

God's Relationship With People

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

Romans 6:23

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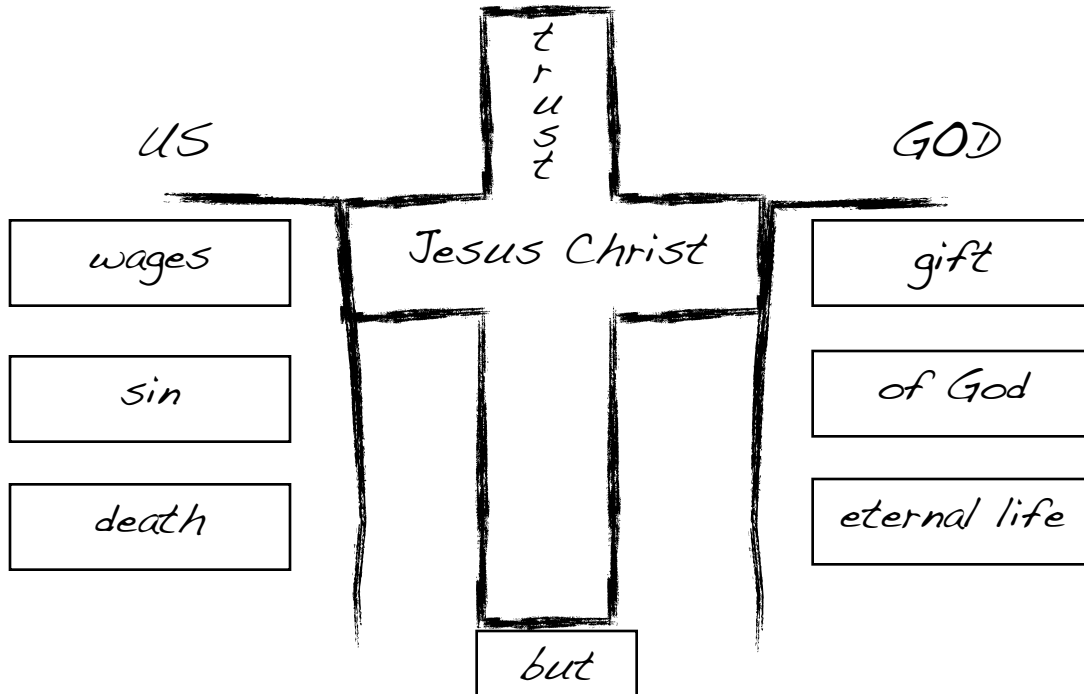
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XX

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Ask if he/she would like to see a simple picture based the verse.

Circle the word "**WAGES**" and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve...our wages. Similarly, we have wages from God for how we have lived our lives.

Circle the word "**SIN**", asking what he/she thinks when he/she hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or merely excluding Him from our lives. (After all He made us to have fellowship with Him) You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he/she says "Yes" you can add that that's one of the things sin does - it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

Circle the word "**DEATH**" and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation.

While circling "**BUT**", mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in thought is coming. What we have just looked at is bad news...BUT...what follows is good news.

Circle "**GIFT**" and ask "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Remind your friend that someone must purchase every gift.

Circle "**OF GOD**" and explain that the gift you are talking about is FREE! It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. You can ask "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

Circle "**ETERNAL LIFE**" and ask "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff - *Death* with the other side - *Eternal Life*. Ask "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

Write (draw) "**JESUS CHRIST**" so they create a bridge between the two cliffs (a cross). Help your friend to consider that every gift has a giver, and only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

Write "**TRUST**" over the bridge you just drew. Explain that friends trust each other, and tell your friend that Jesus wants a trusting friendship with him/her. All he/she has to do is admit that he/she is responsible for the "sin" of either fighting or excluding God from his/her life. This is what TRUST means - trusting that Jesus wants to forgive us for rejecting Him from our lives.

You can ask him/her if he/she wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever.

