

One-Hour

*Witnessing
Workshop*

Section One

Welcome!

Section One

Purpose of Section:

To verify the biblical mandate for personal witnessing and the claim that Jesus is the only way to salvation

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What does this passage tell us to do?

Go and tell, make disciples,
teach, baptize, make
believers, and so on.

Clearly this passage tells us to be a witness for Christ. It is the biblical mandate. It expresses the marching orders of the church and every individual that has been saved. This passage is referred to as the “Great Commission.”

**Thank you for making a
commitment to be present at this
training. It reflects your desire to
be obedient to the cause of Christ
and to be vitally involved in His
commission.**

Acts 4:12

Acts 4:12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

What does this passage say about salvation?

The message of this text is clear. It is only through Jesus, there is no other way to salvation.

So, if we have been given a commission, and if there is no other way to be saved other than through Jesus Christ, how should these two verses affect the way we live our Christian lives?

The answer is obvious: We should be obedient to the commission of Christ and to seek to share with others the good news that salvation is available through Him.

This is an issue for many believers.

They want to be obedient in this area, but they simply don't know how to share this good news. This causes them to be fearful.

Today, we will teach you a very simple process by which you will be able to share this good news as you seek to be involved in this commission.

Prayerfully make this commitment:
To the best of my ability and
with the Lord's help, I will share
Christ as opportunities arise.

If this expresses your desire, sign your name on the line as a confirmation of your commitment.

Your name

Section Two

How to Begin a Witnessing Conversation

Section Two

Purpose of Section:

To help the believer understand how to begin a witnessing conversation

How to Begin a Witnessing Conversation

In any witnessing conversation, it is very important to be natural. Just be yourself and allow your own unique personality to come out in the conversation. Smile and enjoy people with whom you will have an opportunity to share. Remember, you are reflecting the life and love of Jesus Christ!

When you are in a conversation with others, what areas are typically discussed?

Hobbies, interests, things you have in common, backgrounds, work, family members, current issues, religion, and so on.

Starting a witnessing conversation is really no different than starting any other conversation!

To assist you in starting a witnessing conversation, use the simple acrostic C.A.S.T. to help keep you on track.

Using C.A.S.T.

C: Stands for Connection

Seek to make a connection with the person.

Talk about the person's background:

Where are you from originally?

How long have you lived here?

Other questions:

If you are already acquainted, ask about family members or mutual friends.

A: Stands for Activities

Find out about the person's work, hobbies, or interests.

You may ask:

What kind of work do you do?

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

For students:

What courses are you taking?

If you notice evidence of their interests such as sports, books, and art, you may ask a question or comment about these.

Seek to discover commonalities.

S: Stands for Spiritual Matters

This is the real heart of the conversation. Find out whether the person is open to discussing spiritual matters.

Questions you might ask:

Would you consider yourself to be a spiritual person?

Do you ever think about spiritual things?

If they aren't sure what you mean, say things like heaven, prayer, God, and so on.

Some like to use diagnostic questions such as:

Do you know for sure that you will go to heaven when you die?

Can I share with you my story of how I came to be sure?

T: Stands for Tell Your Story

If the person is open, share the first point of your story/testimony along with the witnessing card.

Practice sharing the C.A.S.T. acrostic with your partner.

Section Three

**Your Personal
Story/Testimony**

Section Three

Purpose of Section:

To help the believer understand the importance of a personal story/testimony, how to develop it, and share it with an unbeliever

Your Personal Story/Testimony

A personal story/testimony is one of the most basic tools that can be used for witnessing. It is simply your story of salvation.

A personal story/testimony is divided into three areas:

1.

Your life before you made a commitment to follow Jesus.

This section includes what your life was like before coming to Jesus. Loneliness, lack of purpose, no hope, and so on, may all be part of your story. It culminates in the discovery that each of us are in need of a change and a recognition that humankind's most basic problem is sin.

2.

How you came to know Jesus personally.

How did this occur in your life? Was it in a worship service that you came to know Christ? How did you discover that God loves you and that Jesus died for your sins? When and where were you when you received Jesus as your Savior?

This part of your story communicates the circumstances and events surrounding your life-changing encounter with Christ.

3.

How Jesus has changed your life since you came to know Him personally.

The last part of your story communicates briefly how your life is now different as a result of salvation.

Indicate the impact He has had on your life.

An excellent model of a personal testimony and its use is found in Acts 22:3-16.

Acts 22:3-5

Describes Paul's life before Christ.

Acts 22:6-13

Describes how Paul came to know Christ.

Acts 22:14-16

Describes how Paul's life was changed.

Your personal testimony is very important:

It has authority

No one can refute it, it happened to you!

It communicates

It is a wonderful resource to communicate the reality of how Christ has changed your life!

It relates

Everyone alive has a spiritual void that can only be filled by a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

It is powerful

God can use your story/testimony to impact lives and to reveal the life and love of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

What if you accepted Christ at a very young age?

