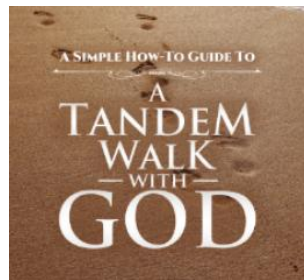


Preparing Your Hope Account

Participant Worksheets



5 Point A,B,C,D,E Outline Notes

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.

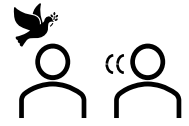
Explore – We turn our chat back to the other person, “Have you thought ...”



Alert - FAQs:

Alert:

Recognizing the Holy Spirit's prompting? Have you ever sensed Him nudging you when speaking to another? That's an alert from the Holy Spirit.



Prepared, Ready or Not?

Where would you take your vehicle, to a garage with no equipment or to a fully operational shop? Once prepared and able to share your reason for eternal hope, you'll have taken a step of faith and obedience which God will certainly call upon as the 'workers are few'. Expect it.

Sensing? The Holy Spirit's nudge is often a loving impression toward the person we are speaking with, injected into our stream of thought. Many times, we realize after a discussion that we've missed an opportunity to share our hope in Him. Once sensed, we should take it by faith, offer a quick 'Nehemiah-style' prayer, then join Him in His intent.

FAQs:

1. Am I qualified?

- John 4's woman at the well, > 15 minutes with Jesus?
- Answer – Yes

2. Am I able?

- Would God command us, if He didn't want to help equip us? – 1 Peter 3:15
- Preparation is our part – God is drawing (John 6:44) – Cooperate

3. What if there's a better way to share the gospel?

- A way, shared in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, beats not obeying 😊
- Since God knows our preparation, the Holy Spirit orchestrates

4. Despite my feeling, how do I know they're open to hear?

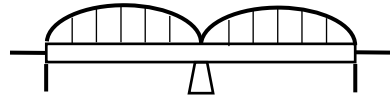
- Prompting doesn't come from us – God knows them – it's go seconds
- In ~1000 instances, never have I experienced a negative reaction

5. What's our goal?

- We're not 'closing a deal' nor selling – we're planting seeds for the future
- For our Bridge and Detail, we use I, me and never you, or your

Preparing Your 'Bridge' Sentences (≤2):

Your 'Bridge' is a brief, general summary of how you understood and responded to the gospel. We keep the description general with few details, because details are like potential detours on our effort to share the gospel, and the gospel is our reason for hope and also the eternal message people need to understand.



Checklist:

- ☒ **General** *(so this introduction is relatable to everyone, every age)*
- ☒ **Short** (one or two sentences max) *(to ensure we can get to the eternal, life-saving gospel)*
- ☒ **No 'Christian-Specific' Words** *(use words everyone knows and already understands)*
- ☒ **End with, "...I learned the Bible said..."** *(so they can understand God's Word is our authority)*

1 Time-Frame

You recognized and responded to the gospel in the past, so create/pick a general phrase such as: "A while ago", "A few years back", or if you received Christ as a child, "Years back, ..." would be good. Leave this generalized, to let even seniors feel that for them, too, it's not too late to consider Christ. Write a phrase here that you think might work: _____ or _____

2 Through Whom-How Did You Come to Understand

Through a person: "Pastor", perhaps use 'church leader' as some might not be familiar with the term
"Parent", suggest 'family member' as some might have a less positive memory
"Friend", good, as this is already very relatable

Through a program, event or over a period of time:

"VBS", perhaps use 'church program' as some might not be familiar with the term
"After attending a Bible study (or church) for a time, I learned ...", are both ok
"Evangelistic meeting", might be better as a 'church meeting'.

Try a phrase or sentence (or two) that you think might work:

When		How		End with:
If like this	Simply like this	If like this	Simplify like this	
"When I was 4 (or 11, etc.) years old..."	"A while ago..."	"Attended a crusade, bible study, VBS..."	"A meaningful church meeting helped me..."	"...I learned the Bible said ..."
"While I was at home/ Sunday School..."	"Earlier in my life..."	"My mother/ father (Pastor, etc.) helped ..."	"A family member/church leader helped..."	
"Many years ago / Over some years ..."	"A few years ago..."	"A difficult time led me to new church where ..."	"Some new friends helped me discover..."	

