



Introduction

Gospel Grammar (Continued)

Of the five primary points of the Come Home gospel presentation, we'll cover the last two steps, wrapping up with a discussion on the assurance of salvation.

4. Jesus Christ: The Way Back to Life

Just below the level of the Road of Life line, in the fourth column, write "4. Jesus Christ: The Way Back to Life". In the box that bridges the gap, write "Jesus Christ" and underneath write "Savior and Lord". Write the four subpoints below this, two left of the vertical line, two right of it, expounding verbally what's in quotes:

1. God provides a bridge back to Him. "He became the God-man Jesus Christ because He loves sinners."
2. Jesus Christ keeps the rules for life. "As our substitute during His lifetime here on earth, He perfectly meets all God's requirements for a moral life on our behalf."
3. Jesus Christ takes the punishment. "He submits to God's holy anger against sinners during his death on a cross. Bearing the sins of others, He dies as a substitute, taking the penalty we deserve, liberating us from sin's enslavement."
4. Jesus Christ rises from the dead. "His actions are approved by God the Father and now He offers true righteousness and forgiveness. This qualifies undeserving sinners to be adopted into His family and know they are on the road of life and have a real home."

Bible:

The crucifixion and resurrection—John 19:17-20:31 <open Bible and read this text>

Individual verses—Romans 5:6-8, Mark 10:45, 1 Pet 3:18 <read this text from Bible>

Illustration:

"Jesus Christ is like a bridge which you trust to bring you across, instead of trying to get over to God by building a bridge of your own efforts. There is no more doing; Christ has done it all."

Point:

Jesus is the way back to God and life, bridging the gap between our failure and God. "God initiates a solution to sin's enslavement by offering His Son Jesus to give sinners a free gift of forgiveness and righteousness



(integrity, blameless) thus bridging the gap. Instead of trying to earn our own righteousness, a substitute, Jesus, gives us His perfect goodness. There is a way back to the road of life and home.”

E. Our Necessary Response: Coming Home to Jesus

Just above Road of Life line, just to the left of the fifth column, write “Road Home, Adopted and Loved”. Below the line write “5. Your Response: Coming Home”. Write the three subpoints below this, expounding verbally what’s in quotes:

1. God calls you home. “God, your maker, calls you back to Him. You are to do more than just intellectually acknowledge these historical facts—but to wholeheartedly respond to the force of these truths by:”
2. Turn from sin. “Turning (repent) from your sinful lifestyle and efforts at self-justification, and surrender to God’s ownership of your life.”
3. Trust in Christ. “Trusting (faith) in Jesus Christ as your forgiver (erases sin) who perfectly obeyed (giver of moral purity) enabling you to follow God’s road plan for life.”

Bible:

Two lost sons—Luke 15:11-32 <open Bible and read this text>

Repent—Psalm 51:1-4 <read this text from Bible>

Illustration:

Invitation to follow Christ— Luke 9:23-26 “A person stands at your door. Until you open the door, you have rejected them.”

Only three responses— Acts 17:30-34

Point: Your Response? “Which is your response? He is calling, ‘Come Home.’”

1. Receive (Rom 10:9-10) Have person read following prayer silently as a guide for a prayer they should utter out loud in their own words: “Realizing my self-centeredness, I now want to *turn* from my sinful lifestyle. Unable to save myself, I now trust in the risen Jesus Christ for forgiveness of my many sins. I give you control of my life, and desire to follow your instructions whatever it may cost me. I receive you as my Savior and Lord. I ask for your Spirit to be merciful and to enable me to respond to your call home.”
2. Reject
3. Investigate

Assurance



I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

There are those who consider themselves saved who need to discover they are lost. There are also those who still consider themselves lost who are truly saved. How can this be?

A. First type – Self-deception.

B. Second type – vacillates in the certainty of their own salvation.
How do I know I am a Christian? The Pillars of Assurance

1... trust in the promises of God as being promises to you.

