



Sharing the Gospel

This document provides several options for sharing the Gospel with adults and children.

In every Community Bible Study (CBS) class, there are those who do not know Jesus Christ. As leaders, we can share who He is and why He came to this earth, died, and rose again. If the person you are sharing with expresses a desire to accept Jesus as their Savior, lead the person in a prayer, reminding them God is not concerned with the words—He is concerned about the heart. Let them say their own prayer, acknowledge their sin, what Christ did for them, and ultimately their need for Christ. Lead them to acknowledge His grace and the free gift that He offers. After a person prays to accept Jesus as their Savior, be prepared to gently guide him or her to connect with a local church congregation or denomination so that he or she can grow in faith and understanding of God's Word. Encourage the new believer to continue in CBS.

Four Simple Words

- **God**—God created everything, including you and me. God created us because He loves us and wants us to know Him personally. He wants to give us a purpose and meaning to our life. Read Genesis 1:27.
- **Man**—We don't sense God's love because we are stubborn and self-reliant. Often, we don't trust God, we disobey His rules, and we choose to go our own independent way. Doing things our own way is what the Bible calls sin. Sin in our lives separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:2, and Romans 6:23.
- **Jesus Christ**—God provided a solution in Jesus Christ. He came to earth as a human being, lived a perfect life, and never sinned. Because of His love for us, Christ took the punishment for our sins on Himself and died on our behalf, but He came back to life. By faith we can experience God's love and forgiveness. Read John 1:14, Romans 5:8, and 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- **Response**—God has done everything to fix our broken relationship with Him. It is His gift to us and requires us to do our part. We must choose to have faith and believe that Jesus is the answer for our separation from God because of our sin and then repent (turn away) from sin and resolve to not continue to live life our way. Read John 1:12, Acts 3:19, and Ephesians 2:8-9.

Adapted from Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*¹

Romans Road

The Romans Road uses specific passages from the book of Romans to explain God's plan of salvation.

- **Sin separates us from God**—Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Because of our sin, we are separated from God.
- **The penalty for our sin is death**—Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **The penalty for our sin was paid by Jesus Christ**—Romans 5:8 "but God shows his love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **If we repent of our sin, confess, and trust Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we will be saved from our sins**—Romans 10:13 "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" Romans 10:9,10 "... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Leading a Child to Christ

When a child is ready to receive Christ, it is always preferred that a parent or guardian be the one to pray with the child. However, if a child feels compelled to pray during class time, please help the child understand the following concepts before you lead the child to receive Christ.

- God loves all children and adults, including him or her. We don't have to earn His love.
- The bad things we do are considered sin and deserve punishment.
- But Christ died to take the punishment for our sin.
- We must receive Jesus as our Savior and receive God's forgiveness.
- When we do receive Christ as our Savior, we become God's children.

As you discuss these points with the child, encourage the child to express his or her own thoughts and allow time for thinking and responding. When you sense that the child understands and is ready, continue with the ABCD of leading a child to Christ, sharing the Scripture verses referenced.

Admit—Sin separates us from God (Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23) and we must admit that we are sinners.

- Ask—Do you believe you are a sinner?

Believe—We must believe that Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross. (Romans 6:23)

- Ask—Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins and rose again?

Confess—We must confess Jesus as our Savior and repent (turn away) from all of our sins. (Romans 10:9–13)

- Ask—Do you want forgiveness for your sins?

Decide—We must decide to live for Jesus, allowing Jesus to be the Lord of our lives and be in charge.

- Ask—Are you ready to ask Jesus to be your Savior?

After going through these steps, help the child pray.

- Dear God, I know I have sinned against you. I ask for forgiveness for all my sins. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and rose again. So, I want to give myself to Jesus and ask Him to be my Savior. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

It is imperative that you inform the child's parent or guardian of this important event. Please share the circumstances that led to this event and celebrate together the joy of this child joining God's forever family!

1. Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?* (Crossway, 2010)