

ChronoBridge Cards Leaders Guide

God opens doors to share His good news in many ways.... a “get-acquainted” series of questions often provides an opening in a respectful and natural way. Such questions as...

“Tell me your story... where were you born... how’d you get to where you are today?”

“Who have been the most influential people in your life.... and how have they influenced you?”

“What are three or four things that really matter to you... you know... your personal priorities in life?”

“What’s some of the best advice you’ve ever received? Who was it from? Why was it so important?”

“If you could give your children anything... physical, spiritual, material... whatever... what would it be?”

All of these questions naturally lead into a meaningful conversation, much deeper than mere surface issues. The first one is natural opener, and easily leads to the deeper questions that follow. Often the other person will turn it around and ask you the same question. It is most natural to bring in your own faith story as you tell your story. Don’t spend too long on it. This is an intro conversation that will allow you to weigh the spiritual interest level of your new friend. Addressing personal questions or universal problems we all face and showing how you’ve found satisfying and life changing solutions, will often open the door wide if you’re dealing with a seeker. Again, don’t manipulate the conversation, and don’t get dragged down into too many details. You want to get back to your new friend’s stories and find out where he is in his own worldview and level of spiritual understanding.

When the opportunity comes to present the ChronoBridge Story of the Bible, the following are important truths to underscore...

Recurring Themes that emerge from the story

God is good – creates man, provides everything for Him

God created mankind to live in His presence forever

God is holy and will always judge sin with the deserved punishment of death

Man is responsible for all his choices, including his sinful choices

Man is helpless to undo the awful consequences of his sinful choices

God is merciful and provides a way for sin to be punished and man to be restored

God has provided the remedy for sin that satisfies His justice and restores man to life again

Sacrifice in our place takes the **punishment of death** and allows us to live

Faith in the promised provision God has made **is always necessary to escape sin’s consequence**

Refusing to believe in the promise of God’s provision always **results in death**

Faith brings life, unbelief brings death

The only way of escape from sin and death is through **God’s perfect provision, Jesus Christ**

The Eight Truth Categories of the ChronoBridge

God – Man – Sin – Death – Christ – Cross – Faith - Life

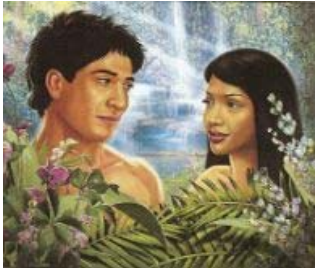
Each card has a picture highlighting the truth category

The back of each card has a key verse to underscore the truth and a faith response that we must face

The ninth card, “Personal Choice,” is designed to allow you a natural way to share your own faith story and describe the content and context of the personal choice you made to place your truth in Jesus Christ, God’s provision for your need of forgiveness and eternal life.



GOD God's story, as it is told in the Bible, begins with these simple but profound words.... In the beginning GOD. The Bible begins by telling us that God has always been. That He is uncreated, eternal and good. This is an ancient symbol of the Trinity, that is, that God has eternally existed in three persons that are mysteriously one in nature and being and yet three in personality. This wonderful, eternal, spirit Being is the source of all life and goodness in the universe.



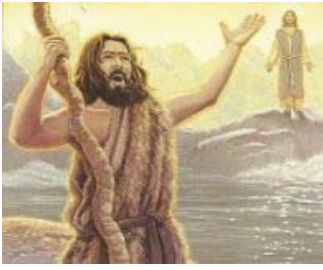
MAN The one, eternal, all powerful God created, in the beginning, a perfect universe. He made a world of beauty and life and peace. In the beginning there was no evil, no sorrow, no death and no disaster. God made man, (Adam and Eve), the Bible says, "in His own image." That is, man is unique among all created beings. He possesses both a body and a spirit. Man is both physical and spiritual. Being created in God's image, we possess conscience, the power of personal moral choice, and a level of understanding and accountability unique to mankind. God also provided everything mankind needed in this original, perfect world. God blessed man and gave to man all that was necessary for life and happiness. And above and beyond all this, God desired man to live in His perfect presence and daily "showed up" to interact with man face to face. As God, in His story says... "It was very good!"



