

# The Chronological Bridge to Life:

## A Chronological-Propositional Presentation of God's Good News of Hope

Pages 52–59 in *The Story of Hope*

**Note:** If you lack confidence in teaching and discussing the basic doctrines of the Bible, we encourage you to get a good book on basic theology or basic Bible doctrines and study the sections in that book related to theology proper (the doctrine of God), anthropology (the doctrine of man), hamartiology (the doctrine of sin), Christology (the doctrine of Jesus Christ), and soteriology (the doctrine of salvation).

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## Eight Essential Truths Emerge out of the Bible's Story of Hope

### Chronological Bridge to Life



God

What we have learned about our Creator:

*The way you approach this discussion about God depends on the student's current view of God. In order to dialogue appropriately and intelligently with him/her about God, you need to understand his/her view of God (or god or gods or spirits or whatever) and be knowledgeable about how that view differs from and/or agrees with the Bible's LORD God, the Creator of heaven and earth.*

*Your "bottom of the double page spread" discussions on pages 12-31 ("What we have learned about God.") should have brought his/her views about God into open dialogue. Thus, at this point, all you will probably need to do is to summarize what the Bible says about God.*

*There are at least two options for leading students through a study of the top half of this page (the seven summary statements):*

- 1. Ask the student to read the following summary statements prior the class and to indicate from his/her reading, which of these he/she would like to understand better. Spend the time in class helping him/her to clarify those specific concepts.*
- 2. You read each of the statements slowly and clearly and ask the student to think (as you read) which statement(s) he/she would like for you to clarify. Then focus on those specific statements in your teaching/discussion.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of who the true LORD God is and what He is like and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. The God of the Bible has always existed and will continue to exist forever. Because He is eternal, God referred to Himself as the "I AM" (Yahweh or Jehovah). This word is translated in most Bibles as LORD (with all capital letters).**
- 2. By simply giving a command, God created the world and everything in it. In its original condition, God's creation was perfect.**
- 3. Throughout the Bible, this Creator-God continually demonstrated that He is all-powerful.**

4. In contrast to false gods, the true God is perfectly holy (totally without sin).
5. As the Creator of mankind, God gave men and women clear commands to obey.
6. God is a righteous and fair Judge who must punish disobedience, and will punish it.
7. God loves us even when we disobey Him.

**Which of these truths about God would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about God, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about God. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that one, and only one, true eternal and holy God exists. We also learn that He is our all-powerful Creator and Just Judge, and that we will have to answer to Him. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—“From the Bible we learn...”*

*Explain that these are not just your ideas, but this is a very brief summary of what the Bible teaches about God.*

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study. Or, you might want to ask the student what he/she learned about God through this study that was new to him/her.*

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then it would be appropriate to ask him/her to share his thoughts—such as, “Roger, I’m interested in knowing what you are thinking.” Or, “What about this statement do you agree with and what about this statement do you disagree with.”*

*Encourage him/her to feel free to speak openly about his/her doubts. In a culture where students do not want to disappoint their instructors, there will be a strong tendency for the student to give you the answer that he/she knows you want to hear. Be alert to this tendency and lovingly probe to be sure that the response is an honest one. An insincere but instructor-pleasing response is the worst possible thing that could happen here. Underneath a “I’ll tell you what you want to hear” kind of response may be (1) a need for a clearer explanation or (2) an unspoken disagreement with what the Bible says. This is a good time to get clarity on his/her present beliefs.*

*So what do you do if the student is not convinced of the Biblical view of God?*

*Explain that you understand his/her concerns and that it’s OK—that you will be praying for him/her as he/she continues to think about this and that you will pray specifically that God will give him/her the faith to believe what the Bible says. Explain that his doubts do not and will not affect your relationship with him/her.*

*But then, move on to page 53 and continue with the study. There’s only one thing that you would do differently from this point on—don’t ask the “Do you believe this” questions at the bottom of pages 53-59.*

*If the student doesn’t believe in the Bible’s view of God, then his/her beliefs regarding man, sin, death (God’s judgment for sin), Christ, the cross, faith, and life, are irrelevant. But, it is still a good idea to summarize them for and with him using the activities on pages 53-59.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Man

