

Creation to Christ

About the Lesson

The gospel is the story of how God has worked from the beginning of time to bring salvation to man. This story begins with the creation of the world and goes through the resurrection of Christ. Though the story is long, you can learn it in parts. The story is meant to be shared as one complete story which should take about 15-20 minutes to share. However, if time is limited you can also share the story in parts. *Sections in [brackets] are recommended options. Vocabulary and key sentences for optional sections have their number shaded.*

Scriptures to read to prepare for the story:

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Psalm 115:3-8
- Nehemiah 9:6
- Genesis 1:1 – 2:3
- Genesis 1:26-27
- Job 38:4-7
- Isaiah 14:12-14
- Psalms 148:1-5
- Genesis 2:4-25
- Ezekiel 28:12b-17
- Isaiah 14:12-15
- Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17; 3:1-24
- Isaiah 59:2
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23a
- Revelations 20:2
- Exodus 20:1-17
- Hebrews 9:22b
- Leviticus 1:1-3; 4:13-21
- Isaiah 1:11
- John 3:16
- Luke 1:31-37
- Matthew 5:1-7:29
- Mark 4:35-5:20
- Mark 6:30-44
- John 11:1-44
- John 10:7-15
- Psalm 23:1-3
- 1 Peter 2:22
- Hebrews 9:14
- John 1:29
- Luke 23:20-25, 32-48
- Revelation 5:9
- 1 Peter 1:19
- Romans 5:8
- Luke 24:1-50
- Isaiah 53:6
- Luke 15:11-24, 32
- John 14:6
- Romans 10:9,10

The Story

PART 1

I want to tell you a story. This story is from a book called the Bible. Men did not make up the Bible. It is the word of the Most High God. These stories are true and reliable because they are the words of the Most High God.

There is only one God, and He is the Most High God. The Most High God is more powerful than men and kingdoms. The Most High God is more powerful than other gods such as the fire god, sun god, or dragon god. He is also more powerful than idols made by men. The Most High God is the most powerful.

PART 2

In the beginning the Most High God existed. The Most High God is the Creator. He created everything on earth and in heaven.

When God began to create things, He just used His words. He spoke and everything came into being. He created angels to worship and serve Him in heaven.

God created everything in 6 days. He created the sky, land, water, mountains, oceans, sun, moon, stars, all plant and animals. Finally, He created man according to His image. God loved man and wanted him to enjoy all that He had created. God created everything and saw that it was good. The Most High God is the Creator God. His name is *Shangdi*.

PART 3

God placed man in a beautiful garden to live. They had a very good relationship. He told man to take care of the garden and enjoy everything. He gave man a command: "You can eat from every tree in the garden except one. If you eat from that tree, you will die." God gave man a woman to be his companion. Man and woman listened to God and had a wonderful relationship with Him in the garden.

Remember the angels God created? One of the angels was very smart and beautiful. However, this angel became proud and wanted to be like the Most High God. He rebelled against God and led other angels in rebellion. God cast the bad angel, Satan, and the other angels who rebelled along with him out of heaven. These bad angels are known as demons.

One day, Satan tempted them to eat the fruit from the tree that was forbidden. Satan lied to them. (Satan said, "Did God really say you couldn't eat from any tree in the garden?" The woman responded, "We can eat from every tree in the garden except we must not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. If we eat from that tree we will die." Satan said, "You will not die. If you eat from that tree you will be like God." The woman listened to Satan. She thought that the fruit was good. She ate the fruit. Then she gave it to her husband to eat.) They disobeyed God's command and ate the fruit.

Disobeying God's command is sin. God is righteous and holy. He must punish sin. The punishment for sin is eternal death. Death means to be forever separated from God.

God cast the man and the woman out of the garden and their relationship with God was broken. God and man were now separated forever.

All people have sinned by not obeying God's commands. We are all separated from God and will be punished forever in hell.

PART 4

Over time, the number of people on earth multiplied. God loved them very much and wanted them to have a relationship with Him. He gave them 10 commandments to follow. God is perfect and holy, so we must be perfect and holy to live with him. [The 10 commandments teach man how to relate to God and people. Some of the commands were: do not have other gods or make idols; honor your parents; do not lie, steal, murder or commit adultery.]

However, no one was able to obey all of these commands. God is righteous and just. He must punish sin. So, each time they sinned, God allowed them to repent of their sins and offer a blood sacrifice to take the place of the punishment they deserved. This sacrifice involved shedding the blood of a perfect, first-born, male animal [for example a bull or male goat]. For God said, "There must be repentance and the shedding of blood for forgiveness of sin."

However, man did not truly repent and kept sinning. The blood sacrifice became a ritual. God was not pleased with the blood of sacrificial animals. God said he'd had enough.

Obedying the commandments and offering of blood sacrifices can not reconcile us to God. What can be done?

PART 5

God still loved man whom He created very much. He was angry that they disobey Him, and sad that they cannot come back to Him. From the very beginning, God had the perfect way to restore man's relationship with Him. God sent Jesus to show us the way back to Himself. Who is Jesus? Jesus is God's son, His one and only son.

Jesus is a wise teacher. [Many people would come to hear Him teach about how they could return to God.]

