

Gospel Truths in a Bag



“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)



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Scriptures used are New King James Version (NKJV)



Gospel Truths in a Bag follows our Gospel Outline.

Perfect for Families, Schools and Church Groups - All Ages and Venues.

These Lessons –

- Assist you in planting biblical truths in a visual, interactive and creative way.
- Stick! Yes, they stick! Your audience (children, youth, adults) will remember the biblical truths and think of them when they see the objects around them in their everyday lives.
 - Example: After discussing FAITH using a set of keys, your group may think about saving faith each time they see a set of keys.
- Encourage your group to use objects to begin spiritual conversations with those around them. For children, youth and adults alike, this is an exciting spiritual step to take – developing a language of faith as they become a part of the Great Commission.
 - Example: On the school playground, a 4th grade class volunteered to pick up trash every Friday. When the bag was full, David told his friends that the bag reminded him of sin - lots of little stuff/sins that add up to a full bag. Then David continued to share how Jesus died for his sin and gave him forever life.

Encourage your group to bring objects to share the Gospel Truths.

GOOD NEWS

*** This is an introductory lesson. The following lessons will explain each of these Gospel words.

Materials:

- Bag with 6 smooth stones in it (Label stones with the 6 Gospel words using a black marker – **God, Life, Sin, Jesus, Faith, Decision** OR cut out the Gospel words on the next page and tape to each stone.)
- Bible verse with Gospel words (next page)

POINT: God – Life – Sin – Jesus
Faith – Decision

PROOF: “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)

Pass the bag around. Ask group members to guess what is in it. (If you have a cloth bag or a pillowcase, they can feel the objects.)

Line up the stones in the order of the Gospel words above.

- These words help us share Good News - The BEST NEWS we have ever been given!

Pick up one stone at a time. Have group members share what that word means to them.

- Who is GOD? What does LIFE mean to you? What is SIN? Who is JESUS? What does it mean to have FAITH? What is a DECISION?

Explain that these words help us understand the Good News, the Gospel.

- The Bible is all about Good News. Jesus said, “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)
- Read John 3:16 card. Match up the 6 Gospel words to words/phrases in this verse. As you are matching them, share the meaning and help your group understand what it means to be saved, to have eternal life through faith/trusting in Jesus.
- Each time we meet we will be talking about these words and about the “Good News Gospel.”
- Be sensitive to ones that may want to ask Jesus to be their Savior.

Repeat together POINT and PROOF.

- Memorize the words. For fun, read the words on the stones. Turn one stone over; repeat all the words. Continue turning other stones over, one at a time, repeating all words until all stones are turned over.

Pray together thanking God for His Good News Gospel and life with Him forever.

**“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)**

GOD	LIFE	SIN
JESUS	FAITH	DECISION

GOD

Materials:

- Bag full of Items you use to make something - paper, tape, glue, markers; or hammer, nails, screwdriver, wood scraps etc.
- Empty bag
- Bag with mirror inside
- Bible

POINT: GOD is our Creator who loves us with an everlasting love.

PROOF: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” and “God created man in His own image...”*
(Genesis 1:1 and 1:27)

Review POINT and PROOF in previous lesson.

Let’s imagine what we can make out of the things in this first bag.

- Allow group to share their creative ideas.
- Today we are talking about God who is our Creator. Together Share the POINT (above).

Now, let’s see what’s in the second bag (empty).

- It’s empty! This reminds us of God and how He created the heavens and the earth.
- Listen to how God created the heavens and the earth.
 - Read these verses from the Bible, emphasizing “God said” so the group hears that God SPOKE things into creation. (He did NOT need things to make things.)
 - Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:3; Genesis 1:6; Genesis 1:9; Genesis 1:11; Genesis 1:14; Genesis 1:20; Genesis 1:24.
 - When God spoke all these things into creation - sun, moon, stars, land and seas, plants and animals, etc. - they were all perfect. They were made to be brilliant, beautiful and to last forever! And God said, “It is good.”
 - Read Genesis 1:1 again and repeat together.

Show third bag (with mirror), but do NOT open it yet.