What we have learned about mankind:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "mankind" (human beings).*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of mankind (human beings) and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. Human beings (people) are uniquely created by God, in His image. Because of this, God gave us some qualities and abilities that He did not give to His other creatures.**
- 2. These special qualities and abilities prepare us to be caretakers of God's creation. This is a role that God has assigned to us.**
- 3. God loves all human beings. He wants us to be in perfect fellowship with Him, and He wants us to enjoy His presence.**
- 4. God gave us the responsibility and the ability to obey Him, but He also gave us the ability to disobey.**
- 5. Because God made us and owns us, every human being is accountable to Him.**
- 6. God created human beings with a material body and an immaterial spirit.**
- 7. The spirit of man will always exist. This spirit will live forever in a resurrected body.**

**Which of these truths about mankind would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about mankind, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about mankind (human beings). Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that we are made by God and loved by God, and we learn that God deserves our full obedience. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

*Explain that these are not just your ideas, but this is a very brief summary of what the Bible teaches about mankind (human beings).*

**Note:** If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study. Or, you might want to review, at this point, by putting the first two faith statements together before moving on.*

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

## Chronological Bridge to Life

### Sin

What we have learned about disobedience to God:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "sin."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of sin and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. God created Adam and Eve, and He loved them and provided for them. But they rebelled against Him.**
- 2. They disobeyed God by eating fruit from the one tree from which He told them not to eat.**
- 3. Disobeying God is called "sin," and sin is a great offense to God, who is perfect and holy.**
- 4. Adam and Eve's sin ruined the perfect relationship they had with God and with each other. Their sin caused a terrible physical and spiritual change for all mankind.**
- 5. All mankind inherited Adam and Eve's sinful, rebellious nature. The rebellion against God in our hearts is the cause of fighting, of war, of selfishness, and of arrogance.**
- 6. The Bible says that we have all sinned. We all do things that we know in our hearts are wrong.**
- 7. Because God is a holy and just judge, our sin must be punished.**

**Which of these truths about sin would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about sin, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about sin. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that we have sinned against God and that we deserve His righteous punishment. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

Note: If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.

## Sin

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study. Or, you might want to quickly review the first three faith responses in a way similar to this:*

**“So, thus far we’ve seen that the one true God is our Creator and we are accountable to Him. We have learned that He made us in His image and that we are spiritual, enduring beings who have rebelled against Him and brought on ourselves His righteous judgment.”**

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Death

What we have learned about the penalty for sin:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "death."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of death and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. The essence of death is separation from God.**
- 2. Adam and Eve died spiritually (became separated from God) the moment they sinned.**
- 3. All human beings are descendants of Adam and Eve. Therefore, we are all born spiritually dead.**
- 4. Physical death occurs when the human spirit separates from the body. Adam and Eve also experienced physical death, and so do all of their descendants.**
- 5. Physical death is not the end of our human existence. After death, a person will appear before God, who is the holy and just Judge of all mankind.**
- 6. People will experience eternal death if they do not trust God's remedy for sin and death. This death means being separated from God in everlasting conscious punishment.**
- 7. Death, in all of its forms, is God's righteous judgment for sin.**

**Which of these truths about death would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about death, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about death. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that we are facing God's judgment and that we cannot escape it by ourselves. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

Note: If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart*

## Death

*kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study. Or, you may want to review using a summary statement such as this:*

**“Tying it all together, we’ve seen God as Creator, man as accountable, man as a sinner and facing death as a result of his sin. That’s the bad news, but now we come to the good news.”**

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life



## Christ

What we have learned about Jesus Christ:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "Jesus Christ."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of Jesus Christ and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. Soon after Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send someone who would defeat Satan.**
- 2. Throughout the Old Testament, God slowly revealed who this person will be. God also revealed that through this person's death, everyone who trusted God will receive forgiveness of sins.**
- 3. To fulfill His promise, God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from judgment.**
- 4. God's Son was born of a virgin named Mary, and He was called Jesus of Nazareth.**
- 5. Jesus lived a completely perfect life of love and obedience to God.**
- 6. During His earthly ministry, Jesus clearly and repeatedly demonstrated that He is God. He demonstrated this through His claims and miracles.**
- 7. Jesus is truly unique because He is both God and man in one perfect person. He is the only way to eternal life.**

**Which of these truths about Jesus Christ would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about Jesus Christ, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about Jesus Christ. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that Jesus Christ is the perfect Son of God and the perfect Son of Man, and that He is the only way to eternal life. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

Note: If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you might want to review like this:*



"OK, let's review: God as Creator, man as accountable, man as a sinner, man as guilty and condemned to death, and the promise of a Savior and His name is Jesus, the promised rescuer. Now let's see what we learned about how He has provided for our forgiveness and restoration back to God."

