



# “Open Church – Open Bible”

Minister Marossa Davis



# Sunday Church School

May 24, 2020

“The Redeemer Will Come”  
Isaiah 59:1-4,15-21

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**Isaiah 59:1-4,15-16** Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: v.2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. v. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. v.4 None calleth for Justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. v.15 Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. v. 16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

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**Isaiah 59: 17-20**

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v.17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. v.18 According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. v.19 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. v. 20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.

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### Isaiah 59: 21

v. 21 As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; my spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and **forever**.

Isaiah pointed out the terrible things humans do to one another. We can be deceptive and selfish, seeking our own good at the expense of others. Left on our own, we would destroy ourselves and would never know God on a personal level. God is greater than our sin and thankfully He has intervened on our behalf. Nothing is ever hidden from the LORD and He was not pleased with what He saw among His chosen people.

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**Question:** Is there anyone who has sinned so often or so badly that they are out of the reach of God’s love? Put another way. Is there anyone that God cannot forgive? This question has been debated for centuries. No matter how often or how badly you have sinned, God can and will forgive you if you sincerely come to him in faith and ask him. *Romans 10:13*. Our lesson today tells us that Jesus paid a tremendous price to redeem us ( buy us back) from the slave market of sin and that no one who comes to Him in faith will be turned away. Now that’s **Good News!** We can’t out sin God’s Grace, but let’s not put it to the test. God has redeemed us that we might be more like Him and be fully free to live an abundant life in Christ. *John 10: 10*.

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### Today’s Aim

**Facts:** To see that we are all sinners in need of a Savior and that Jesus Christ is the only Savior. *Romans 3:23*

**Principle:** To teach that our sins have separated us from God but God sent His Son to reconcile us to Him. *Romans 6:23, John 3:16, 1 John 4:14*

**Application:** To embrace the truth that salvation is found only in **Jesus Christ**, who has redeemed us from sin. *John 14:6, Acts 4:12* “ *Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* “

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The first 39 chapters of the Book of Isaiah speak primarily of the coming **judgment** both on the nations surrounding God’s people and on the people of Israel and Judah themselves. The next 27 chapters offers **hope** to a **sinful** and **rebellious** people! In Isaiah’s day, the LORD miraculously delivered Jerusalem and Judah from the Assyrians. Isaiah prophesied of their current standing before God and reminded them of God’s Grace and His promise to bless them in a future day when they turned in repentance to Him.

**Isaiah 59** begins with an assurance that God had not changed. His **hand** is not shortened in verse 1 means simply that He did not lack the **ability** to save His people. The same God who had delivered them many times in the past was **still present** and **just as powerful** as ever. He could save them. Nothing about God had changed! The salvation here spoke to the Israelites primarily of national deliverance from military threats. In a broader sense, though, it spoke of **spiritual deliverance**.

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The LORD also said that His ‘ear’ was not too heavy for Him to hear their pleas. The picture here is not of the Lord lacking in the ability to hear and respond to His people. Rather, it pictures Him as **declining** to do so. The reason He would not hear their prayers is clearly stated in verse 2. “ Your iniquities have separated between you and your God. **Iniquities** ( awon) is a synonym for ‘sins’ . It views sin as something twisted or distorted, crooked, a perversion of God’s standards. The iniquities of the people had created a wall between them and God. Continuing with the idea of ‘sins’ (hatta) speaks of **missing the mark**. The **face of God** speaks of His **Presence**. Accordingly, He would not hear them when they prayed for deliverance. Our lesson stresses that what is said of Judah is true of all who seek God’s aid in time of trouble **yet do not seek Him in obedience with their whole lives**. The Lord cannot look down on sin with complacency. Psalm 66:18 tells us “ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

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The Lord told the people that they were guilty of many sins both personal and national which He began to list. He said **their hands were defiled or polluted with blood**. Blood speaks of **violence**- even murder. Even if they did not actually murder people, their despicable treatment of others was akin to murder. Isaiah returns to the thoughts that God does not hear the prayers of people with **bloodstained hands** (1:15)

Today’s lesson teaches us that the Prophets mention of various body parts emphasizes that Judah’s sins were **pervasive**. The hands and the fingers represent actions; the lips and tongue describe speech. When he says they **muttered perverseness** it uses a word commonly used for meditation. They thought about wrong doing and then did it! The picture is of people whose actions, words and thoughts were **consumed with evil**. The wickedness that characterized the nation of Isaiah’s time was evident in the legal system. No one was actually seeking justice or truth. Their object in court was to **win** - not necessarily to see **justice** done.