- When the heavens and earth were perfectly created by God, He created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve.
 - The Bible says, “So God created man in His own image ...” (Genesis 1:27).
- When God created Adam and Eve, they were also perfect – and created to live forever! God had a beautiful friendship with them, a relationship and love that He wanted to last forever.
 - Then, sin came into the world; and sin changed all of God’s creation. We will learn more about sin later.
- For now, let’s remember that God is the Creator. He loves His creation; and He loves each one of us with an everlasting love.
- **Let’s each look into this third bag (mirror inside).** You will see someone God loves and wants to have as His forever friend. (As each person looks in the bag, they will see themselves in the mirror.)

Repeat together POINT and PROOF.

Pray together thanking God for His wonderful creation and His love.

LIFE

Materials:

- Bag with large, blank ticket inside (next page)
- Bag with "Ticket to God Forever" inside (following page, one ticket for each person)

Review POINTS and PROOFS in previous lessons.

Let's share places that we've been to, or want to go to, where we need a ticket to get in (movie theater, football game, amusement park, concert, etc.)

Let's see what's in our first bag (blank ticket).

- Imagine that we are standing at the gate of Heaven, God's home; and here's a ticket that we are going to hand to God to get in. Let's write some things that would please God, things that would make God happy with us – things we do, or say, or even think.
- Write ideas on the ticket. Put ticket back in bag.

Now, let's see what is in the second bag (Ticket to God Forever).

- Give each person a ticket. Read the message on it.
 - The message on this ticket is right from God - from His Holy Word, the Bible.

Compare the two tickets.

- How are the tickets different? (ticket from Bag One and tickets from Bag Two)
- Which one would get us into Heaven?
- Read "Ticket to God Forever" and the Bible verse (Romans 6:23). Discuss its meaning. Especially emphasize the second part of the verse – Eternal life is a GIFT. It is a gift from GOD. We receive eternal life, including our place in Heaven, by trusting in JESUS CHRIST.
- Will the other ticket give us eternal life, a place in Heaven forever? (no)
 - Why not? (These are things that WE do; not things that God/Jesus has done for us). These are good things to do. But first, we need to be trusting in Jesus. He is the only One who can give us eternal, forever life.
 - We will be talking more about Jesus later.

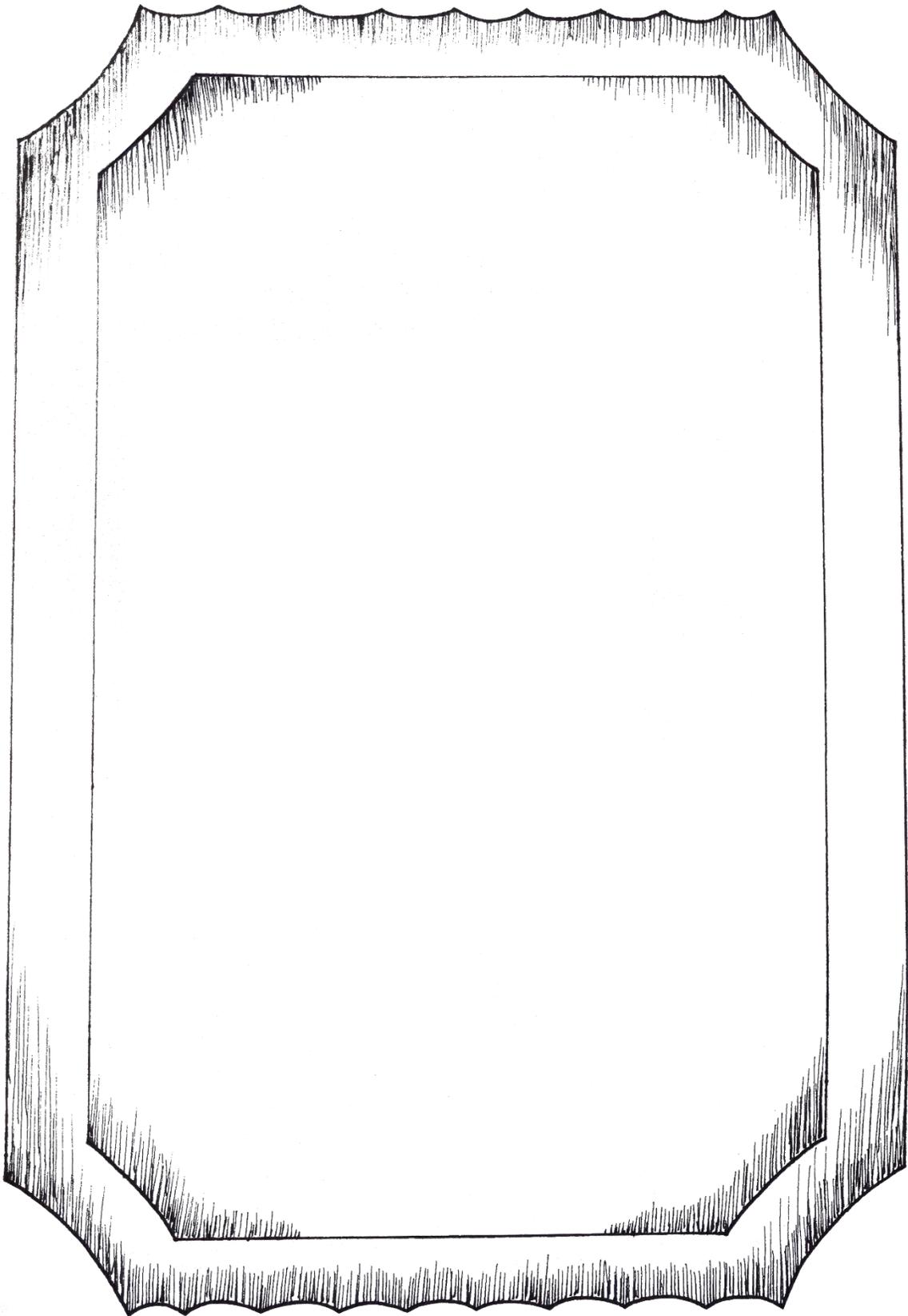
Repeat together POINT and PROOF.

