

# THE GOSPEL FOR *THE UNAWARE*



*This method highlights the overarching salvation story of the Bible—Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation. For someone who has no prior Bible knowledge this method is a great introduction to the major historical points in the Bible and the necessary response. Below is a sample of what one might say.*

**Intro:** The Christian worldview (or the Christian Bible) makes some bold claims. In fact, it claims to tell the beginning and ending of the history of the earth. How awesome (great, wonderful, etc.) would it be to know what happened and what is going to happen to this earth! Don't you think that if people knew what happened and what would happen it would change their lives today?

**Transition:** The Bible makes the history and future of the world clear through four major events.

**1. Creation** (*The beginning of history*): In the beginning God created the whole world out of nothing in six days. He made the animals, the birds, the reptiles and everything found in the oceans. But the crowning point of His creation came on day six when He made man and woman in His own image and likeness. What a beautiful earth it was and what a privilege man and woman had being made in God's image and enjoying a loving relationship with Him. God gave them the earth to rule, to populate and to enjoy, and He only gave one prohibition—don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for the day you eat of it, you will surely die. So there was creation—complete, peaceful and enjoyable with God our Creator. However, history took a turn for the worst.

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**2. Fall** (*The tragedy/problem in history*): Tragedy happened! Man and woman ate from the tree thus rejecting God's rule wanting to decide what was right and wrong for themselves. God kept His promise and death entered into His beautiful creation. He pronounced a curse upon man, woman, the ground and the devil who tempted them. Creation became broken, separated from God, subject to His judgment and doomed to die. But God left the man and woman with a promise. Through their children would come One who would crush the head of the devil and be struck by him.

**3. Redemption** (*The solution in history*): God's promise finally came to be realized hundreds of years later. After years and years of man's rebellion and dying, God sent His own Son born of a woman and born under His own law so that He may buy back all of humanity who has been cursed under God's judgment. His Name was Jesus! And do you know how He accomplished His mission to save mankind from the death judgment of God? He sacrificed Himself to die in their place on a Roman cross. God accepted His payment for all of mankind by raising Him from the dead three days later. Now God proclaims through Jesus' death and resurrection that Jesus is Lord (the authoritative Master of all existence) and Savior (deliver from sin on earth). And that everyone who turns away from their rebellion against God and trusts in Jesus to rule and save them, they will be saved from the final judgment God will bring upon this earth. God's judgment may happen any day so the time to turn to and trust in Jesus is today. Today is the day of salvation!

**4. Consummation** (*The future*): God promises lastly to His creation a perfect paradise where He and man will dwell together forever in the new heavens and new earth. For those who turn to and trust in Jesus they will be saved from death and made right with God again. For those who reject God's payment for their rebellion, they will pay the price for their own sin forever separated from Him in hell.

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The Bible makes history clear and offers hope to all mankind. Follow up with the best fit question for the person whom you are speaking with. Ex: Do you have any questions about the Biblical story?

**The Benefit:** This presentation of the Gospel gives a framework for understanding God's work from beginning to end.

## **Gospel Essentials:**

1. The sin problem—Rebellion and Death
2. How Jesus remedies the sin problem—Substitute death
3. The correct response—Turn from rebellion and trust in Jesus' payment and Lordship
4. The salvation blessings—forgiveness and life

Format from Sam Chan, *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*, 2018. See chapters 2 and 3.