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The corrupt nature of Judah’s society is summed up in these words “ He that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey” (v.15). Those who tried to do what was right were not only not honored, but they were attacked! ( it was if they had a bullseye on their back) But, Isaiah and the **remnant** of godly people in Judah could take comfort in the truth that God saw everything that was happening, and He was **not pleased** with the **lack of justice**.

God saw that there was **no intercessor** to stand between God and man. Therefore since He was in covenant relationship, the only solution was for God Himself to be their intercessor. By His power alone, He would save His people. The work of the Suffering Servant, the Kinsman Redeemer, looks forward to the salvation brought by our Lord Jesus Christ. **Jesus Christ is Israel’s Redeemer**. He will deliver them and save them when they repent because He has paid the price of their redemption on Calvary. In Romans 11:26 it affirms that Israel will repent and be saved at Christ’s Second Coming.

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Isaiah 59:17 pictures the LORD putting on unique articles of clothing: righteousness, salvation, vengeance and zeal. Clothing is a metaphor for character, commitment and power for the task. When the LORD puts on this clothing he is publicly revealing what He is and also what He intends to do and that He is able to do it. ( reminiscent of Ephesians 6:14,17 helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness- our spiritual weapons) It is a work which will display and satisfy His righteousness, save His people, repay His enemies and be carried through to completion by the driving motivation of divine zeal. In some OT prophecy, Christ’s First and Second comings are intermingled. Here the **spiritual salvation** from sin blends with the **physical salvation** of Israel at Christ’s Second Coming when the Warrior- Messiah returns in judgment and deliverance.

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#### Two Observations:

1. Sin is not merely wrong **deeds**. We might avoid many of the outward flagrant sins, but we are to also take equal care to avoid **words** or **thoughts** that are **unkind, unwholesome** and **destructive**.
2. This prophecy was written during the reign of Judah’s godly king, Hezekiah in the southern kingdom of Judah. Godly leaders are a blessing, but even Hezekiah’s good example did not guarantee godly followers. We are reminded that we are each **personally responsible** before God for how we conduct our lives. We cannot presume on godly parents, spouses or friends to keep us from divine judgment.

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Isaiah 59:15-16 explains that God saw there was no mediator, there was none righteous, there was no Savior for man; so He decided to take action Himself. V.20 tells us that the Redeemer will come to Zion, in part this has been fulfilled. Jesus did enter Jerusalem and provided salvation at Calvary. But this event is also future to us because **Jesus is coming again** to Zion. As believers in Christ, we can look to this verse for comfort and hope.

Jesus is coming back and He will judge sinners and reward His people. Are you **expecting a reward**, or will you be swept away in judgment? Verse 20 says that Christ will be a Redeemer for those “**who turn from transgression.**” Another word for this is repentance. **Repentance** is a part of the Gospel. Have you repented and placed your faith in Christ? If not, you are not ready for His appearing. About salvation, God essentially says ‘I’ll do it Myself.’ We can’t earn it. Salvation is something God accomplishes in us. We need only to believe, and accept it. **God does it Himself.**

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**God’s judgment** of sinners is always in accord with their deeds ( Rev. 20:12) This will be on full display when Christ returns. Those who oppose Him and His people- His adversaries and His enemies - will be repaid for their evil. His judgment will extend to the most remote island encompassing the whole earth. **God’s Mercy:** The people of Isaiah’s time , steeped in sin, suffered its consequences, and seemingly hopeless, were given **real hope** of a coming Redeemer. The Redeemer (ga’al) was a known concept in Israel. This was a person who delivered or redeemed ‘his kin from difficulty or danger through payment of a price’. **The Redeemer has come.** He has paid the price of redemption. He is giving sinners the opportunity to **repent** and is waiting for them to do so.