Focus on a defining moment in your life

Focus on how Christ has protected you

Focus on the direction your life could have gone

Focus on what Christ saved you from

When I was young, I was taught a lot of wonderful things about God. My parents took me to church and gave me a Bible when I was little. I read it often. As a young child, I entered a personal relationship with Him. When I turned 10 years old, my grandmother passed away. My mother told me that one day I would see her again in heaven. I came to understand that had it not been for my relationship with God, I would never go to heaven. Even though I was young, I realized that I needed to be changed.

Personal Testimony Worksheet

My life before making a commitment to follow Jesus:

How I came to know Jesus personally:

How my life is different since I came to know Jesus personally

:

Use the form to write out your story/testimony.

Be brief.

Leave out unnecessary items.

Try to avoid Christian lingo and words that the hearer may not understand.

Stress that even though Christ has changed your life, you are still not perfect. 31

When you and your partner have finished writing out your personal story/testimony, recite/read it to each other.

Section Four

Using the

One-Day

Witnessing Card

Section Four

Purpose of Section:

To learn how to use the One-Day Witnessing Card in a witnessing conversation

Using The One-Day Witnessing Card

This card is to assist you in sharing the gospel. What makes this card unique, is that you personalize the gospel presentation by including your own story/testimony.

Keep several handy as you seek to be a faithful witness for the Lord.

When Using The One-Day Witnessing Card

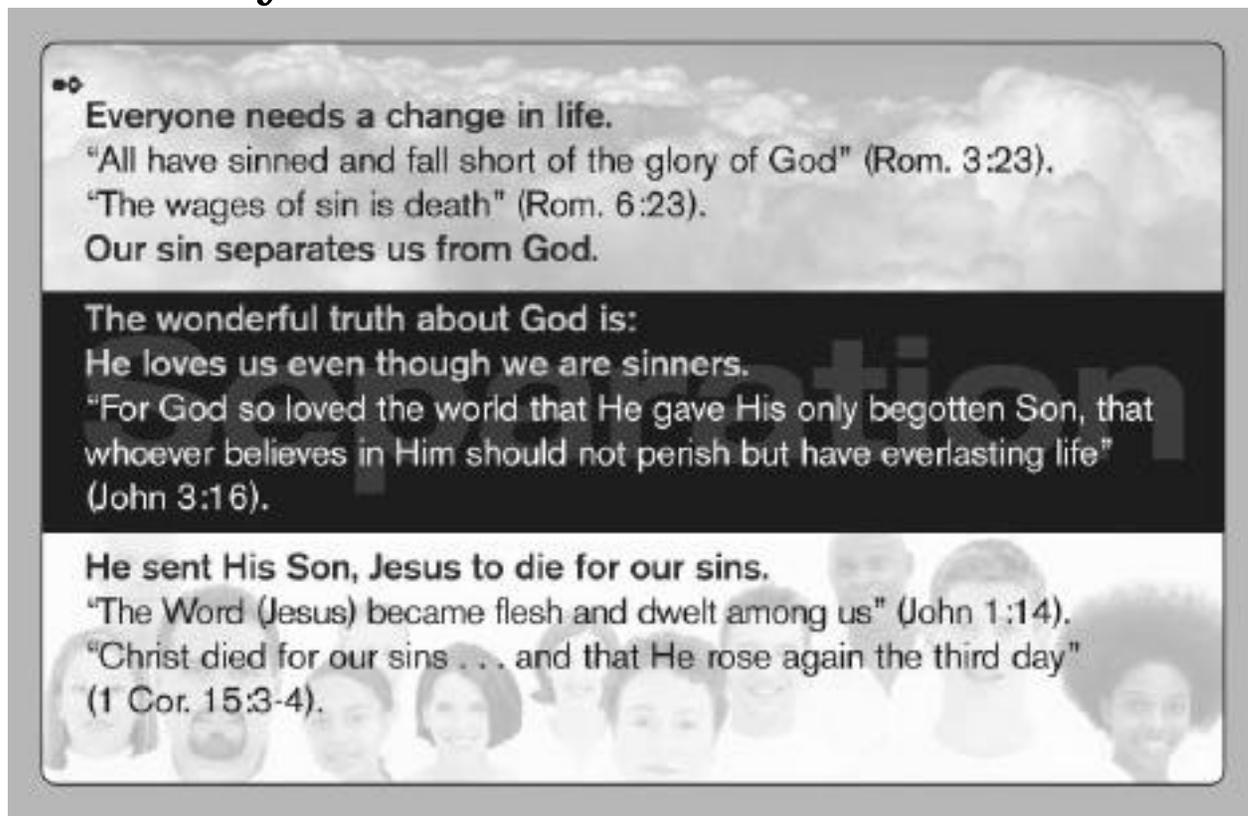
Sit or stand beside the person.

