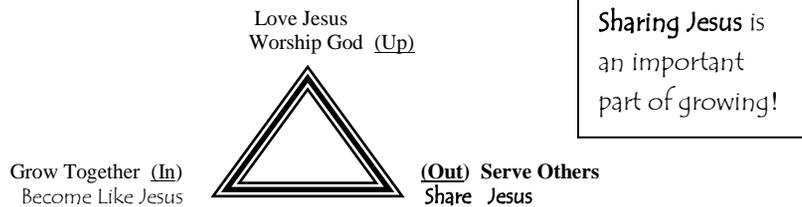


Always Love Well

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 (NIV)

How We Grow in Christ



Ask Questions

As you reach out to those who aren't walking with Jesus yet, asking short, open-ended questions can be as important as having answers.

Two questions can help you guide the conversation toward Jesus.

1. Do you know for sure that you are going to be with God in heaven?
2. If God were to ask you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?

The answers to these two questions will let you know if their future hope is in Jesus or something else. For more, see www.evangelismexplosion.org

Four helpful questions can help guide a conversation about beliefs and values.

1. **What do you mean by that?** Make sure you understand what the other person means. Get the other person's definition of key words and ideas. Get their perspective.
2. **Where do you get your information?** What are your sources? How reliable and trustworthy is the information? Is it fact or opinion? Consider the worldview behind the information.

3. **How do you know that's true?** Does what you believe align with reality? It's legitimate to put the burden of proof on the other person. People often just repeat what they've heard. People may believe something without asking if it's true. You might also ask, "How did you arrive at that conclusion?"
4. **What if you're wrong?** Lots of issues don't matter if you're wrong, but some things have lasting impact on us. The ultimate question is: *What do you believe about God?* You might also ask, "Do you think that's the whole story?"

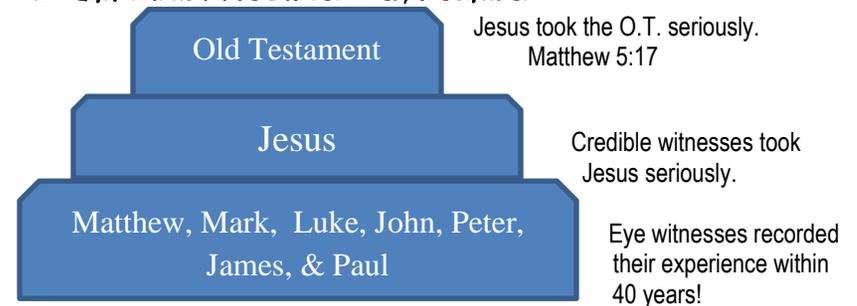
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For more helpful information, see www.probe.org

Be Prepared With an Answer

The Bible challenges us to always be prepared to share the reason for our hope, 1 Peter 3:15. Answer with **gentleness** and **respect**, Galatians 6:1 NLT.

1. **Why are you a Christian? What's the reason for your hope?** I believe Jesus died for my sin and rose from the dead, because Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, James (Jesus' brother) and Paul said so. They were eyewitnesses of His resurrection and friends of eyewitnesses. I have hope because Jesus is alive!
2. **Can I trust the Bible? Yes, because:**



Since no New Testament author references the destruction of the Jewish temple in AD 70, I believe the New Testament was completed within forty years of Jesus' resurrection. Myths take 80-90 years to develop after all the eyewitnesses have died off.

3. Why does God allow suffering?

Suffering is hard to understand if God is good and powerful. Is God unwilling or unable to eliminate suffering and bad things? Think about this: if you could, would you remove everything bad from the world right now? Answer: Eliminating all that's bad would include you, because no one is perfect. If you have good reason not to do away with everything bad, is it possible that God has a reason? God's answer was, Jesus came to forgive me rather than eliminate me, 2 Peter 3:9. While there is no emotionally satisfying answer to suffering, the best path, to the best possible world, is a world where people are free to sin and do bad things and yet, they freely choose not to sin. Keep pushing back on evil and injustice, while we wait for ultimate hope!

For more help on these questions go to preparedseries.org

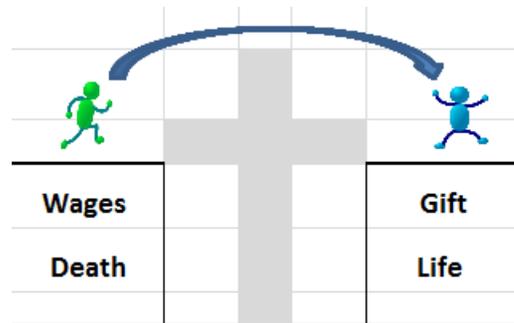


"...look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. ...the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life."

John 4:35-36

How to Become a Christian

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NIV)



Wages, what we earn for our sins is **death**. Giving yourself to sin brings death. Accepting God's free **gift** of forgiveness in Jesus brings **life**. You can receive this eternal life by asking Jesus to forgive your sins and trusting Him to lead and direct your life. This outline will help you talk to someone about becoming a Christian.

Another helpful Bible verse is Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Grace – God's love and favor expressed in kindness to us even though we don't deserve it.

Faith – Trust and reliance upon Christ Jesus.

The Gift of God – Not something we can accomplish ourselves.

Good Works – The result of God changing us. We spend the rest of our life serving Christ.

If you have questions, look for answers! God says, “You will seek me and find me **when** you seek me with **all your heart**.” Jeremiah 29:13.

Helpful Resources

- *God's Crime Scene*, J. Warner Wallace, 2015. Jim Wallace uses the forensic method of scientific investigation to establish – beyond reasonable doubt – that God exists!
- *Cold Case Christianity*. J. Warner Wallace, 2013. A homicide detective investigates the claims about Jesus. You can believe **because of the evidence**, not in spite of it.
- *Acts & Facts* website <https://www.icr.org/icr-magazines> A free magazine from The Institute for Creation Research, proclaiming scientific truth in creation.
- The Truth Project
For people who long for a deeper understanding of foundational biblical truths go to: www.thetruthproject.org/whatistruthproject.

For Sermons on outreach go to: www.TustinCPC.com.

Use the Sermons link to find:

- A higher Calling, April 9, 2017, Luke 19:28-44.
- Concerning the Wanderer, October 22, 2017, James 5:19-20.