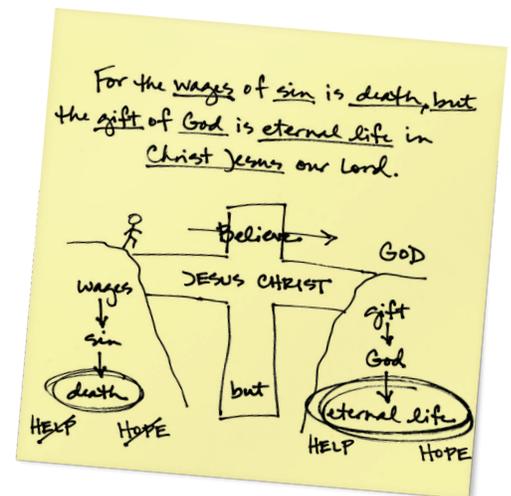


# One-Verse Evangelism: Keeping Things Simple

**W**hen God presents an opportunity to share the Good News with a friend or neighbor, here's a great way to give someone a concise visual overview of the Gospel that communicates clearly.

Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Ask your friend if he or she would like to see a simple diagram based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with mankind (us).



**wages** Underline the word "wages" and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Deep down, we all know that it's only right to get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn "wages" from God for how we have lived our lives.

**sin** Underline "sin," asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. Explain that sin can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. Ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," explain that one of the things sin does is make God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

**death** Underline this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. A spiritual death simply means separation from God.

**but** While underlining this word, mention that it's important because it signals a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. We've just looked at the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

**gift** Underline gift. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what's a gift?" Explain that though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

**of God** Underline this, explaining that the gift you are talking about is free—from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

**eternal life** Underline these two words and ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side (death) with the other (eternal life). Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

**Christ Jesus** Write these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

**Believe** Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that a true friend is someone you can trust, and that Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All your friend has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Believing in Jesus means trusting that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life. You can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him and make him new.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows that God is someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read about it in the Bible. The Gospel of John is a great place to start.