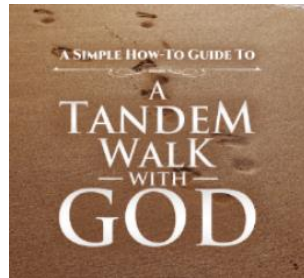


# Preparing Your Hope Account

## Leader's Guide



## Hope Account Outline

Alert – We respond in faith as He alerts us during a conversation

Bridge Sentences – Two sentences describing how you found Christ

Core Gospel – Six-line, gospel rhyme describing your hope in Christ

Detail – If led, we share a detail of how God is real, has impacted you.

Explore – We turn our chat back to the other person, “Have you thought ...”



## Welcome

We're delighted that you've taken this step of faith to consider and hopefully lead the **Preparing Your Hope Account** sessions.

Tandem Walk Ministries exists to help believers walk hour by hour with God and to be able to easily share their hope in Christ with those they meet. Walking and sharing Christ are both key to living our life with Him. Our willingness to share our hope in Christ helps us to maintain our daily connection with Christ.



The Hope Account is simple, short, easy to learn, and effective method to plant seeds of gospel hope in the hearts of those around us.

Study this guide and/or the accompanying Leaders' Guide video to help you make the most of these sessions so they can positively move people toward a relationship with Christ.

### *Suggest Preparation for You:*

#### 1. Prayer

- We recommend setting up a team, or group to begin praying for your preparation, the participants' attendance, and your participants' willingness to share their experiences with others during in-session preparation and for them to be willing to step out in faith and use the method in sharing their hope with others.
- Pray that the details, communications, and physical setup will go well.
- Pray over the list of names as people sign up for the sessions.
- Pray, also, to bind the enemy (Mark 3:27 "...no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up ...") and to prevent illness and other circumstances from hindering participants from joining and preparing with you.

#### 2. Walk Ahead

- If you haven't already done so, you should go through the session videos and the participant worksheets to prepare your **Bridge** sentences (two or three max), rehearse the gospel rhyme until you can say it smoothly, and to prepare one or two **Details**, brief examples of how God has ministered or made Himself real to you.
- We lead most effectively where we have already 'traveled' so your preparation is important and will greatly increase your effectiveness as you lead others to use this simple method.

### 3. Example Experiences

- Once you've prepared your initial Hope Account, try to share it with one or two others prior to the first session. People will be encouraged by your taking this step ahead of them to demonstrate how easy it is to learn and use.
- Also, prepare to share about a few other times in the past where you might have tried to share your gospel hope with others. Even if your previous attempts were less than encouraging, just hearing of your experiences will help participants to relate to you and the learning process as you all prepare to obey God in sharing your hope with others.

### *Suggest Pre-Session Communications:*

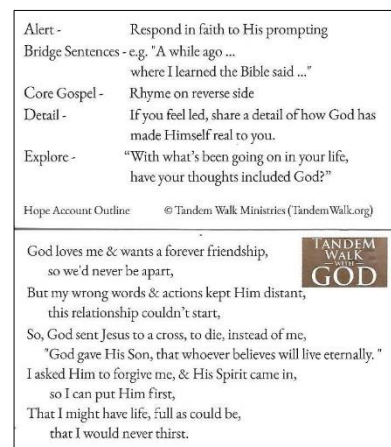
#### 1. Announcement Teaser Video + Sermon Mentions

- If possible, try to emphasize the importance of sharing our hope with others in preceding sermons.
- Also, there is a link to the 45 second Announcement Teaser video which would be good to download from YouTube or TandemWalk.org (TW) website and run for two or three weeks ahead of session A.



#### 2. Order Gospel Rhyme Reminder Cards

- A few weeks before the first session order reminder cards, and please don't leave it until everyone signs up, for the cards might not arrive in time.
- Follow the link and instructions on the TW website about how to log into the Vistaprint 'Hope Account' account to order Hope Account reminder cards. Log in, select the reminder card design (please don't edit the design), and order a quantity sufficient to enough to have a few per person as participants usually want to give some to their friends and you may want to have enough to run the sessions next year as a follow up. **Important**, remember to **NOT save your delivery address or payment method**, as other churches will also be using this account to obtain their cards after you have ordered.