- Let's remember that God is our Creator and He loves each one of us with an everlasting love. God has a gift for us – eternal life. We receive His gift by trusting in His Son Jesus.

Pray together thanking God for His love, and His desire to be with us forever.

POINT: ETERNAL LIFE is having a forever relationship with God.

PROOF: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 6:23)



Ticket to God Forever

"The wages of sin is death,
but the GIFT of GOD is ETERNAL LIFE
in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

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SIN

Materials:

- Bag with paper strips (to write on) and sign OUR WAY
- Bag with sign GOD'S WAY (on next page)

POINT: SIN is doing things OUR WAY, not GOD'S WAY.

PROOF: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(Romans 3:23)

Review POINTS and PROOFS in previous lessons.

We have 2 bags today!

- Before checking out our bags, let's talk about SIN.
- What is sin? (Sin is anything we think, say or do that is against God's law; against God's way; offends God.) Name some examples of sin.
- We were born to want to do things OUR WAY. That is the sin nature, the original sin, that we inherited through Adam and Eve (the first people God created). Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Just like we inherited the color of our eyes or hair from our parents, or our tallness or shortness, we inherited this sin nature from the first parents, Adam and Eve.
- This sin nature makes us want to do things OUR WAY (me-me-me-me), not GOD'S WAY. We rebel and we turn away from God.
- The scripture from our last lesson says, "*The wages of sin is death ...*" (Romans 6:23). Sin leads to eternal death.
- Do you think everyone is a sinner? (Read PROOF - Romans 3:23)
 - Does God like sin?

Show first bag (with paper strips and sign OUR WAY).

