

# Sharing the Gospel

#19

The Gospel is the good news that we can be made right in our relationship with God. This right standing comes through our accepting the forgiveness Jesus offered when He gave His life to pay for sins of humanity.

**Before walking through the “How to’s” of sharing about the love of God with someone, lets first look at a few thoughts in preparation.**

1. We need the **right language**. For this we simply need to de church our vocabulary. Using words that only church people use makes it difficult for a not yet Christian to follow us.
2. We need the **right starting point**. Begin with the needs and questions of the person you are talking to.
3. We need the **right attitude**. No one is better than the other. God extended me, a sinner, His grace and I want this person to understand His grace too.
4. We need the **right confidence**. (Read John 16:8-9) It is the Holy Spirit who draws people to God. This takes the pressure off of us.
5. We need the **right focus**. (Read 1 Corinthians 2:2) We don’t need to be clever or persuasive. We need only to put the focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
6. We need the **right preparation**. In light of the previous five. Commit your meeting to prayer. Ask the Lord to guide you in sharing and ask Him to prepare the heart of the person you will be talking with.

**We learned in lesson #10 a few two-word phrases that help us remember the basics of the Gospel. They were:**

1. **God loves**
2. **We sin**
3. **Jesus substitutes**
4. **We decide**

Now let’s walk through how to bring these concepts into a simple presentation.

While meeting with someone, after a little catch up time, transition to spiritual matters by asking how things are going in their relationship with God? This is an open end question that you will not evaluate.

Next ask, “If something were to happen to you and you were to die today, what are your odds of getting into heaven, 0-100%?” Again, resist the urge to comment on their answer.

Next ask, “Now that you’ve died, if God came to the gate and asked why should I let you into my heaven, what would you tell God?” Once again, no bailing them out or helping here. This is difficult, but a worthy question to wrestle with.

Finally ask (and this is an easy one), “If you could know God personally, would you be interested?” If the answer is “No”, explore it a little. If they are truly not ready, continue your good friendship, but don’t press the spiritual discussion at this time. The answer here though is nearly always yes.

Next we will proceed to share with them the hope we have in Jesus. I then usually say, "I'm going to show you something that very simply shows you how you can know God personally."

At this point, write out **Romans 6:23** from memory at the top of a piece of paper:

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

Next, draw 2 cliffs, as seen below, and relay that you are going to place words from that verse into a picture to make it really easy to understand.



Now circle the words wages, sin and death and place them on the left cliff.

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



Ask: "When you think of wages, what do you think of?" Affirm any answer and then explain that wages are what you get for what you do. Pointing to each word, tell that what we get for our sins is a death penalty, which means we will be eternally separated from God. Kind of bad news, right?

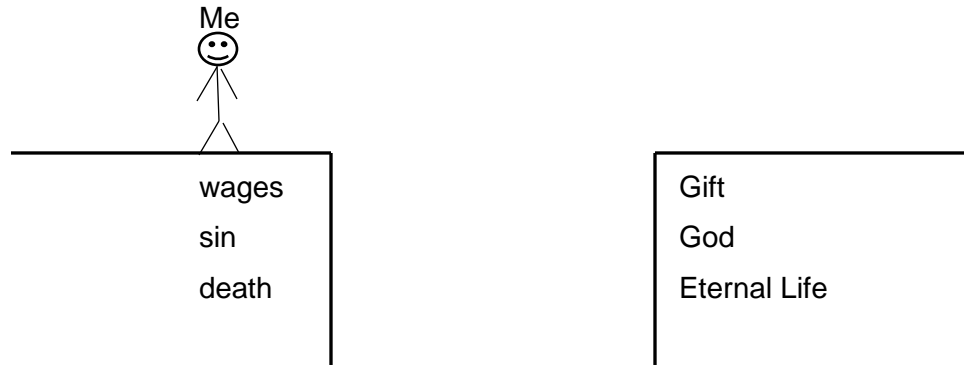
Now circle the words gift, God and eternal life and write them on the right side of the cliff.

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



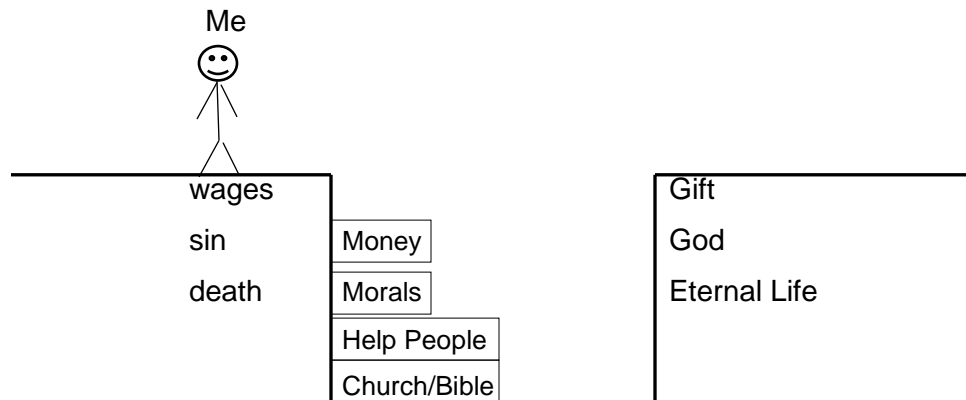
Ask: "What is the difference between wages and a gift?" Affirm any answer, explaining that the free gift of God is eternal life. Let's assume that everyone would say, "Okay, put me on the right cliff." But, before we do, draw a stick figure atop the left cliff and write your own name above it.

