

THE FOUR — FACILITATOR GUIDE

A Gospel Training & Presentation Tool

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Four is a gospel presentation tool developed by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes that uses four simple symbols — a heart, a division sign, a cross, and a question mark — to walk participants through the gospel message clearly and memorably. This session will guide participants through all four signs, give them an opportunity to practice sharing the presentation, and close with a small group follow-up discussion through the participant handout.

These resources can be used as a gospel training to equip participants to share the gospel with others, or as a gospel lesson to help a group personally engage with and respond to the message. Both purposes are meaningful and often happen simultaneously in the same room. For example, someone who doesn't know Jesus could respond to the gospel during the presentation, while someone who does know Jesus grows in confidence to share it. The same session can serve both purposes.

NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR

Before leading this session, familiarize yourself with The Four until you can present it naturally without reading word for word. You do not need to memorize the script perfectly — but you should know the flow well enough to draw and label each symbol fluidly. The Four was originally developed by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes — visit <https://thefour.fca.org/> to learn more. For additional context and teaching ideas, read the full blog post “Start with the Gospel” at redeemedblog.com. Participant handouts with the small group follow-up lesson are available as separate downloads — choose the version that fits your group before printing.

SESSION GOALS

- 1. For Believers** — Every follower of Jesus who participates in this session will leave more confident in their ability to share the gospel message — in a one-on-one conversation, with a group, or in an everyday moment God opens up. (1 Peter 3:15)
- 2. For Those Who Don't Yet Know Jesus** — Any person who does not yet know Jesus as their Savior will leave feeling that the gospel message makes sense, that it is meant for them personally, and that they know how to respond in faith. (Romans 10:14–15)

SESSION OVERVIEW

Step 1 — Frame the Session

Before introducing the presentation, take a few minutes to share why the gospel is the starting point for everything. Help participants understand that the gospel is not just the entry point to the Christian life — it is the foundation everything else is built on. A believer

who knows the gospel well and can articulate it clearly is better equipped to grow in their own faith, disciple others, and share their story with confidence. You might say something like:

“Before we dive into any study or series, we want to make sure we are all starting from the same place — the gospel. The gospel is not just for people who don’t yet know Jesus. It is the foundation of everything we believe as followers of Christ. Today we are going to walk through it together so that we know it well enough to live it, share it, and build everything else on top of it.”

Step 2 — Introduce the Session

Gather your group and explain what you will be doing together. Tell participants you will be walking them through the gospel message using a simple four-part presentation called The Four. Each part is represented by a symbol — a heart, a division sign, a cross, and a question mark. Let them know they will follow along on their participant handout as you teach.

Step 3 — Teach the Visual

Using the script on the following page, present each of the four signs in order. As you present each sign, draw the symbol and write what it represents next to it. You can also write the scripture references next to each symbol as you go. Speak naturally and let the symbols guide the conversation. Encourage participants to follow along on their handout as you teach. Before you begin, review the Conversation Starters on the following page. These are simple lead-ins you can share with participants to help them know how to introduce the gospel naturally in a one-on-one conversation. Encourage participants to write down any that feel natural to them before you begin.

Step 4 — Partner Practice

Once you have finished presenting The Four, have participants pair up with someone near them. Encourage them to open their practice time with one of the Conversation Starters and close with a question from the Continuing the Conversation section at the end of this guide. Ask each person to take a turn sharing what they remember — walking their partner through all four signs in order. Encourage partners to help each other if someone gets stuck or forgets a part. Remind them that this is practice, not a test.

Step 5 — Group Debrief

Bring everyone back together after the partner practice. Use this time to encourage your group well. You might ask:

- What went well when you practiced?
- What was hard or felt awkward?
- Did practicing even once help your confidence?
- What questions, if any, do you have?

Acknowledge that sharing the gospel can feel intimidating — but remind your group that confidence grows through practice, not perfection. Most importantly, remind them that it is

only through the power of God that anyone is saved. Our job is to be faithful and willing — not flawless. (1 Corinthians 3:6–7)

Step 6 — Salvation Invitation

Before dismissing to small groups, take a brief moment to acknowledge that someone in the room may be hearing the gospel for the first time — or may have heard it many times but is ready to officially respond in faith today. Invite anyone who does not know Jesus as their Savior to talk to you or another leader before they leave that day. Do not rush this moment. It may be the most important thing that happens all night.

Step 7 — Small Group Discussion

Dismiss participants to their small groups with their participant handout. The small group follow-up lesson is designed to show the gospel lived out in a Scripture passage. Three passage options are available — choose the one that fits your group before the session begins and make sure you have printed the correct version of the participant handout.