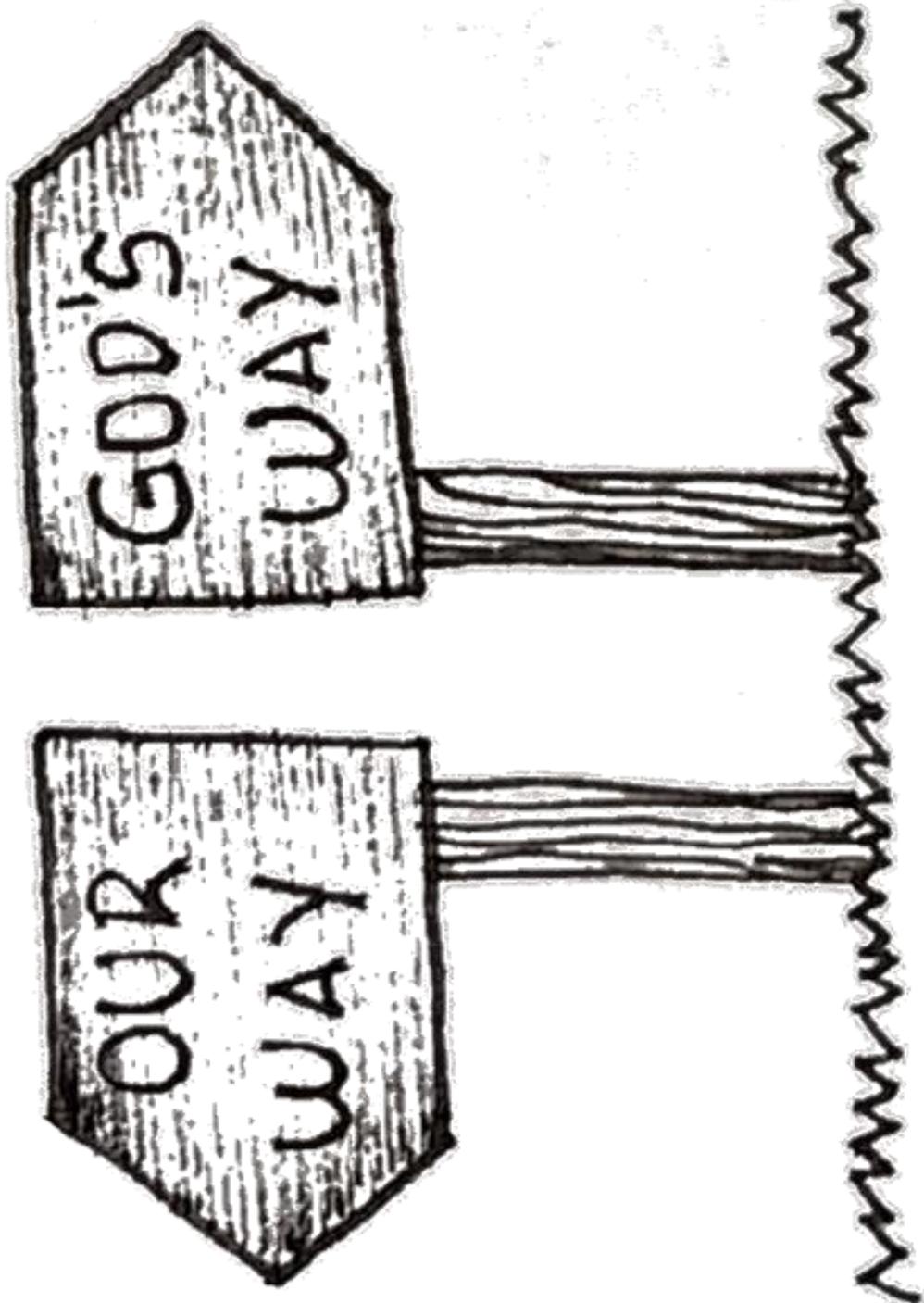
- Let's write some examples of sin on these strips of paper. (Lying, cheating, talking mean, etc. – Include/explain pride, rebellion/doing things my way, disobeying).
 - These sins represent our desire to do things OUR WAY. We sometimes think and act "Me, Me, Me, Me. I want things My Way!"
- Read the POINT and PROOF.

Show second bag (with sign GOD's WAY).

- What do you think is GOD'S WAY? What does He want of us?
- God wants us to trust in Him and follow Him. He wants us to love Him with all of our heart. Remember, God wants us to have a forever relationship with Him.
- But we have a problem – SIN.
- The Good News is God solved our sin problem by sending His Son Jesus.
- Jesus paid the penalty for our sin.
- We will learn more about Jesus next time we meet.

Repeat together POINT and PROOF.

Pray together thanking God for His love and faithful, and for sending Jesus to die for our sins.