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



Now ask, "What are some ways people try to get to God?" Take all their answers and draw them as partial bridges across the chasm. Below are a few possible answers. If they are slow to come up with any, these can be suggested as they are universally accepted.

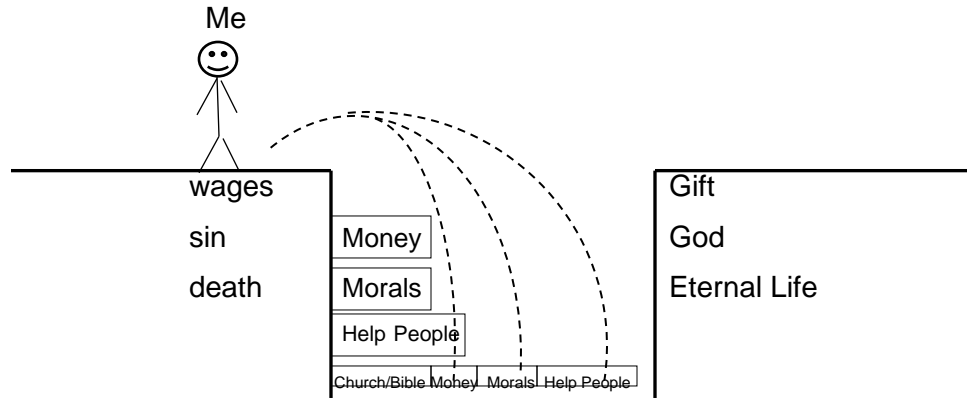
**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."



Next ask them to think of the best person they can come up with that meets most of these things. This needs to be someone they respect, though they do not have to know them personally. I have heard everything from Grandma to Mother Teresa. To overstate the obvious, we will use Mother Teresa for our example here. She was as good as it gets, always in church, living to help people, perfect morally, and giving all her resources to the poor. BUT, by her own admission, she was still a sinner. What do we get for our sin?

So next, draw a line from the top of the cliff into the chasm showing Mother Teresa does not make it to God based on all her goodness, because God, in His justice, cannot allow sin into heaven.

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

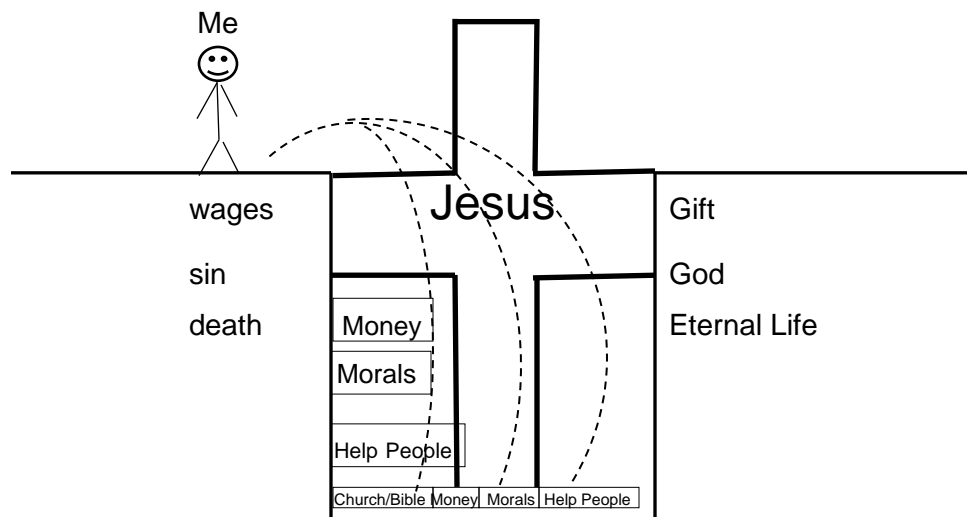


Then add a line not making it for them, close to Mother Teresa's.

Then add a line that appears to trip and fall very short, for you.

The point should be clear that we cannot make it to God on our own. But thankfully, that is not the end of the verse. Circle the words "through Jesus Christ our Lord." Now show that God knew we could not be good enough to pay for our own sin, so He gave His only son to substitute payment on our behalf. This is shown by drawing a cross, bridging the gap, like below.

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



From **Romans 6:23**, we discover that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin.

At this point, ask if they would like to be forgiven by Jesus for their sin. If the answer is yes, lead them in a simple prayer, allowing them to pray out loud as they repeat after you. It could be similar to the following, but the exact words are not important. (What is most important, according to **Romans 10:9** is that we confess Jesus is Lord with our mouths and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead.)

**Sample Prayer** (allowing them an opportunity to repeat):

*Dear Jesus, I need you.*

*Thank you for dying on a cross for my sin.*

*I now ask you to come into my life.*

*Be my Savior, and my Lord.*

*Forgive me for my sin. (Here I often give them a minute to quietly confess to Jesus any known sins.)*

*Thank you for hearing my prayer and for forgiving me.*

*In Jesus name, Amen.*

After praying, I often ask what they think just happened. Here it is important to affirm that God heard their prayers and gave them what they asked for: forgiveness.

Next, I often ask how they feel. It can be pretty cool experientially if God gave them a new sense of peace or acceptance. BUT, please note, how one feels does not determine if God is with us. There are times in our walking with God that our feelings are not always wonderful. God assures us He is with us regardless.

It might be good to conclude your time by inviting them to pursue growth in this new commitment to Jesus by meeting with you weekly. If they have interest, I would begin next week with lesson #1.

**Memorize: Romans 6:23**