



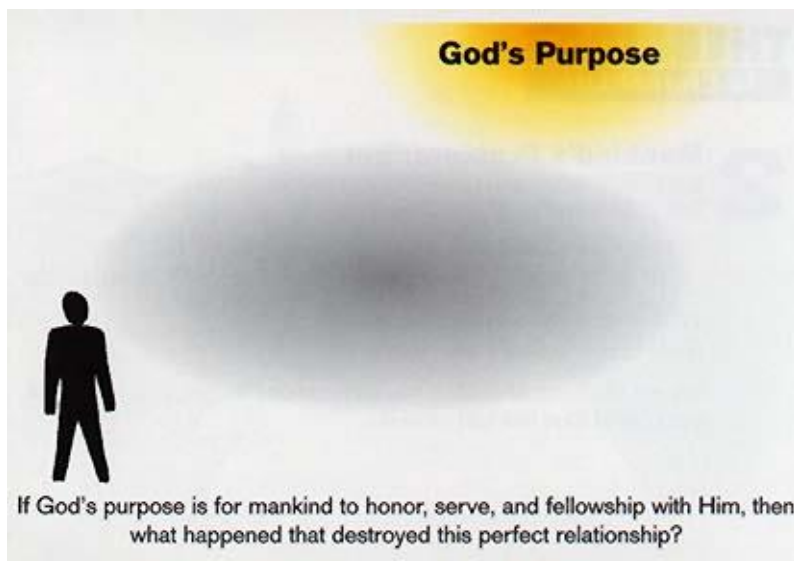
CHAPTER FOUR

PREPARE TO SHARE

Philemon 1v6

One of the most exciting experiences in the Christian life is sharing the gospel. Charles Spurgeon stated that even if he was utterly selfish he would still be a soul winner because of the joy that he experiences whenever he leads somebody to Christ. However, many Christians feel unequipped to share the Gospel. One of the most helpful tools for sharing the good news about Jesus is the “bridge to life” illustration. (Copyright 1969 The Navigators). On this occasion in your study group break up into twos and practice sharing the gospel as a role play. One person plays the Christian, the other the unchurched person. The unchurched character is encouraged to ask questions and make comments that an open unchurched person would say. After completing the process, swap roles. Aim to journey through explaining the gospel in approximately 7 minutes each. After this mix people up and share with a different partner. The “bridge to life” illustration and the accompanying scriptures are provided on the following pages.

Illustration One



The Bible reveals that God is the creator of the world and the first humans.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1v1** NLT

So God created human beings in His own image.
Genesis 1v27 NLT

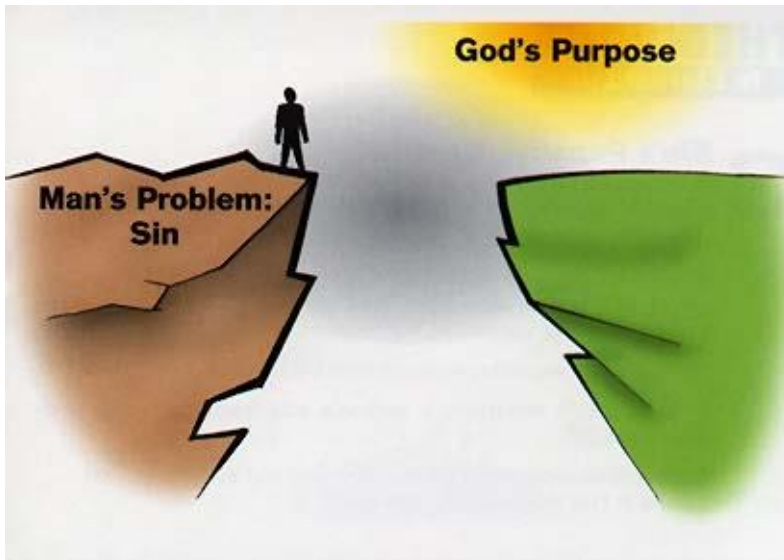
The Bible explains that God loves people and wants a relationship with them.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! **1 John 3v1** NIV

However, humanity is separated from God's love.