JESUS

Materials:

- Bag with Facts about Jesus (next page, cut apart)
- Bag with Gospel objects (heart, gift bag, sin list, cross, on following page)

Review POINTS and PROOFS in previous lessons.

Tell us what you know about Jesus.

- Have group share as much as they know about Jesus' birth, life, miracles, death, resurrection, home in Heaven, His return, etc.

Open Bag One. Read Facts about Jesus.

- Assist group in putting facts in chronological order – first event to last.
- Take time to explain each fact about Jesus. (This is dependent on how much your group already knows.)

Open Bag Two. Share objects (See drawing below).

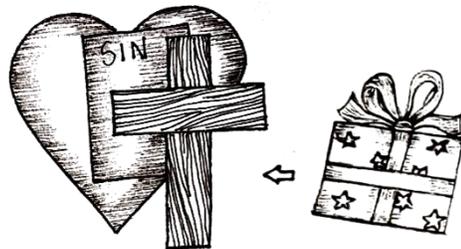
- These objects help us understand the Good News Gospel.
 - Heart – reminds us that God is our Creator and He loves us with an everlasting love.
 - Gift Box – reminds us that Eternal Life is a gift from God because of His love for each one of us.
 - Sin List – reminds us that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
 - Cross – reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is God. He came from ... (continue on with the POINT).
 - Arrange objects as shown in the box (Sin List is behind the Cross.)

By trusting in Jesus, we can have eternal, forever life with Him.

Repeat together POINT and PROOF.

- You can use the objects as you share the PROOF.

Pray together thanking God for sending His Son Jesus to die for our sin and give us forever life.



POINT: JESUS is our Creator God. He came from Heaven to earth. He lived a perfect life that you and I can't live. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He was buried and He rose from the dead. Jesus is in Heaven now offering us the gift of eternal life. And Jesus will someday return again.

PROOF: "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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."
(John 3:16-17)

JESUS is our Creator God.

He came from Heaven to earth.

He lived a perfect life that you and I cannot live.

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

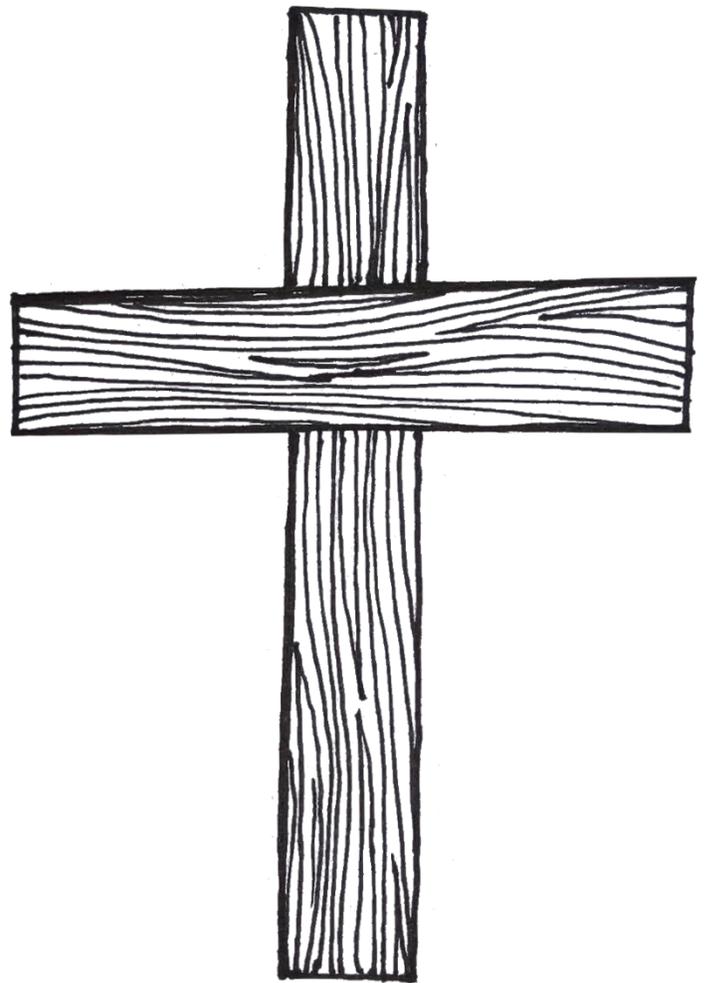
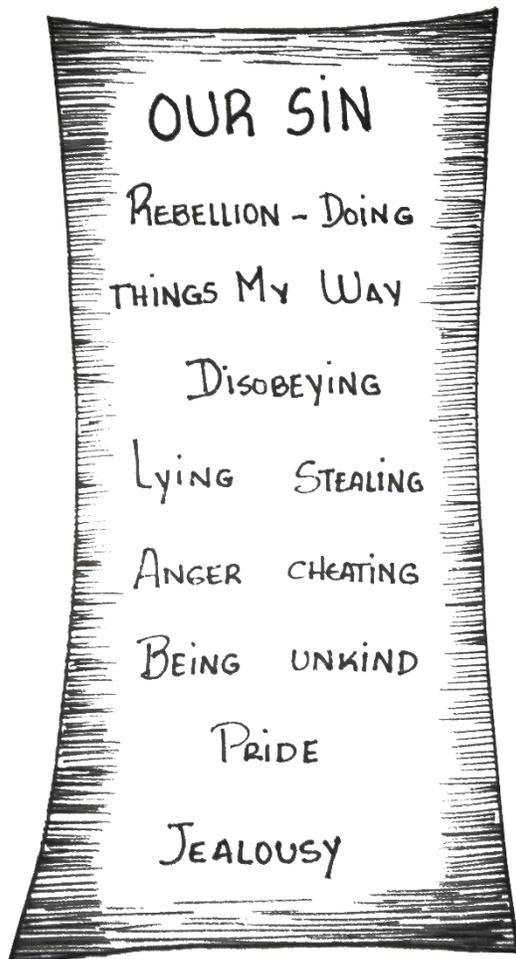
He was buried

