

THE BRIDGE — FACILITATOR GUIDE

A Gospel Training & Presentation Tool

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Bridge is a gospel training tool that uses a simple drawing to show what separates people from God and how Jesus bridges that gap. Anchored in Romans 6:23, it lets participants see the gospel taught, practice sharing it themselves, and then study it in Scripture. This session meets two types of people at once. Someone who doesn't yet know Jesus can respond to the gospel, while someone who does know Jesus grows in confidence to share it.

NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR

Before you lead, get familiar with the script until you can teach it naturally without reading word for word. You don't need it memorized — just know it well enough to draw and explain the visual as you go. For more context and teaching ideas, watch the video and read The Bridge post at redeemedblog.com. Every session uses the Bridge Follow-Along Sheet. Choose your follow-up handout and print both before you begin.

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 — Introduce the Session

Gather your group and tell them what you'll be doing together. Let them know they'll be drawing along with you as you teach — so make sure everyone has a pen and their Bridge Follow-Along Sheet before you begin.

Step 2 — Teach the Visual

Using the script on the following pages, draw and explain The Bridge. Write out Romans 6:23 at the top of your drawing surface before you begin, and circle the word “but” when you reach it. Let the drawing lead — you don't need to hurry. Before you begin, point your group to the Conversation Starters on the next page and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

Step 3 — Partner Practice

Once you have finished teaching the illustration, 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 — either by pointing to the illustration they already drew or by drawing it again from memory as they explain. Encourage partners to help each other if someone gets stuck or forgets a part. Remind them that this is practice, not a test.

Step 4 — 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?

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 5 — 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 6 — Small Group Discussion

Dismiss participants to their small groups with the handout you have chosen.

You have two follow-ups to choose from. Practice the Gospel has them pair up and take turns explaining the visual to each other. The Bridge Discovery Experience walks them through the Scriptures behind the gospel, invites them to write the gospel in their own words, and explores what salvation starting now, salvation being secure, and growing in faith actually look like.

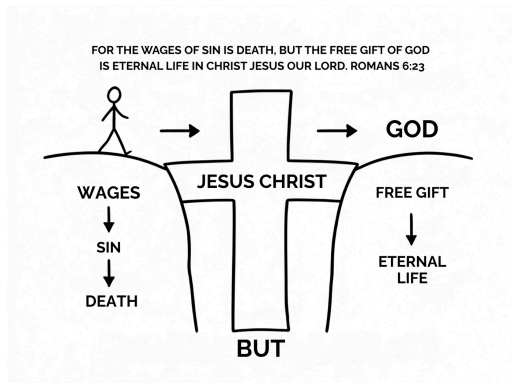
Choose before the session and print the right handout. You don't have to do this the same night — many groups teach the visual one week and come back to the follow-up at a later meeting.

TRAINING TIPS

- **Draw slowly.** The illustration only works if participants can follow along. Pause between each element and give people time to draw before moving on.
- **Draw big.** Use a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper when teaching The Bridge to a group. If you are sharing one-on-one, a napkin or the back of a piece of paper works just fine.
- **Write the verse first.** Before you draw anything, write Romans 6:23 at the top of your drawing surface. As you teach each element of the illustration, underline the corresponding phrase in the verse. This connects the picture to the Word and gives your audience a visual anchor for the whole presentation.
- **Leave the references on the page.** When sharing one-on-one, write any supporting scripture references around the illustration as you go. When you finish, the person you shared with has a complete gospel presentation on one piece of paper that they can take with them.
- **Practice before you lead.** Teach the illustration 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 BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION

The following is a guide for teaching The Bridge gospel illustration. You do not need to memorize it word for word — but keep the flow and the key definitions intact as best you can. If you have never seen The Bridge taught before, search for examples on YouTube to help you understand how the drawing and the explanation work together before leading this session. The visual below shows where you're headed.



Before you begin, write Romans 6:23 at the top of your drawing surface:

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

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 illustration and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

- Can I show you a simple illustration 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 seen The Bridge? It's a simple way of looking at what the Bible says about sin, death, and Jesus — can I walk you through it?
- I'd love to get your thoughts on something — can I draw something out for you real quick?