God is on one side and all the people on the other side
1 Timothy 2v5

Illustration Two



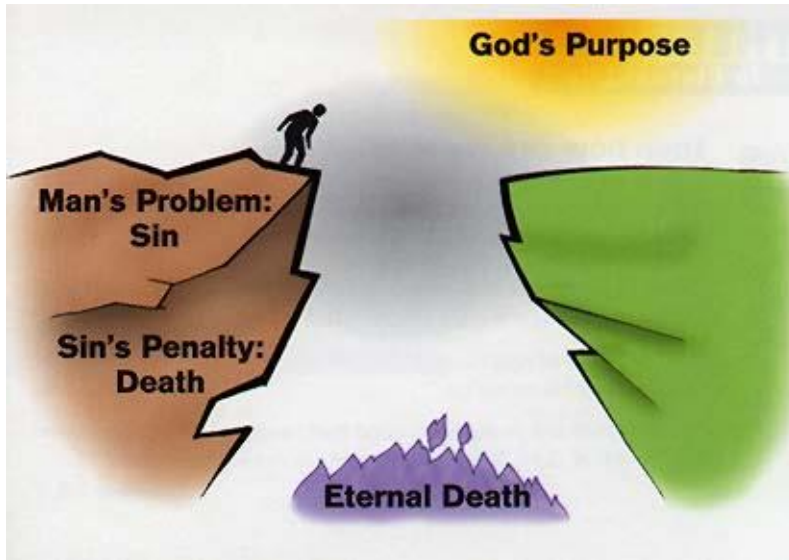
Humanity is separated from God's love because of disregarding God's teaching and actively exhibiting behaviour and attitudes that are destructive to one another and our relationship with God. The Bible refers to this as sin.

It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore. Isaiah 59v2 NLT

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3v23 NLT

Where does this separation lead?

Illustration Three



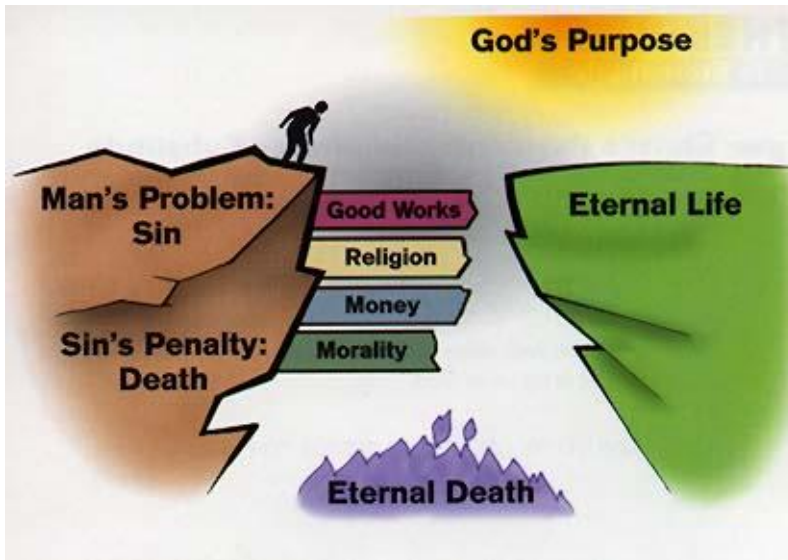
This separation leads only to death and certain judgment.

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment. Hebrews 9v27 NLT

In flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from His glorious power. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 NLT

Is there a solution?

Illustration Four



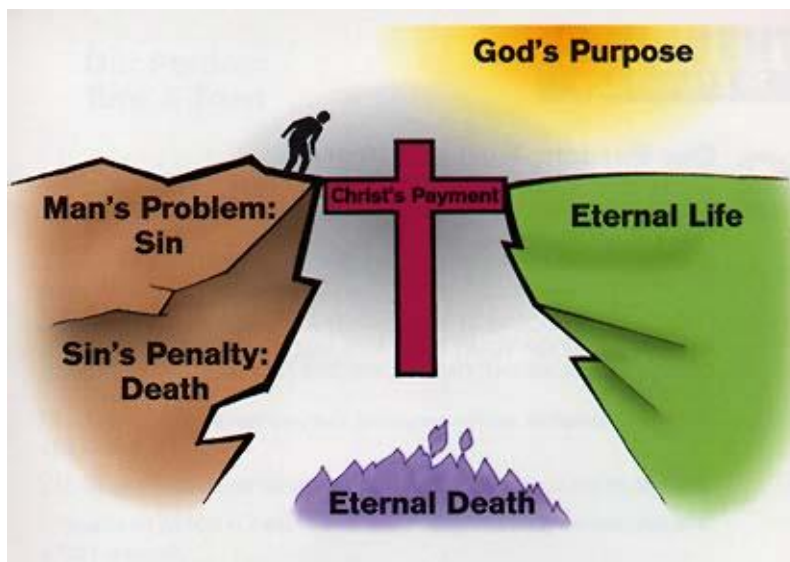
Many people try to bridge the gap between God and humanity with their own efforts, such as doing good works, maintaining some sort of religious practice, giving away money to charities, or living a good, moral life style.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. **Isaiah 64v6** NLT*

Our good acts or righteous deeds will not be enough to get us to heaven but there is another way.