and He rose from the dead.

Jesus is in Heaven now

offering us the free gift of eternal life.

And Jesus will someday return again.



FAITH

Materials:

- Bag with set of keys in it

Review POINTS and PROOFS in previous lessons.

Pass the bag around. Ask your group to guess what's in it. (If you have a cloth bag or pillowcase, they can feel the objects.)

Open bag now (set of keys).

- These keys will remind us of 3 kinds of faith in God that people have.
 - First key – Let's name things we know about God. "God is _____."
 - This is Head Knowledge. Just knowing about God in our heads does NOT give us eternal life.
 - Second key - Name things we trust God for each day? (health, food, travel safety, protection).
 - This is Temporary Faith. Temporary faith is good. But temporary faith does NOT give us eternal life.
 - So now, let's talk about what this third key represents. The third key represents "the key that opens the door to Heaven!"
 - This is SAVING FAITH. Saving Faith is trusting Jesus for eternal life.
 - How is Saving Faith different from the first two kinds of faith?
 - How would you describe Saving Faith to a friend?

Read the PROOF (scripture in the box).

- What is Jesus telling us here?
 - Yes, Jesus is explaining that to have eternal life, to be with our Father God and Jesus now and forever, we must trust in Him, Jesus.

Read together the POINT and PROOF.

- Assure your group that Jesus is the answer to our SIN problem. GOD created us. His gift to us is eternal/forever LIFE. We SIN, but God solved our sin problem by sending His Son JESUS. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sin. By placing our FAITH in Jesus, we have eternal life .. GOD – LIFE – SIN – JESUS – FAITH – DECISION.
- Have you made a DECISION to trust Jesus for eternal life?

Pray together thanking Jesus for dying for us so that we can live with Him forever. (Pray with anyone who wants to make a decision to trust Jesus and receive eternal life.)

POINT: SAVING FAITH is trusting Jesus for our eternal life.

PROOF: "Jesus said, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
(John 14:6)

DECISION

Materials:

- Bag with a book (Tape label MY LIFE - MY WAY on front cover of book. Labels are on next page)
- Bag with Bible (Tape label MY LIFE WITH JESUS on front cover of Bible.)
- Two chairs facing each other

POINT: DECIDING to trust Jesus is the only way to have eternal life.

PROOF: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31)

Review **POINTS** and **PROOFS** in previous lessons.

