



# FIRST STEPS

STUDIES TO BEGIN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST  
By Marlon Furtado

*“I Want to Tell My Friends”*

# HOW DO I TELL MY FRIENDS ABOUT JESUS?

The greatest news in the whole world is that God loves everyone and wants to give them new life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God wants to forgive people and remove their guilt. He wants to change their attitudes and behavior. He wants to make them brand new creations, giving them a fresh start and a new beginning.

## **THREE CHRISTIANS**

Notice what **John 1:41-42** tells us about Andrew, one of the first followers of Jesus. *"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus."* Andrew couldn't wait to tell his brother about Jesus.

Jesus talked to a woman beside a well in **John 4**. After she placed her faith in Him, she went back into town and invited everyone to come and meet the Lord. They did and they were also convinced. That entire town was influenced for good by the faithfulness of that one woman to tell others about Jesus.

In Mark 5 Jesus met a man who had been tormented by evil spirits for years. Jesus set him free from this bondage and he was a new man. He begged to travel further with Jesus, but in **Mark 5:19-20** the Lord told him to *"go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."* And that's exactly what he did. As a result, many others throughout the region came to new life in Christ.

What did these three have in common? They never kept their relationship with Jesus Christ a secret. They told their friends and family what Jesus had done for them.

## **EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A WITNESS**

God wants to use you just like those three Christians. He wants you to have the joy of introducing your friends and family to His Son.

**2 Corinthians 5:20** says, *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."* Just as a country's ambassadors represent its interests to other nations, as Christ's ambassadors we are to represent Him and communicate His gospel to those who are still lost.

## **WHO SHOULD I TELL ABOUT JESUS?**

Friends  
Family  
Co-workers  
Students  
Neighbors  
Anyone

List the names of three people that you would like to see invite Jesus into their lives. Then take time to pray for each of them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DO I SAY TO THEM?

**1 Peter 3:15** says, *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”* There are two things to prepare in order to be a better witness, your testimony and the gospel.

### **1. Personal Testimony**

One of the most powerful tools you have is your own experience with Jesus Christ. You don't have to know a lot about the Bible or anything else. Simply tell people about your experience of coming to know Christ. Let them know how He is changing your life. That's what the apostle John did.

**1 John 1:1** says, *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.”*

Notice how Peter and John replied in **Acts 4:18-20** to the religious leaders who wanted them to stay silent about Jesus. *“Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’”*

Here's the author's personal testimony:

I had a good upbringing. My parents loved me and my mom took me to church every week. But we never opened the Bible in our home, and we didn't talk about God much. I didn't think about heaven often, but I assumed I'd go there because I was a good kid, had gone to church, and was an American. I thought that's what made me a Christian.

One day a friend invited me to his church. The speaker was talking about Jesus, how He died on a cross, was buried and came back to life. I knew those things already. But the speaker said I needed to personally invite Jesus to forgive my sin and come into my life as my Lord. Well, I had never done that; I never thought of myself as a sinner whom God would judge one day.

All of a sudden, I realized deep inside that I had been comparing myself to people more wicked than myself. God would judge me according to His standard of perfection. I knew that I deserved hell. Once I saw that I was a condemned sinner, I knew I needed Jesus in my life. So that night, September 12, 1971, I asked Christ to forgive me, to come into my life, and to take over the leadership of my life.

I didn't feel any different later that night, but the next day at work I began to see changes. I didn't cuss anymore. I sensed a peace inside that I had never known. I also experienced a desire to read the Bible.

Since then, Jesus has continued to change me. He's given me purpose for living. He's shown me how practical the Bible is for daily living and raising a family. And as I've followed Him, He's given me guidance and encouragement and help every day.

Now I have complete confidence that I will go to heaven when I die. I'm no longer basing that upon being good enough and deserve it. Now my confidence is the result of having received Jesus.

---

---

**TESTIMONY:** To help you develop your personal testimony, write out your answers to each question.

---

---

**Part 1: Life Before Receiving Christ**

How would you describe your life before coming to know Christ? What kind of religious background, if any, did you have?

**Part 2: Receiving Christ**

How did you hear the Gospel and recognize your need for Christ? When did you invite Him into your life?

**Part 3: Life Since Receiving Christ**

How has Jesus impacted your life since you received Him?

## 2. Gospel

While your personal testimony may spark interest in your lost friends, there is some vital information they need to be told. This is called the **gospel**. It consists of telling them that Jesus died for their sins, that He was buried and that He arose on the third day.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-5** - *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve."*

The word "gospel" means "good news." Paul was bold in sharing this Gospel with others because he knew its simple message about Jesus carried the power to change anyone's life.