Fold the card so the person can see only the page you are using.

Point to words/verses with finger or pen.

Call the person by name while using the card.

The Witnessing Card contains Scriptures, transitional statements, questions, and arrows. Scriptures are in black. Transitional statements and questions are in purple. The arrows let you know when and where to include the various components of your personal story/testimony.



As you begin to use the card, you will probably need to use it throughout a witnessing experience. However, as you memorize or become more familiar with the verses and transitions, you will discover that you will use or refer to the card less and less.

How to use The One-Day Witnessing Card

The card is only a guide to assist you in communicating the essentials of the gospel. It does not contain every word you will say in your witnessing conversation. As you

practice using the card, put your personality into it and feel free to include further transitional statements and concepts. Learn how to smoothly transition from one area to the next.

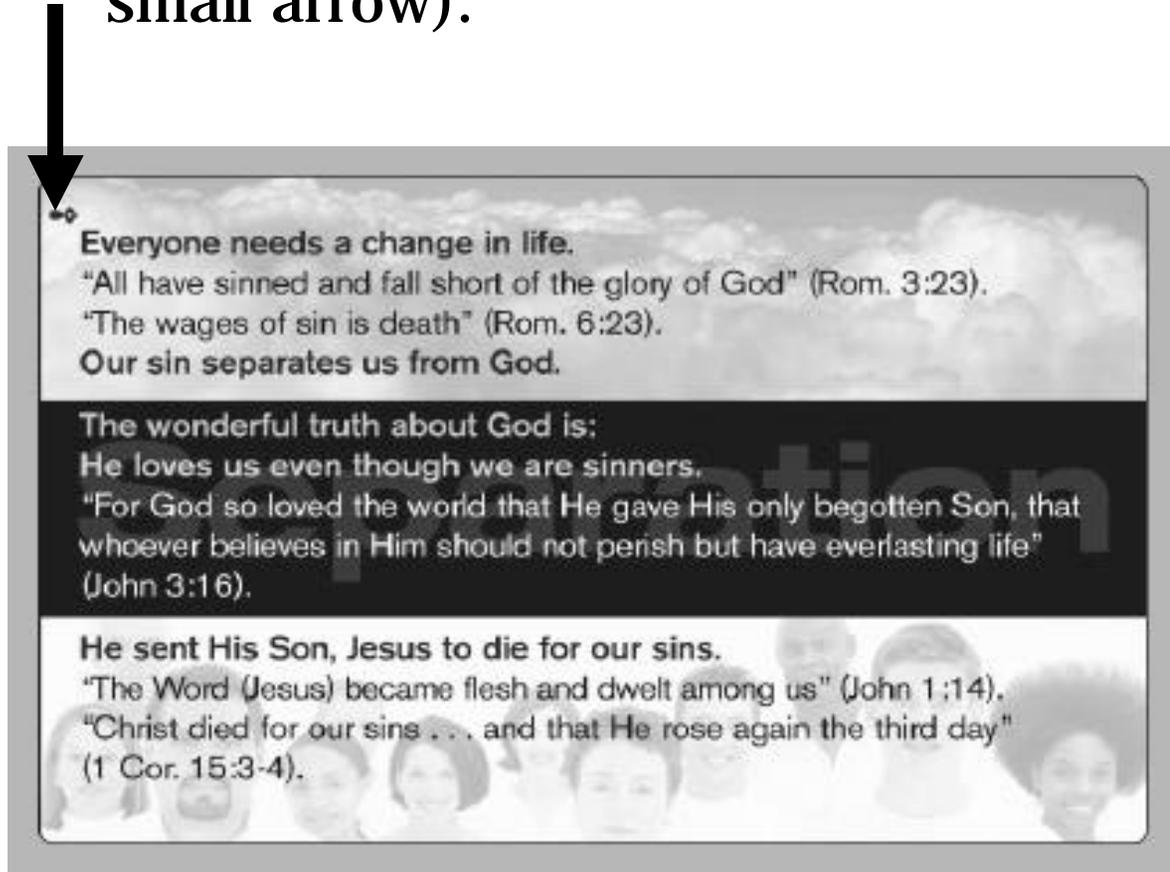
For example:

When you come to a Scripture reference, say something like:

“The Bible says,” or “I discovered the Bible teaches that,” or “God says.”

Begin a Witnessing Conversation by using the ideas found in Section Two: C.A.S.T.

As the Holy Spirit leads, begin to share the first part of your testimony: **“My Life Before Making a Commitment to Follow Jesus.”** (as indicated by the small arrow).