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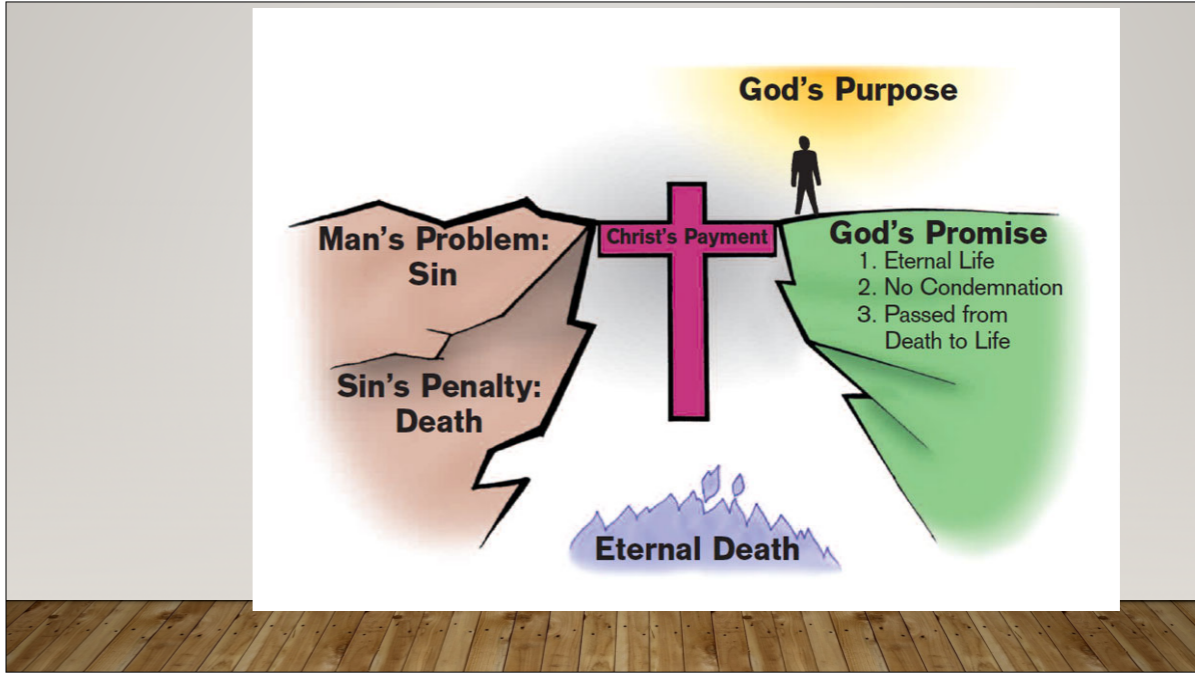