SIN God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful paradise garden where all their needs were met and life was beautiful and good. They could eat the fruit from every tree in the garden with only one exception. They were commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or they would die. They faced a personal choice: to love and obey God and live in His presence forever in paradise, or to rebel and refuse to obey God, and face death. They chose to disobey God. Disobedience to God is called "sin."



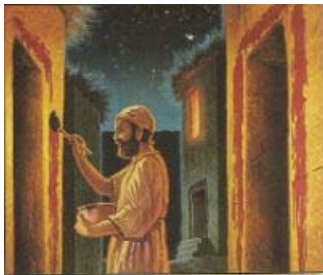
DEATH God always does what He says. And just as He said, when Adam and Eve sinned, they died. The essence of death is separation. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is the separation of man's spirit from the presence of God. Spiritual death included such things as fear, guilt, shame, hiding, and blame shifting. Their sin resulted in the punishment of the death they deserved and were helpless to escape from. But God still loved mankind and provided a promise of a coming Savior. In the meantime, God instituted a system of sacrifice. He provided for mankind an innocent substitute that would die in man's place, taking the punishment of his sin (death), and allowing man to go on living. Although this postponed the punishment of sin, it did not eliminate it. Sin would only be eliminated when the perfect, promised Son of God would come. Adam and Eve were clothed in the skins of the sacrifices God provided, and then sent from the paradise garden. No longer would life be peace and joy in God's presence in paradise. Life would now be hard, filled with struggle and sorrow and death.



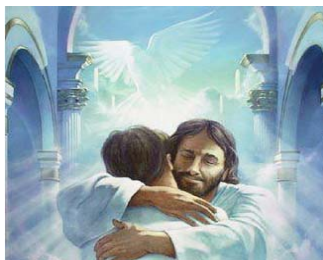
CHRIST God always keeps His promises. Over the centuries since the beginning of time, God gave more and more reminders of His coming judgment of mankind and also the promise of the coming Savior who would take sin away. The day finally came when Jesus, the perfect Son of God was born. As He grew in obscurity and lived a perfectly sinless life of goodness and love, the time came for everyone to know God's promise was here. John, a prophet of God, announced to Israel that God's promise had come true saying: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Just as lambs had been sacrificed for sins since the beginning, so God's promise of the perfect Savior, the final, full sacrifice for sin, had come in Jesus Christ.



CROSS Jesus lived a perfect life of love, goodness and kindness. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the mute, and even raised the dead. He showed He was both God and man by His miracles, His teaching and His absolutely sinless life of love. The time came when He laid His life down for you and me as the sacrifice for our sins. God took all our sins and laid them on His perfect, sinless Son. Because Jesus is sinless, and eternal, He could take the punishment for all our sins and fully satisfy God's righteous judgment as the sacrifice in our place. God raised Him from the dead three days later to prove His promise is true and that forgiveness is available for all mankind. Through Jesus anyone can be forgiven of all their sins and be restored to God to live forever in paradise with Him.



FAITH In the beginning, mankind refused to believe God's warning. Refusing to believe God's warnings and promises (sin) always results in death. And although we are helpless to escape sin and death, God has done for us what we could never do. God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus did it! Jesus is God's promised provision for our sin debt. Now God commands us to recognize our sin, admit our helplessness and believe His promise. God promises that if we place our trust in Jesus alone, Jesus will restore us to God forever.



LIFE When we make the personal choice to believe in Jesus as our Savior, we are restored to God and begin to experience life as God meant it to be. But the world we live in is not yet changed, and we are not yet fully changed. But that final and glorious change is coming. One day, at the end of time, Jesus will judge all men, and create a new universe. This new, eternal paradise will be filled with all those who have believed God's promise and made the choice to place their trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.

PERSONAL CHOICE At this point, laying down card #9... you can read the words on the card out loud. Then you can tell a brief account of your faith story. Share how you came to understand God's story, your need of a Savior, and God's perfect provision. Explain what that personal choice entailed to you. Then read the statement again and ask your friend, "Is this a true statement for you?" Seek to carry the conversation on to get a greater understanding of what objections or confusion may exist. Be patient, and allow God to do His work in His time.