

THE BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

# GOSPEL

## BAD NEWS

I AM A SINNER  
Romans 3:23



THE PENALTY FOR SIN IS DEATH  
Romans 6:23



## GOOD NEWS

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY  
FOR MY SIN DEBT  
Romans 5:8



YOU CAN BE SAVED BY BELIEVING  
IN JESUS  
John 3:16



Believing that Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for ALL of my sins, I am placing my trust in Him alone for the free gift of eternal life in heaven.

## DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

John 5:24

# Bad News Good News

## Bad News

### 1. I am a Sinner.

*"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."  
Romans 3:23 (NLT).*



### 2. The Wages of Sin is Death.

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."  
Romans 6:23 (NIV).*



## Good News

### 1. Jesus Paid my Sin Penalty on the Cross.

*"God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
Romans 5:8 (NIV).*



### 2. I am Saved by Believing.

*"For 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."  
John 3:16 (NIV).*



# The Good News for Kids

Hi,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I have some great news to share with you.

You might have asked the question:

“How do I know that I will go to heaven when I die?”

Let's take a look and see what the Bible says.

I want to share some great news with you.

But first, we need to begin with some BAD NEWS.

## BAD NEWS

### I Am a Sinner.

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned.

Romans chapter 3, verse 23 says, “For **all have sinned.**”

You might wonder, “What is “sin”?”

Sin is anything that goes against God's standard of perfection – including bad thoughts, words, or actions.

Have you ever done something wrong?

I know that I have.

### Questions:

Have you ever done anything wrong? (Yes).

Have you ever told a lie?

Have you ever stolen something?

Have you ever been mean to your brother or sister?

Have you ever disobeyed your parent?

What kinds of sins have you done?

So, are you a sinner? (Yes).

Even those who try hard to be good are still sinners.

The rest of the verse says, "*All have sinned and fall short of God's glory.*" (Romans 3:23).

Another translation of the Bible says, "*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*"

God's glory is His perfection. God is holy. That means He has NO sin. He is 100% perfect, and His standard is perfection.

What do you think it means when it says that we "fall short"?

### **Illustration: ROCK**

Imagine if I asked you to throw a rock as far as the NORTH POLE.

It seems a bit silly, doesn't it?

You might throw further than me, but neither of us would reach the goal.

It's impossible.



That is what it means when God says we have "fallen short."

We have all come short of God's standard of perfection because we have sinned. We have not been perfect in our thoughts, words, and actions.

God is perfect, so our sins have separated us from Him.

No one is perfect.

We have all fallen short of His standard.

That's bad news!

And unfortunately, there's some more bad news.

## 2. The Penalty for Sin Is Death.

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death.

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

You might be wondering What is a “wage”?

A wage is payment for work done.

A wage is a payment for what we EARN!

### **Illustration: WAGES**

Suppose you worked for me, and I paid you \$50.

That \$50 was your wages—that’s what you earned.

The Bible says that by sinning, we have “earned” death.

We deserve to die and be separated from God forever.

The penalty for sin is “death.”

Sin always has consequences.

When you disobey your parent or tell a lie, your relationship is damaged.

Your sin has caused them pain.

It’s the same way with God.

God is holy (100% perfect), and our sin separates us from Him.

And the payment for that sin is DEATH.

That’s REALLY bad news!

Thankfully, there is some good news.



# GOOD NEWS

## 1. Jesus Died to Pay My Penalty.

We have a problem.

Our sin will keep us from knowing God and spending eternity with Him.

Thankfully, the Bible tells us that someone loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die in our place.

*“God demonstrates His own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**” Romans 5:8.*

Since the penalty for sin is death, someone must die to pay the penalty.

Since we could not reach God, the Bible says that God came to us!

Jesus took our place when He died on the cross for us.

### **Illustration: CANCER**

Suppose you were in a hospital dying of cancer, and I came to visit you.

Imagine if I said to you, “Let’s take the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body.”

- If that were possible, what would happen?  
I would die!
- And what would happen to you?  
Yes, you would live.



I would die in your place. I would die instead of you.

The good news is that Jesus died in our place!

He paid the penalty we deserved (because of our sin), placed it on Himself, and died in our place. He paid our sin penalty.

Three days later, Jesus came back to life to prove that sin and death had been defeated.

That is good news!

## 2. I Can Be Saved Through Faith.

There is even more good news!

The Bible says that we can be saved through **faith**.

