

The Bridge

Answering the core questions people have about God and their own existence does not have to be complicated - we just tend to make them that way.

We just need to prepare in advance a simplistic way we can help them understand.

First Remember; God's word is powerful

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

¹² For the word of God is **living** and **powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God's word can pierce through the hardest of hearts.

And visuals are a great tool in aiding us in our explanation of the word.

The Bridge - is one of those tools

Imagine you are trying to help someone with their questions.

Get out a piece of paper, a napkin or flip over your placemat if you are in a restaurant.

Slide 1 – God



Take your pencil or borrow one from the waitress and begin to draw a horizontal line - then attach a vertical line to it

Then write God above the horizontal line.

Next in your own words - state what the bible says **about God and how He feels about us** - and His desire for us.

Maybe you can use a bible verse like [John 3:16](#) to explain just **how much He loves us** - and **His desire to** spend all eternity with us.

John 3:16 NKJV

¹⁶ 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.**

You could also add that [John 10:10](#) says what God wants us **to have and live an abundant life!**

John 10:10 NKJV

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

His desire for us is to live a life full of purpose, impact and meaning.

A life filled with peace and love

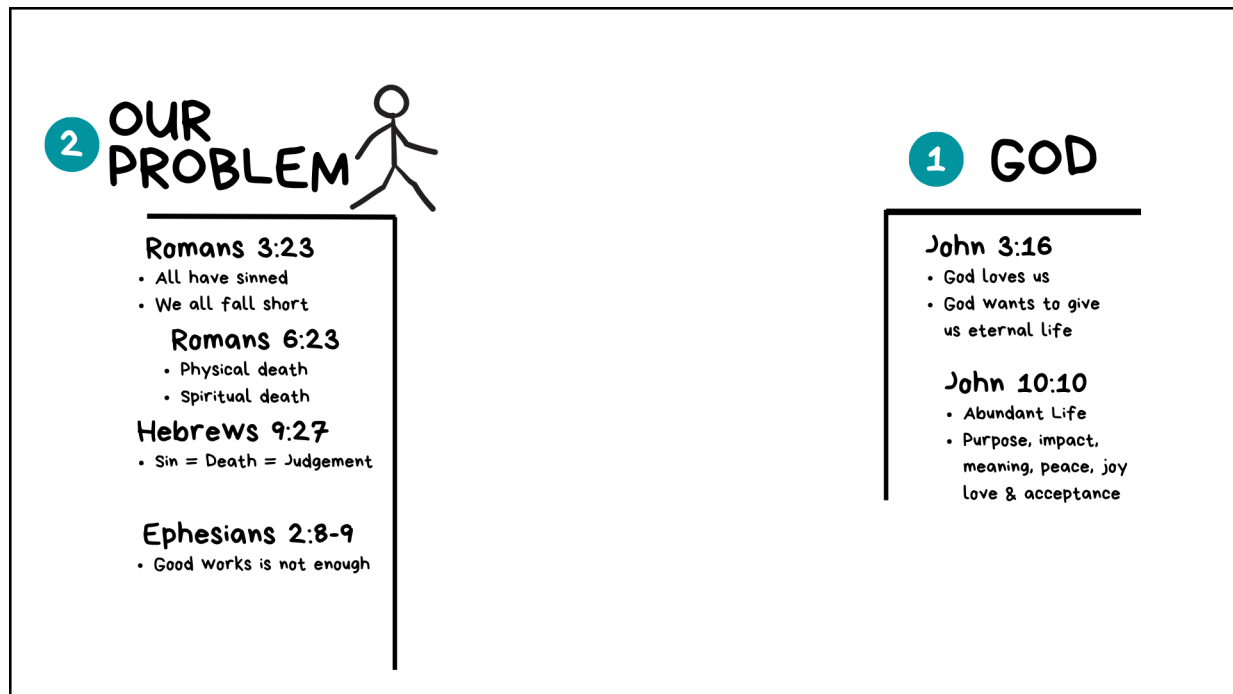
a life that knows true joy and acceptance.

At this point - you are not asking the person if they believe this or not - **you are just stating what the bible says about God.**

It's not necessary that you write down the verse references or recite the verses word for word (although it is great if you do)

The important thing is that you communicate to them **what you yourself have come to realize and believe.**

Slide 2 - Our Problem



Next draw another horizontal and vertical line - a good distance away from your first set of lines.

You can add the words **“Our Problem”** illustrating that although God had His desires for us - we chose to disobey Him

We wanted to be in control of our own lives and decide for ourselves what is good and what is evil

that’s what the bible calls sin.

You might add a little stick man showing the great separation that our sin has created between us and God.