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Cross

**What we have learned about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "the death of Jesus Christ."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of the death of Jesus Christ and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. Because God is perfectly holy, He must punish those people who disobey His commandments.**
- 2. God loves us even though we sin. Therefore, He offers His mercy and grace to us when He provides a just way to forgive our sins.**
- 3. In the Old Testament, God established a system of sacrifices that gave sinners a way to have their sins forgiven.**
- 4. Then God sent His Son Jesus to be the perfect and final sacrifice for all sin.**
- 5. Because religious and political leaders hated Jesus, they influenced people and they misrepresented the law to condemn Him to die.**
- 6. Like the sacrificial lambs in the Old Testament, Jesus willingly took the punishment for our sins on a cross. His death was the complete and permanent sacrifice for sin.**
- 7. Three days later, Jesus rose to life again. This event showed that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice as a just payment for our sins.**

**Which of these truths about the death of Jesus Christ would you like to understand better? Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about the death of Jesus Christ, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about the death of Jesus Christ. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died for our sins. We also learn that Jesus rose from the dead to rescue us from death and to give us eternal life. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

*Note: If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.*



*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study. Or, you may want to review like this:*

**“Let’s review: God is our Creator, we are accountable to Him and guilty of sin and death is the result of our sins. But God loves us and provided a Savior who died in our place to fulfill God’s righteous demands against us so that we can come to Him.”**

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Faith

What we have learned about trusting Jesus Christ:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "faith in Jesus Christ."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of faith in Jesus Christ and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. The gospel of Jesus Christ offers eternal salvation, and we do not have to work for it or earn it. In this way, the gospel is different from other religions of the world.**
- 2. As sinful beings, humans can not earn salvation even if they want to and if they diligently try to earn it.**
- 3. Through the death of His Son Jesus, our loving and righteous God provided the way to pay our sin debt.**
- 4. Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, God offers salvation freely to us as a gift.**
- 5. God promises to forgive us if we repent and believe (trust) in His Son, Jesus Christ.**
- 6. Repentance occurs when our former false views of God, of ourselves, and of our sins are deeply changed to agree with God's view.**
- 7. To believe is to trust Jesus (place our faith in Jesus), and only Jesus, to save us.**

**Which of these truths about trusting Jesus Christ would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about faith in Jesus Christ, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)**

*Explain that these Bible verses summarize much of what we have learned about faith in Jesus Christ. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that we must trust in Jesus' death on the cross as the only satisfactory payment for our sins. We must abandon our trust in other things that we formerly relied upon to save us. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

Note: If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you may want to review like this:*

"Roger, this time please review this story for me. Starting with God, tell me the story as though you are the teacher and I am your student who needs to understand the story of God. Roger, put it in your own words and walk me through the bridge." (Listen carefully to him to see if he really understands the gospel. Share with Roger when you came to put your trust in Christ and then ask him when he came to really understand the story and put his trust in Jesus alone to forgive his sins.)

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Life

What we have learned about eternal life:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel concepts in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "eternal life."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this part of the page is to summarize the Bible's view of eternal life and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

- 1. When we repent and trust in Jesus, we pass from spiritual death to spiritual life.**
- 2. The eternal spiritual life that God promised becomes our present and everlasting possession that we will never lose.**
- 3. Our spiritual life results in new desires and motivations, such as loving, obeying, worshipping, and serving God from our hearts.**
- 4. Our new relationship with God frees us from the fear of death. We are free from fear because we know that our names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, and we know that death leads us into God's presence.**
- 5. Now we can experience the love, joy, and fulfillment that God desires for us.**
- 6. We will enjoy life eternally with God in a paradise that is beautiful, sinless, and without pain. This paradise will be on a perfectly restored, new Earth.**
- 7. Then and only then, will we understand the full significance of the Bible's story of hope.**

**Which of these truths about eternal life would you like to understand better?**

**Circle one or more numbers.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about eternal life, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on with the study.*

**The Bible says: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)**

*Explain that these Bible verses summarize much of what we have learned about eternal life. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain or elaborate, do so and move on with the study.*

**Our Faith Response: From the Bible we learn that only Jesus has power over death and that He gives eternal life to those who trust solely in Him for the forgiveness of sins. Do you believe this?**

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn..."*

Note: If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in *The Story of Hope*, do not ask the question at the end of this "Our Faith Response" section. But do continue to the next section of the study.



