible Church my pastor will be sharing an outline and overview of the entire Bible — among other things it explains how you can be 100% certain that when you die, or if Christ were to come back today that you would go to heaven. Would you like to go with me?
- b. _____, can I send you a link for your cell phone or computer that explains directly from the Bible how you can be 100% sure that when you die you would go to heaven?
- c. _____, I have a little booklet that is a collection of key verses from the Bible that summarizes its message from beginning to end. Among other things it explains how you can be 100% certain that when you die, or when Christ comes back that you will go to heaven.

I. Making the Issue of the Gospel Clear

A. Introducing the “red booklet.”

1. Your goal in pages 1-3—is to you to discern what a person’s theology is concerning salvation & to express God’s original design in creating ____.
2. Listen carefully to their answers to both diagnostic questions and do _____ forget how they respond.
3. Your remembering how they responded to these initial questions might be helpful to you and to that person if you think he or she have _____ assessed their spiritual condition when asked the questions on p. 25.

Have you ever thought about knowing God as your friend?

Having a personal friendship with God is the most important friendship anyone can ever establish.

Some Questions Concerning Your Friendship With God

1 If you were to place yourself on a scale of zero to one hundred, zero measuring unsure and one hundred measuring absolutely certain, how sure are you if you were to die right now that you would go to Heaven?



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2 Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?

The following five principles will help you discover how to know God as your friend while on earth and for all of eternity in Heaven.

1 God Created Man To Have A Friendship With Himself

God Began By Creating The World

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

God's creation of the universe is described in the first two chapters of Genesis. By His command the entire universe was created, with the height of His creation being a man and a woman whom He makes to be His friends.

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B. Objective for Point #1 — The purpose of presenting the first principle (pages 4–6) is to help the listener to see “the big picture” of God’s plan of salvation in light of His original design for the _____.

1. Earlier in this course we considered how years ago, most gospel _____ presupposed that most Americans had some basic knowledge of the Bible.
2. And so, during the 60’s, 70’s & 80’s — most gospel presentations that were either memorized — or in booklet form — were considered an Acts 2 presentation of “**the gospel**” or an Acts ____ presentation.
3. In discussing evangelistic presentations—the distinction between an Acts 2 & an Acts 17 presentation of the gospel is centered around the different _____ points in which the gospel is shared.
4. In Acts chapter 2, on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, Peter’s audience _____ primarily “**Jews and proselytes**” (Acts 2:10) who knew much about the Bible, sin, sacrifice, the promised Messiah & the coming judgment.
5. The traditional Acts 2 gospel presentation that was “safe” to use with most people—as it assumed biblical literacy and a theistic worldview, which is _____ Peter assumed their knowledge of Joel 2 & Psalm 16.
6. In Acts 17, when Paul gives his sermon at **Mars Hill** or the **Areopagus**, his audience are Greeks—who are ignorant of biblical truth but who are highly in tuned with _____ philosophy, polytheism & idolatry.
7. Apart from general revelation — (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:18-20; Genesis 3:6-13; 4:4-7; Romans 2:14-16) — the people in **Athens** did ____ share the Jewish worldview of God, sin & the Messiah.

8. Sadly, this is the spiritual state of many people across the globe, for most who have been raised—with an evolutionary world view _____ in ignorance not knowing & having ever been taught the Bible.
9. While some people you share “**the gospel**” with—may already _____ some background, ‘the red booklet’ assumes no biblical foundation.
10. Please know the gospel we shard is the _____—Jesus crucified and risen.
11. The only difference in terms of what changes concerns how far _____ you must go in order to make that message intelligible.
12. As America becomes more & more like Athens than Jerusalem, we must increasingly start in Genesis to provide a broader biblical framework demonstrating God’s original plan and their _____ of the gospel.

People Are A Unique Creation Of God

“Then the Lord formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7, ASV).

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them . . . God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:27, 31).

By God’s design, when He created Adam and Eve there was no suffering, sickness or death. He put them in a garden of paradise called Eden where there was no pain or sorrow or sadness.

People Are Created With A Free Will

When God created man, He gave him a free will with the ability to think for himself and to make his own decisions. But free will presupposes that one has a choice over what he can and cannot do. The freedom to choose is spelled out in Genesis 2:

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying,
“From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

On the day man chose to disobey God, he died just as God predicted. He died immediately in his spirit. He began to age and die physically in his body. And unless corrected, he would die for eternity, consciously and physically away from the presence of God, in a place called Hell (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14).

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13. In this 1st point, because many today lack a framework for understanding the Gospel within God’s overarching plan, we begin with the creation of the world and God’s original _____ and intention for humanity.
14. We are acknowledging that when God created us, He made us in His own image (Genesis 1:27), and one aspect of this image is that we were created as free moral agents, endowed with the ability to choose—free _____.
15. For man to be truly free they must have a choice to say “Yes” or “No” and so God gave _____ a choice as spelled out in Genesis 2:16-17.
16. Also, in this first point, we explain that as a result of humanity’s choice to disobey God (Romans 5:12), all people now experience _____ aspects of death—spiritual death, physical death & potentially eternal death.

C. Objective for Point #2 — The purpose of presenting the second principle (pages 7–11) is to teach the absolute holiness of God and the widespread sinfulness of man, thereby establishing humanity’s complete inability to atone for sin, to be able to meet God’s righteous standard, or to contribute anything toward justification by one’s good _____.