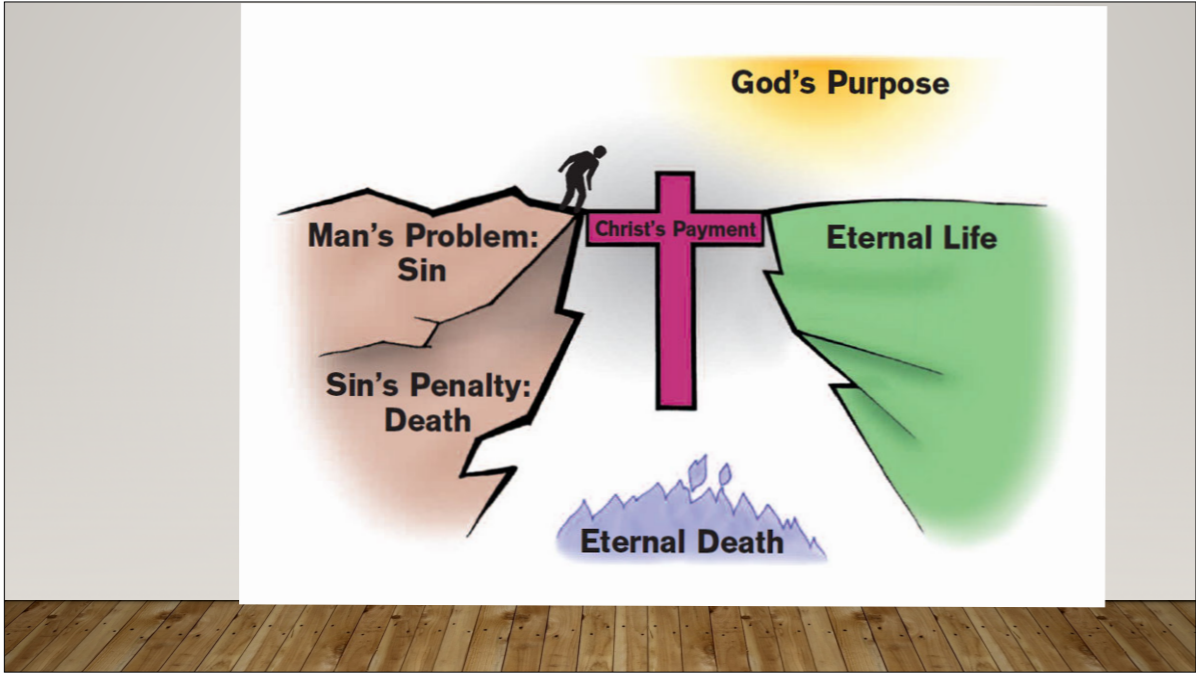
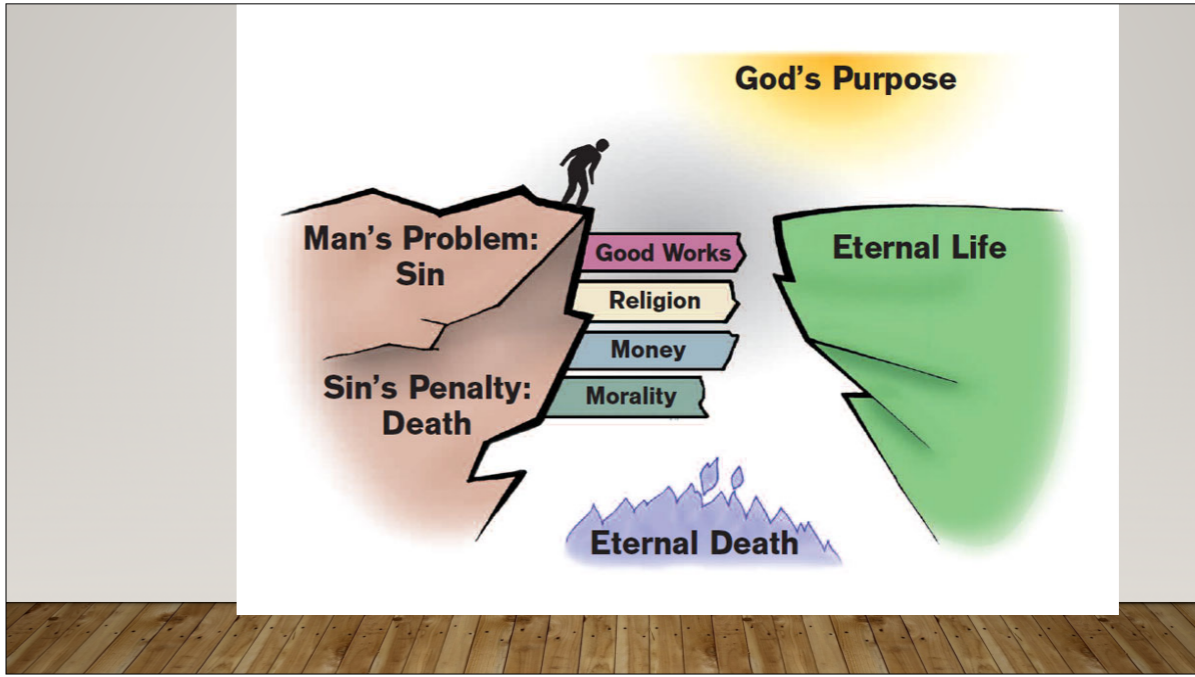