Faith is another word for "trust" or "belief."

Read this verse.

*"For 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" John 3:16.*

But what do we need to do to get this amazing gift? NOTHING!

We don't need to DO anything!

*"Whoever hears my Word and **believes** in Him who sent Me HAS eternal life."  
John 5:24.*

If we believe that Jesus paid our sin penalty, the Bible tells us that we will be saved.

We just need to believe God's promise

Whoever BELIEVES in Jesus will be saved.

## Do You Believe? (Four Illustrations about Believing).

People sometimes are confused by what it means to believe. Believing is not hard. It's not something you DO.

### Illustration: PEN

If I asked you, "What is the object in this picture?"

What would you say?

"It's a pen!"

Imagine if I said, "No. That's too easy.

You need to believe harder."



That doesn't make sense, does it?

Believing is just believing.

If you believe it is a pen, you don't need to believe "harder" or do something extra to help you believe.

If you are convinced that it is a pen, then you believe.

### **Illustration: CHAIR**

When you sit down on a chair, do you check that the nails and screws are tight?

Do you check to make sure that the back isn't broken?

I know I don't.

I just trust (or believe) that the chair will hold me up.



Just as you trust (or believe) that a chair will hold you up through no effort of your own when you sit on it, you must trust Jesus Christ to get you to heaven through no effort of your own.

### **Illustration: BANK ROBBERY**

Another way to explain it is that to "Believe" means to be **PERSUADED**.

When we are persuaded by the evidence that something is true, we have "believed."



Imagine if I told you that your best friend had just robbed a bank. Would you believe it?

- Imagine that they found their fingerprints all over the gun that was left behind.
- And then you learned that there were nearly thirty witnesses that picked your friend out of a police lineup.
- And then, the police showed you a security camera video that showed your friend with a gun at the bank.

Even though you love your friend, perhaps the evidence is so overwhelming that you are finally persuaded.

Believing means that you've seen the evidence and are persuaded.  
Are you persuaded about Jesus' death on the cross.

## **Illustration: GIFT**



Give one of the children the gift you brought to the class.  
Give them time to unwrap it.

Once they've opened it, ask them to pay \$5. Then, discuss their reaction/response.

It is no longer a gift if we try to pay for it.

We must trust in Jesus Christ ALONE, and God will give US eternal life as a FREE gift!

## **But what about our good works?**

Surely believing is not enough? What about all the good things we do? Doesn't the good outweigh the bad?

The Bible says "no."

- Going to church won't help pay the cost.
- Praying won't help pay the cost.
- Giving money to the poor won't help pay the cost.

In fact, the Bible tells us that those good works are like "filthy rags."

When we try to clean up a big mess, the rags can get really dirty and smelly.  
That's how God sees our good works.  
He doesn't want our good works.

Read this verse together:

*“But things are different with God. He makes ungodly people right with Himself. If people **trust** in Him, their faith is accepted **even though they do not work**. Their **faith** makes them right with God.”* Romans 4:5

The Bible says that our FAITH is accepted, when we DO NOT WORK.

We can't pay our sin penalty with good works.  
Trying to work our way to heaven is not possible.

We just accept God's free gift.  
Simply believe that when Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He paid our FULL sin penalty. 100%.

Jesus did it all.

**THAT'S GREAT NEWS!**

# Tips for Sharing Christ with Children

REMEMBER: It's never too early to share Jesus. "*Let the little children come*" (Matthew 19:14).

- **Always be ready.** The opportunity to share Jesus can come at unexpected times.
- **Always pray** before sharing to prepare your own heart and theirs. Pray for wisdom and discernment. It's difficult sometimes to discern where a child's understanding and heart are at.
- **Talk with each child individually.** This helps to clarify their motives and lessens the chance that they are just imitating their friends.
- **Use the Bible** to share the Gospel. If possible, read the verses from the Bible rather than just quoting them or using a resource.
- **Focus on "trusting Christ"** (rather than simply praying a prayer or "inviting Jesus into their heart"). Don't associate belief with an action (filling out a card, raising a hand, "walking forward"). Never manipulate a child to do what you want.
- **Use visuals**, such as a wordless book, a Gospel bracelet, or diagrams, to help children understand difficult words and concepts.
- **Encourage a child to express his or her faith** (trust) in Jesus through prayer.
- After a child responds to God's offer of forgiveness, **encourage them to tell their parent or friend.**