

Plan of Salvation: Pointing a Sinner to the Saviour

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Witnessing to the lost is our calling and duty. It is by the means of sharing the gospel that sinners come to a state of repentance and faith in God. It is very important that you take every opportunity to share Christ with as many people as possible. We learn in Romans that the wages of sin is death, both physical and spiritual. This fact alone should urge us to tell people about the finished work of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 10:33, "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

It is an immense privilege to share the Gospel and to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. God blesses those saints who are faithful to His work. God will open doors and present you with opportunities to share the message of salvation to sinners. This lesson will give you some advice and tips to share the Gospel.

Your plan must enable the person to understand they are a sinner and fallen short of God's glory. A person must understand they have sinned against God before salvation, because without a knowledge of sin they do not fully understand salvation and why they need salvation. You can use the example in Luke 5:30-32. Jesus said that He has come to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15 says, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all." Use the law in Exodus 20 to show the person they have sinned and broken God's law. The law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Before a person can become a Christian, they first need to understand that they have broken God's law and thus need a Saviour.

The Pharisees and Scribes were the religious people of Christ's day. They considered themselves to be very good people and spiritual. Jesus said that he has come to call sinners unto repentance. He has come to save those who understand their need for the great physician. Psalm 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all."

Your plan must show the person that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh and salvation comes from Him alone, nothing else can save them. If the person you are talking to does not believe Jesus is God in the flesh or they believe He was just merely a good man that became a god then they do not believe in the Jesus of the Bible. The divine nature of Jesus must be believed, without this fundamental belief salvation cannot be granted to a sinner.

John 1:1-4 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men."

It is important that you do not do the following.

Do not debate doctrine – Doctrine, of course, is very important and must be based on the Bible. However, if you are debating doctrine with a lost person, they cannot understand the

things of God. Therefore, keep to the salvation message. Answer questions they may have about the Bible, but do not let them take over the gospel presentation.

Do not become angry – Some Christians become angry with people who don't listen to the gospel and react badly towards those who mock the message of Christ. It is good to be passionate about the preaching of God's Word, but don't start yelling and shouting at people. This method is not a good witness for Christ. Remember, your conduct ought not to be one of casting down. A soft answer does indeed turn away wrath. We ought to be winsome when sharing the message of salvation to the lost.

Do not rush – Take your time to share the gospel. If so, go over some points again if the person does not understand what you are saying. Be mindful of the best use of time.

Avoid presuming salvation – Pronouncing salvation on the bases of a prayer or merely agreement of biblical principles is dangerous. There are far too many people today who think they are saved and on their way to Heaven because of a prayer they repeated. The person must come under great conviction of sin and believe in Christ for salvation. Some of the false conversions such as 'ask Jesus into your heart' and 'believe in Jesus and you're saved'. Both are not found in Scripture and are not ways to become a Christian. If it appears the person has accepted Christ encourage them to find a good church and to read the Bible.

Romans Road

Use the Scriptures below. This is a popular way used by many Christian evangelists.

- I. You are a sinner – Romans 3:23
- II. Result of sin – Romans 6:23
- III. God's love for sinners – Romans 5:8
- IV. Salvation – Romans 10:13
- V. How to obtain salvation – Romans 10:9
- VI. Why – Romans 14:9

Use other scriptures such as, John 3:16, John 1:12, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8-9 and 1 John 5:13.

How to use your plan

Step 1

When someone is showing an interest in spiritual things and wants to know more about the Bible and becoming a Christian show them from the Bible what the Scriptures say regarding this.

Open your Bible to Romans 3:23 and/or 6:23 read it out to them. Make sure that they understand that everyone has sinned before God.

Explain, there is no such thing as little and big sins. Sin is sin. Point out to them that the wages of sin is death and hell, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. Also, make it clear that we are bound for Hell because of our sinfulness.

Step 2

Read out Romans 5:8

Explain that this verse teaches that Christ died for sinners on the cross. Explain to them the love of God demonstrated here is divine and holy.

Step 3

Open to Romans 10:13 and/or John 1:12.

Read the verses out and make sure they understand. Explain to them that salvation can only be obtained by calling on the name of Christ with a conviction of sin. The law must do its work first. Make sure they understand salvation is a gift and cannot be earned or bought. Make sure you explain that salvation is from God. Explain that salvation was purchased by Christ on the cross.

Step 4

Turn to Romans 10:9

Explain that you need to personally receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour in order to be saved. We are not saved by the family we are born into or any other way. Salvation must be personally received by the person you are talking to.

Step 5

If the person understands the reality of their lost and sinful condition and need for Christ, then you can help them by pointing them to Christ. If they express a desire to follow Jesus, ask them if they would like to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. If they express a desire, then continue. Explain to them that they can sincerely ask God to save them. A deep conviction of sin and a desire to turn to Christ in repentance is essential. Remember to express that it is the belief in the heart and the confession with the mouth that makes a person a Christian.

Remember there is no such thing in Scripture as “magic” prayer. All the saved people in the Bible were saved by calling on the name of God through faith and in repentance. If so, use the example in Psalm 51 and the salvation account of Paul in the Book of Acts.

The prayer or call to God should include all the points below.

- Address to God the Father.
- An acknowledgment of sin.
- An acknowledgment of Jesus dying in their place on the cross.
- Ask God for the forgiveness of sin.
- Call on God for salvation.
- Thank Jesus for saving them.

Step 6

Turn to 1 John 5:13 and read this verse.

Explain, that if they really believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and they prayed in true acknowledgment of sin and seeking salvation, that is what the Bible requires for salvation.

This lesson is just an example to help you point someone to Christ. The sample I have given you here is not the only way to witness but it is the most common way. The key part of witnessing is to show the person their sin, the judgment for that sin and then the remedy. It is very important that we preach sin, righteousness, and judgment.

There must be a true conviction of sin before a lost soul can be saved. It is a good idea to give the new believer a copy of the Holy Bible. It is also a good idea to carry some copies of the New Testament with you when sharing the gospel. This is so you can hand them out to people who are seeking to know the Saviour. Some churches will give a copy of the Bible to new converts. Also, make sure you carry gospel tracts or leaflets. You never know when a gospel opportunity may arise so do not leave home without gospel tracts. I suggest you always carry a few with you in a wallet or a bag.

