

Bridge To Life

A Gospel Presentation



**Navigators
Discipleship
Tool**

Purpose

- Explain the Gospel - it's Good News!
- Encourage believers to share the Gospel by illustration.
- Present adversarial questions - and reasonable answers.
- Invite anyone who hears this message to receive Christ.

Who's Erwin?

- Erwin is my friend, a disappointed Patriot's fan, who's curious about Christianity.
- He knows something about God but does not know God as a person.
- Erwin has some questions - and Edwin is going to do his best to answer them. They're having a chat over lunch.

Erwin: Is God real?

- I'm agnostic. I don't if there's a God. How can you know that God is real?
- Hasn't the "big bang" proven that God isn't necessary?
- There's no scientific proof for God.

Edwin: Yes, we can know God is real.

- I'm glad that you're agnostic, because it means you're uncertain.
- You can't prove history with science.
 - Creation is not the kind of thing we can re-create in a lab.
 - We need historical proof to prove history.
- Regarding the "big bang" theory, believing that there was some massive explosion at the beginning of time still does not explain:
 - Where did the stuff that exploded come from?
 - Who made the laws of physics that brought it about?
- There should be a cause for creation, but what?
 - Without a purposeful consciousness (God) - life is truly meaningless.
 - There's a reason just about every culture and tribe has a spiritual belief system.
 - Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
 - To know the true God - God must be shown to us somehow.

Erwin: Is the Bible Believable?

- Now you're starting to quote the Bible.
- It's a really old book. How do we know it was copied correctly?
- Couldn't it have been corrupted over the years?
- There are some pretty outlandish claims in the Bible about supernatural events. Can you prove any of that is true with "historical evidence"?

Edwin: Yes, the Bible Believable.

- There are over 25,000 manuscripts (including fragments of manuscripts) from the Bible - more than any other ancient literary work. Homer's *Illiad* is the next closest at 1,800.
- The oldest New Testament manuscripts are from within 35 to 65 years of the days Jesus walked the earth.
- The 66 books of the Bible were written over the course of thousands of years on three continents by 40 different authors of varying backgrounds - from King to fishermen and the all tell one clear story.
- Only minor variations between the copies of manuscripts for each book - no "evolution" of manuscripts over time.
- Archaeological evidence has corroborated many details of the historical accounts, including how the walls of Jericho fell, chariots of the bottom of the Red Sea... and far more examples than that!

Erwin: Interesting.

- I've read some of the Bible but I didn't really understand it.
- In a nutshell, what is it about?
- There are so many books and names, I just get lost.

Edwin: The Bible is God's story.

- The Bible is God's story about his relationship with man.
 - God is Love:
 - 1 Jn 4:16 - And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
 - God wants us to live with him forever:
 - John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
 - Life with God (in heaven) is the best!
 - Psalm 16:11 - You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.
 - God wants to relieve our burdens.
 - Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Erwin: Too good to be true?

- That sounds great!
- But there's got to be a catch.
- You're just telling me the good stuff!

Edwin: There's a LOT of good stuff!

- In heaven, all pain and suffering is gone!
 - Revelation 21:3-4 - "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
- Here's the catch. God DOES have commands for us to follow - but they're good too:
 - Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Erwin: Hmm... that seems hard.

- What does it mean to love God with all your heart?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?
- What happens if you get it wrong?

Edwin: That's the hard part.

- Loving God requires obedience.
 - John 14:21 - Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.
- Loving your neighbor as yourself is the "shoe on the other foot" test for human interaction.
 - When I'm interacting with someone, would I like it if someone treated me the same way?
 - It's not just actions like lying, stealing, and hurting, it's what you *think*.
 - Matthew 5:28 - You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Edwin: That's the hard part (2).

- God is perfect. He wants us to be with Him, but not with our sin.
 - Psalm 5:4-6 - You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors.
- Sadly, after just one sin, we are unfit for the kingdom of God.
 - James 2:10 - For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Erwin: Ouch! That's too hard!

- I certainly can't meet that bar.
- Can anyone?
- Can't God just ease up a bit?
- I thought God loved us?