2

We Have All Chosen To Disobey God And Our Friendship With God Has Been Broken

Man rebelled against God

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” —therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out . . . (Genesis 3:22-24).

The Consequences Of Our Sinful Choice

The consequences of man’s choice to disobey God has been devastating. Sin, suffering, war, poverty, greed, sickness and pain have entered into the universe and has been passed down from generation to generation.

We Are All Born With A Sinful Nature

“Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5, HCSB).

When a child comes into this world it soon becomes apparent that they have a tendency towards sin. A child does not have to be trained to be selfish, but to be kind. A child does not have to be taught to lie, but to tell the truth.

“There is none righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10).

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All people have chosen to sin against God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Our sin brings death and separation.

“For the wages of sin is death . . .” (Romans 6:23).

Our sin brings eternal judgment, for God warns that someday He will be:

“dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Our best attempts fall short of reestablishing a friendship with God.



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1. Simply put, until people recognize that they are utterly sinful & powerless to save themselves, they will never abandon self-reliance as a means of securing heaven and instead trust in Christ _____ for salvation.
2. When passages such as Jeremiah 17:9, Mark 7:21-23, Romans 3:10–18, John 3:19-20 and Titus 3:3 are carefully examined, it becomes clear that we are totally unable to reconcile ourselves to _____.
3. Because God is perfectly just and holy, He cannot reconcile sinners to Himself by ignoring, excusing, or canceling ____ without satisfaction.
4. This necessity & reality highlights the biblical doctrine of _____ depravity.

5. Of course, as have seen, the way John Calvin defined “total depravity” and the manner in which other historical, Bible-believing Christians have understood depravity can sometimes _____ significantly.
6. Unfortunately — the biblical doctrine of depravity — often called _____ depravity—is often misunderstood so have defined these terms.
7. This doctrine used to describe humanity’s sinful states does not mean that every person — is as wicked as he or she — could possibly _____.
8. The doctrine of “total depravity” has never taught that all people are equally wicked or that every person expresses sin to the same _____.
9. We are not all drunkards, thieves, adulterers, or murderers & yet this _____ how many people define total depravity: “Man is as bad as he can be.”
10. But experience itself contradicts that idea — and we all know unbelievers who are kind, generous, thoughtful, self-sacrificing and outwardly _____.
11. What the doctrine of “total depravity” actually teaches is _____ that man is as bad as he can be—but that he is as bad off as he can be.
12. Total depravity means that sin has corrupted the entire person—mind, will, emotions and affections—our whole person is warped by the _____.
13. So here in point #2 you are emphasizing our righteousness in comparison to God’s righteousness that is needed _____ entering heaven.
14. In Romans 3:23, when Paul writes that all of us “**have sinned**,” the phrase “**have sinned**” is translated from a single Greek _____.
15. In the biblical world, the word was used of an archer _____ missed the target with his bow and arrow & so to sin is to “**miss the mark.**”
16. Morally, however, Scripture _____ this word to describe someone who has missed the path or the mark God has established for us.
17. Jesus perfectly displays God’s righteousness for He is “**the glory of God**,” and because He perfectly reveals the Father, Jesus could _____, “**He who has seen Me has seen the Father**” (John 14:7).
18. When we measure ourselves against Him, we all “**miss the mark**” & yet it is the perfect righteousness is the standard God requires if we are to _____ Heaven (*you might utilize the target illustration here*).

23 for all have sinned and fall short (hystereō) of the glory of God,

19. Because without exception “**all have sinned**” all of us miss the righteous standard God has set & we are _____ confronted with an impossibility.
20. The two words “**fall short**” in Romans 3:23 translate a single Greek word, which carries the _____ of being deficient, lacking, or coming up short.
21. This Greek word is used in a very interesting way in Hebrews 11:37, where the writer describes the great men _____ women of faith:

37 “**They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute (hystereō), afflicted, ill-treated.**”
22. _____ that sense, you could paraphrase Romans 3:23, “**For all have sinned and (are destitute) of the glory of God.**”
23. The word “**hystereō**” was also used in the first century of a farmer who missed the planting season—someone who failed to get his seed into the ground at the proper time and, as a result, failed to produce a _____.
24. _____ that sense, you could paraphrase Romans 3:23, “**For all have sinned and (missed the season) of the glory of God.**”
25. The word was also used of someone _____ was uneducated or unable to read and so in that sense, you could paraphrase the verse, “**For all have sinned and (are illiterate) of the glory of God.**”
26. It was also used financially of someone who was bankrupt having nothing with which to _____ what he owed & so you could paraphrase it: “**For all have sinned and (are bankrupt) of the glory of God.**”
27. Every one of these pictures emphasizes the same truth: we are completely unable to redeem ourselves because God is holy and just, we cannot make up for our sin, earn His favor, or somehow pay the debt we _____.
28. We are spiritually destitute, spiritually bankrupt, and completely dependent upon the grace of God to rescue us from our _____.
29. Remember, it is at this second point, over the arrows on page 10, that you can use the person’s answer to the second diagnostic question to help them compare their understanding _____ what the Bible actually teaches.
30. Do _____ forget a person must first be ‘lost’ before they want to be ‘found.’