**Romans 1:16** - *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."*

Paul knew that the power was in the message of the gospel, not in his eloquent delivery and convincing debate methods. He did not want to convince their minds. He wanted to change their hearts.

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5** *"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."*

### One method of sharing the Gospel - L.O.V.E.D.

I asked the Lord to help me develop a method of presenting the gospel that I could easily remember and this is what He gave me. It uses the letters of the word, **L-O-V-E-D**. At this point, don't worry about memorizing it. It is much more important at this time to develop your Personal Testimony. In time, though, it will be important to be able to give a clear presentation of the gospel.

For now, here is a brief summary.

You are **L**oved by God. He wants you to know Him right now, as well as live with Him forever. But your sin has **O**ffended Him. Because God is just and holy, He will have to judge your sin after you die. The penalty will be existence in hell forever. In order for you to avoid that, Jesus **V**oluntarily left heaven and became a man. When He died on the cross it was to pay the penalty your sins deserved. But three days later, Jesus came back to life. Now He offers you **E**ternal Life as a gift. You can't earn it and you don't deserve it. But it won't happen automatically. You must **D**ecide to confess your sins to Jesus and turn the steering wheel of your life over to Him.

Ask your mentor for some copies of the "**You are *LOVED***" tract or another one. Tracts are great tools to carry with you to hand out.

### Another method of sharing the Gospel - BRIDGE

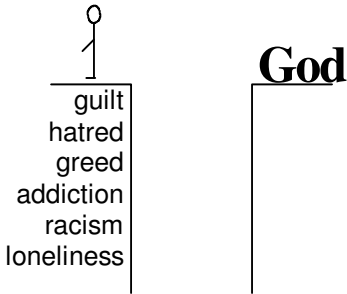
On the next page you will see how the letters of LOVED can walk a person through what has been called "**The Bridge**". This illustration has been used millions of times to convey the truth that our sin has created a chasm between God and man. By our own efforts, we can never become good enough to cross the gap. But Jesus was good enough, and through His sacrifice on the cross, He became the **BRIDGE**.

Ask your mentor to draw it out for you. The beauty of the Bridge illustration is that you can draw it out step by step practically anywhere.



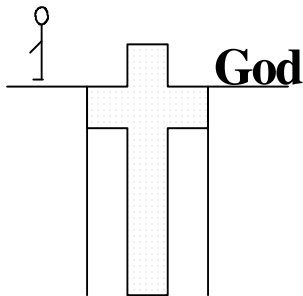
### Loved by God

God has always existed. He created you for a close friendship. His love is not based upon your goodness or the things you've done. Love is God's very nature.



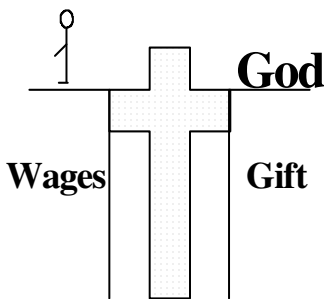
### Offended God

Instead of loving God in return, each of us has turned our back on Him. This prideful attitude is called sin and it has resulted in broken lives and a broken world. Sin is very serious. Each of us will face the judgment of God for our rebellion.



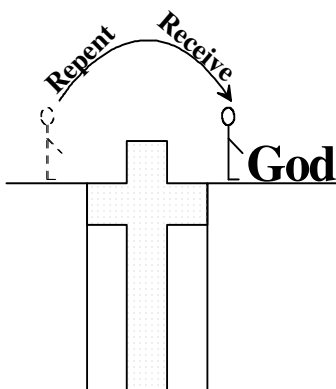
### Voluntary Substitute

Jesus came from heaven voluntarily to rescue us from our sin. He did this by being our Substitute, suffering the judgment our sin deserved. After His death on the cross, His body was placed in a rock tomb. To validate His work in our behalf, He was resurrected three days later.



### Eternal Life Is a Gift

Now that Jesus has been resurrected, He offers to give us eternal life as a gift. The Bible says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* God doesn't make eternal life available to us because we deserve it. Nor must we earn it by our good deeds.



### Decide Now

Eternal life is offered to you as a gift, but you have two decisions to make it yours. The first is to repent of your sin and ask God's forgiveness. The second decision is to receive Christ, to ask Him to come into your life and to lead you from the inside. Does that make sense? Are you ready to do that right now?

**LET'S OPEN YOUR BIBLE**

Write out the verses for each section of the gospel.

- Loved by God

Jeremiah 31:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Offended God

Romans 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Voluntary Substitute

1 Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 10:40 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Eternal Life Is a Gift

Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Decide Now

Acts 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_