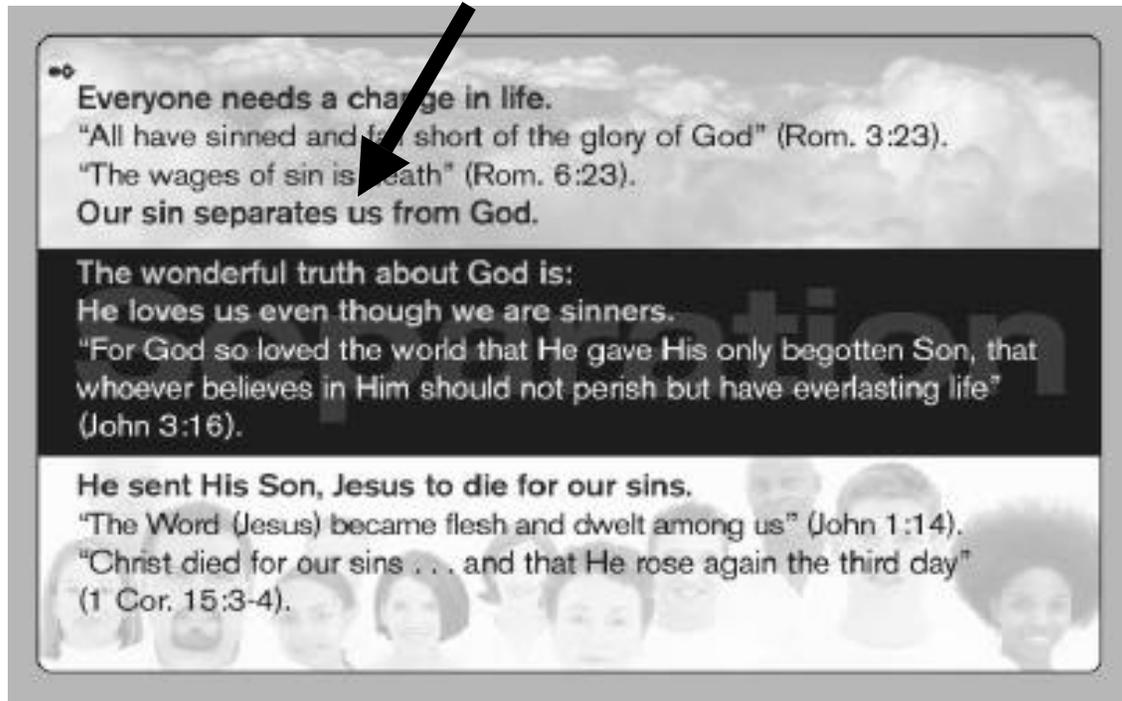


→
Everyone needs a change in life.
“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).
“The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).
Our sin separates us from God.

The wonderful truth about God is:
He loves us even though we are sinners.
“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”
(John 3:16).

He sent His Son, Jesus to die for our sins.
“The Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).
“Christ died for our sins . . . and that He rose again the third day”
(1 Cor. 15:3-4).

The first part of your story/testimony should culminate in the recognition that you needed a change in your life because of sin. The diagram on the first page illustrates humanity's separation from God because of sin.



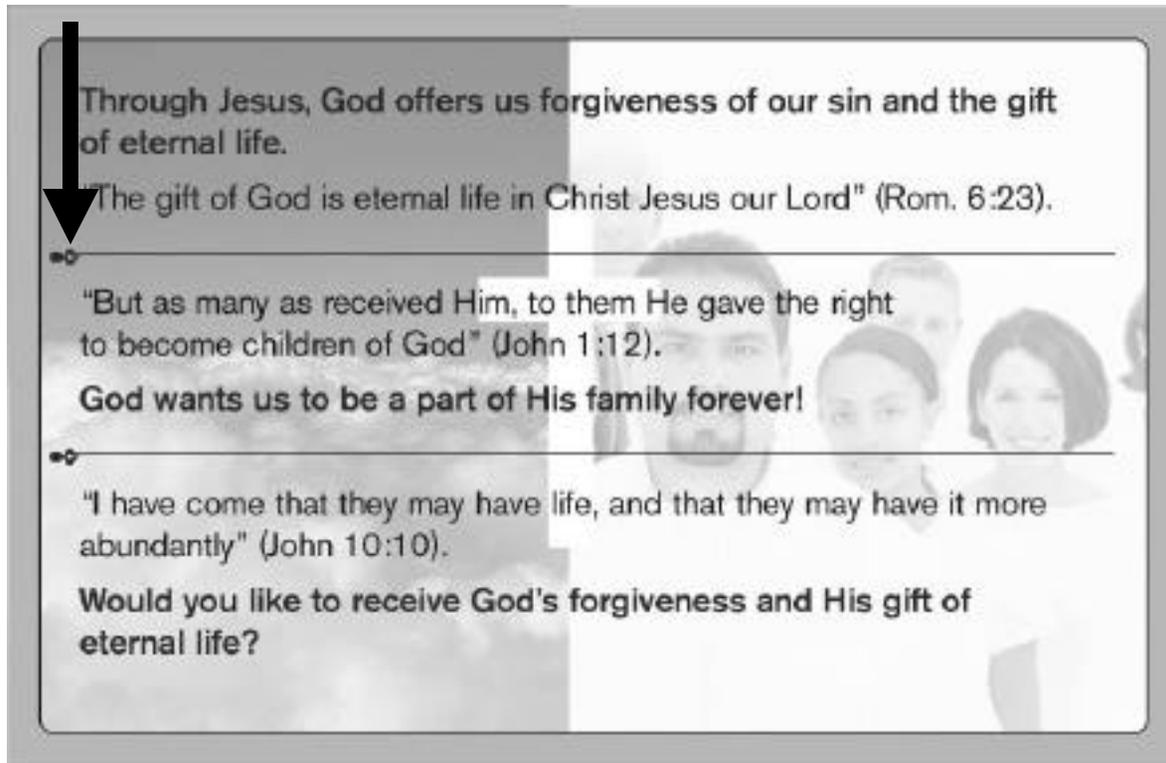
The clouds represent God and Heaven. The people at the bottom of the card represent humanity. The dark blue section of the card illustrates the truth that humanity is separated from God because of sin.

