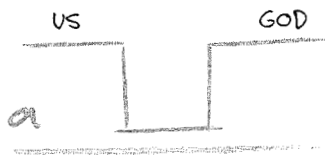


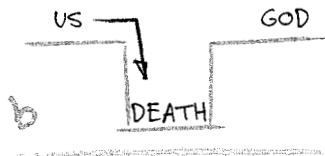
# TELL THE STORY



## THE BRIDGE<sup>1</sup>

God is the Creator. He created you and loves you. He is perfect and without fault. He created us to exist in a perfect relationship with Him to give Him glory.

**Key Ideas:** God made you. God loves you. God is holy (perfect).



Though loved by God, we are separated from God because of our sin. Sin are the things we do, say and think that displease God who is holy.

The results of our sin is forever separation from God in hell, what the Bible calls death.

**Key Ideas:** You are sinful. You are separated from God completely.



Because of God's love for you, He created a solution for your sin. This solution was His very own Son, Jesus. Jesus came to our world as a man, though he lived a life without sin. He died as a substitute in our place and then rose again to life, conquering sin and death.

**Key Ideas:** Jesus died instead of you to pay for sin.

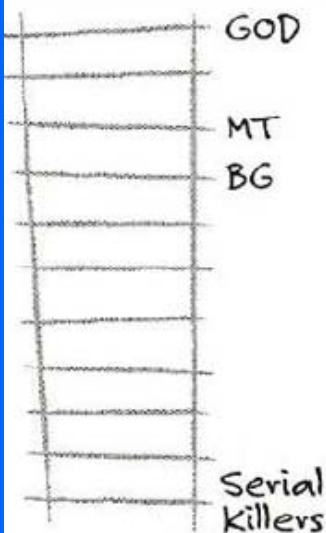
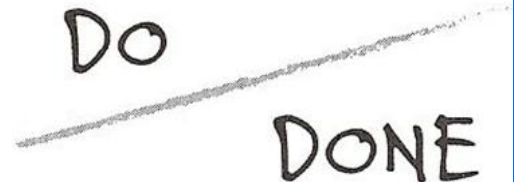


You have a decision. Just like any gift, God's offer of forgiveness must be received. You do not receive forgiveness by trying to live a good life, but by humbling yourself before God and asking Him to forgive you because of Christ's death on your behalf.

**Key Ideas:** You must decide to trust in Jesus for forgiveness.

## DO vs. DONE

Religion is spelled D-O. At the end of the day, it's all about whether you *do* enough right things to earn God's favor. The thinking is, to get in God's good graces to have to work hard, you have to *do* this or *do* that. Christianity is spelled D-O-N-E. The Bible says that what Christ did on the cross is *enough*. He did what we could not—He made the perfect sacrifice to take care of our past, present and future sin. Faith in Christ not only brings forgiveness, but your life will be made brand new.



## THE MORALITY LADDER

Envision morality as escalating rungs on a ladder. God is at the top because He is holy—He's *perfectly* moral.

And, of course, really evil people are at the bottom—mass murders and the like.

The rest of humanity is somewhere in between.

We might place Mother Theresa (MT) pretty high, wouldn't you agree?

We could probably place Billy Graham (BG) right below her.

I would place myself somewhere below both of them. (Write your own initials in.)

Where might you place yourself on this ladder based on the morals that you keep?

(Place a mark on the ladder)

Here's my only question: What is your plan to make up your gap?

Mother Theresa and Billy Graham both relied on the cross of Jesus Christ. If you believe that you can rise to the standard of God's holiness on a self-improvement program, you will waste the rest of your life in spin cycle. *Real* freedom is found when you ditch your man-made plans and choose to accept the work that Jesus did on the cross. You can be forgiven. Your morality gap can be closed once and for all by choosing faith in Christ.