

*Note: On page 17 of the **Next Steps** Bible study, there is a list of three types of testimonies. After publication, a fourth type of testimony was added for those who may be moving toward Christ but have not fully trusted in Him yet. This worksheet can be used in place of pages 22-23 in **Next Steps** for those who feel this description fits them best currently.*

Example 4: A person who is moving toward Christ but has not yet fully trusted in Him.

Before: Describe your life up to this point.

- What were you taught, if anything, about God as a child?

- Do you wonder about an afterlife? What are your thoughts about sin, heaven, etc.?

How: Describe any God moments in your life.

- As you look back on your life up to now, can you spot where God may have been working in your life to bring you into a relationship with Him?

- Has God placed people or opportunities in your life to help you learn more about Him? Perhaps a family member or friend who shared about God to you or invited you to a Christian gathering such as a Bible study where you could learn more. Maybe God placed someone in your life whose example you admire, someone who has a peace and joy about them and you wanted to know more...

Now: Describe where you are currently in your spiritual journey.

- What questions do you have about a relationship with God?

- If you had to pinpoint what may be holding you back from placing your faith in Christ, what would you say that is?

- What are your hopes for the future? Where do you see your relationship with God in a year?

The Basic Message of God's love is:

1. **God loves us.** He desires a personal relationship with us. How do we know this? He told us this in the Bible. John 3:16, "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."
2. **We are sinful.** We are not perfect, we have sin in our lives and sin separates us from God's love and plan for our lives. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.
3. **Jesus Christ is God's provision for our sin.** God bridged the gulf separating us from Him by sending His son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
4. **We must receive Christ as Savior and Lord to experience God's Love and Plan for our lives.** It is not enough to just know about God's love or know we are sinful. We must take action. Placing our faith in Christ is the spiritual decision we need to make. John 1:12 says, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." Receiving Christ involves turning to God and trusting Christ to come into our lives. It means opening the door of our hearts to Christ.

What do you think of this basic gospel message? What parts of this do you have further questions about?

Do you think Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart? Why or why not?

If going through this short lesson you feel you are ready to place your faith in Christ you can do that, right where you are, right now. Many people express their faith in Christ through a prayer to God. Below is a sample prayer.

“Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your love for me. I confess I am a sinner in need of your forgiveness. Thank you for dying on the cross in my place to pay the penalty for my sins. Today, I place my faith in you and receive you as my Savior and Lord. I no longer depend on myself but wholly place my life and eternity in your hands. Thank you for your forgiveness and for giving me eternal life with you. Please make me into the kind of person you want me to be.”

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart then you can pray it right now and Christ will come into your life, just as He promised in His word He would do.

If you prayed that prayer and trusted Christ as your Savior, please right down the date here for you to always remember: _____.

It would also be good for you to tell someone you made this decision so that they can help you grow in your new faith in Christ! Who will you tell? _____

If you are not ready to place your faith in Christ, here are some resources I recommend. ***The Case for Christ*** and ***The Case for Faith*** by Lee Strobel.

Lee was a man who had many doubts about faith in God and decided to investigate all claims Jesus and his followers made in the Bible. It was a long process, and he documented all his findings. These compelling books will help answer many questions you may also have about God.