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2v8-9 NLT

Illustration Five



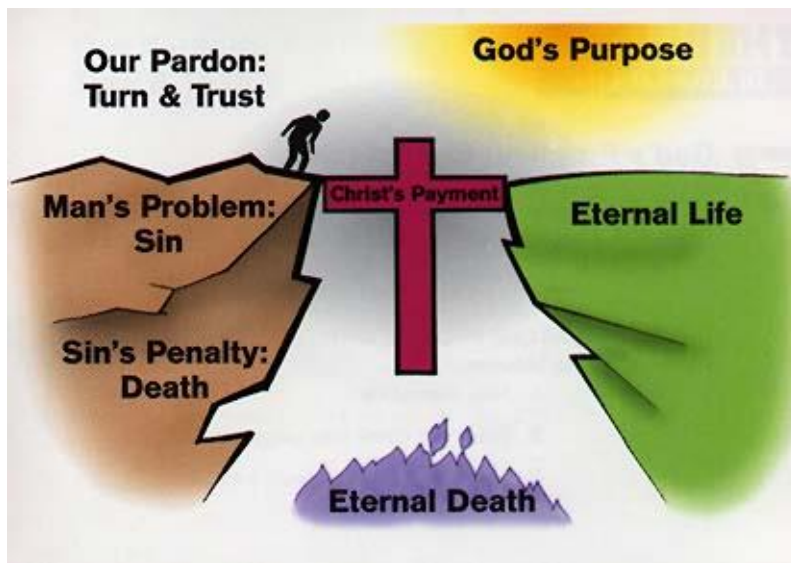
Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins, is the way to God.

God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, Himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all humanity. 1 Timothy 2v5-6

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit. 1 Peter 3v18 NLT

Does this include every one?

Illustration Six



Yes, but only those who **turn** from living a sinful life and **trust** Jesus to forgive their wrong doing can cross the bridge.

Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Acts 3v19 NLT

Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1v12 NLT

How does a person receive Jesus Christ?

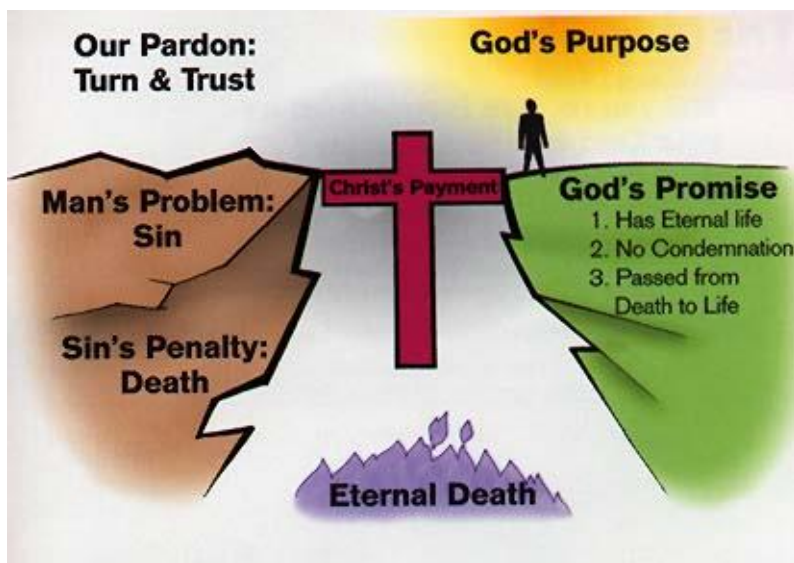
Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!
John 14v14 NLT

Ask God to come into your life now. Prayer is simply talking to God.

Pray these words:

“Lord Jesus, I do believe you are the Son of God. I do believe you died on a cross to take away my sins. I ask you to come into my life today and become my leader. I choose today to cross the bridge and walk into eternity.”

Illustration Seven



If you have prayed these words, sincerely inviting Jesus into relationship with you, the Bible promises that you have eternal life.

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. **1 John 5v11-12**

Jesus once explained eternal life when He was praying. He stated: *"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* **John 17v3** NIV

If you know Jesus you now walk in eternity!

FINAL QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the experience of having a practice run sharing the gospel?

2. Did it vary depending on who you partnered with?

3. What felt natural and what felt difficult?

4. Have any in the group shared the gospel through using the bridge illustration before? How did you go? How did the non-Christian respond?

5. Is there anyone in your circle of friends, associates or relatives, who you think may be willing to hear the gospel being presented through the bridge illustration? Tell the group a little about the person and how you plan to create the occasion the share the gospel with them.

It is a constructive idea to carry a “bridge to life” tract with you regularly. Keep it in your wallet, purse, car or pocket. Even if you are not planning on sharing the gospel over the next week or two with anybody in particular, it is amazing how God opens the doors. All you need to do is look for an opportunity and be carrying a tract.

Pray for those in the group who are planning an occasion to share the gospel through the “bridge to life” tract with a specific person. Pray that the Lord will open opportunities for those with no specific plan but who are simply carrying a tract.