

3. PART I **BASIC**- The Master's Plan: "God's Basic Plan of Salvation!"

(REVIEW)

a. God's Purpose, Plan & Destiny for Your Life:

- i. **What does the oldest book of the Bible say about God's Purpose & Plan for your life?**

Job 23:11-14 nlt

"For I have stayed in God's paths; I have followed His ways and not turned aside. ¹²I have not departed from His commands but have treasured His word in my heart. ¹³Nevertheless, His mind concerning me remains unchanged, and **who can turn him from His purposes?** Whatever he wants to do, he does. ¹⁴**So he will do for me all he has planned. He controls my destiny.**

- ii. **What does one of the humblest of all the prophets of God have to say about God's Purpose & Plan for your life?**

Jeremiah 10:23-24 nlt

I know, LORD, that a person's life is not His own. No one is able to plan His own course. ²⁴So correct me, LORD, but please be gentle. Do not correct me in anger, for I would die.

- iii. **What does the Best Song writer in the Bible, the one who was a man after God's own heart; have to say about God's Purpose & Plan for your life?**

Psalms 138:8 nlt

The LORD will work out his plans for my life—
for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever.
Don't abandon me, for you made me.

iv. **What does one of the greatest turn-around stories in history have to say about God’s Purpose & Plan for your life?**

2 Timothy 1:8-9 nkjv

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the Gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ **who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**

2 Timothy 1:9 nlt

It is God who saved us and chose us to live **a holy life**. He did this not because we deserved it, **but because that was his plan long before the world began**—to show his love and kindness to us through Christ Jesus.

b. God’s Basic Plan of Salvation.

- i. _____: Created by author & teacher, Judson Poling and written about in Contagious Christianity. (See Leader’s Guide, Session 5 pg. 213)

**“God loves us, we BLEW it,
Christ paid for it, we must RECEIVE HIM.”**

- ii. _____: Dr. Bill Bright- Campus Crusade for Christ/NGL Training!

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.

Law 1

God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love- John 3:16 nlt

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

God's Plan- John 10:10 rsv

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" *[that it might be full and meaningful]*.

Law 2

All of us sin and our sin has **separated us** from God.

We Are Sinful- Romans 3:23 nkjv

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We were created to have fellowship with God; but, because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

We Are Separated- Romans 6:23 nkjv

"The wages of sin is death" *[spiritual separation from God]*.

This diagram illustrates that God is holy and people are sinful. A great gulf separates us. The arrows illustrate that we are continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion -- but we inevitably fail.



Law 3

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.

He Died in Our Place- Romans 5:8 nkjv

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

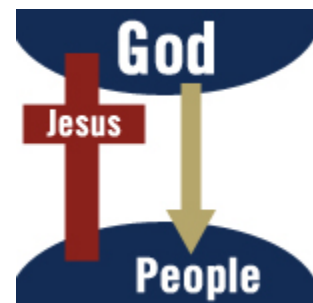
He Rose from the Dead- 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 nkjv

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..."

He Is the Only Way to God- John 14:6 nkjv

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'"

This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.



Law 4

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ- John 1:12 nkjv

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

We Receive Christ Through Faith- Ephesians 2:8-9 nkjv

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth- John 3:1-8 nkjv

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³**Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation- Revelations 3:20 nkjv

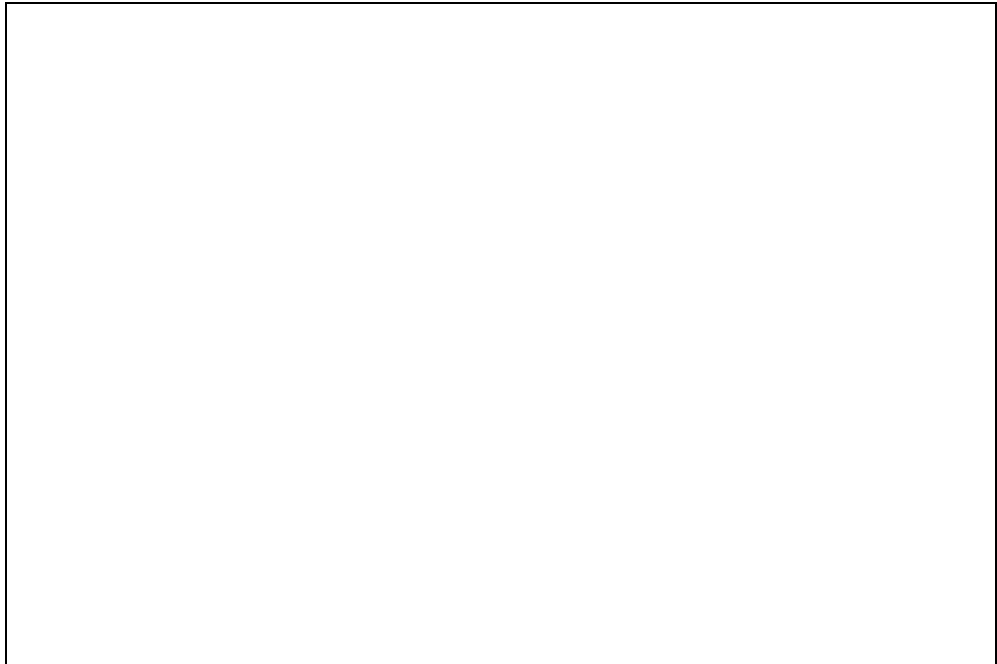
[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him."