Put Your 'Time Frame' + 'Who/How' Together

Try to put your time frame together with your Who/How phrase/sentence:

...where I learned the Bible said ..."

Draft Notes

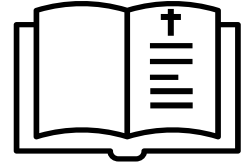
...where I learned the Bible said ..."

Final Draft

...where I learned the Bible said ..."

Core Gospel Rhyme:

In the past century, the Four Spiritual Laws* booklet (a paraphrase, a summary of 12 Bible verses) helped a multitude find Christ. In the same way, this **six-line gospel rhyme** makes the gospel easy-to-understand, while not preachy as it represents **our** story, how the gospel impacted **our** life.



Learning the Six-Lines

We learn best by repeating the first phrase, then adding additional phrases as we get more familiar with the first phrases. So, let's practice this together:

God loves me & wants a forever friendship,
so we'd never be apart,
But **my** wrong words & actions kept Him distant,
this relationship couldn't start,
So, God sent Jesus to a cross, to die,
instead of me,
"God gave His Son, that whoever believes
will live eternally. "
I asked Him to forgive me, & His Spirit came in,
so I can put Him first,
That I might have life, full as could be,
that I would never thirst.

*Four Spiritual Laws – Bill Bright, Power to Change

12 Verses Paraphrased:

Make the Bible the authority!

“I learned the Bible said ...”

John 16:27
The Father
himself **loves** you

John 15:15
No longer do I call you
servants - called you friends,

John 15:4
Remain in me, as I
also remain in you.

God loves me & wants a forever friendship, so we'd never be apart,

But my wrong words & actions kept Him distant, this relationship
couldn't start,

Isaiah 59:1,2
Your iniquities – have hidden His
face from you

1 Peter 2:24 “He himself bore our sins” in
his body on the cross, so that we might
die to sins and live for righteousness ...

So, God sent Jesus to a cross, to die, instead of me,

John 3:16
Gave His only Son ...

“God gave His Son, that whoever believes will live eternally.”

Luke 11:4
Forgive us our sins

John 14:17
He lives with you
and will be in you.

Matthew 6:33
Seek first His kingdom &
His righteousness

I asked Him to forgive me, and His Spirit came in so I can put Him first,

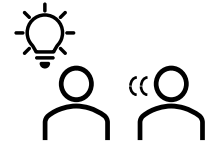
John 10:10
I have come that they may have
life and have it to the full.

John 4:14, 6:35
... will never thirst.

That I might have life, full as could be, & that I would never thirst.

Your ‘Detail’:

Sharing a life detail where God was close, comforting, personal to us **is optional**, but it often can be helpful, especially if it relates to what your conversation partner was saying before you started in with your Hope Account.



The objective for **Detail**: consider one or two times from our life where God-Jesus was especially meaningful and prepare a point form summary so we can more easily share it with someone.

Revealing such an example can help people to begin to see God, not as some impersonal, far-away force, but as a loving Heavenly Father interested in us - a loving God an individual can begin to know, experience, and live life alongside.

Similar checklist for sharing Details:

- ☒ **General** *(so your experience is relatable to everyone of any age)*
- ☒ **No ‘Christian-Specific’ Words** *(use words everyone knows and already understands)*
- ☒ **Short** (a few sentences)

This may help you visualize how to share a Detail:

Person mentions
something that led
you to share your
Hope Account

A disappointment,
fear or worry

A false impression
about Him – e.g.
‘He doesn’t care’

We respond
with a glimpse of
how God has
ministered to us ...

“One time, ... God
comforted me by a
verse/ prayer/ visit
... meant a lot to
me.”

“Though we all go
through difficult
times, this verse ...
assures me of His
love/ care for me.”

We help them
Explore their
thoughts:

See Explore:

NB: We don’t share a Detail to ‘fix’ them or their situation, rather we seek only to introduce them to an example of something God has done for us.