Today is our last “Gospel Truth in a Bag” lesson.

Before we open our bag, let’s talk about our Gospel word – **DECISION**.

- Let’s share some decisions we’ve made this week.
 - Did you make a simple decision like what you want for breakfast, or what you’re going to do with your free time this weekend?
 - Or was it something more serious? (give group time to share)
 - What is one of the most serious decisions you’ve ever made?

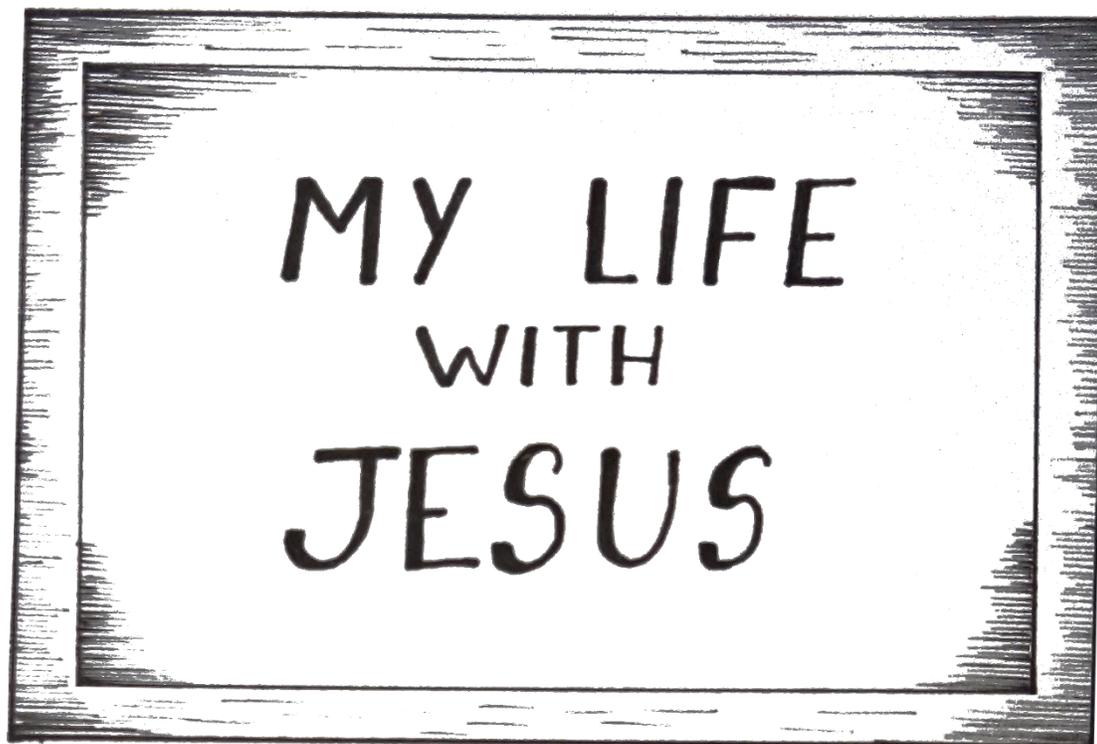
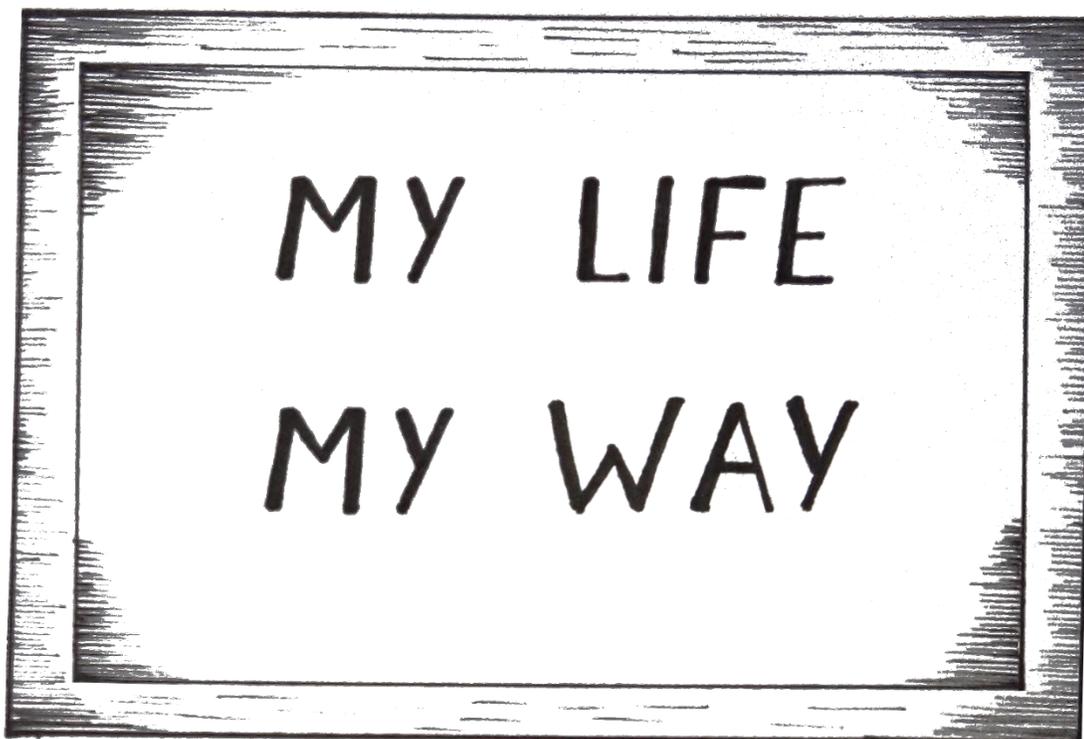
Open each bag. Share the two books, explaining the book covers.

