



Gospel Presentation of "The Good News"

There is no checklist or magic rules to remember when presenting The Gospel to others. But we can look to scripture to provide us with the basic elements of The Gospel but let us first look at the responsibility Jesus gave all believers.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8, NIV

He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.
Mark 16:15, NIV

And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **Matthew 24:14, NIV**

We are called to be a "Witness" which comes from the Greek word (Matureo) meaning "I testify or bear witness". By how the word was used it could have two meanings:

- Legally to give evidence as a witness
- Bear witness to the facts about which a person is firmly convinced by Faith and for which the person is willing to die.

Therefore, the scripture suggests that "Be My Witness" has two responsibilities for believers:

- To share their own personal testimony or salvation story
- To share the facts / truths of the gospel

1 Corinthians 15 provides us with Paul's presentations of The Good News of The Gospel.

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. ⁶After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15: 1-6, NIV

What is it that Paul refers to Receiving, Believing, and Standing on?

- Sin and the depravity of man
- Need for Salvation
- Jesus died as a perfect sacrifice
- By Faith, you are saved through God's grace
- Acceptance of Jesus' forgiveness and salvation
- Lordship of our lives to Jesus
- Acceptance of inheritance of the Holy Spirit and eternal rewards
- Proof claims

These are the elements Paul includes in His Gospel presentation and you can use in formulating how The Holy Spirit is directing you to uniquely present it.

Before we provide a process to assist you in designing your Gospel presentation let's make sure to look at the good intentions of some Christians that present a watered-down Gospel.

- "God loves you and if you give your life to Jesus, you will go to Heaven"
- "If you ask Jesus into your heart, you will become a Christian. Just ask Him to be your savior"

While neither of these are incorrect, they are incomplete and provide a strong risk of not receiving Christ properly.

- You don't receive Christ to make your life better
- Sometimes your life gets worse
- We try living for Jesus and it fails so we give up on Christianity

So that we don't cause anyone to stumble, a more complete Gospel presentation would include: God, The Law, The Gospel



Here are two examples by Matt Shick who is the President and Founder of the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry.

#1

God is holy and perfect and He requires holiness and perfection from us. Holiness is the inability to sin. It means moral perfection and it is something that God alone possesses. Holiness is an attribute of God's perfect nature, therefore, since there is no one greater than God, and God is the greatest good, God is necessarily the standard of what is good.

The Law is a reflection of the character of God. The reason it is wrong to lie, cheat, and steal, etc., is because God cannot do these things. Because He is holy, He is incapable of lying, cheating, etc. Therefore, the Law becomes the standard of righteousness. But we are incapable of keeping the Law because we are not holy. We are sinners. Once this is said, you must ask the person if he has ever sinned. You might want to explain that sin is breaking the Law of God. You ask the person if he has ever lied, cheated, stolen, or been angry unrighteously, etc. He will answer "yes" to one or all of these, and that is when you tell him that he has broken God's Law and is a sinner. Furthermore, there is no law that has no punishment. A law without punishment is a slogan. The punishment for breaking God's Law is eternal damnation.

The Gospel is the good news that the judgment of God upon the person who has broken God's Law can be removed in the person of Jesus. This is done because Jesus, who is God the Son in flesh, was able to perfectly, live the Law and offer a sacrifice to God the Father. His sacrifice is the death on the cross, which was the payment for the penalty of breaking the Law of God. He died there and three days later physically rose from the dead as proof that His words, deeds, and sacrifice were true. Therefore, if anyone wants to escape the righteous judgment of God, he must receive the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross. This is done by faith, by asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins.

#2

God is perfect and holy and He requires nothing less than His own perfection. But, we are not able to attain His holiness. He doesn't lie, cheat, or steal, but we do these things. Therefore, there's a judgment upon us because we have broken the Law of God, we have sinned by lying and cheating and stealing. This judgment is eternal damnation. However, God the Father loves us so much that He sent God the Son, Jesus, who died on the cross as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins, He died on the cross and physically rose from the dead three days later. This proves that His sacrifice was acceptable to the Father. Therefore, if you want to receive what Jesus has done to remove the wrath of God the Father; then you must receive Him and His sacrifice by faith. Would you like to pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sins against God?

Example by Bill Hull of the Bonhoeffer Project

God sent Jesus – His only Son and our Messiah – into the world. He came to rescue us from the tragic consequences of our sin and show us how to live with God. He died and rose again as a sacrifice of our sins. He then ascended into heaven, where He rules and reigns until His return, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit. God offers us forgiveness and a new life in His kingdom, but only if we will place our faith in Jesus. Those with active faith in Jesus are the true disciples of Jesus. Disciples follow Jesus, are changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus. He is coming back and will judge the living and the dead, bringing His true disciples into paradise for a life of joy that will never end.

Example by Bill Lohnes of Narrow Gate EFL.

The Gospel story, known as the Good News, can be reduced to one word – “But.” God created man in His Image and with that in our DNA we were given Free Will. With this ability to make decisions we decided to sin and then live with its tragic consequences. BUT while we were still sinners, God sent His Son, Jesus, as the Messiah, to die on the Cross for all our sins. Not only that BUT He rose from the dead to conquer death. This means that if I genuinely repent of my sins and acknowledge Jesus as my Savior I am saved and adopted into God’s Kingdom, both here on earth and in heaven for eternity. Now, by making Jesus Lord of my life, I have His Word revealed in scripture to make my life more manageable until He returns again.

Now let’s explore a five stage process to assist in developing your own presentation.

1. Identify as the Messiah and Son of God
2. Jesus’ Work of His death for our sins and resurrection from the dead
3. Jesus’ Invitation to us and how we are to respond in Faith
4. Jesus’ Leadership in how we are to follow Jesus in all of our life
5. Jesus’ Future Promises for your life on earth and eternally when we die

Another framework to formulate your Gospel presentation by Jeremy Myers:

- There is a God
- The Bible is God’s word
- God made us
- God requires Holiness
- All have sinned
- The penalty for sin is death
- Christ died for our sin

Let us reiterate that there is no perfect formula or sequence to sharing the Gospel and as a Disciple of Jesus we all have the responsibility to intentionally seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to prepare how we are uniquely designed to share this eternal message.

Lastly, there is one question that typically comes up during a Gospel Presentation and that is "How do you know the Bible is true?" Listed below prove the inerrancy of the Bible:

Free from Error and Infallible
The Inspired Word of God

- ❖ Written over 1,500 years
 - 40 authors
 - 3 languages
 - With amazing unity, without errors or contradiction

 - ❖ 5,600 Greek manuscripts have all or part of New Testament
 - 10,000 Latin manuscripts
 - 500 other languages

 - ❖ Historical Accuracy
 - Old Testament "Walls of Jericho"
 - When the walls fell outward
 - 1930 archeological finding

 - ❖ Prophecies
 - Over 300 in the Old Testament
 - All 300 fulfilled in the New Testament
 - Statistically impossible!

 - ❖ Preservation
 - 1947 finding of "The Dead Sea Scrolls"
 - Old Testament (less Esther)
 - Text of Isaiah – Chapter 53, 166 words and only one in question

 - ❖ Justifications
 - Historical Accuracy
 - Bible's Claims
 - Church History and Tradition
 - One's Individual Experience with God
- * Doctrine of the Inerrancy of Scripture: 2nd Vatican Council of the Catholic Church

Works Cited

Narrow Gate