HUMANITY (draw a short horizontal line on the left with a stick figure standing on top, then draw a line going straight down from it as you say “something went wrong”)

This side of the illustration represents humanity — you, me, every person who has ever lived. We were created by God and we need to know Him personally. But something went wrong.

Romans 3:23 · Genesis 1–2

GOD (draw a short horizontal line on the right with "GOD" written above it, underlined, then draw a line going straight down from it as you say "there is a gap between us," completing the chasm)

This side represents God. God is perfect, holy, and completely good. He created us to be in relationship with Him — but there is a gap between us. And it didn't get there by accident.

Isaiah 6:3 · 1 John 4:8

WAGES (write "WAGES" underneath the stick figure)

In Romans 6:23 it says, "For the wages of sin is death." A wage is something you earn. When you work a job, your employer pays you what you are owed — what you have earned. And the Bible uses that same word here. This isn't something God decided randomly. It is the natural result of something we have all done.

Romans 6:23 · Romans 3:23

SIN (write "SIN" underneath the word "WAGES")

So what did we do? We sinned. And sin is not just making mistakes. Deep down, it is choosing to live for ourselves rather than for the God who made us. In Romans 3:23 it says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

That means every person has done this — and that choice has a consequence.

DEATH (write "DEATH" underneath the word "SIN")

And that consequence is death. The Bible is clear about what that means. It does mean physical death, but more than that, it means a 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.

Romans 6:23 · 2 Thessalonians 1:9 · Revelation 20:14–15

BROKEN ARROWS (draw arrows from the left platform reaching toward the right but falling short)

People will spend their lives trying to cross this gap to get to God. They try to do good deeds. They try to be religious. They try to be kind, or to work hard. But none of it is enough. None of it can fill the gap between us and God.

Proverbs 14:12 · Isaiah 64:6 · Ephesians 2:8–9

"BUT" (circle the word "but" in Romans 6:23)

And that is where we get to the second part of this verse. We have already said the wages of sin is death — but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE CROSS (draw a cross spanning the chasm to make a bridge between the two platforms)

Romans 5:8 says, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God sent His one and only Son to do what none of us could do — live a perfect life on this earth. Jesus then took the full penalty for your sins by dying on a cross. And three days later, He defeated death by rising from the grave. The cross is the only bridge that can get us from our side of sin and death to a good standing relationship with God and His free gift of eternal life. Nothing else can reach across or fill in this gap except for Jesus.

John 3:16 · Romans 5:8 · 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 · Hebrews 9:22

GIFT (write “GIFT” underneath “GOD”)

And notice what the Bible calls eternal life. It says it is a gift. In fact, it says it is a free gift. You cannot earn it. You cannot work for it. You can only receive a gift.

ETERNAL LIFE (write “ETERNAL LIFE” underneath the word “GIFT”)

And the gift you are receiving is eternal life. A lot of people think eternal life only means going to heaven after you die. But listen to what Jesus said in John 17:3, *“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

So eternal life is knowing Jesus — not just someday, but right now. It starts the moment you cross.

John 17:3 · John 10:10 · 2 Corinthians 5:17

THE CHOICE

If someone hands you a gift, you have a choice. You can receive it, or you can refuse it. The same is true here. God is offering you eternal life through Jesus, but He does not force it on anyone.

Receiving the gift means crossing from death to life, from separation into relationship with God. Refusing it means staying on this side of the gap — not because God stopped loving you, but because He loves you enough to let you choose.

THE RESPONSE (draw a person crossing from the left platform over the cross to the right)

So how do you receive this gift? Romans 10:9 tells us, *“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.”*

When you turn from your sins and choose to trust in Jesus — His life, His death, His resurrection — as the only way back to God, that decision changes everything. Not just where you spend eternity, but who you are and how you live today.

Romans 10:9 · Acts 2:38 · John 1:12 · 2 Corinthians 5:17

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

The following questions are tools participants can use when sharing The Bridge 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?
- 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?