- Put the book on one chair and the Bible on the other chair, chairs facing each other.
- Have a person stand with one foot on each chair.
 - Imagine that _____ (name of person on chair) is ready to make a decision. Is he/she going to trust in MY LIFE - MY WAY (himself/herself) or decide to trust JESUS for eternal life?
 - Have your group share what it would look like for _____ (person on chair) to live his/her life MY LIFE - MY WAY. (examples: trusting in himself, selfish, trying to be good enough, sin, addiction, following Satan, trouble, fear of dying, etc.)
 - Have your group now share what it would be like for _____ (person on chair) to live his/her life trusting Jesus for eternal life (examples: peace, security knowing he has a place in Heaven someday, Someone/God to talk with anytime, joy, learning to see God in easy and tough times, knowing God is always there to care for him, etc.)
 - Have the group ask the person on the chair to make a **DECISION** - Which way will you **DECIDE** to go? For fun, you can begin to move the MY LIFE – MY WAY chair away from the JESUS chair so the person needs to choose which chair to stand on. Don’t move the Jesus chair – Jesus does not move away from us. (Person should agree ahead of time to move to the JESUS chair.)

Summarize by sharing what it means to trust Jesus as our Savior.

Read and Repeat together POINT and PROOF.

Pray together thanking Jesus for being our Savior and Lord, the leader of our lives.





What Next?

Encourage your group to share with others what they have learned. Choose various objects and relate them to the Gospel POINTS for God, Life, Sin, Jesus, Faith, Decision. Memorize the PROOFS (scriptures). Scripture is essential.

Have each member in your group make a set of Gospel Stones as in the first lesson, “Good News.” Encourage your group members to use these stones to share the Gospel with others.

Begin a new group – same lessons, new participants.

Work together with your team writing a set of “Gospel Truths in a Bag.” Follow our example:

- Choose an object or two for each POINT.
- Explain the POINT and PROOF of each lesson. (Use the same POINTS and PROOFS that we have in our lessons - Just add your creative explanation of your objects.)
- Add discussion questions - Group members need opportunities to share.
- Tailor your lessons to fit the nature of your audience or group.
- Allow your group members to team up and practice the lessons. Revise if needed.

Share your lessons with us. We will submit them to our team for approval to be published on our website.

Our website has more materials that are focused on the Gospel. Check them out!

God bless you as you continue to share the Gospel with others and encourage them to be ambassadors for our Lord Jesus!

Sharing My Faith Ministries

www.SharingMyFaithMinistries.org

*“Now then, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)*