SAMPLE

“Before I made a commitment to follow Jesus I found myself at the age of 12 asking, ‘why am I here?’ I remember wondering if the only purpose that a man had was to spend 20 years of his life getting an education, going to work every day, coming home, reading the newspaper, watching TV, going to bed only to get up and start all over again the next day for the next 30 plus years. That question created a thirst for an answer. Even though my parents seldom attended church, they made sure my sisters and I attended. It was through attending Sunday School and church that ***I realized I needed a change in my life. I discovered the Bible says, ‘All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’ I realized that ‘all’ included me and that the consequence of sin is spiritual death. The Bible says, ‘The wages of sin is death.’***”

After explaining the illustration, begin sharing the card until you come to the second arrow. At this point, share the second part of your testimony:

“How you came to know Christ personally.”



Then continue the witnessing conversation by simply referring to or reading the card. The diagram may be used to explain that it is only through the cross that man can experience God's forgiveness and the joy of becoming a part of God's family.

SAMPLE

“Through a series of people in my life, I discovered the truth about God. **He loves us even though we are sinners.** The Bible says, ‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.’

I came to understand that ‘the world’ means people; ‘only begotten’ means one and only; ‘Son’ refers to Jesus, that ‘whoever’ includes everyone and ‘believes in Him’ means to place your trust in Jesus alone. I also discovered

He sent His Son, Jesus to die for our sins The Bible says, ‘*And the Word [Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us...*’. It also says, ‘*Jesus died for our sins ... and rose again the third day.*’

Though Jesus, God offers us forgiveness of our sin and the gift of eternal life. The Bible says, “*...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*’

When I discovered these truths, I realized that Jesus was the only way to experience true spiritual life. So one summer evening while listening to a guest speaker, I realized that the only way Jesus could change my life was for me to receive Him, so by faith I did. The Bible says, ‘*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...*’ (John 1:12).

At the third arrow, share the third part of your testimony:
“How my life is different since I came to know Christ personally.” Then continue the witnessing conversation by reading the card.

Through Jesus, God offers us forgiveness of our sin and the gift of eternal life.

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

God wants us to be a part of His family forever!

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Would you like to receive God's forgiveness and His gift of eternal life?

Every believer could write a book describing the impact that Christ has made on his or her life! Keep your presentation brief and to the point, simply sharing in a sentence or two the impact He has made.

Examples:

And since then, He has become a friend that is always there.

And since then, He has brought me peace.

And since then, He has brought purpose and meaning to my life.

