

EVANGELISM

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Explaining
What
The Bible
Says
About
Salvation



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BIBLE CHURCH
Nurturing Servants Devoted to God

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Explaining What the Bible Says About Salvation

PART 1: **GOD AND HUMANS**

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PART 1:

GOD AND HUMANS

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will learn to explain some key concepts about God's character and people's ability to love. With this foundation, we will help the person understand the existence of sin and suffering in the world.

1. GOD

Before we can understand what the Bible says about salvation, we must understand three aspects of God's character. These three concepts will be a foundation for everything else. In the Bible, God describes Himself as a person Who is:

- A. **HOLY:** There is no evil in Him, because holiness is the full expression of godliness.



1) **Illustration: Light and Darkness.**

- a. Just like darkness is absence of light, in the same way evil is the absence of holiness.
- b. Just like light cannot have the presence of darkness, in the same way God cannot have evil in Him, because He is Holy.

- B. **JUST:** God has to judge and condemn that which is morally wrong.

- 1) If God did not judge and condemn that which is morally wrong, then He wouldn't be Holy.
- 2) Because God is Holy, He is also Just. Thus, God cannot condone evil.

- C. **LOVE:** God always seeks the well being of those whom He loves. So, when He created Humans, He wanted to have an intimate loving relationship with them.

TRANSITION:

So, we will write **"Loving Relationship"** in the chart.

2. HUMANS

A. How does God want us to show Him that we love Him?



1) **Illustration: Flowers and Chocolates**

Do we show our love to God by bringing Him flowers and chocolates? No!

2) We show God that we love Him in two ways: Trust & Obey.

a. Thus, we will write in the chart the words Trust and Obey.

3) TRUST: God wants us to love Him by *trusting* in Him.



a. The Bible says that

“WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD.”
(Hebrews 11:6)

b. Because love requires a relationship built on trust, trusting in God shows that we love Him.



c. **Illustration: Untrusting Husband**

A man who is always doubting his wife’s word cannot have a good marriage. Lack of trust is not an expression of love.

4) OBEY: God wants us to love Him through our obedience.



a. Jesus said it clearly:

“IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL OBEY WHAT I COMMAND.”

b. Love seeks to *please* the person who is loved.

That is exactly what we do with God when we obey Him.



c. **Illustration: Boyfriend**

When a man has a girlfriend he loves, he seeks to please her in every little detail.

5) The desire to trust and please the person we love are two essential elements of any loving relationship.

a. Our relationship with God is not the exception.

B. What does a person need in order to have the ability to love?

In order for love to be genuine, a person must choose to love.

Otherwise, love could not take place.



1) Illustration: The Computer

a. My computer can tell me that it loves me every time I turn it on. Yet, because it was programmed to do so, my computer cannot *truly* love me.

b. Love can only take place on the foundation of freewill.

2) Thus, in order for humans to have the ability to love, God created them with free will.

C. THE PROBLEM: With free will, Humans could choose to love God but they also could choose not to love God.

1) God gave the first humans (Adam and Eve) the opportunity to show their love for Him by giving them a simple command. If they obeyed, they would show their love for God. If they chose to disobey and not to trust Him, they would show that they did not love God.

2) The Bible says that Adam and Eve *did not trust* in what God said, and instead of trusting in Him, they believed a lie. Also, instead of *obeying* Him, they decided to disobey Him.

3) Thus, Adam and Eve decided not to love God.

TRANSITION:

The Bible says that in that moment, something entered the world that drastically changed the history of Humanity.

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Explaining What the Bible Says About Salvation

PART 2: **SIN**

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PART 2:

SIN

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will learn to explain some key concepts about our sinful nature and its consequences. With this foundation we will help the person understand that the presence of suffering in the world does not exclude the presence of a Loving and Holy God. Also, the person will understand that reincarnation is not compatible with the Bible's teaching about salvation.

1. SIN

A. What happened when Adam and Eve decided not to love God?

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, something entered the world that was not there before: **SIN**



1) **Read Romans 5:12** and answer the following questions:

- a. *What entered the world when Adam sinned?*
- b. *What came along with sin?*
- c. *To how many people did it pass?*

B. What is "sin"?

From that moment on, all human beings are born with a spiritual illness that the Bible calls sin.

- 1) Sin is our tendency from birth to *think, say, or do* what displeases God.



2) **Illustration: We do not need training to sin**

The first time I stole something, I did not need training. The desire to do it just came out from within me.

