



## Life Lesson

# THE BRIDGE

**PURPOSE:** To communicate man's problem, God's solution, and man's response.

**PLAN:** A word-by-word study of Romans 6:23

**INTRODUCTION:** **The message of the gospel is easy to understand. This study is based on one verse. From it we will see "Man's Problem," discover "God's Solution," and learn about "Man's Response."**

*"The Bridge" is an effective method of presenting the gospel message in a short, concise way. By concentrating on only one verse, Romans 6:23, there is less likelihood that you will confuse or intimidate someone unfamiliar with the Bible. By following the outline, you will be able to touch on the key points that one must understand in order to respond to the gospel.*

*The study is very flexible. You can add verses. You can divide it into sections and study it over several weeks. Please adapt it to fit your own style and situation.*

*Remember to communicate the main point of each section and use many questions.*

## ROMANS 6:23

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

**This is a key verse in the Bible and we are going to study it word by word.**

## WAGES

Write "WAGES" in the first box on the worksheet.

What is a wage?

How would you feel if I owed you a wage but didn't pay you?

## SIN

Write "SIN" in the second box on the worksheet.

What does the word "sin" mean to you? *Sin is doing what I want no matter what God thinks.*

According to James 4:17, what does God consider to be sin? Is sin just the "bad things" that we do?

**Sin is as much an attitude as an action. It can be a rebellious or indifferent response to God.**

How would a person have to live in order to get into heaven? Have you always lived that way?

*This is to show that even by our own definition we fall short.*

According to Romans 3:23, who is a sinner?

## DEATH

Write "DEATH" in the third box on the worksheet.

What thoughts come to your mind when you think of death? *Make a list of ideas presented and point out that one constant characteristic of death is separation.*

What type of death is referred to here? *both physical and spiritual death -- eternal separation from God*

**If a person chooses to go his own way while he is alive, his separation from God will continue on into eternity and will result in eternal punishment in hell.**

According to Isaiah 59:1-2, what has separated us from God? Do you see that it is God we have offended by our sins?

*Illustrate how sin separates us from God by reviewing the story of the fall of man in Genesis 3.*

In Genesis 3:8 what did Adam and Eve do when God looked for them after they had sinned? *They hid.*

How does the situation of man look up until this point? Any questions so far?

**What we have looked at so far could be entitled "MAN'S PROBLEM."**

*Write the phrase "Man's Problem" just above the cliff on the left side of the worksheet.*

**Let's review this section**

What key points would you list? *1. Man is separated from God by his sin. 2. We are all in the same boat; unable to save ourselves. 3. "Death" refers to both the physical and spiritual consequences for sin.*

## BUT

Write the word "BUT" in the box at the bottom of the chasm.

If the story ended here it would be **BAD NEWS**, but now we'll see how God makes it **Good News**.

## GIFT

Write the word "GIFT" in the top box on the right hand side of the worksheet.

What is the difference between a gift and wage?  
If you gave me a gift and I tried to pay for it, how would you feel?  
According to Ephesians 2:8-9, do you see how "gift" and "wages" are mutually exclusive?

Other religions and philosophies try to bridge the gap to God by good deeds or not doing anything "really bad." The Christian faith is unique in showing that God alone can provide that bridge.

## OF GOD

Write the phrase "OF GOD" in the second box on the right side of the worksheet.

Who is giving the gift?  
What does Romans 5:8 tell you about God?  
How do you think God feels about you?

God is saying: I want you to know that I love you.

## ETERNAL LIFE

Write the words "ETERNAL LIFE" in the box at the bottom right hand side of the worksheet.

What do you think eternal life is?  
If death is separation, what would be a characteristic of eternal life? *relationship*

God is interested in restored relationship not just rules and regulations.  
According to John 10:10, "have life and have it to the full" refers to a quality of life not just a quantity.

## REVIEW

Notice how the two concepts on either side of the chasm are different: Wages vs. Gift;  
Sin vs. God; Death vs. Life.

## CHRIST JESUS

How do you think God was able to provide us the gift?  
Write the words "CHRIST JESUS" on the cross.  
According to I Peter 2:24, Hebrews 2:9, and II Corinthians 5:21, we owed a debt for our sins, but who paid it for us?

## LORD

Write the word "LORD" in the box at the bottom of the cross.

What does the word "LORD" mean to you?

When we are on the wrong side of the chasm, who is our boss? *self, Satan*

What we have looked at in this section could be entitled "GOD'S SOLUTION."

Write "GOD'S SOLUTION" at the top of the cliff on the right side of the worksheet.

Let's review the main points.

What key points would you list? *1. We cannot save ourselves. Salvation is based on God's promise not on our performance. 2. God is loving and kind. 3. Jesus must be the Lord of our lives.*

We have seen man's problem and God's solution. Now we need to look at our response. Each of the items we'll study involve both an initial response and a continuing lifestyle.

## HEAR

Romans 10:17

According to Romans 10:17, how do we gain faith? *hear*

What do we hear?

Write the word "HEAR" on the line above Romans 10:17.

This is not something we would have figured out on our own.

## BELIEVE

John 3:16

What does it mean to believe? What are some synonyms for "believe"?

Write the word "BELIEVE" on the line above John 3:16.

## REPENT

Acts 17:30

How would you define the term "repent"? *a change of direction*

Write the word "REPENT" on the line above Acts 17:30.

Draw an arrow heading one direction and then reverse it heading the other direction. Clarify that even though a Christian may stumble and fall, what really counts is that he gets up and continues heading in the same correct direction.

## CONFESS

Romans 10:9-10

What are we to confess? *Jesus Christ as Lord* Is it possible to keep Christianity a secret?

Write the word "CONFESS" on the line above Romans 10:9-10.

## BAPTISM

Acts 2:38

According to this verse, what are the results that accompany baptism? *remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit*

Write the word "BAPTISM" on the line above Acts 2:38.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Colossians 2:6-7

After having received Christ Jesus as Lord, what is the next step? *Continue to live in Him. How do you continue to live in Him? rooted, built up, strengthened in the faith, overflowing with thankfulness*

Write "SPIRITUAL GROWTH" on the line above Colossians 2:6-7.

## CONCLUSION

Where are you in terms of your response to God?

**Christ's death is the only bridge between man's problem and God's solution. My obedient response is only an indication of my acceptance of God's solution.**

# WORKSHEET The Bridge

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 10:17
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
John 3:16
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 17:30
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 10:9-10
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 2:38
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Colossians 2:6-7