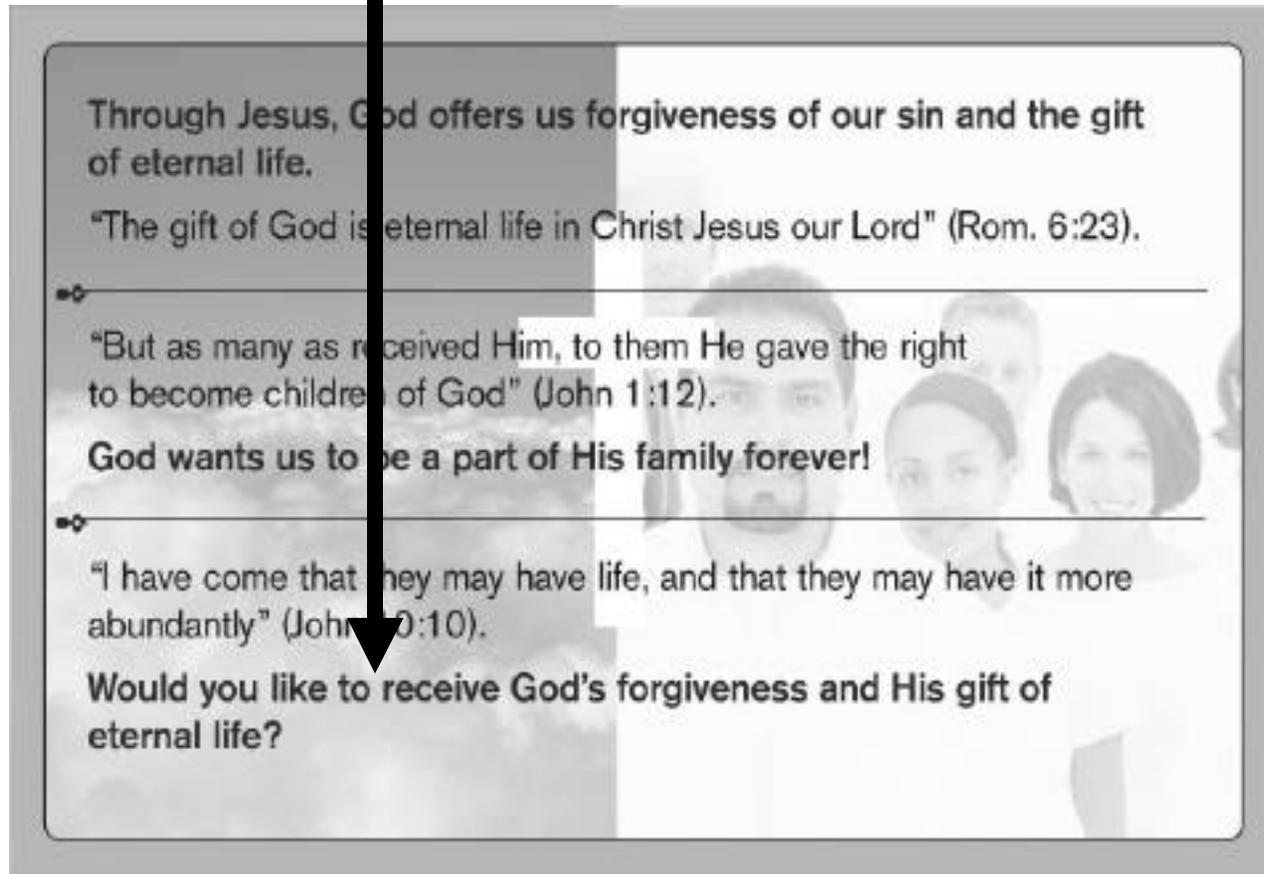
And since then, He has been a daily source of strength.

SAMPLE

“And since then, He has brought a great sense of direction and purpose in my life. He has set me on a journey that is exciting and fulfilling. He’s become a friend who is always there to give me wisdom, encouragement and strength. You see Jesus said, *‘I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.’* And I have certainly found that to be true.”

Drawing the Net

Look at the question at the bottom of the card:



Through Jesus, God offers us forgiveness of our sin and the gift of eternal life.

"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

God wants us to be a part of His family forever!

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Would you like to receive God's forgiveness and His gift of eternal life?

The question used after the Scripture begins a process of “drawing the net,” beginning the invitation process, affirming the fact that God’s desire is that we be in His family.

Be sensitive to the person with whom you are sharing at this strategic point. Be prepared for questions. See your sharing as a conversation, rather than an uninterrupted presentation.