(Share a personal story about your own early sinful manifestations).

- 3) **Death:** As a consequence of sin, all humans die.

C. Why is there suffering in the world?

- 1) Since all humans that inhabit the planet are sinners, we have created a world system characterized by suffering.



- 2) **Illustration:** Have ten sinners living together. What will the outcome be? Conflicts and dramas.

- a. **Important:**

Share a personal experience in which you have suffered to build a point of connection with the person. Conclude by pointing out that humans are responsible for suffering in the world.

D. What will happen after we die?

- 1) Eternal Condemnation:
Since God is Just, He has to condemn every person that is guilty of sin. (Remember that justice demands that the fault must be paid for).



- 2) **Read Hebrews 9:27** and answer the following questions:

- a. *How many times will a person die?*
- b. *What will happen after we die?*

- 3) After we die we must face our Creator. Every person that is guilty of disobeying God will not be allowed to spend the rest of eternity in God's presence. Since God is Just and Holy, He cannot have those who do not love Him live with Him eternally.



- 4) **Illustration: The Absence of God's Goodness**

If everything that is good comes from God, imagine a place deprived from God's presence and His goodness. That is eternal condemnation: An eternity away from God's presence.

TRANSITION:

God is LOVE. Thus, when He saw us in the mess that we created, He wanted to give us a second opportunity to enter into a loving relationship with Him.

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Explaining What the Bible Says About Salvation

PART 3: GOD'S PEOPLE

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PART 3: God's People

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will learn to explain the essence of what it means to be saved. With this foundation, we will help the person understand later why Jesus is the ONLY way of salvation. Also, we will help the person develop a more accurate picture of what eternal life and heaven are about.

1. God's People

A. What plan did God establish to give humans a second chance?

- 1) God decided to establish a group of people that would want to love God and leave their sinful lifestyle behind. He called this group of people "God's People."
- 2) God commanded a prophet named Jeremiah, who lived in Israel many centuries ago, to tell people about this second chance He wanted to give humans.



- 3) Read **Jeremiah 31:33-34** and answer the following questions:
 - a. *What will God do with the sins of His People?*
 - b. *What will God do with the minds and hearts of His People?*

B. How did God plan to cure the spiritual illness of His People?


God decided that He would address the sinful problem of His People in two ways:

- 1) He would forgive the sins of His People (By doing so, God's People would not be guilty anymore, so they would not need to be eternally condemned).
- 2) He would give His People the desire to obey Him (By doing so, God's People would be enabled to love God more than their sin).



Illustration: Driver's License with microchip to help you obey the law.

C. What will happen to God’s People after they die?

- 1) Even though **death** is part of all human experience, God’s People will not be eternally condemned. Instead, God will give them **eternal life**. They will be allowed to live with God forever.
- 2) Heaven is not like many people portray it. We will not become little angels with harps jumping from cloud to cloud. In fact, God told the Apostle John to teach People a clear basic description of Heaven.
- 
 3) Read **Revelation 21:1-4** and answer the following questions:
 - a. *What did the Apostle John see?*
 - b. *Who will live in this new Heaven and this new Earth?*
 - c. *What will not exist in this new Heaven and this new Earth?*
- 4) God will live with His People in a new creation free from sin, suffering, and death. It will almost be like at the beginning of creation, with the difference that this time, people living with God have chosen to love God.

TRANSITION:

Yet, there is a problem. Do you remember that God is JUST? He cannot simply forgive everybody and start all over again, because justice demands that the fault must be paid for.



Illustration: The “Merciful Judge”

One morning, a Judge woke up with a strong desire to be merciful. So, he decided to grant forgiveness to the first case brought up to his court that day. It so happened that his first case was a pedophile. So, he told him: “What you did was wrong, but I forgive you; you can go home now. Make sure you don’t do it again! Ok?” WOULD THAT BE JUST? (Let the person answer). NO! Since justice demands that the fault has to be paid for, the Judge cannot simply “forgive” the guilty without demanding a payment for the crime!

In order to accomplish the salvation of His People, God had to come up with a strategy that would do both: Maintain His Justice, yet give His People a second chance.

That is why Jesus is essential to the plan of salvation designed by God.

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PART 4: **JESUS**

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PART 4:

JESUS

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will explain how Jesus made possible the salvation of God's People. With this foundation, we will help the person understand why Jesus is the only way of salvation.

