

Redeemed 2020 Ministries
Sharing the Gospel - Romans 6:23

Sharing how you came to know God personally is one of the most powerful ways you can help friends grasp how much God loves us. If someone asked you to share today, you might find it challenging to explain how you came to believe in God, or what he means to you. Here is one method that is simple and uses only one Bible verse to explain the Gospel.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (NIV - use whatever translation you appreciate. Better yet, open your Bible or New Testament and show the verse to them and let them read it). All you need is contained in this single passage. Ask your listener what they think this verse means. After they have made an attempt to answer, write each of these words on the paper and explain what they mean (or circle them as you explain what each word tell us).

WAGES

Circle the word “wages” and ask, “How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?” The answer, of course, is that he would want justice—in this case, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn “wages” from God for how we have lived our lives. This is the consequences of our choices.

SIN

Draw a circle around “sin,” asking your neighbor what they think when they hear this word. You might explain that sin is as much an attitude as it is an action. It can be either actively breaking God’s law or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, “Has God ever seemed far away?” If he says “Yes,” you can explain that that’s one of the things sin does—it builds a separation between us and God. If they do not agree that they have sinned, you can ask if they have ever violated their conscience. If they cannot keep their own standards of moral behavior, they have certainly broken God’s standards because He requires moral perfection in thought and deed.

DEATH

Circle this word and explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Yes, our death is the result of sin, but because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

BUT

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

GIFT

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, “If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?” Remind them that though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

OF GOD

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. Point out that God is willing for us to have this gift even though we don't deserve it.

ETERNAL LIFE

Circle these two words next, and then ask, “How would you define these words?” Contrast the meaning of death, with the other side, eternal life. Point out that God has always intended for mankind to be with Him forever but it is our sin that has prevented it. He is a righteous judge and must condemn all sin wherever it is found.

CHRIST JESUS

Write these words and ask, “Do you know what Jesus Christ did so that you and I would not have to suffer eternal punishment for our sins? Tell them that when He died on the cross He paid our wages. We broke God's law, Jesus paid the fine. Because our debt is so enormous as a result of our sin, only trusting in Jesus Christ can give us the gift of eternal life and forgive our sin. Because He paid our fine, we are free of the penalty.

TRUST

The Bible says that if you turn from your sin and trust in what Christ did on the cross for you, He will forgive you and wash you clean from all that you have done wrong in life. Trusting in your own good deeds to win God's approval will not absolve you of the penalty for the wrong you have done.

At this point, you can ask them if they want to trust Christ and start a relationship with God that will last forever. If they say “Yes,” invite him to pray a short prayer in their own words, admitting their sin to the Lord and asking Him for forgiveness. They need to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” to save them. When they ask Him, He will grant them everlasting life.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially them. Invite them to read all about it in the Bible—the Gospel of John is a great place to start. If they prayed a prayer and want to trust Christ for eternal life, get a Bible for them and encourage them to read it every day.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15, NIV)