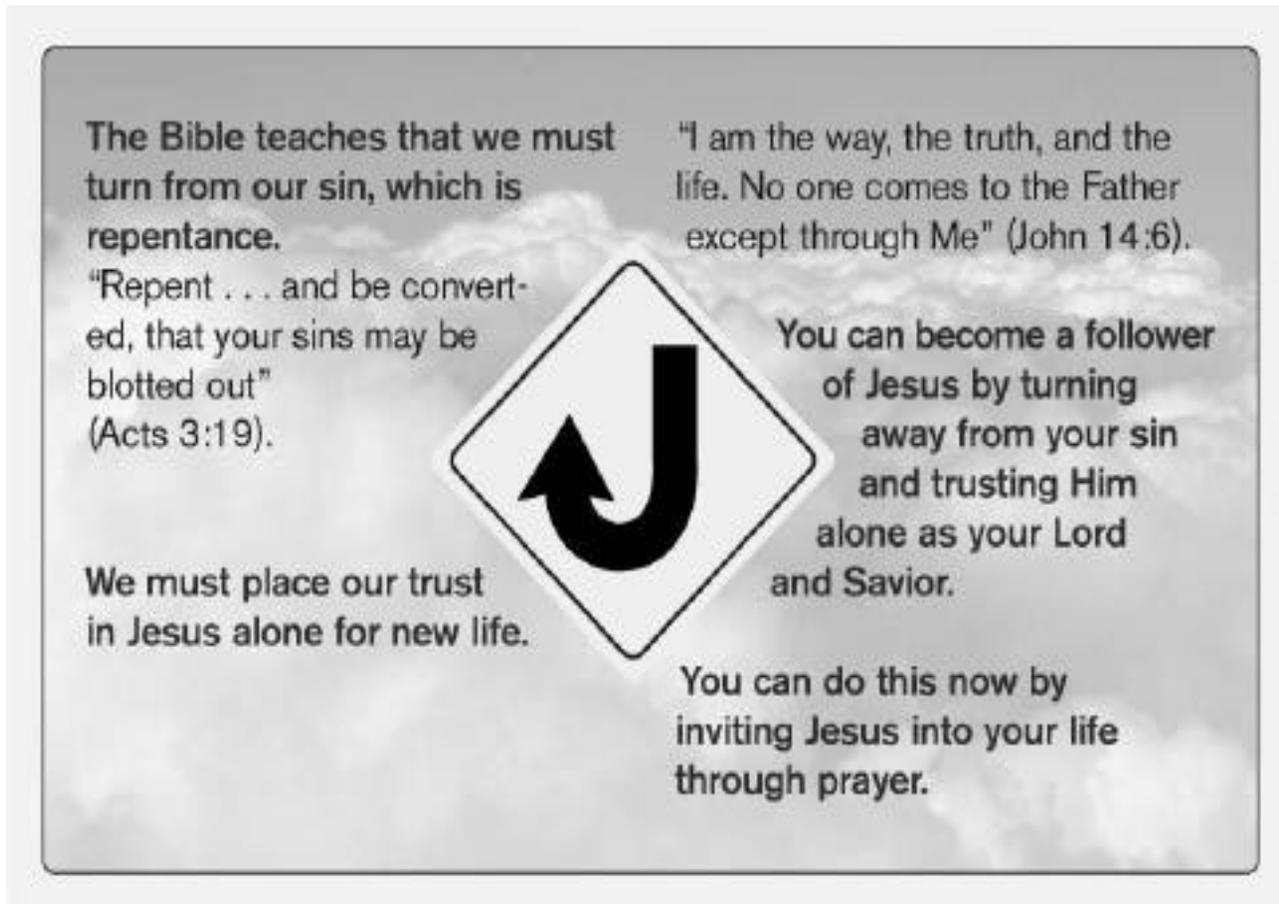
Would you like to receive God's forgiveness and His gift of eternal life?

If the answer is “yes”, continue to by leading the person into repentance. Go to the top of next page.

If the person hesitates or says “no,” deal with their response in a positive manner. You may say, “What do you feel is keeping you from making a decision?”

If the person continues to hesitate or refuse, leave the door open for future opportunities.

Repentance is turning to God through Jesus and away from our sins. It is like making a U-turn. The U-turn has been reversed to illustrate that repentance is only available through Jesus Christ.



The Bible teaches that we must turn from our sin, which is repentance.

"Repent . . . and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

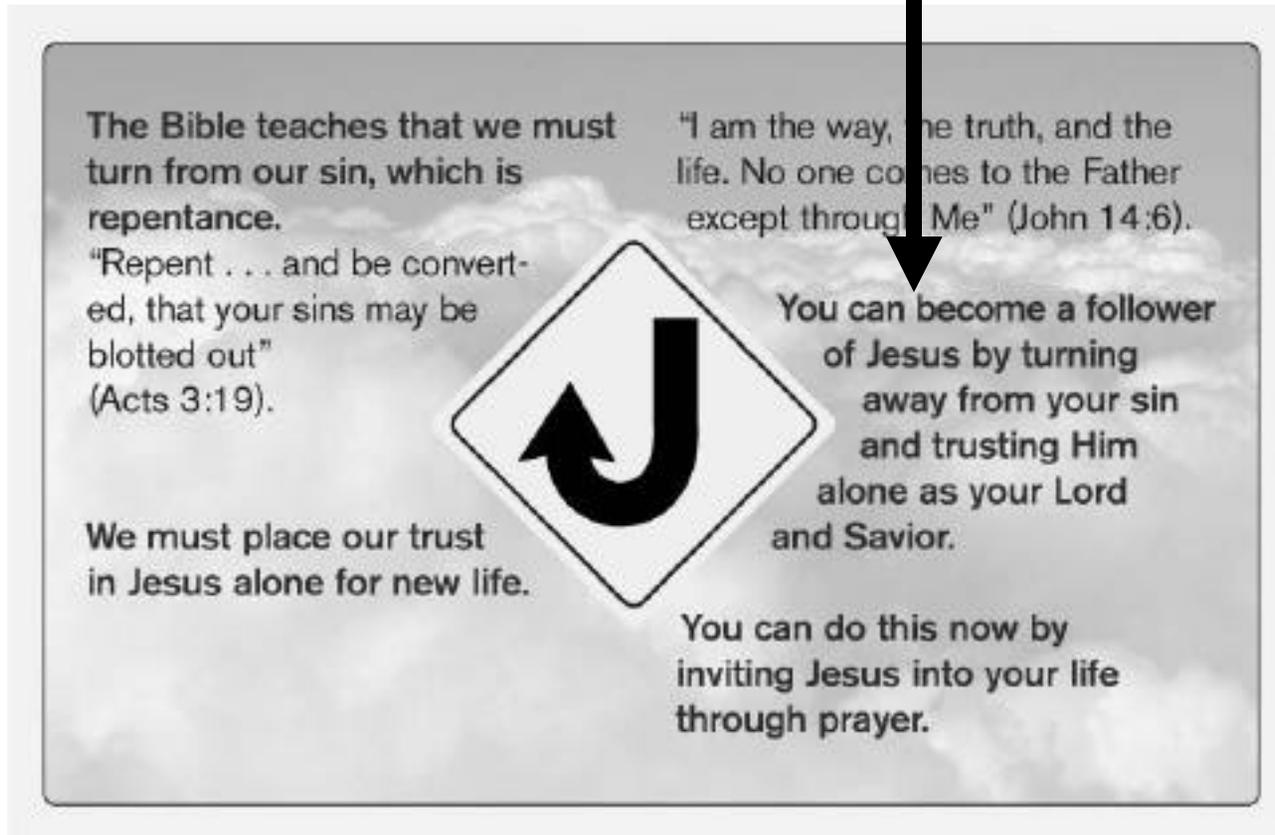
We must place our trust in Jesus alone for new life.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