1. JESUS

A. Who is Jesus?

The Bible says that Jesus is the Son of God. Because He is of the same essence as the Father, He has the same character: HOLY, JUST, LOVE.

B. Why is Jesus essential for the plan of salvation designed by God?

- 1) No person could take the place of others and pay for their guilt, because all humans are guilty of their own sin. The only person not guilty of sin is God, because He is Holy. Thus, only God could be our substitute.
- 2) In order to satisfy His justice and give humans a second chance, God sent Jesus so that He could receive the punishment required by our guilt.

C. How did Jesus accomplish the salvation of God's People?

- 1) The Bible says that Jesus came to accomplish two things:
 - a. **Died:** When He died, He **paid for our guilt.**
 - b. **Resurrected:** When He resurrected, He **overcame the power of death.**
- 2) Thus, Jesus made possible for people (a) to have forgiveness of sins and (b) to have access to Eternal Life.



- 3) The Apostle Paul summarized what Jesus accomplished by His death and resurrection in the book of Romans. Read **Romans 5:8-10** and answer the following questions:
 - a. *How did God show His love for us?*
 - b. *What reconciled us with God?*
 - c. *Through what can we be saved?*

D. Summary of what Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection.

- 1) Jesus is the Only One that can forgive our sins, because He is the Only One who paid for our sins.
- 2) Jesus is the Only One that can give us Eternal Life, because He is the Only One who overcame death.

TRANSITION:

1) *If what the Bible says is true, **where are you in the picture?**
(let the person answer)*

2) *If all of us are born in the world,
what do we need to do in order to become part of God's People?*

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PART 5: HOW TO BECOME PART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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PART 5:

HOW TO BECOME PART of God's PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will learn to explain the three steps needed to become part of God's People. With this foundation, we will help the person understand that Jesus gives a salvation that cannot be gained by human efforts because it is a gift from God.

1. THREE STEPS TO MOVE FROM THE WORLD TO God's PEOPLE

A. RECOGNIZE:

The Bible says that anyone who wants to become part of God's People must recognize that he/she is a sinner.



1) Illustration: The Alcoholic

What is the first step for an alcoholic to stop being an alcoholic?

He has to admit that he is an alcoholic.

("Admitting" is not just an assertion, but the recognition of a problem accompanied with the desire to change. The alcoholic admits he is an alcoholic, yet he desires not to continue being an alcoholic).

- 2) This kind of recognition is also called "Repentance." It means to recognize that you have a spiritual illness called sin, yet you desire not to continue in the same condition.
- 3) Without this first step, no human being can become part of God's People.

B. BELIEVE:

The Bible says that anyone who wants to become part of God's People must believe that God is saying the truth about salvation.

- 1) We are in the same position of Adam and Eve. We can either believe what God says or not to believe what God says. Yet, only believing shows trust, and trust shows love. So, you cannot become part of God's people if you do not trust God.

- 2) Thus, you must believe that what God declared about Jesus is true. He is the only One that can forgive your sins and give you eternal life. He is the only Savior.



- 3) Read **John 3:16-19** and answer the following questions:
 a) *What happens with the person that believes in Jesus?*
 b) *What happens with the person that does not believe in Jesus?*
 c) *Why would anybody reject God’s invitation to become part of His People?*

- 4) Without this second step, no human being can become part of God’s People.

C. RECEIVE:

So, the Bible says that the *forgiveness of your sins* and *eternal life* are things that cannot be gained through human efforts. It is an undeserved gift that God gives us.



- 1) Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** and answer the following questions:

- a) What does the word “Grace” mean?
 (Explain that “Grace” means “Undeserved gift”).
- b) Is salvation a gift or a salary?



Illustration: Birthday Gift

If you brought me a birthday gift, yet I felt the need to clean your house and your car before you could give me the gift, then that gift would become a salary. If it has to be gained by working for it, then it is not a gift. The Bible says that salvation is a “gift from God.” It cannot be gained.

- c) Why is salvation not by works?



Illustration: If Salvation was gained by Works...

Imagine that I have to convince God to allow me to spend eternity with Him instead of condemning me. (Create a dialogue convincing God based on your efforts: “God, I went to church, gave money to the poor, and tried to be a good person. For sure you must accept me!”). I would end up boasting in God’s presence and taking all the credit for this salvation. Yet, God is the One who took the initiative and sacrificed so much to save me. He is the only One who deserves the glory. That’s why He says, “Not by works so no one can boast.” No one who intends to boast in His presence can become part of God’s People.