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

And it begins with one simple action which brings an incredible transformation- Acts 3:19 nkjv

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

iii. _____ : A Pathway you can walk to have a Relationship with God.



Stone 1: *We must acknowledge God as the Creator of everything and accept our humble position in God's creation.*

Romans 1:20-21 nkjv

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

STONE 2: *We must all realize that we are sinners and that we need forgiveness. We are not worthy of God's grace.*

Romans 3:23 nkjv

"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."

STONE 3: *Through Jesus, God gave us a way to be saved from our sins. God showed us His love by giving us the potential for life through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.*

Romans 5:8 nkjv

"But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

STONE 4: *If we remain sinners, we will die. However, if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and repent of our sins, we will have eternal life.*

Romans 6:23 nkjv

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

STONE 5: *Just confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved!*

Romans 10:9-10 nkjv

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

STONE 6: *There are no religious formulas or rituals --
Call upon the name of the Lord and you will be saved!*

Romans 10:13 nkjv

"For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

STONE 7: *Determine in your heart to make Jesus
Christ the Lord of your life today.*

Romans 11:36 nkjv

"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."

iv. _____: These two circles represent two kinds of lives:

- Which circle best describes your life?
- Which circle would you like to have to represent your life?



Self-Directed Life

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.



Christ-Directed Life

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.

Self-Directed Life

S-Self is on the throne

T-Christ is outside the life

●-Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration

Christ-Directed Life

T-Christ is in the life and on the throne

S-Self is yielding to Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

●-Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

C. Becoming a Part of the Plan:

i. The Five-Second Gospel: The 10 Second Prayer of Salvation!

“Dear Lord thank you that you love ME, I BLEW it. I am sorry! I thank you that your son Jesus Christ has paid for MY SIN, and I RECEIVE HIS GIFT AND HIM AS MY SAVIOR!”

- ii. The Four Spiritual Laws:** You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer. Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. *The following is a suggested prayer:*

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

- iii. The Roman Road: Are You Ready to Accept God's Gift of Salvation?** *The following is a suggested prayer:*

"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

- iv. **The Two-Circles of Life:** Which circle would you like to represent your life? *The following is a suggested prayer:*

Father, Forgive me for placing myself before you. I repent of my sins, I invite your Son Jesus to be the Lord of My life, and I put my whole trust in you. I place my life in your hands. I pray you will guide and direct me as I seek to serve you through the gift of your Holy Spirit. You are my God and my King and I will ever praise and serve you. Amen!

- d. **Immediate Follow-up to God's Plan-** How to water it and see your faith begin to increase and ultimately yield fruit in due season:

Acts 2:38 nkjv

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

After you make the decision to receive Jesus, you become a part of God's family. But being a part of the family means we grow from infancy to adolescence to adulthood. This comes as we grow closer and stronger in our walk and relationship with God. Here are some key things the Bible tells us to follow up on:

- Get _____ as commanded by Christ. (*Acts 2:38*)
- _____ else about your new faith in Christ. (*Romans 10:9-10*)
- _____ with God each day. It does not have to be a long period of time. Just develop the daily habit of praying to Him and _____. Ask God to increase your faith and your understanding of the Bible. (*Psalms 63:1 & 2 Timothy 2:15*)
- _____ with other followers of Jesus. Develop a group of believing friends to answer your questions and support you. (*Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 10:24-25*)
- Find a local church where you can worship God. (*Acts 14:26-28*)

e. Begin Sharing Your Testimony: You are saved according to Scripture by the “ _____ ” & by the “ _____ .”

Revelations 12:11 nkjv

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

1 Peter 3:15 nlt

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

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But respect Christ as the Holy Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have, ¹⁶but answer in a gentle way and with respect.

How do you organize that TESTIMONY or ANSWER? I believe it works best when you like Jesus told Nicodemus know “ _____ , _____ & _____ you were born again.”

1. When? *(personal notes)*

2. Where? *(personal notes)*

3. Why? *(personal notes)*

f. Small Group Break Out

i. Which Plan of Salvation that we looked at in this session most Resonated with you?

(Notes.)

ii. If you had 10 seconds to tell someone about God's Plan of Salvation for their life, what would your group's 10 Second Spot be? *(Notes.)*

iii. Have you personally accepted God's Plan of Salvation for you? *(I know this is a risk but remember "by the Word of Their Testimony.") (Notes.)*

iv. **When, Where & Why?** *(Pick one, two or three to share as a testimony to your group?) (Notes.)*

g. Group Share on small group learning from the 5 questions.
(Notes.)

h. Closing Prayer.

NEXT WEEK

The Support Beams: "Basic Doctrine"