*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study.*

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

## Overview of a Typical Way to Use This Page

Before you use page 60 in *The Story of Hope*, you might want to download and read the free article “What Must I [Really] Do to Be Saved?” from this page of our website:

<http://www.goodsoil.com/resources/free-ed-resources/>

This final page in *The Story of Hope* was designed so that it could be used in a variety of ways, depending upon what is most appropriate for a specific Bible study, student and/or culture. Here is an example of one way it could be used:

If the student answers “Yes” to the “Do you believe this?” questions on pages 52-59 and those individual faith responses seemed to be sincere, then this page would just serve as a capstone for all of those positive responses.

**But, you may ask, “What final faith-response step should the student take at this point, if any?”**

**First:** If he/she does truly believe (trust) what the Bible teaches about God, mankind, sin, death, Christ, the cross & resurrection, faith in Jesus Christ, and eternal life, then he/she is a “believer”—and a recipient of God’s gift of eternal life.

*The Bible clearly teaches that it is by believing (trusting) in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ that we are saved from our sins. The tricky (and crucial) matter here is to distinguish between “head belief” which does not save and “heart belief” which does.*

**Second:** It is probably helpful to lead the student to do something here to mark (in his/her own memory) his/her overall faith response to God’s free offer of salvation. But if you do this, be sure to clarify that signing a form or praying a prayer is not what saves; it’s his/her faith in Jesus Christ that saves.

**Here’s one suggestion:**

- Ask him/her to read aloud the statements in the middle section of page 60.
- Focus on the last statement (“I am trusting Jesus Christ alone...”). Ask if he/she can sincerely make that statement. If so...
- Then, ask if he/she would like to talk to God now and thank Him for what He has done for him. If so, (1) you lead in prayer first and (2) then invite him to talk to God to thank Him for what God has done for him.

**What do you do if the student is not willing or ready to embrace God’s gift of eternal life?**

By all means, don’t coerce or pressure him/her. You may want to pray with him, at this time, for God to give him/her faith to believe. Explain that he/she can contact you at any time to discuss the matter further. Perhaps, you might want to set up another appointment for the near future in order to discuss the matter again.

**Personalize the following words of Jesus. In place of the word “whoever,” insert your name as the object of Jesus’ promises.**

*Explain to the student how to personalize the following Bible verses and illustrate it by doing it for him/her. The highlighted words should help you to think through how this would be done.*

## John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that *whoever [person's name]* believes in Him *[person's name]* shall not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> *Whoever [person's name]* believes in Him *[he/she]* is not condemned; but *whoever [person's name]* does not believe *[he/she]* stands condemned already, because *[person's name]* has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

**Example:** <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that *if John Doe* believes in Him *John Doe* shall not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>*If John Doe* believes in Him *he* is not condemned; but *if John Doe* does not believe *he* is condemned already, because *John Doe* has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

*Be sure that the student understands that he/she is forgiven of his/her sins (and receives God's free gift of eternal life & becomes a member of God's family) when he/she believes (from the heart) and that no external deed or act on his/her part is necessary for salvation.*

## A Personal Faith Response Commitment:

I now understand that the God of the Bible is the one True God. He is perfect and holy.

Through the teaching of the Bible I now see myself in a different way than I did before. I now realize that I was born with a sinful nature, and that I have disobeyed God continually. I realize that my sin deeply grieves God, who made me and who loves me. I know that my sin separated me from God, and that the just punishment for my sin is eternal separation from Him. The punishment is in a place of torment that the Bible calls "Hell."

I understand that the death of God's Son Jesus Christ is the only hope for me to be forgiven, and to escape the eternal punishment for my sins. Jesus' death is the only hope for me to receive God's gift of eternal life.

I am trusting Jesus Christ and His death on the cross as the only sufficient remedy for my sin problem and its dreadful consequences sufficient remedy for my sin problem and its dreadful consequences.

### Basic Steps In Following Jesus

If the student becomes a believer during this Bible study process, or was a believer prior to the study, show him/her a copy of *The Way to Joy*. Encourage him/her to continue your Bible study series using *The Way to Joy*.

### Begin Your Basic Steps as a Follower of Jesus Christ

Lesson 1: *The Joy of Hope: God's Eternal Plan*

Lesson 2: *The Joy of Eternal Life: Salvation*

Lesson 3: *The Joy of Confidence: Assurance and Security*

Lesson 4: *The Joy of Guidance: God's Word*

Lesson 5: *The Joy of Prayer: Communion with God*

Lesson 6: *The Joy of God's Power: The Spirit-Controlled Life*

Lesson 7: *The Joy of Purity: Personal Holiness*

Lesson 8: *The Joy of Sharing: Offering Unbelievers Hope*

Lesson 9: *The Joy of Fellowship: The Local Church*

Lesson 10: *The Joy of Service: God's Plan for You*