D. SUMMARY OF THE THREE STEPS:

The Bible says that anybody who wants to become part of God’s People must:

- (1) RECOGNIZE that he/she is a sinner, but desire not to continue in that condition.
- (2) BELIEVE that Jesus is the Savior that God sent.
- (3) RECEIVE the forgiveness of sins and eternal life as a gift from God, instead of trying to gain them through personal efforts.

2. FOR THOSE WHO PLACED THEMSELVES IN “God’s People”...

Follow these steps if the person placed himself/herself in “God’s People” when you asked them “Where are you?”

A. CONFIRM THE PERSON’S UNDERSTANDING:

- 1) Now that you know the three steps required to be part of God’s people, are you sure you are part of God’s people?

B. REVIEW THE THREE STEPS:

- 1) Have you recognized that you are a sinner? Do you believe in Jesus? Have you received the gift of salvation instead of trying to gain it?

C. INQUIRE:

- 1) Have you ever asked God formally to make you part of His People?

**Illustration: Pop the question.**

If a man wants to marry his girlfriend, in addition to wanting to get married, he also has to ask her “would you marry me?” Wanting to get married without popping the question will not lead to marriage. In the same way, a person that wants to be part of God’s People must not only want it, but must also ask God, “would you make me part of Your People?”

D. ENCOURAGE:

- 1) If you discover that the person is already saved, take this time to assure the person about his/her salvation. Pray together to thank God.
- 2) If you discover that the person has never asked God for salvation, then encourage the person to do so now. (Continue to Part 6).

3. FOR THOSE WHO PLACED THEMSELVES IN “THE WORLD”...

Continue with transition if the person placed himself/herself in the “World” when you asked them “Where are you?”

TRANSITION:

*Now that you know what the Bible says about salvation,
I normally have three types of responses to this explanation.*

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PART 6: RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

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PART 6:

RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will learn how to lead a person to respond to the message of Salvation. We will identify three common responses to our explanation and learn how to interact with the dynamics presented by each response.

TRANSITION:

*Now that you know what the Bible says about salvation,
I normally have three types of responses to this explanation.*

1. INVITATION TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

A. GROUP 1:

"THANK YOU, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THESE THINGS."

B. GROUP 2:

"I WANT GOD, BUT I NEED MORE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT."

C. GROUP 3:

"I WANT GOD IN MY LIFE. CAN I ASK HIM TO SAVE ME NOW?"

D. With which group do you feel more identified?

1) If the person feels identified with Group 1:

- a. Thank the person.
 “Thank you for your attention. Now you know what the Bible says about salvation. If there is ever a time in your life in which you want to seek God, now you know what to do.”
- b. Pray to conclude and thank God for the person’s life.

2) If the person feels identified with Group 2:

- a. Identify the reasons for the person’s reservation.
 “If you want God in your life, what is keeping you from asking God to save you now?”
- b. Clarify any addressable issues.
 Some people only need clarification before being ready to ask God for salvation (If the person is ready after your clarification, go to part #2).

1. “I DON’T FEEL WORTHY.”

Explain salvation is by grace.

2. “I NEED TO CHANGE FIRST.”

Explain God changes the person *after* becoming part of God’s people.



Illustration: You go to the doctor when sick, not when healthy.
 In the same way, we come to God with our sinfulness; He is the one who forgives us and changes us from within.

3. “I WANT TO ENJOY MY YOUTH FIRST, AND SEEK GOD LATER IN LIFE.”

Explain that death is imminent and eternal condemnation awaits those who are not saved. Also clarify that there is no true peace and joy until you are part of God’s People.

4. “IF I ACCEPT THE EXPLANATION, I WILL HAVE TO CHANGE RELIGION”

Explain that becoming part of God’s people is not about *religion* but about a *relationship* with God. God is not interested in what “religious label” the person has. He is interested in having a loving relationship restored. So, more important than being concerned about my religious affiliation, I should be concerned about whether or not I am part of God’s people. Otherwise, my religious identity will be useless if I die being in the world system.

5. **“IF I ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION I HAVE TO BETRAY MY FAMILY.”**

Explain that it is better to have a life right with God even if it implies alienation from family, rather than to have a life close to family yet alienated from God. After all, Jesus did say that God will honor those who choose Him even if they have to leave family behind.

