

“He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.” – 1 Peter 2:24

Turning in faith and repentance - “This awareness of sin and Christ’s death for me personally helped me understand how serious my sin is—it leaves me condemned and judged by God—but how grateful I am for his sacrifice. I transferred my trust from myself and my work to gain acceptance with God to his work—his sacrifice to save me—on the cross.”

“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!” – Mark 1:15

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:9

Option two: The gospel through Romans

- **Our problem: sin** - All of us have sinned against God in work, deed, and attitude. No one is innocent.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” – Romans 3:23

- **Our consequence: death** - Physical, spiritual, eternal death is the punishment earned for sin.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” – Romans 6:23

- **Our hope: Christ’s death** - Even though we have rebelled about God, he loved us and sacrificed His Son to pay for our sin.

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” – Romans 5:8

- **Our response: confession and belief** - We confess our sin and trust Christ’s death for us paid the price to save us from God’s judgment.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” – Romans 10:9

Option three: Two ways to live

God’s the ruler. “God was the loving ruler of the world and he made us to be rulers of the world with him.”

We rejected him as ruler. Even though he is the rightful ruler, we rejected him as ruler and wanted to live our own way. That’s what sin means. To be king rather than follow the king. As a result we cannot even rule ourselves or our societies well.

God responds to our rejection. Fortunately, God cares enough about humanity to take our rebellion seriously. He will not let us be rebels forever. He will punish rebellion with death and judgment.

“Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment.” – Hebrews 9:27

God offers Himself as the solution. Even though God is just to judge us, He is also merciful to love us by sending His son into the world to live perfectly and die for sin. Jesus always lived under God’s rule and by dying in our place he took our punishment and brought forgiveness.

“For Christ died once for all the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God.” – 1 Peter 3:18

Then God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world. He’s conquered death and gives new life and will one day return as judge.

“In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” – 1 Peter 1:3

So there are two ways to live: One way is to reject the ruler and live life on our own and the result is we are condemned by God and we face death and judgment. The other way is to submit to Jesus as ruler—to rely on Jesus death and resurrection resulting in forgiveness with God and eternal life.

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.” – John 3:36

Which of these represents the way you want to live?



Offer a Next Step

If possible, come away from the conversation offering them a next step. "If you would like to talk further about it I'd love to. You're welcome to come to church with me. I'd love to get together to read one of the gospels with you so that you could see Jesus and his story for yourself. Would you like to meet up sometime to do that?" (See Suggested Resources below)

Question: Can you think of another direction you would like to take with someone?

Your Sphere of Influence

Since God has established the "boundaries" of our lives (Acts 17:26), we can move towards the opportunities he has provided. Take a moment to write down some people God has put in your path to pray for and pursue with spiritual conversations.

Family & Friends

P _____

E _____

O _____

P _____

L _____

E _____

Where You Work

P _____

E _____

O _____

P _____

L _____

E _____

Organizations You Belong To

Kid's sports club, Volunteer work, etc.

P _____

E _____

O _____

P _____

L _____

E _____

Places You Frequent

Gym, Coffee shop, Bank

P _____

E _____

O _____

P _____

L _____

E _____

Where You Live

City, Neighborhood, etc.

P _____

E _____

O _____

P _____

L _____

E _____

Suggested Resources

Andrew Cornes. One2One: Just Looking. Surrey, UK: The Good Book Company, 2011.

Helpful Bible reading guide for two people getting together to explore the life and message of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke.

Randy Newman. Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2017.

Originally published in 2004, this updated version is a great read on asking good questions and building relationships with irreligious people.

J. P. Moreland and Tim Muehlhoff. The God Conversation: Using Stories and Illustrations to Explain your Faith. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL: 2017.

A resource to develop clarity for explaining your faith to irreligious people.