It is a vast distance that cannot be crossed on our own.

This is Our Problem

Bible verses like [Romans 3:23](#) can help you explain that all of us initially have this problem

Romans 3:23 NKJV

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

[Romans 6:23](#) can help describe the **wages** that have been earned because of sin
- **Physical and Spiritual Death.**

Romans 6:23 NKJV

²³ For the wages of sin is death...

Our sin separates us from God for all of Eternity

unless somehow, we are **released** from paying the price for it.

[Hebrews 9:27](#) informs us that judgement awaits us after we physically die.

Hebrews 9:27 NKJV

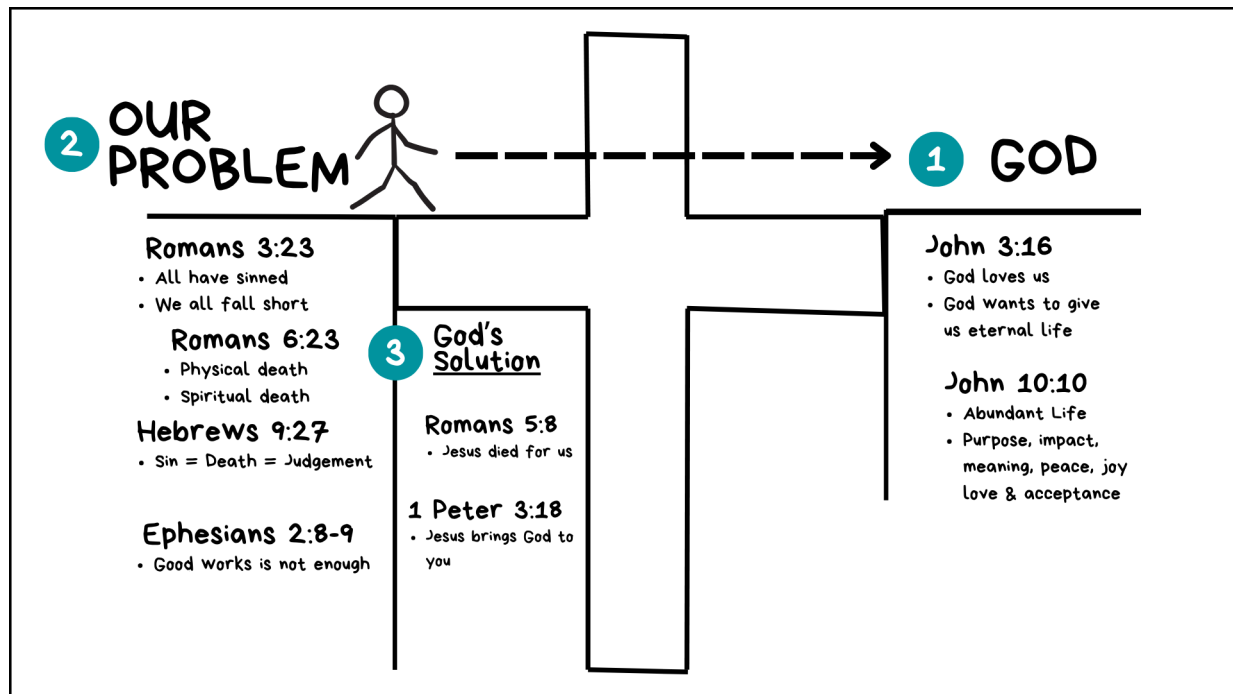
²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Our sketch shows the seemingly hopeless situation that man is in because of his disobedience.

Maybe you would like to add [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) showing that even our best efforts to bridge the gap between us and God are not enough.

We need a way back.

Slide 3 - God's Solution



Next write “God’s Solution” underneath “Our Problem”

Man is unable to build a bridge back to God - **that is bad news!**

But the Good News is that Jesus willingly suffered and died on a cross to pay the penalty for man’s sin.

Now draw in a cross filling the gap that is between man and God - allowing man to cross over the great chasm that once separated him from God.

Maybe you could use [Romans 5:8](#) to support this.

It is a great description of how God’s great love for us drove Him to provide a solution to our problem.

However, we can see that it came at a great price - it cost Him the life of His only Son.

Romans 5:8 NKJV

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[1 Peter 3:18](#) explains how a just God can save ungodly sinners and still be just in doing so.

It is often referred to as “the great exchange!”