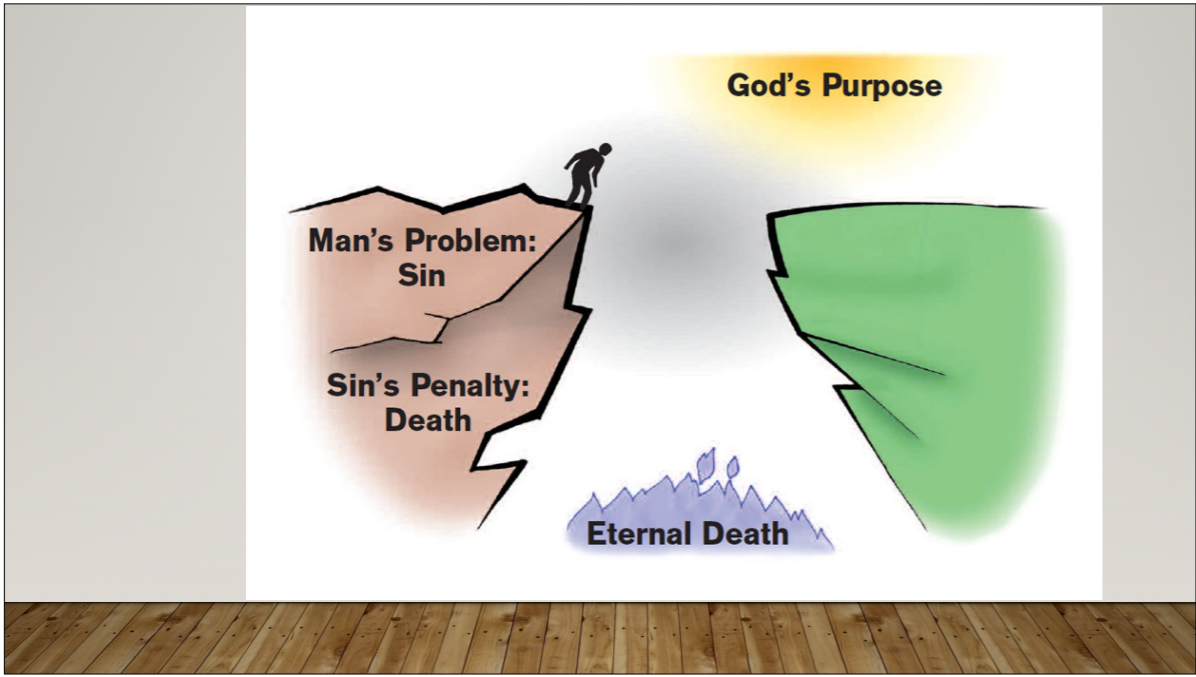
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#### Practical Points