TRAINING TIPS

- **Draw slowly.** The presentation only works if participants can follow along. Pause between each sign and give people time to process before moving on.
- **Draw big.** Use a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper when presenting The Four to a group. If you are sharing one-on-one, a napkin or the back of a piece of paper works just fine.
- **Draw and label as you go.** As you present each sign, draw the symbol and write what it represents next to it — for example, draw the heart and write “God loves you” beside it. You can also write the scripture references next to each symbol as you go. This gives participants a clear visual anchor for each part of the gospel and — especially when sharing one-on-one — leaves the person you shared with a complete summary on one page that they can take with them.
- **Practice before you lead.** Present The Four to a family member, a friend, or even just to yourself in a mirror before leading the session. The first time you teach it will always feel the most awkward — make sure that first time is not in front of your group.
- **Normalize the awkward.** When you debrief after partner practice, be honest about your own experience learning to share the gospel. Vulnerability from the leader gives participants permission to struggle without shame.
- **Close with a gospel invitation.** No matter how the session goes, make sure the invitation in Step 6 is never skipped. You never know who in the room needs to hear it.

THE SCRIPT — TEACHING THE FOUR

The following is a guide for presenting The Four gospel illustration. You do not need to memorize it word for word — but keep the four signs and their explanations intact as best you can. If you have never seen The Four presented before, visit <https://thefour.fca.org/> or search for examples on YouTube to help you understand the flow before leading this session.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

One of the hardest parts of sharing the gospel is knowing how to bring it up naturally. Share these with your group before teaching the visual and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

- Can I show you a simple visual that explains what I believe?
- I just learned something that really helped me understand the gospel — can I share it with you?
- Have you ever heard of The Four? It's a simple way of looking at what the Bible says about God, sin, Jesus, and what it means to trust Him — can I walk you through it?
- I'd love to get your thoughts on something — can I draw something out for you real quick?

SIGN 1 — GOD LOVES YOU *(draw a heart)*

JOHN 3:16 (ESV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Before anything else, you need to know this — God loves you. Not because of anything you have done or who you are, but because love is at the very core of who He is. 1 John 4:8 says “God is love.” He did not create you and step back. He created you because He wanted a relationship with you. That love is the starting point for everything else we are about to talk about.

But if God loves us so much, why does the world feel so broken? Why do people hurt each other? Why do we feel empty even when everything looks fine on the outside? That brings us to the second sign.

SIGN 2 — SIN SEPARATES US *(draw a division sign)*

ROMANS 3:23 (ESV)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

ROMANS 6:23A (ESV)

“for the wages of sin is death”

The division sign represents sin — and sin is what separates us from God. Romans 3:23 is clear — “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Every single person has sinned. Not some people. Not bad people. All people. Including you and me.

Now what is sin exactly? Sin is not just the big things most people think of. Deep down, sin is choosing to live for ourselves rather than for the God who made us. It is putting ourselves at the center of our own lives instead of Him. And according to Romans 6:23a, sin has a wage — something it earns us.

The wage of sin is death — and the Bible is clear about what that means. It means physical death, yes. But more than that, it means spiritual death — an eternity separated from God in a place the Bible calls hell. God is not only loving — He is also perfectly holy and just. Sin against a holy God carries a real and serious consequence. And that consequence is more than any of us can pay on our own.

But God did not leave us there.

SIGN 3 — JESUS RESCUES US *(draw a cross)*

ROMANS 5:8 (ESV)

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3–4 (ESV)

“that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

This is where everything changes. God loved you too much to leave you separated from Him. So He sent His Son Jesus — fully God and fully human — to do what none of us could do. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned, not once. And then He willingly went to the cross and took the full penalty for your sin on Himself. He died in your place.

But that is not the end of the story. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. He defeated sin and death completely. The cross is not a symbol of defeat — it is a symbol of rescue.

Jesus came to save you from sin and its consequences — something you could never do on your own. But He didn’t just rescue you from sin and death — He rescued you for something. Through Jesus, the separation between you and God is gone. You can know Him personally, be forgiven completely, and be brought back into the relationship you were created for.

Through Jesus the separation is gone. There is still one more sign — and this one is personal.

SIGN 4 — WILL YOU TRUST JESUS? *(draw a question mark)*

ROMANS 6:23 (ESV)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (ESV)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

ROMANS 10:9 (ESV)

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

The question mark is the most important sign of all — because it is personal. What will you do with what you have just heard?

The Bible is clear that the gospel requires a response. But notice what Romans 6:23 calls it — a free gift. And Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it even clearer: you are not saved by anything you do. It is not earned. It is not deserved. It is given by grace through faith. That means there is nothing you can add to it and nothing you need to bring to it except a willing heart.

But a gift can be received or refused. God does not force this on anyone. He loves you enough to let you choose. And that choice has real consequences. Receiving it means crossing from death to life, from separation into relationship with God. Refusing it means remaining separated from the One who loves you most.

So how do you receive it? Romans 10:9 tells us — if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. You turn from living for yourself and trust Jesus — His life, His death, His resurrection — as your only hope.

The question is not whether God loves you — He does. The question is not whether Jesus is enough — He is. The question is simply this: Will you trust Him?

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

The following questions are tools participants can use when sharing The Four with someone one-on-one. Read through this list out loud with your group and encourage each person to write down one or two that feel most natural to them. Then have them practice using their chosen question with their partner to close out their sharing time.

- Have you ever heard this message before?
- Which of the four signs stood out to you most? Why?
- Where do you think you would place yourself in this gospel illustration? Why?
- What questions do you have?
- Would you like to follow Jesus?
- Are you connected to a local church? If not, I would love to help you find one.
- How can I pray for you?