

Leader Copy

## **FAITH INSIDE OUT**

6. Run Your Mouth  
September 27-28, 2008

\* Invite each person to answer the starred application questions.

### **Welcome**

*[Leader: If you have a new person today, ask everyone to introduce themselves. Try to find common ground between the guest and several of the regular attenders.]*

\* What do you really enjoy talking about?

### **Worship**

Worship today in our small group as we feel led. Leader, let as many members as wish to do so, lead spontaneously in this time of worship, perhaps by sharing a meaningful Bible passage, a prayer, a praise or thanksgiving, etc.

### **Witness**

Each person, pray aloud or silently for each of the 5 people whose names you wrote on the bookmark that was in your bulletin this week. Also, talk about how you might invite these people to worship service or group, sometime during the next 10 weeks that you will be praying for them.

*[Leader: If some people did not receive the bookmark, explain the process, give them time to think of 5 people, and include them in the prayer and discussion.]*

### **Word**

*[Leader: Spend the most time on the starred application questions. Remind visitors that they don't have to read out loud if they don't want to.]*

1. \* What God-prompted action step have you recently taken as a result of a small group discussion, a weekend message, or your daily time with God? How has God used that to change your life?

Read 1 Peter 3:14b-16.

2. What are the challenges of talking with people about Christ, inviting people to worship or group, etc.? What are the benefits? ... How do these verses help us in our desire to be bold in sharing Christ?

*[Leader: Tell about a time that God used you to lead someone to Christ. Or ask if anyone else has had the privilege of leading someone to Christ.]*

3. \* Tell your story about your life before Christ, how you came into relationship with Him, and how He gives you hope now.

*[Leader: Tell the folks that sharing our story about Christ here in group is great practice for sharing it with the folks listed on our bookmarks!]*

4. How would you explain to someone how to become a Christian? ... What are some ways that you have seen people share Christ, WITH and WITHOUT “gentleness and respect” (v. 15)? ... What does “keeping a clear conscience” (v. 16) have to do with telling people about Christ?

*[Leader:*

- 1. The main points of how to become a Christian: Realize that I am separated from God because of sin. Know that I cannot do anything to be made right with God. Believe that only Jesus Christ, by His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, can restore my relationship with God. Ask Jesus to forgive my sin and take over my life. **Leader, use the attached “How to Enter into a Personal Relationship with Jesus” as a guide to demonstrate how to present the plan of salvation. You don’t have to use all of the Bible passages; make it simple! Offer to make copies for those who want them. Someone might be present today who will accept Christ as Savior because of your presentation!***
- 2. “Keeping a clear conscience” means that we have a responsibility to share Christ with others.]*

5. \* In what way does today’s topic most apply to your life right now?

## Works

- \* Pray for our needs and concerns.

### **Journey Classes:**

#### **Bridgeville:**

Classes have already begun.

#### **Oakdale:**

Oct. 5 – Nov. 9.

Foundations of the Christian Faith. Sat @ 5:15-6:15 & Sun @ 11:30.

New Testament Overview. Sun @ 10:15-11:15.

Group Leader Training 1. Sun @ 10:15-11:15.

Group Leader Training 2. Sun @ 11:30-12:00.

# How to Enter into a Personal Relationship with Jesus

(adapted from *Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg)

[Leader: You need not do this word-for word. Just get the overall concepts, and draw the diagram as you go, as shown below. This presentation is also in the SOD2 manual. Note: You can refer to a piece of paper for the Scriptures, or you can leave them out.]

We matter to God. He made us, and He wants to have a relationship with us. [Write "Us" and "God" as shown below.]

Us

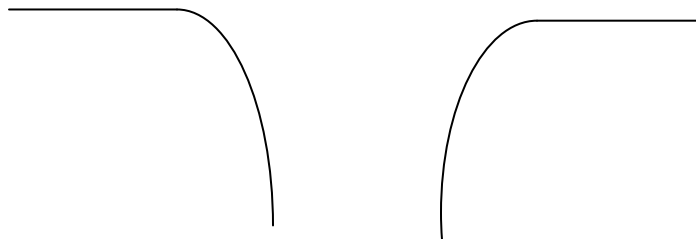
God

We rebelled against God. We've all disobeyed Him. Our sins have separated us from Him, like this canyon. [Draw the two cliffs, with the canyon separating "Us" from "God."] Romans 3:23 says: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." [Write "Romans 3:23" at the left.]