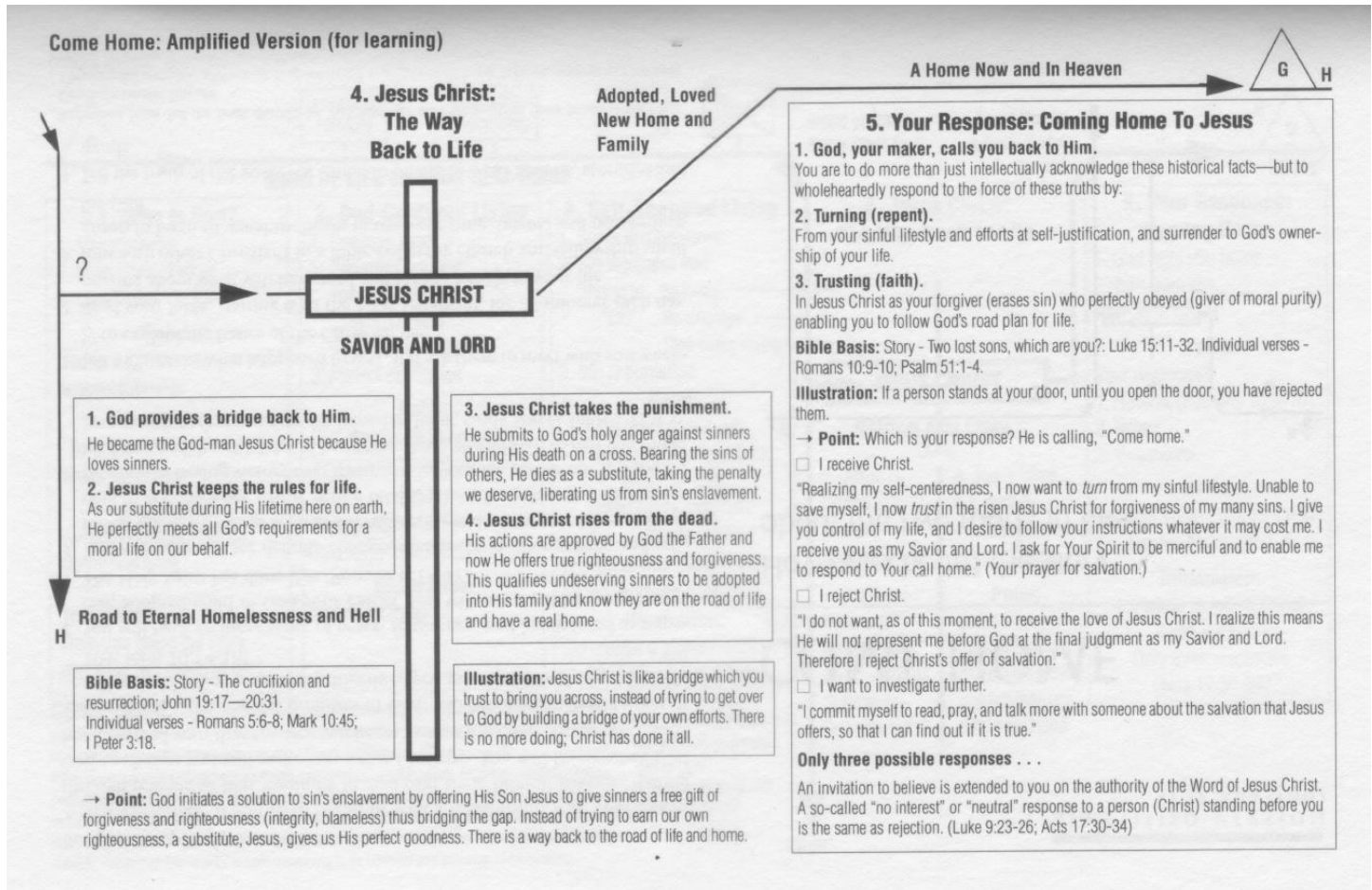
2... beginning of a change in your attitudes and actions corresponding to the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5) and the marks of salvation (1 John).

3... the inner witness of God's Spirit to your spirit that you are his child (Rom 8).

Since we cannot read other people's hearts and discern their true standing (saved or lost) before God, we should not try to take over the work of the Holy Spirit. Rather we should help them to measure themselves by God's standard. We refrain from minimizing sin, we portray grace as truly free, and we remind them of the three tenses of salvation: I have been saved (Eph. 2:8), I am being saved (1 Cor. 1:18), I will be saved (Rom. 5:9).

The basis for assurance of salvation is threefold: the promises of God made real to the heart, the inner testimony of God's Spirit to our spirit, and the production of attitudes and actions congruent with the fruit of the Spirit and God's commandments. This last objective pillar is delineated in John's first letter.

1. Test of consciousness of sin (1 Jn 1:8, 10)
2. Test of obedience (1 Jn 2:3-5, 29)
3. Test of freedom from habitual sin (1 Jn 3:9; 5:18)
4. Test of love for other Christians (1 Jn 3:14; 4:7-8)
5. Test of belief (1 Jn 5:1)
6. Test of overcoming the world and Satan (1 Jn 2:13-14; 5:4)



Practice

Pair up and practice the fourth and fifth steps of the Come Home gospel presentation by taking turns as yourself and one of the people on your prayer card.

Homework

Pray

- 1) That God would give you a heart for the lost;
- 2) That God would grant opportunities to speak to people and share the gospel, particularly for the three people you've identified in which to share the gospel before this class concludes

Practice the techniques we've learned last week and today with your spouse or friends



Bibliography

Metzger, W. (2012). *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel Wholly by Grace Communicated Truthfully & Lovingly* (Fourth ed.). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.