

Ev221 Sharing Your Spiritual Journey

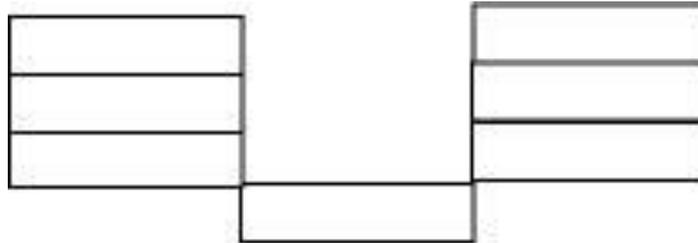
Lesson Ev221-21 Methods: One-Verse Evangelism

This lesson is the fourth example of a method you can use to share your spiritual journey with someone. It uses one of the verses from your last lesson to show how a simple diagram can be used to witness.

The Book of Acts tells the story of Paul and Silas in the jail in Philippi. They were singing and praising God, in spite of their chains. Suddenly, an earthquake shook open the prison doors and freed the prisoners. As a result, the jailer wanted to kill himself. He would be blamed for their escape. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:25-30). Astounded by the move of God in his midst, the jailer is literally crying out to know how he might become a believer.

If we are open to what God is doing around us, there are going to be times when people will literally cry out to us, “What must I do to be saved?” When an unbeliever asks that question with sincerity, you need to be ready to answer. You can explain to them the basics of the gospel message and lead them to commit their life to Christ. One of the best methods available to us is to share one-verse evangelism from Romans 6:23.

This approach involves memorizing the verse, which you already learned from last week: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” The verse itself provides an outline through which you can present the simple truth of the gospel. You will use a simple bridge drawing or diagram. Here is a simple blank bridge diagram that you can draw on paper, in the dirt, or just show the person the diagram on your phone.



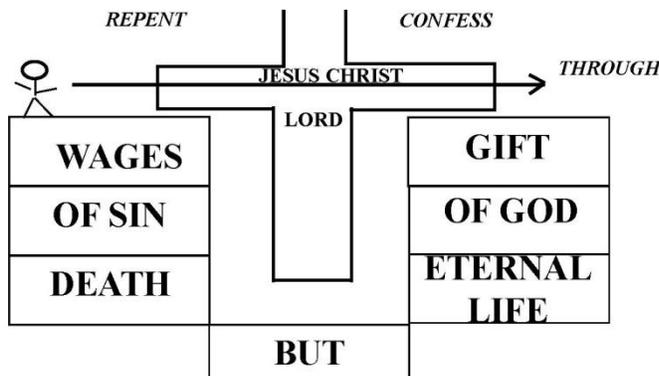
You can also fill in the boxes of the diagram, one by one, with the words from Romans 6:23 in your language. You could also use symbols of money, sin, death, gift, God, and so on, to put in the boxes.

1. The first word is “wages.” Write the word or draw some symbol for “wages” in the upper left box. Explain that wages are payment we receive for work we do—something that is earned. The word used in the Bible was the same as the word for the coin that the Roman soldiers of that day were paid with.
2. Next, write the word or draw the symbol for below “sin” under the word or symbol for “wages.” Sin is disobedience to God’s rules for our lives. His rules are given to us in the Ten Commandments. The Bible word is from an old archery term, meaning to ‘miss the mark.’ It was what the marksman would yell out if the archer missed the bullseye on the target. It refers to the “me-first attitude” that leads to rebellion against God, when I put my desires ahead of

God's desires for my life.

3. Next, write the word or draw the symbol for "death" in the box below "sin." There are three types of death: spiritual, physical, and the "second death." One type of death is spiritual death, when we are separated from God, though we are still alive. Our rebellion towards God or disobedience of his rules causes this separation. Another type of death is physical death, when we are separated from our bodies. The third is called the 'second death' in the Bible, where those who die separated from God are finally cast into the lake of fire with the devil. "The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:14–15).
4. Then write the word or draw the symbol for with the word "but" in the middle lower box. 'But' is the transition word in the verse. The good news starts here. The word 'but' means God has more to say. The word in the context of this verse means, "in contrast to that which has gone before." In other words, in contrast to the death we have earned because of our sin, God has something completely different to say at this point.
5. Next, write the word for "gift" from the verse, or draw a symbol for "gift" in the top right-hand box. The word or symbol for 'gift' is being placed opposite of 'wages' because, unlike wages that we receive for something we do, a gift is free. If we can earn it, it's not a gift.
6. Next, write the word or draw the symbol for "God" in the box below "gift," because anything that is "of God" is the opposite of what is "of sin."
7. In the same way, write the word or draw the symbol for "eternal life" and place it in the box below "of God," because 'eternal life' is the opposite of 'eternal death.' It is not only a quantity of life, but a quality of life here and now as well.
8. Then you could say to the person, "When I look at all these things, I want to be on the right side. Anyone would. It makes sense. But we are all born over here (point to left side of diagram)." Draw a stick man with a frowning face on the diagram on the left side on top of the boxes.
9. Continue by saying, "But I cannot jump over the gap because the open part and steepness is the measure of God's holiness. So, in order to overcome all our human limitations and failings, God, in his grace, built a bridge that looks like this." Draw the cross on top of the blocks. Write the word or draw the symbol for "Jesus Christ our Lord" in the cross. "That's the bridge that God has provided."
10. "The way we get across the bridge of the cross is found in the verse in the word 'through'." Draw an arrow through the cross and write the word "through" at the right end of the arrow.
11. "We do that by repenting of our sins (write the word or draw the symbol "Repent" on the left of the cross) and confessing Christ as our Lord and Savior (write the word or draw the symbol "Confess" on the right side of the cross)."
12. "Would you like to cross over that bridge right now and begin to share in eternal life with Jesus? If so, let's pray together to God and ask for his help. If not, I am going to be praying for you that God will show you the truth of what we talked about today. He can enable you to take this step of faith and commit your life to him."

The finished diagram, using English words, might look like this:



Here is a sample prayer that you can memorize and share with the listener. Or, you can just ask them to pray in their own words, asking God to forgive them of their sins and confessing Jesus as the Lord of their life from now on.

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Christ died for my sin and I am willing to turn away from my sins. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and fill me with your Spirit, so I can live my life for you. I will, by your grace God, begin to obey you and follow Christ as the Lord of my life. Thank you. Amen.

As an alternate illustration, you can make a simple drawing of a lower cliff on the left and a higher cliff on the right. When you get to the cross, draw two lines in the shape of the cross, stretching from the left cliff to the right.

Review Questions

1. What is the text of the Scripture used in the “One-verse Evangelism” approach? [Pause 5 seconds.]
 - A. If you said, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, Romans 6:23,” you are correct.
2. According to the lesson, what are the key words that the evangelist should memorize and have an explanation for in the bridge illustration? [Pause]
 - A. If you answered the following, you are correct: “Wages, of sin, death, but, gift, of God, eternal life, Jesus Christ, through, repent, and confess.”

Homework Assignments

Memorize Romans 6:23 and the key words along with the explanation of what each means to use in the bridge illustration. Reflect on the scripture passage and its structure. What symbols would best illustrate this concept in your culture? Consider how you might add some stories about how these truths have affected your own life. Find someone who will role-play with you so you can practice sharing the “One-Verse Evangelism” approach with them. You may want to recruit unbelievers for this task as they will not only help you to learn, but will hear the gospel as well. How could you use this approach to help train others in your church to share the basics of the gospel?