### 3. Email Blast / Website Inserts-Event Listing

- Email Blast example: "We've scheduled two **"Hope Account Learning Sessions"** on [date(s)/time/duration]. Join with others to learn how to quickly and gently to share your gospel hope with friends, family, and acquaintances. Wouldn't it be great to be able to share your hope in Christ, as a gospel seed that God can grow to change someone's eternity? It's easy-to-learn, enjoyable, rewarding, and based on 1 Peter 3:15."
- You can edit the suggestion above in whatever manner you see fit.
- Put this or equivalent in your weekly email blasts/ website event listing for a few weeks ahead of session A.
- Between sessions you can post (Facebook here) a few glimpses of your people learning how to share Christ's love. Here is an example:

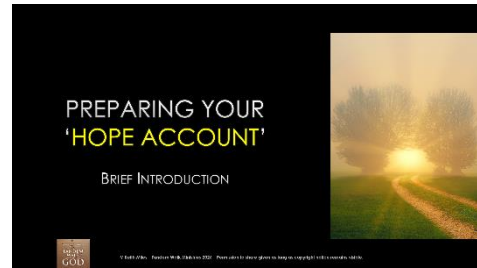


### 4. Names & Email Gathering + \*Reminding Before\*

- Have someone gather the names and emails of those interested in attending.
- Encourage more to attend by sharing during the announcements, "We've already had quite a few (or a number) signed up, so think about those you know who need to put their hope in God and join us."
- **Reminder email:** At least once, 48 hours before session A, send out a reminder email with the session details to those who have signed up, whether confirmed or tentative. Encourage them to pray ahead of the session that God would generate eternal impacts in the lives of their friends and family out of their preparation enabled by faith. [Also, as one person once told me, "You have not, for you have reminded not," aka, 'If you remind them, they will come'.]

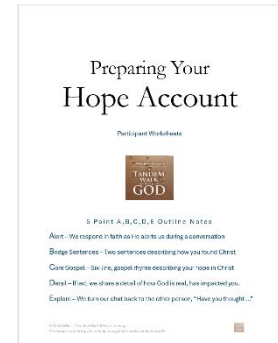
## 5. Introductory Video

- If possible as people sign up, please send people the link for the short introductory video (6-8 minutes), which overviews what they will learn and encourages them to come. It demystifies the sessions by introducing the very simple A, B, C, D, E, method. People who spend the few minutes watching the introduction are more likely to follow through and attend.



## 6. Print Participant Worksheet Packages

- Print and staple together the participant worksheet packages from the pdf downloaded from the TW website. Print a few extra as some may attend the first and not the second session, while others miss the first session for some reason but attend the second.



## 7. Pre-Download Videos to Local Computer

- Whether you are obtaining the videos from the TW website or a streaming service, please try to download them to the computer you will use to present the videos to the group. This will prevent any interruption to the sessions due to gaps in internet service, however short. Store the video files in an easy to find directory on your computer to avoid delays.

## Setting up the Room:

### 1. Participant Materials

- Participant worksheet packages,
- Reminder cards,
- Pens,
- Name tags or Table Name Cards – First names only (so people sitting together are more comfortable starting to interact with each other),
- Whiteboard. Optional but helpful. It might be needed/helpful to 'park' a question - just write it on whiteboard with a promise to touch on it later, end of session or immediately after the session in a one-on-one discussion.

## 2. Round Tables

- It is important for participants to have a small group with which to share/test out their draft Bridge and Detail sentences for affirmation and to receive suggestions for improvement.



## 3. Technical

- TV or projection which is large/loud enough for everyone to see/hear well.
- Provide a portable microphone and loudspeaker to ensure even seniors can hear what is being said by the facilitator(s) if there is even a small doubt a facilitator's voice won't easily reach the back of the room. People will be frustrated and probably not return for the second session if they cannot hear the interaction.
- Make sure you're able to quickly/easily pause the video during the few scheduled discussion breaks.

### *Suggestions for Facilitating at Each Discussion Pause:*

#### **General Suggestions**

- Ask the tables to talk among themselves first and make sure, if a table is too quiet or reserved, to stop by to ask a few individuals for their comments to get the table's discussion going. It's part of your job as conversation kick-starter.
- When facilitating the summary of all the tables' discussions at the pauses, don't just ask a question and wait in awkward silence. Instead, immediately look for one or two interested folk and just start asking for their thoughts. For example, "Who has their draft Bridge sentences in sufficient shape to share them with us?" Be sure to warmly affirm their participation, e.g., look to the group and say, "Wasn't that a great start?" When people see others affirm their attempts, it will encourage other participants to be open to share with to the group. Gently offer a suggestion or two on how they might simplify-shorten their sentences, then move on to ask another person, and another. Soon everyone will be sharing.

- Don't let one or two talkative people dominate, rather, after getting their input (often helpful at the beginning), say, "Now let's hear from some others as well", and then quickly pick another person and ask for their comment/draft sentences.
- Encourage people to use the worksheet sections for their draft preparation, instead of random pieces of paper, so they can refer to them in the future as they see opportunities to share their hope with others.