Jesus is a powerful miracle worker.

On one occasion, He was with His students on a boat. While Jesus was sleeping, a powerful storm arose on the lake. Jesus' students were very afraid. They awakened Jesus and said, "We are about to die!" Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Immediately the wind and waves stopped. Jesus calmed the storm. Jesus' power is greater than natural powers.

When they got to the other side of the lake, Jesus saw a man with many demons inside him. The man was very powerful and dangerous. Jesus loved the man and cast the demons out of him. Jesus healed the demon-possessed man. Jesus is more powerful than demons.

On another occasion over 5,000 people came to listen to Jesus teach about God. When evening came they had not eaten and were hungry. Altogether they only had five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus used them to feed over 5,000 people. Jesus' power is able to satisfy man's needs.

Jesus' good friend became sick and died. Four days later Jesus arrived at His friend's house. Jesus felt very sad. His friend was already in the tomb. Jesus went to the front of the tomb and said, "Friend, come out." His friend was resurrected. He walked out of the tomb alive! Jesus raised the dead man to life. Jesus' power is greater than death.

Jesus performed these miracles proving he was God's son.

Jesus is the good shepherd. He loves and cares for people.

Jesus is perfect. He never sinned.

PART 6

Jesus is God's perfect sacrifice.

Many people loved Jesus. They believed in Him and followed Him. However, some leaders hated Jesus and were jealous of Him. These men grabbed Jesus and decided to kill Him. They placed Jesus on a cross. A cross is made from two large pieces of wood formed together in the shape of a large *shizi* (Chinese character for "ten"). They took His hands and His feet and nailed them to the cross. His precious blood flowed from His hands, feet and body. Jesus suffered much pain on the cross.

Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. Jesus was perfect and did not deserve to die. Instead, Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of all people. Jesus died on the cross in our place. Only through the shedding of Jesus' precious blood is God able to forgive our sin. Jesus death demonstrates God's love towards us. However this story doesn't end here. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead!

PART 7

Before His crucifixion, Jesus told a story to his followers.

A father had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the inheritance." So he divided his property between them. The younger son went to a distant country and squandered his wealth in wild living.

After he had spent everything, he began to be in need. So he got a job feeding pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will go back to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'"

So he went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

We are all like the younger son.

PART 8

We all have sinned and because of our sin are forever separated from God. We all must repent and return to God. Do you want to go back to God's side?

Jesus can lead us back to God's side. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We must go through Jesus to return to God. How can we go through Jesus? You must believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

C2C: Creation to Christ

God wants you and your whole family to return to Him. To do this, you must go through Jesus. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. Only through Jesus can your relationship with God be restored. Do you want to go through Jesus to return to God's side? Yes or no.

If you want to, you must believe in your heart and confess, *"God, I have sinned. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who died for my sins then resurrected. I repent and ask You to forgive me. I accept Jesus as the Lord of my life. From now on, I will follow Jesus. In the Lord Jesus' name, Amen."*

In the same way, now you talk to God with me and tell Him that you believe. I'll say each part and you repeat after me. *"God, I have sinned. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who died for my sins then resurrected. I repent and ask You to forgive me. I accept Jesus as the Lord of my life. From now on, I will follow Jesus. In the Lord Jesus' name, Amen."*

Great! Now your relationship with God is restored. Jesus has led you back to God.

I know you care about your family. God loves them too and wants them to return to his side. You should go home and tell your family and friends this good news. Are you willing to go and tell others?

Lesson Summary

Lesson: The Gospel

1. Practice testimony - If the person accepts Christ, ask him/her:

- "What did God convict you about?" or "Has God changed you in any way?"
- This is the person's testimony. Encourage him to share this short testimony with his friends and family.
 - You will need to help him think through all of his family and friends that are lost
 - It will probably only be 30-60 seconds.

2. Practice C2C Story (using the C2C Card if available)

- Using the C2C card, review the C2C story with the new believer.
- He practices re-telling the story until he has the basic parts and *can lead someone to faith*.
 - *He may not be perfectly proficient in telling the story, but in the next two sessions, you will review the C2C story with him.*
- You may need to help him witness the first time especially if there are not partnering believers.
- Have trainee practice re-telling *Creation to Christ* in his heart language (if a national language or trade language was used to share with him).

3. Call Out in the Name of Jesus

Help the trainee to pray expectantly in the name of Jesus for the needs of people he plans to witness to that God will begin preparing them to receive the Good News.

4. Trainer Testimony

Trainer shares how he recently shared a testimony and *Creation to Christ* with someone from within his circle of influence.

5. Who will you share with? Prayer time!

- Pray together with the new believer. Ask him: "Whom is God telling you to share this with?"
 - Encourage the believer to share with an entire family at one time when possible.
- **Call from Above:** "Then God is telling you to go share with them this week." God commands us all to tell others how to come back to Him. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15)
- Note: If you find a resistance to go and tell immediately because "I don't know enough," tell them the story of the demon-possessed man from Gerasenes (Mark 5:1-20, especially verses 19-20) and how Jesus commanded him to "go home to your family and tell them" immediately after he had been healed from the demon.
- Pray for the new believer to have boldness to witness to 5 people this week.