6. **“I’M NOT SURE ABOUT JESUS / EVOLUTION /THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE.”** Offer the person some reference material for further reading. It is good to make the person feel that the intellectual concerns are valid, and the person should be honest in finding the answers before believing in the message of salvation. Yet, assure the person that the Gospel is *the truth*, and that there are many people in the past with the same concerns that have done research and come to believe in the message of salvation. That ‘s why we can refer them to good materials like Lee Strobel’s “The Case for Christ,” “The Case for Faith,” “The Case for a Creator,” or Frank Morrison’s ancient book “Who Moved The Stone.” Also, there are videos from the Discovery Institute “Unlocking the Mystery of Life” and “The Privileged Planet” as well as many videos and articles from answersingenesis.org.

c. Conclude the invitation by leaving an open door.

“Now you know what to do if you want God in your life. You can ask God to save you in your own words, anytime, and anywhere. If you ever ask Him, I would love to know about it! Remember that He loves you!”

d. Pray thanking God for the person’s life and asking for His guidance.

3) **If the person feels identified with Group 3:**

Guide the person to the section described below.

2. LEADING THE PERSON INTO God's People

A. INVITATION TO PRAY:

“If you want to ask God to save you, I invite you to talk to God right now. Tell Him in your own words that you recognize your sin and that you believe that He sent Jesus to save you. Ask God to make you part of His People. Remember: Talk to God with your own words and from your heart!”

B. PRAYER:

1) FIRST PRAYER - Individual Prayer

Let the person talk to God out loud in his/her own words.

2) SECOND PRAYER - Prayer as a Witness:

After hearing the person pray in his/her own words, ask the person out loud:

“AS A WITNESS OF YOUR DECISION TODAY I ASK YOU BEFORE GOD:”

a. **“DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE A SINNER WHO DESERVES TO BE CONDEMNED TO AN ETERNITY AWAY FROM GOD?
(WAIT FOR THE PERSON’S RESPONSE: “YES, I DO”)**

b. **“DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE YOUR SINFUL LIFESTYLE BEHIND IN ORDER TO ENTER TO A NEW LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?”
(WAIT FOR THE PERSON’S RESPONSE: “YES, I DO”)**

c. **“DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD WHO DIED AND RESURRECTED IN ORDER TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE?”
(WAIT FOR THE PERSON’S RESPONSE: “YES, I DO”)**

d. **“DO YOU RECEIVE THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS AND THE ETERNAL LIFE THAT GOD HAS BEEN WAITING TO FREELY GIVE YOU ALL OF THESE YEARS?”
(WAIT FOR THE PERSON’S RESPONSE: “YES, I DO”)**

3) THIRD PRAYER - Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Pray out loud thanking God for the salvation that He has granted the person.

C. CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulate and welcome the person into God's People.



- 1) Read **1st John 5:13** to assure the person that God has heard him/her and given him/her eternal life.

¹³ 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.
¹⁴ THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING
GOD:
THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE
HEARS US.



- 2) **Illustration: Marriage Certificate**

How long does it take for a person to change from singleness to marriage? Months? Years? No! In fact, it only takes a few seconds to change from being single to being married. That change takes place the very moment a person signs the marriage certificate. In the same way, a person ceases to be part of the world and becomes part of God's People in an instant: At the very moment the person asked God to save him/her.

How long does it take for a person to feel married? An instant? No! It takes time of getting used to the change! In the same way, now that you are part of God's People, you will need time to learn and get used to your new relationship with God. It will be a great experience!

3. INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

A. THE NEED TO GROW AND MATURE

“Now that you are part of God’s People. The Bible compares you with a baby that has a lot to learn. God wants you to know Him better and to grow in your knowledge of Him. That’s why we have designed a set of studies to help you grow in your understanding of your salvation at this stage.”

B. EXPLANATION OF THE DISCIPLESHIP

1) 10 Lessons.

“The studies consist of ten lessons to help you grow in understanding of your new relationship with God. We look at what the Bible says and start building our concepts one by one, similar to what we did today.”

2) They are personalized studies.

“All of these lessons are taught one-on-one, so we can adapt them to fit your schedule.”

3) Think about it.

“I will let you think about it, so you can tell me later if you are interested in these studies (unless you already know that you are interested!). If you want, we could even meet to do one study first, and if you like it, you can continue with the rest. If you do not like them, then you don’t have to continue. What do you think? Do you want time to think about it and let me know later?”

*As one Body we live to
Guide people into salvation,
Lead them to maturity, and
Appoint them as Servants
Devoted to God.*



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