

How Do I Help a Person Find and Follow Jesus?

An important thing to consider as you think about helping another person understand the good news of Jesus is to examine your own heart and posture.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I seeing this person through the eyes of Jesus and with genuine care and love?
- Am I curious to really know them, their heart, and what their story is?
- Am I ready to show them my love through tangible acts of kindness?
- Am I ready to be curious and approach them as an active listener, rather than a person who wants to do all the talking?

As you ask God for his help with this sacred responsibility, keep in mind that he leads this work. We are following and partnering with him. Only he can open the hearts and minds of people, so we lean on him, praying for his direction and then following his lead in the moments when the opportunity to share the hope that is within us presents itself (1 Peter 3:15).

On the Journey

Keep in mind that people may be at different places in their spiritual openness. One person may have a heart that is hardened and not ready for the whole story of Jesus. Another person may have a receptive heart and be ready. Our spiritual discernment will help us see where a person is and what they need to take a step closer to Jesus. Once we determine that a person is ready, a great way to share the good news of Jesus is to use a story-based framework commonly called the four-chapter gospel.

This way of sharing about Jesus is based on the story of God presented in the Bible. You can watch a video or read about the four-chapter gospel here in [The Story Film](#).

We also highly recommend taking New City Academy's Engage course. You can find the info on [the Academy page](#).

Sample Script

Here is a sample script to help you think about what you might say to a friend you are sharing the gospel with:

Has anyone ever shared with you the story of God and what the scripture teaches about God's plan for humanity and how Jesus fits into it? Would you like me to share it with you? I can take you from Genesis to Revelation in about 10 minutes.

There are four movements or chapters that we see in the Bible. The first chapter is **Creation**. We read in Genesis 1-2 that God created the world, and he created it beautiful and perfect. He created humankind in his image to reflect him. He gave humanity qualities that reflect his very own character—kindness, honesty, creativity, love, and wisdom, to name a few. He gave the first humans, Adam and Eve, the job to rule and multiply together, and in the garden, they experienced peace and wholeness. There was a loving and flourishing relationship with them and God, with them and creation, with each other, and even within themselves. Man and woman had a relationship that the scripture describes as being naked and feeling no shame. Can you imagine how that must have felt to be so connected to each other that they felt completely comfortable, seen, and known?

Have you ever wondered why God made us? God created humankind because he is a God of love and desired to create a people to lavish his generous love upon. You know love doesn't exist unless it is expressed, and God's character is love, so it makes sense that he wants to give that love away.

God chose to give humans the freedom to choose to trust him and love him in return. He didn't create robots who had no choice. Adam and Eve had the freedom to choose to trust God or not.

Our next chapter after creation in the Redemptive story is the **Fall**. Adam and Eve were approached by Satan and were made to believe that God couldn't be trusted and that he was holding something back that they were entitled to have—the knowledge of good and evil. Then they did the one thing God forbade them from doing. They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then they knew evil, and sin and death entered the world. You can read about this in Genesis 3.

Once sin entered the world, the four relationships that I mentioned earlier no longer existed in peace. Now, humans experience tension in relationships. We hide from

each other. We don't love unselfishly. We struggle with shame. Our relationship with creation is broken. Disease, natural disasters, drought, floods, and hurricanes bring destruction. The peace we had within ourselves is now beyond our reach. We feel a war within ourselves. And most tragically, humankind's relationship with God is ruptured.

A holy God and a sinful people can't co-exist. But God had a plan to redeem and rescue his beloved humanity. We see a shadow of Jesus in Genesis 3 when God reveals that there will be an offspring of the woman who will one day crush evil.

As we move through the Old Testament, we see numerous examples of a fallen world. We see sin and evil spread, but we also see God's redemptive plan begin to take shape. It starts with one man, Abraham. As we see his descendants expand from one family to a whole nation, the prophecy of a coming King grows.

And when the time was right, God became man in the person of Jesus. He was born of a woman, a virgin. Born of woman, and thus fully human to represent humankind, and born of the Holy Spirit so fully God so that he can save humanity. Jesus was born a descendant of King David, just as the scripture predicted. He lived a life of love. He taught like no one ever had. He loved like no one ever had.

I encourage you to read through the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, to get to know Jesus. He spoke against the religious rulers of the day who were legalistic and cared more about their outward behavior and power than their hearts for people and God. Salvation has always been received by faith, but the religious leaders of that time taught that it was through our ability to follow not only the law given to Moses, which is what you have heard called the Ten Commandments, but also all the man-made traditions that they added. Jesus called out their hypocrisy and promised a kingdom of love. Their jealousy grew, and Jesus was sent to the cross.

An innocent person who lived a perfect life died for the sins of the guilty. Our sin was placed on him. He was punished for our sin and was a sacrifice given freely on our behalf. He died, but he didn't stay dead. He rose and defeated death as our representative; those who place their trust in him are united to his life. Those who trust in him receive the gift of his record. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our sins are no longer counted against us. His perfect record is given to us. This chapter is called **Redemption** because the work of Jesus redeems us from our sin.

Now our relationship with God is restored. In fact, his spirit makes its home in us. His spirit indwells us, and we can experience peace, joy, and purpose that we have never had before. And all that we do to receive the gift of salvation is have faith—we just believe, and then we become a child of God. We are in his family. He never leaves us, and we start a process of growing and becoming more like Jesus, which makes us more and more content and joyful. We now understand our purpose, and life feels meaningful.

The next chapter, yet to come, is **Restoration**. The last book of the Bible is called Revelation, and it reveals to us that Jesus will return. When he does, our whole world will be restored to a new city, where there will be no more sin or suffering, and where God and his children will live forever.

There are many stories that we can live by. We can live believing that humans just happened to evolve from a single cell, or we can live by a story where earning and appeasing a god is the way to salvation. We all live a story. I have been living in God's story, and it has brought me so much joy, comfort, and hope. Jesus is called our living hope, and I have experienced that hope. This is the only story that makes sense of life to me.

Does that make sense to you? If you want to place your faith in the one whom God sent to save us and be our rescuer, all you do is tell him that. You can pray and tell God that you believe in Jesus and that you place your faith in him. And it's as easy as that. If you want to do that, I can lead you in a simple prayer.