### As You Begin Session A

- Be enthusiastic about the sessions (your preparation beforehand should help you) and the eternal impact these hours may bring both from your efforts and theirs.
- Make sure everyone has their materials.
- Welcome people warmly & pray to open the session.

### Alert Pause

- Ask if anyone wanted to comment on the initial bible verses or the answers to the frequently asked questions about qualifications and planting gospel seeds in a gentle, respectful manner. Perhaps some have learned more confrontational evangelistic methods and would like to speak to the contrast to the gentle gospel seed planting goal of the Hope Account.
- Ask people at their tables to share among themselves any experience where they may have perceived that God wanted them to share with another. Give the room a few minutes to let conversation get rolling. Ask many.
- Facilitate a summary by asking for a few experiences around the room, then close by suggesting that our preparation will indeed increase the likelihood and frequency of God nudging us to share our hope as 1 Peter 3:15 indicates.

### Bridge Sentence Pause

- Ask people to spend some time first **on their own**, to start by selecting a general phrase for their 'when'. Then after some time, ask them to try **on their own** to summarize their 'how' in a couple of sentences without specific details, so more people can relate to their description.
- Then, ask people at their tables to share among themselves their draft Bridge sentences. Ask people to try to gently suggest to each other how best to



generalize, simplify, and shorten their sentences. Give the room time as **this is an important time** to get these sentences at least into a rough form.

- Facilitate a summary by asking for a few draft Bridge sentences examples around the room and be **very affirming** while still offering further suggestions to simplify and generalize.
- Remind them that finishing their Bridge sentences and rehearsing the Core gospel rhyme will also be their between session homework, so they will have more time to work on their sentences.
- Encourage and remind them that the goal of a Hope Account is to share about our source of hope, the gospel of Christ, so our part is just to briefly, in a few sentences, prepare them to hear the gospel rhyme. It's primarily about pointing people to His hope, and much less about us.

### **End of Session A**

- Be enthusiastic about the progress you've seen in the sessions and how the Hope Account's A, B, C, D, E format is simple and will guide them as they follow God in sharing their Hope in Christ with others.
- Encourage people to repeat the gospel rhyme daily between the sessions.
- Tell them you will be calling on a number of people at the start of session B to share their Bridge sentences.
- End with a word of prayer.

### **Beginning of Session B**

- Welcome people warmly & pray to open the session.
- Ask for a few people to share their Bridge sentences. Affirm and encourage.
- Ask for a person to try to share the Core gospel rhyme, prompt as needed.
- Ask whether someone put took your advice to place the reminder card somewhere so they can see it and repeat it daily. Ask where they placed the card.
- Tell them there will be some recap to begin with, then on to Detail and Explore, then start session B video.



## **Detail Pause**

- Emphasize that this is the optional part within the Hope Account method.
- Have them start individually, to identify a couple of instances in their lives where God ministered to them or let them know they were loved.
- Next, have them share in their tables, while others affirm and offer suggestions to shorten and simplify the stories. This will make these glimpses of God's care more conversational, which would leave time to ask the Explore question (which they will soon see).
- As a summary, ask for one or two people to individually to identify a Detail of how God ministered to them and showed them love in a meaningful way for them. He is amazing and kind.