- Our sin creates a barrier in our relationship with the LORD. v. 1-2
- All have sinned and need to repent and get back in right standing with the LORD v. 3-4.
- The ability to discern what is right and wrong comes from God alone, not men. v. 15-16
- Those who choose a life of sin rather than repentance will reap what they sow. v. 17-18
- We have no reason to be afraid when the enemy surrounds us, for the LORD will protect us. v.19
- *God’s Bridge to Eternal Life Tract.*



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**The Need For The Redeemer:** The sins of the people separated them from God so that He would not hear them. Jesus Christ was sent to pay the penalty for sin on the Cross and reconcile sinners to God.

**The Work of the Redeemer:** God would intervene by Grace, Isaiah declared even though “truth faileth” and there was no judgment,” God would bring salvation. His righteousness would be that which would save men from their sins. This righteousness ultimately would be made available “by faith in Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.” Romans 3:22.

**The Promise Concerning the Redeemer:** At the close of this prophesy, the LORD JEHOVAH declared a “covenant with them.” This is a promise that His Spirit would be with them and as a result His Word would not depart from their mouths. This is a message that goes beyond Israel to the redeeming work of Jesus Christ on the Cross for the sin of the whole world (John 3:16)

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#### Further Reflection

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1. Of what did the Lord assure the people of Judah?
2. If our sin causes separation between us and God, discuss why some people who do not live for God seem to prosper while some of God’s people struggle. ( v.2 )
3. When God saw there was no intercessor, He solved that problem by sending His Son. How do we take the initiative and help provide a solution when there is a need ? ( V. 16 )
4. What does it mean to have God’s Word in our mouths? ( v. 21 )

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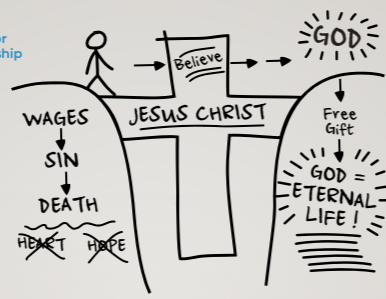
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#### APPENDIX ATTACHED

**BRIDGE TO LIFE GOSPEL TRACT BY THE NAVIGATORS**



## BRIDGE to LIFE

Some of the oldest questions humankind has been asking are, "How can I know God?" What is He like? What can we do to please Him? How can we get to Heaven? If we work hard enough to be a good enough person will He accept us then? If we do enough religious activities to get His attention, will that do it?

Fortunately for us, the answer is surprisingly simple. The "Gospel" that the Bible talks about literally means, "the Good News," and the news is good indeed!

We have to start at the beginning. In Genesis 1:26, when God created the first humans, He said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness", then God blessed them and spent the days walking and talking with the people He had created. In short, *life was good.*

But why isn't life like that anymore? What happened to mess everything up? This brings us to the second point: when we (humankind) chose to do the opposite of what God told us, sin poisoned the world. *Sin separated us from God, and everything changed.* Romans 2:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and in Isaiah 59:2 we're told,

"your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear."

This is especially bad news because there is no way for us to get across that gap on our own. We (humankind) have tried to find our way back to God and a perfect world on our own ever since then, and without any luck. We try to get there by being good people, or through religion, money, morality, philosophy, education, or any number of other ways, but eventually we find out that none of it works. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12).

## Navigator Discipleship Tool

There is only one way to find peace with God, and the Bible says it is through Jesus Christ. We were stranded without any way of getting back to our Creator, and we needed a way to pay for our sins and be clean again so that we could be welcomed back to be with Him. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." So this is the Good News—that even though we were still enemies of God (as one translation says), Jesus came to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins so that we could have a relationship with Him again. John 3:16 says, "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."

This brings us to the last and most important part. John 5:24 says, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned he has crossed over from death to life." Jesus Christ himself even says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10), and Romans 5:1 says, "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

So how can I have peace with God, life to the full, and be confident of eternal life like these verses say? First, through an honest prayer to God, I have to admit that I'm not perfect that I can't escape my sins, and I can't save myself. I follow this admission by believing that Jesus Christ died for me on the cross and rose from the grave, conquering death and sin. Then I invite Jesus Christ to live in me and be the Lord of my life, accepting His free gift of eternal life with Him.

A prayer to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior goes something like this: "Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I need You to forgive me. I know that You died a painful death so that my sins could be washed clean. Thank you. I want to make You the Lord of my life, and I will trust and follow You. Everything I have is Yours now. In Your name, Lord. Amen."

There is nothing magical about these words. It's not the words themselves that make things right between you and God—it's whether or not your heart really means it. We know this because in 1 Samuel 16:7, the Bible says, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." The best part of this whole process is that it doesn't matter how badly we've messed up, Jesus is powerful enough to save anyone from their sin even the worst of us. Romans 10:13 says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." That's fantastic news—no matter how badly we've messed up, we can place our complete trust in Jesus, and He will wipe all of our sins off the face of the earth. Jesus is the bridge to life.