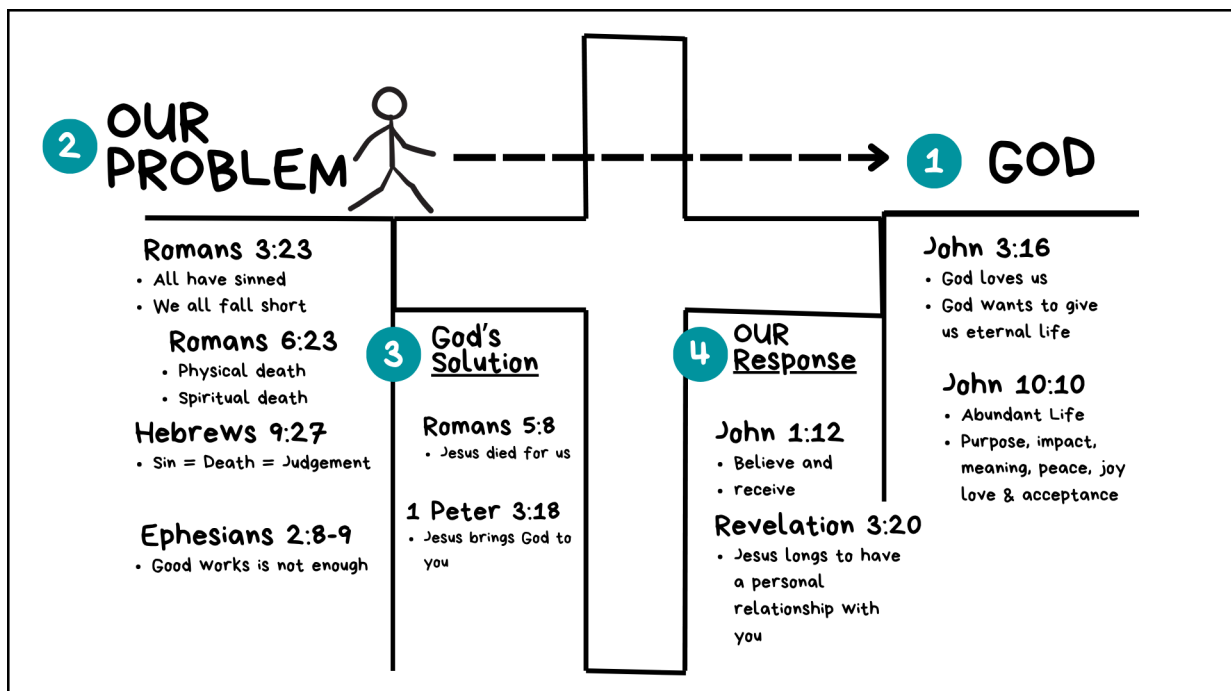
Sin’s penalty was paid for - but not by those who were guilty - but by the innocent One.

1 Peter 3:18 NKJV

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

And the result of Christ’s willingness to die for our sin - is a way back to God - He has provided us with a **Bridge**.

Slide 4 - Our Response



However, before we can freely walk across the Bridge that Jesus has provided

for us - we are required to respond to what He has done.

Now add the words “Our Response” to your drawing under the Cross.

We are not only to “know” what Jesus has done - but also to **believe** and **receive** Him and what He has done on our behalf.

Maybe you could use [John 1:12](#) to support this truth.

It states that Individually we are to trust in His sacrifice as sufficient payment for our own personal sins.

After receiving Him we can be reconciled back to God as His children.

John 1:12 NKJV

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

See...it's as easy as 1,2,3

With a paper and pencil and a few bible verses

we have a simple way to illustrate and answer our friends, relatives and co-worker's questions.

We can easily explain:

1. **God** - and His desires for us
2. **Our Problem** - we have sinned and are unable to return to God on our own.
3. **God's Solution** - Jesus has made a way back to God
4. **Our Response** - Believe that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins - and receive Him as our Savior.

Maybe this is where your conversation ends for now?

The person you just shared with needs a little bit of time to think about what you just presented.

But what if they state that they would like to receive Jesus and become a child of God?

Well, that's as easy as A,B,C too!

You just have to be ready to help them:

Admit

Believe

Commit

Admit - you are a sinner in need of a Savior - asking God to forgive you - and that you are willing to turn from sin and to Him

Believe - Jesus died in your place - rose from the grave - and conquered sin and death - making Eternal Life with Him a reality.

Commit - your life to Him - putting your total trust in Him - giving decision making authority to Him as the Lord of your life.

However, as easy and simple as **The Bridge illustration** may be - if we never prepare in advance to use it when God gives us the opportunity to do so,

We will become anxious and begin to panic

Our thoughts will probably be scattered and our words unclear

Leaving our divine appointment with no answers to their questions - and missing out on our call to be **A Difference Maker** – So **Let's Get Ready**