## **Explore Pause**

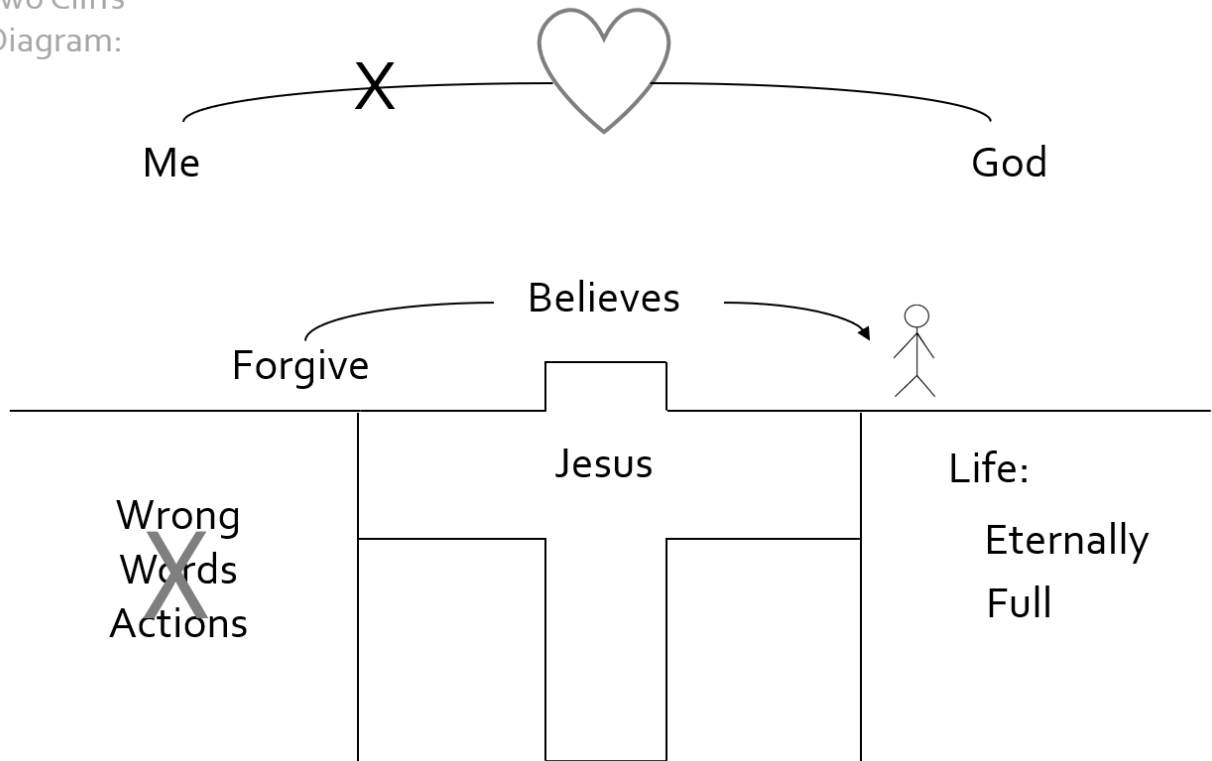
- Ask for each table to discuss the Explore question among themselves and summarize the section by asking a few tables to share their table's comments.

## **End of Session B**

- Recap the Hope Account's A, B, C, D, E format and then encourage them by telling them that if they practice their Bridge sentences, the Core gospel rhyme, perhaps a Detail, then the question for several weeks, then they might soon see God prompt them to share with someone. How exciting!
- Take a few minutes to draw out the gospel rhyme as a diagram on the whiteboard. This is a second, visual way to share our hope from the same gospel rhyme they will learn. This diagram is a great option when we have a closer relationship with someone, or just more time to share.
- Have a few people pray for their friends and family as you close as this highlights the reason why we are preparing.
- Highlight that our willingness to share Christ is a signal, a green light to the closeness of our relationship with Christ. If we are walking with Christ, we are available and want to help Him reach others. If we are not walking with Christ, then the deficiencies in our relationships with Christ will hinder and stop us from joining God in His work of redemption.
- Encourage them to practice and share with one another about their sharing attempts in the coming weeks and months to spur one another on ...
- Pray to close.

Inspired by the  
'Bridge' diagram from  
the Navigators  
Christian Organization

Two Cliffs  
Diagram:



"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

## Summary Team Checklist for Productive, Worshipful Sessions

### Prayer

- Set up prayer team

### Walk Ahead

- Work ahead on team's Hope Accounts
- Prepare your sharing experiences

### Communications

- Announcement teaser
- Sermon mentions
- Order gospel rhyme cards
- Email blast/Site inserts/FB posts
- Gather names-emails
- Send Introductory Vid link
- Send email reminder 48 hours ahead
- Print participant worksheets
- Download video files

### Room Setup

- Assemble cards, worksheets, pens, nametags
- Use round tables
- Ensure TV-Projector large, sound is audible to even seniors
- Computer handy to pause

### General Facilitating Suggestions

- Ensure tables share together, then summarize. Don't wait, ask folk. Don't let a

few dominate. Keep notes on worksheet for future use.

### Begin Session A

- Enthusiastic, you've prepared, materials, warmly greet, pray, start video

### Alert

- Comment on bible verses, questions, share examples by table, summarize

### Bridge

- General, I & me, offer simplifying suggestions. Work individually first, table, summarize.

### End Session A

- Enthusiastic, Bridge sentences & Core rhyme as homework, Pray

### Begin Session B

- Pray, enthusiastic, take up Bridge sentences-Core rhyme homework, start video

### Detail

- Optional, individual work-then table-summarize. Suggest to simplify-shorten.

### Explore

- Impressions by table, summarize

### End Session B

- Recap, draw diagram, few pray for friends-family, highlight willingness to share is an indicator of a healthy relationship with Christ, pray to close, thank the entire team.