Edwin: God's dilemma - Our Sin

- He could not violate his own character. If he lowered the bar for us, he'd be unrighteous.
 - Numbers 23:19 - God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
- Besides, sin is a disease. It spreads. If you have cancer, it must be removed, or it will grow and eventually infect the whole body. We can't leave room sin.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:6 - Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?
- This was God's problem. He loved us, but our sin separated us from God.
 - Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.
- Without God's help, we're doomed. 🦴

Edwin: Let's Draw!

- Erwin, all that was just to set the stage - to give you some sense of who God is, his relationship with us, and how sin gets in the way of that relationship.
- To explain God's solution for sin let's use an illustration I learned when someone introduced me to God in college. It's called "The Bridge to Life".

1 GOD

John 3:16

- God loves us
- God wants to give us eternal life

John 10:10

- Abundant life
- Purpose, impact, meaning, peace, joy, love & acceptance

2 OUR PROBLEM



Romans 3:23

- All have sinned
- We all fall short

Romans 6:23

- Physical death
- Spiritual death

Hebrews 9:27

- Sin → Death
→ Judgment

Ephesians 2:8-9

- Good works =
not enough

Isaiah 59:2 - Sin separates us from God.

Matthew 13:41-42 - Hell is real.



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Erwin: I've got questions.

- I'm having a hard time accepting that a loving God would send someone to hell forever.
 - Maybe Hitler, or a serial killer - but not me!
 - Isn't it worse in hell for people who do worse?

Edwin: God must punish sin.

- God is just and righteous. He must punish sin.
 - **Proverbs 17:15** - Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent— the Lord detests them both.
- We are upset when we see a guilty person escape judgement, and we're not even perfect like God is.
- On the day of judgement, people are punished according to the measure of their sin - so God is fair.
 - **Revelations 20:12-13** - And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. 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.
- How can we ensure our name is written in the book of life?

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3 GOD'S SOLUTION

Romans 5:8

- Jesus died for us

1 Peter 3:18

- Jesus brings you to God

4

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Erwin: This sounds good, but...

- Isn't that unfair to Jesus - I mean, if he's perfect, why did he have to die?
- What about people who haven't heard the Gospel?
- I know a lot of nice people who aren't Christian.

Edwin: There was no other way.

- The wages of sin is death (Romans 3:23). Someone has to die to pay the price of sin.
- God died in our place because He loved us, and wanted us to be with Him.
 - Hebrews 12:2 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Edwin: We trust God's character.

- God has provided one perfect way for us to be with Him, and that's through Jesus.
 - **John 14:6** - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- God will judge everyone perfectly, and fairly.
 - He's the only one qualified to do it.
 - God is the one who receives us to heaven or banishes to hell, not us.
- The job God gives Christians is help people know and receive the Gospel.
 - **Matthew 28:19-20** - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.
- Back to you - How do you respond to this free gift from God?

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- Jesus longs to have a personal relationship with you

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Erwin: 🤖 Wait... that's it?

- So, if I believe in Jesus, can I just sin and be forgiven?
- Am I still supposed to be perfect? If I still sin, how can I know I'm a Christian?
- I have so many bad habits, I would need a lot of help!

Edwin: It's about new life.

- Forgiveness from God is not a license to sin. Actually, it's a license to know and do what's truly good.
 - **Romans 6:1-2** - What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?
- When we become a Christian, we hand the reigns of our life over to God. We are no longer spiritually dead!
 - **1 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- And God has not left us here to just struggle. He provides spiritual help.
 - **John 14:16-17** - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Edwin: Accepting Jesus

Accept Jesus, Which is as Simple as A-B-C

- **Admit** that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and ask God to forgive you and help you turn from sin.
- **Believe** Jesus died for you and rose again, conquering sin and death.
- **Commit** your life to following Jesus, putting your total trust in Him and giving Him decision-making authority as Lord of your life.

Edwin: Talk to Jesus Right Now

You can talk to Jesus right now to receive him. You can repeat after me or put this in your own words:

"Father God, I know that I am a sinner and that I need you to forgive me. I know that your son Jesus died a painful death and rose again so that my sins could be washed clean. Thank you. I want to make you the Lord of my life, and I will trust and follow You. Everything I have is yours now. In the name of Jesus, amen."

Edwin: The Adventure Ahead

Now that we're restored in our relationship, we get to join him in the restoration of all things on Earth that are broken and damaged by sin! This includes helping your friends have a relationship with Jesus, bringing justice where there is injustice, healing where there is pain, and hope where there is despair.

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