



The Plan of Salvation

God's Plan: You Were Created to Know Him

From the beginning, God wanted the people He created to know Him. (See Genesis 1–3.) That includes you! God loves you and wants you to have the best life possible.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

The Problem: Sin

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Genesis 3). Because of that, all people are born with a desire to do wrong things. These wrongs—also known as sins—prevent us from having a relationship with God. In fact, the results of sin are death and eternal separation from God.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

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



God's Solution: Jesus

We've all messed up with God. Even if we try really hard, none of us can live a perfect life. Our best efforts could never earn God's forgiveness or pay the price for our sin. Because God loves people, He decided to send His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. Only Jesus could live a perfect life and keep all of God's laws. He died on the cross as the final sacrifice for our sins. If we choose to believe in Jesus, we gain a right relationship with God and will spend eternity with Him.

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)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Your Response: Accept God's Gift

What do you do when someone gives you a gift? You accept it, don't you? The best response to God's gift of forgiveness is to accept what Jesus has done. You can do this by admitting that you've done wrong and you need God's forgiveness. When you do this, God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside you.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

If you are ready to trust Jesus, pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I've sinned against You. Have mercy on me and forgive my sin. I believe You died in my place, then rose from the dead. Because of You, I can be a child of God. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. In Your name, amen.

What Now?

- **Tell Someone.** Tell your parents, your friends—anyone you can think of. See if they notice the change in your life.
- **Start Praying.** You can talk to God anytime you like. He's your new best friend.
- **Read the Bible.** The Bible is God's message book for you. The more you read it the better you will know Him.
- **Serve God.** Look for ways to serve Him using your talents and resources.