Important: We seek in this Hope Account class not to have you pick a few examples that you must use when sharing your Hope, but rather to think through the steps of how you might:

*1 - **Recognize** with God's help the reason from the person's conversation that prompted you to believe it was an opportunity to share your Hope, and*

*2 – **Select** some relatable verse, incident, comfort, or answer to prayer from your experience with Christ, which you can describe in a few sentences, to let you ...*

*3 – **Turn** the conversation back to the individual using the Explore question.*

Start with few meaningful examples:	Why it helped you at the time:
A favorite verse:	
An meaningful incident	
A time God comforted you	
A meaningful answer to prayer	

You will benefit from thinking through a few instances in your life that God touched you in some way, and why it was meaningful to you at the time.

You may not actually use the above examples in your sharing, but thinking through instances and their impact on you, will help you respond more easily if He brings something to mind during your conversation.

Explore - Diagram:

Explore:

Now you'll return the conversation to the other individual to possibly help them explore their thoughts about God.

Suggestion:

“With what’s been going on in your life,
have your thoughts included God?”*

Then be quiet (the important part).

- Thanks to J. John for the inspiration to this question.

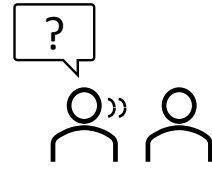
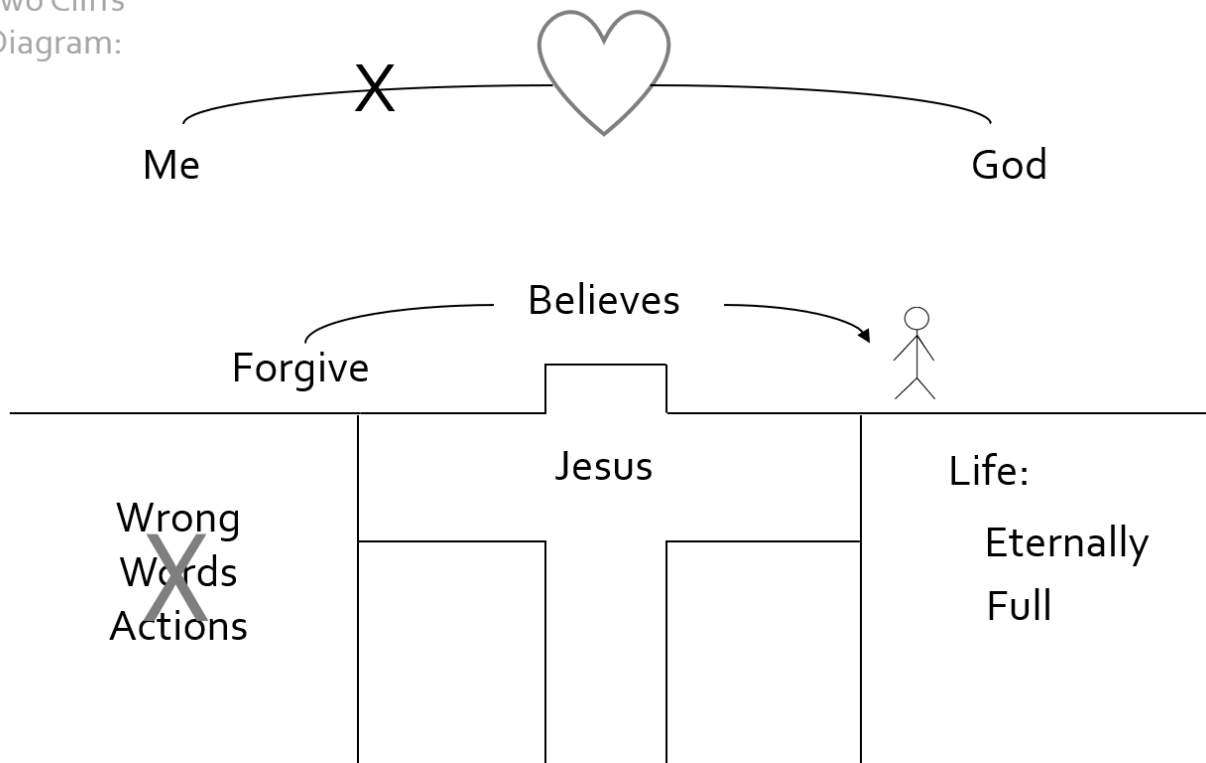


Diagram:

You can recite the six-line Gospel rhyme as you draw this diagram. You might then ask them what side of the diagram they are currently, and upon which side would they like to be.

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

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