You can become a follower of Jesus by turning away from your sin and trusting Him alone as your Lord and Savior.

You can do this now by inviting Jesus into your life through prayer.

Encourage the person to receive Christ



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Ask: Would you like for me to lead you in that prayer?

If the person is being led by the Holy Spirit and desires to receive Jesus, lead him or her in the prayer of salvation found at the top of the next page of the card.

Dear Jesus,

I want to follow You. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone and ask for Your forgiveness. Right now, I receive Your free gift of eternal life and welcome Your control of my life. Thank You for loving me and dying for me. And thank You for giving me new life.

Congratulations!

Your decision to become a member of God's family is the most important decision you will ever make.

Church name, address, phone

Grow as a follower of Jesus:

- Tell someone today who would be happy to hear of your commitment.
- Read the Bible every day.
- Pray daily.
- Follow Jesus in believer's baptism.
- Become active in a Bible-believing church.

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If the person hesitates or says "no" to your offer to lead in a prayer, you may say, "Let me share with you a prayer that is very much like the one I prayed when Jesus came in and changed my life." Then read the prayer in the card.

Ask, "Does this prayer say what you would like to say to God?"

Again, seek discernment from God to know whether to continue. He or she may want to pray this prayer at a later time. Always seek to leave the door open for further ministry at the same time recognizing the urgency of accepting Christ today.

Section Five

Immediate

Follow-up

Section Five

Purpose of Section:

To help the believer understand the importance and process of immediate follow-up.

Immediate Follow-up

If you have the wonderful privilege of leading someone to Christ, the necessity for follow-up falls squarely on your shoulders! Make this just as much of a priority as when you originally shared Christ.

Evangelism and discipleship are two sides of the same coin.

Once a person has accepted Christ,
congratulate them!



Dear Jesus,
I want to follow You. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone and ask for Your forgiveness. Right now, I receive Your free gift of eternal life and welcome Your control of my life. Thank You for loving me and dying for me. And thank You for giving me new life.

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How does 1 Peter 2:2 refer to a new believer?

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

a newborn babe

Who did Jesus tell Peter to feed in John 21:15?

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed My lambs."

"my lambs"

What are some of the immediate needs of a new believer?

Bible study, baptism, discipleship, friends, a Sunday School class, a church home, and so on.

Immediate follow-up is imperative.
It begins at the point of conversion.

Just like taking care of the needs of a newborn, God expects you to attend to the needs of the new believer.

There are five areas that new believers need to immediately embrace as they begin their new lives in Christ.



Dear Jesus,
I want to follow You. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone and ask for Your forgiveness. Right now, I receive Your free gift of eternal life and welcome Your control of my life. Thank You for loving me and dying for me. And thank You for giving me new life.

Congratulations!
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As you leave the person, make sure that he or she has a Bible and information about your church. Leave the card and encourage him or her to share it with someone he or she knows who needs Jesus. Pray with and for him or her.

Every effort should be made to assimilate the new believer into the life and ministry of the church.

- Continue weekly contact with the new believer, providing him or her with Bible study materials, such as “Beginning Steps,” “Let the Celebration Continue,” or other resources for new believers.
- **Enroll the person** in your Sunday School/small group ministry.
- **Visit with the person** in his or her home.
- **Be sensitive** to the spiritual needs of other family members in the home and share Christ with them.
- **Provide the person transportation** to your church, if needed.
- **Sit with him or her in worship** and introduce the new believer to your friends.

**Put into practice what
you have learned to do
by sharing Jesus with
someone you know who
needs Him!**