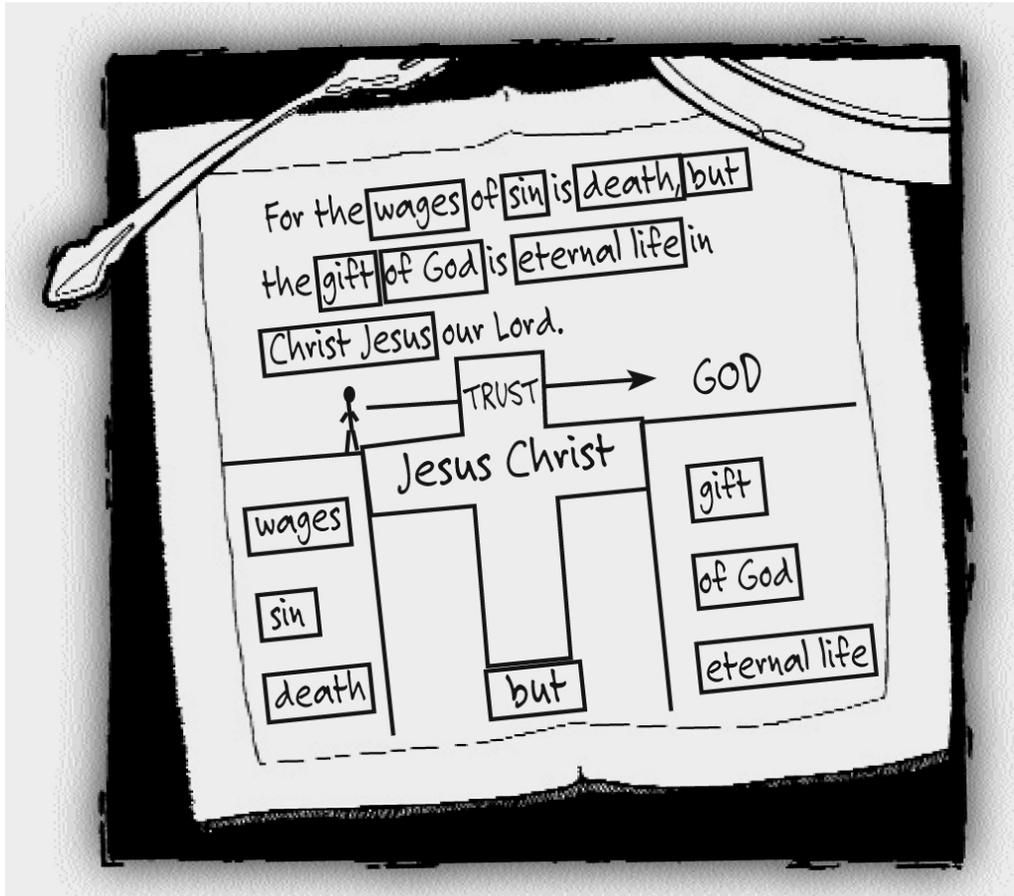


One-Verse Evangelism*



In pairs, practice the One-Verse Evangelism illustration.

For an extended explanation of One-Verse Evangelism go to www.navigators.org and look under ministry tools or refer to the Appendix.

* Adapted from the booklet *One-Verse Evangelism*, © 2000 by Randy Raysbrook. Used with permission. This graphic may not be copied or reproduced in any format without written consent from Dawson Media at www.dawsonmedia.com.

Sharing the Gospel: One-Verse Evangelism

How to Begin

Tell your friend that the way to become a Christian can be summed up in one verse and that it will take only 10 to 15 minutes of their time.

Write out Romans 6:23 on a napkin or piece of paper. Box in each key word or phrase. Then talk about each word, asking inductive questions to get at the meaning of the entire verse.

Wages

What are wages? How do you feel about getting wages? Why? How would you feel about an employer who failed to pay his or her employee the wages they had earned?

Sin

What do you think of when you hear the word *sin*? Is sin only the things we do wrong? Literally translated, "sin" means "missing the mark." God is perfect and He allows only perfect people into heaven. It surprises many people to know that sin is as much an attitude as an action. God equates lust with adultery, hatred with murder. Sin includes things we don't do as well as things we do.

Death

What comes to mind when you think of death? Death is separation of life from the body. More than that, death is eternal separation from God. What does that mean? We are separated from all that is good, because God is the only source of all good. The absence of God's presence is hell. Is there anything worse than being separated from God? Things look pretty hopeless, don't they?

But

This is the most important word of all because it offers hope.

Gift

What's the difference between a gift and a wage? What do you like about a gift? (Gifts are free; they don't have to be earned; they represent love and/or appreciation.) How do you feel toward someone who gives you a precious gift? Some people try to earn God's favor by doing good deeds for God. But it's impossible to earn what's already been bought. How would you feel if a close friend insisted on paying for your gift to them or doing things to earn it before they would accept it from you?

God

Why would God want to give us a gift, such as eternal life? Isn't it amazing? We don't deserve it! When God created the world, He intended for humanity to live in perfect harmony with Him. He gave only one command for Adam and Eve to obey. The penalty for disobedience was death. But Adam chose to disobey God and so became separated from God by his sin. We too choose to live separate from God (Isaiah 53:6). But because of God's great love for us, He provides the way for us to live at peace with Him.

Eternal Life

What is eternal life is? (Relationship with God in harmony forever.) It starts on earth and lasts forever. Our daily sin will not end it. Do you know how we can receive this gift of God? Simply by believing in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ

Jesus is the way to eternal life. He is the only means by which we can go to heaven. We are far from perfect, but Jesus paid for our imperfection by dying on the cross. We could never have borne God's anger and made satisfaction for our sins. Jesus had to do that for us. He not only died but He rose from the dead, conquering both sin and death. His obedience paid for our disobedience, taking away our sin and freeing us from guilt as well.

Lord

The gift is offered to all who make Jesus Lord. For Jesus to be your Lord, He has to have total control of your life. It means putting what God wants above what we want. He determines what we do, where we go, how we act.

Do vs. Done

Religion is spelled "D-O" because it consists of the things people **do** to try to gain God's forgiveness and favor. The problem is that you never know when you've done enough.

Romans 3:23 tells us we never can do enough. We all fall short of God's perfect standard.

Christianity is spelled differently. It's spelled "D-O-N-E," which means that what we could never do for ourselves, Christ has already done for us. He lived the

perfect life we could never live, and He willingly died on the cross to pay the penalty we owed for the wrongs we've done.

To become a Christian is to humbly receive God's gift of forgiveness and to commit to following His leadership. When we do that, God adopts us into His family, and begins to change us from the inside out.

The Roman Road

Romans 3:23—"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

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

Romans 10:13—"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
(From *Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg)