

The Bridge Diagram

What it is:

- A gospel diagram that answers the question, “How can we have a good relationship with God?”
 - It does not talk about God’s nature, the global consequences of sin, hell, or the other benefits of believing in Christ, especially our resurrection, although it can be a jumping off point for discussing those topics.
 - For discussion of those topics, or for further understanding of what is presented in this diagram, refer to the additional bridge resource documents. These act as supplemental material, sort of like “expansion packs”, to help understand and explain the Bridge diagram.
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How to learn it:

- Look at the verses that support each aspect of the diagram so that you feel confident that this is coming from the Bible and so that you can better understand the gospel.
 - Watch someone share this.
 - Practice drawing and saying it by yourself until it’s second nature.
 - Practice sharing it. Start by sharing it with a Christian friend and ask them to roleplay and interact with you as a nonChristian.
 - Practice sharing it with nonChristians.
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Note:

- This diagram is not the gospel. It’s merely a tool for sharing the gospel that H2O Church uses and that we are excited about. There are many good tools out there, and this is not the only way to share the gospel.
- This diagram can easily be used to talk about our future resurrection! All you have to say is something like, “This is a picture of what happens spiritually when we believe in Jesus. But this is also a picture of what will happen to us physically one day if we believe in Jesus: we will be raised from the dead with glorious new bodies to live with God forever!”

How can we have a good relationship with God?

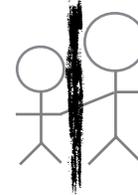
In the beginning, humans had a good relationship with God. He created us to be like Him and He loved us. He invited us to live with Him, know Him and serve Him. We trusted & obeyed Him. Life was good.

But then we wronged God. We chose to distrust and disobey Him. The Bible calls this “**sin**”. Our good relationship with God was broken.

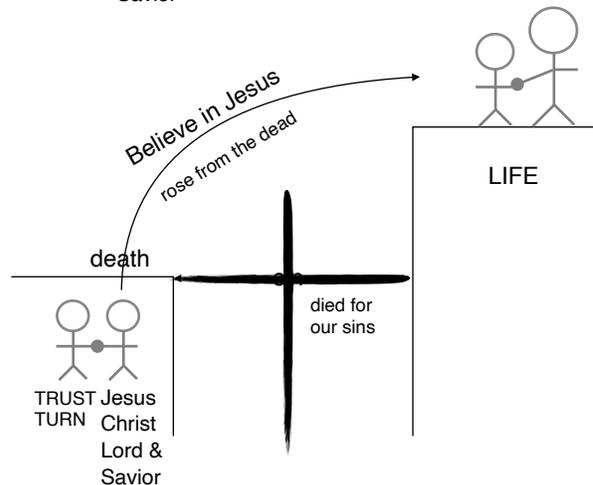
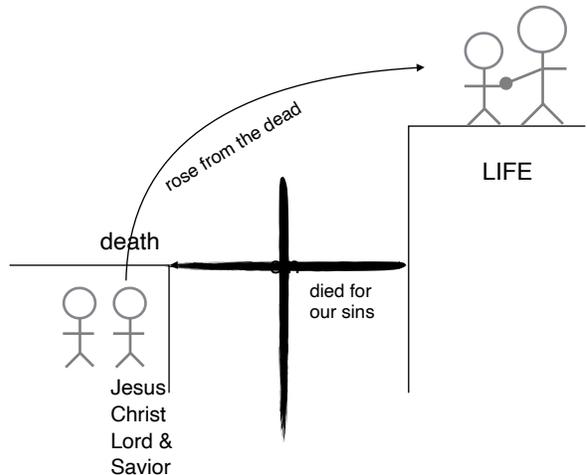
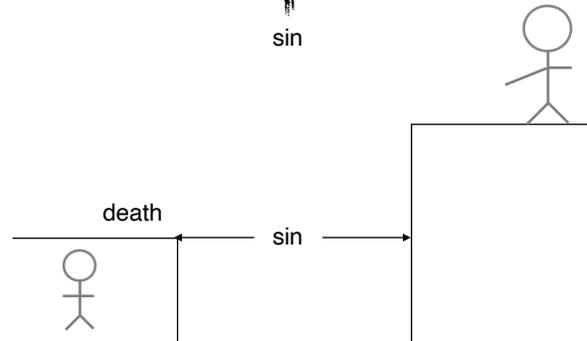
Since then, we have continued to sin against God, even though He still loves us. *How do you think that has affected our relationship with Him?* And so this is the situation we find ourselves in today. Here is God, and here we are, separated from God by our **sin**. The Bible calls this separation **death**. Sin ruins our lives and destroys our relationship with God. And because of our sin, we deserve death.

But God loves us, so He sent us a savior from heaven. *(draw horizontal line of cross and second figure under death)* This savior was God Himself in the person of **Jesus Christ**. He **died for our sins** *(draw vertical line of cross over sin)* and **rose from the dead** *(draw arrow through death to God)*, opening the way for us to be rescued from sin and death. As a result, Jesus is our **Lord** and **Savior**. Through Jesus, we can be forgiven, transformed and restored to God forever. *(draw person with God)* The Bible calls this eternal **LIFE**.

Now all we have to do to return to God and pass from death to life is to join ourselves to Jesus. *(connect hands of two figures under death)* We do that by **believing in Jesus**. Jesus promised that if we believe in Him, we will have eternal life. Believing in Jesus means to **TRUST in Jesus**, that Jesus really is our Lord and Savior, that He did die for our sins and rise from the dead, and that He will save us as He promised if we believe in Him. It also means to **TURN to Jesus**, turning our lives over to Him, taking His hand in faith, and asking Him to lead and save us. The Bible says that if you believe in the Lord Jesus, you will be saved. (Acts 16:31)



sin



- Do you have any questions about this?
- Which part of this diagram describes your life: here, separated from God by sin? Or here, restored to God through believing in Jesus Christ? Which one would you like to describe your life?
- Based on this, what would you like to do?