Us

God

Romans 3:23

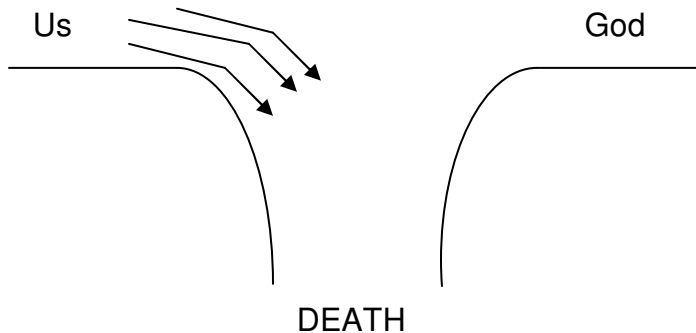


We try doing all sorts of things to try to get to God, like being a good person, being baptized, and going to church. [Draw the arrows going over the cliff.] There's nothing wrong with these, but the Bible makes it clear that none of these things can earn us forgiveness or re-establish our relationship with God. Our sins must be punished, and the penalty we owe is death. [Write "Death" at the bottom of the canyon.] Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." [Write "Romans 6:23" at the left.]

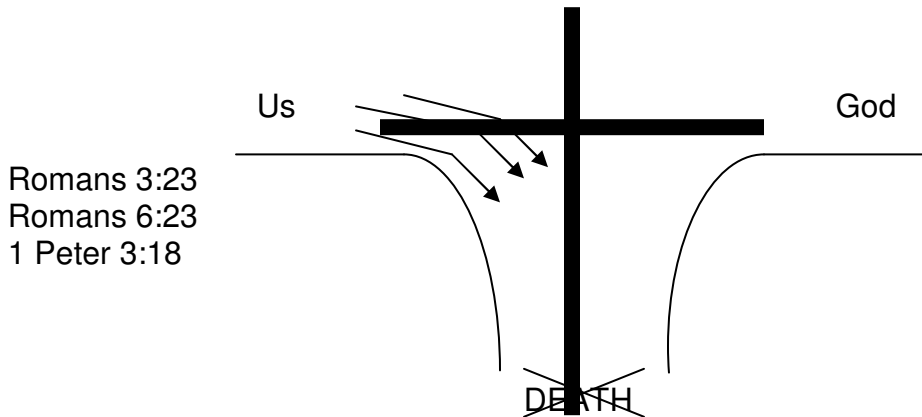
Us

God

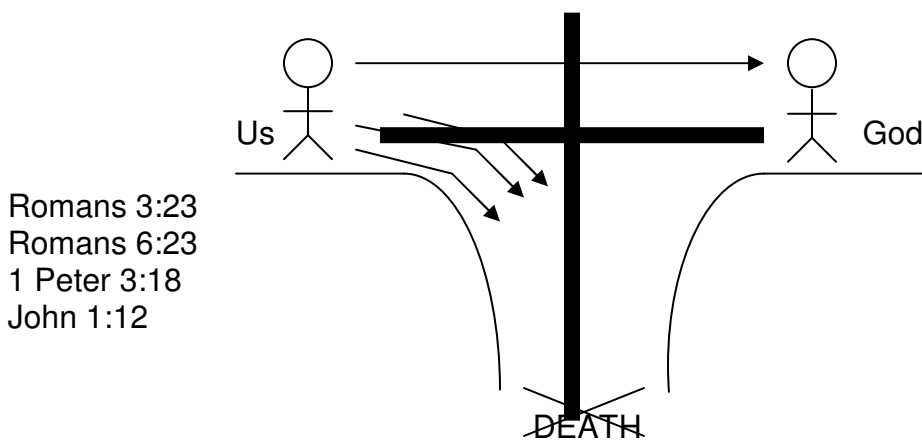
Romans 3:23  
Romans 6:23



This looks bleak. But the good news is that we matter to God. He loves us. He has provided a bridge from us to Him. Jesus is that bridge. *[Draw the cross across the bridge, and X-out "Death."]* 1 Peter 3:18 says, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." *[Write "1 Peter 3:18" at the left.]*



This is the central message of Bible. But it isn't enough to just know about it. We need to act on it. We do this by humbly admitting that we have rebelled against God, and that we need his forgiveness and leadership. That simple act of trust and obedience results in our sins being forgiven and our debt being paid. *[Draw a person moving from the "Us" side of the canyon to the "God" side.]* Our relationship with God is firmly established, and we are immediately adopted into God's family as His son or daughter. John 1:12 says, "to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." *[Write "John 1:12 to the left.]*



Does this make sense to you? Is there any part of it you'd like to discuss further? Would you like to move over the bridge by making Jesus your forgiver, leader, and friend?