

Getting **2** Gospel

Reaching your neighbor. Reaching the nations.



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Getting²Gospel

Getting2Gospel (G2G) was developed by overseas missionaries to help evangelical Christians share the good news with friends, neighbors, coworkers, strangers and, well, anyone in the world. Relating to someone of a different faith such as Islam or Hinduism can seem overwhelming. You might be asking, “Where do I start?”

Maybe you know how to say “hello” in another language. But you wonder what else you need to say.

We’ve consulted experienced leaders in sharing the gospel and planting churches among people from different backgrounds, including Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism. We’ve also taken some of the most fruitful evangelism practices in use overseas today.

G2G was developed from these sources. It’s an easy-to-follow guide for starting at “hello” and getting to the point of sharing the gospel with people from a different faith.

This simple approach and selected resources can be used in your daily life or in an outreach such as overseas missions.



You could invest a lot of time studying other religions. Each aspect of this approach could be an area of concentrated study. However, the point of G2G is to get you quickly from “hello” to talking about the redemptive story of Jesus.

What G2G requires from you

- Heart. A passion to share the good news with people of other religions.
- Time. 30 to 45 minutes to learn G2G by reviewing the materials.
- Focus. Memorize Romans 6:23. Know the core truths of the gospel.
- Prayer. Prayerfully think of people to intentionally share with that may be in your neighborhood, office, school or daily routine.

The core parts of G2G

- Greeting. It may seem unimportant, but using the customary greeting for someone’s culture almost always breaks down barriers and communicates respect.
- Bridge. Transitioning from hello and polite conversation to the gospel is the most common barrier. Bridge options provide a natural opportunity to talk about Jesus.
- One Verse – One Story. Romans 6:23 contains essential truths that explain mankind’s separation from God and salvation through Jesus.
- Filling the gap. A person with a very different religious worldview may need some additional information to grasp what you explain in Romans 6:23. A choice Bible story, creation-to-Christ video, Scripture portion, or tract could help bridge the understanding gap.



Sikhism

Sikhism is the youngest world religion, dating back only as far as the 15th century. It split from Hinduism when founder Guru Nanak received a vision he believed was from God, charging him to spread the message of equality and truth.

Like Hindus, Sikhs believe in a cycle of reincarnation. Unlike Hindus, Sikhs believe that the way to be set free from this cycle is to completely free oneself from all human weakness through a strict, disciplined life of integrity and meditation.

The majority of Sikhs live in Punjab, India, where they can be easily identified from their Hindu and Muslim neighbors by the distinctive turbans men wear.



/ *Preparation*

Read over the sections on Worldview, Religious terms and Answering Questions and Objections. Become familiar with these so that you are more comfortable relating to a person of this faith.

WORLDVIEW

There are a lot of factors that shape a person's view of the world. History, culture, language and tradition are among some of the factors, which provide a framework for how a person filters information, understands truth or makes decisions.



SIKH WORLDVIEW

- Sikhs are dedicated to ten gurus who lived sequentially during the 1400s to 1700s. The last guru assembled all teachings of the gurus and placed them into a book entitled, “Sri Guru Granth Sahib” (SGGS). Today, Sikhs revere this book and treat it as a living being. You can browse the SGGS at SriGranth.org.
- The worldwide 33 million Sikhs are originally from the Punjab region of northern Pakistan and India. Many have the last name “Singh,” which means “lion.”
- Sikhism emphasizes truth rather than tradition and rituals. Sikhs believe the life is a pursuit of that truth.
- Sikhs believe uncut hair spiritually and culturally sets them apart from others. Many of the men wear turbans to keep their hair tidy since it is long.
- Sikhs are extremely proud of their heritage and community of faith.
- Community service is an important means through which Sikhs demonstrate their faith. Most Sikh temples serve a free noon meal every day to whomever comes to visit.



RELIGIOUS TERMS

People of other religions often have their own words for their god, sin, etc. They also may have a name for Jesus in their language. Using vocabulary and terms they are familiar with can help improve understanding and reduce the amount of information to get across.

You may not be comfortable using other terms than what you know. We encourage you to prayerfully consider using terms that are familiar to the person you are sharing with, as appropriate.

- God: “Waheguru” (wah-hey-gooroo) - The one god.
- Jesus: “Yeshu” (yeh-shoo)
- Sin: “Pahp” or “Paap”
- Salvation: Sikhs prefer “being united with god”



ANSWERING QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIONS

Every major religion has common misconceptions regarding Jesus, God, truth, salvation and heaven. Myths and misunderstandings have been passed around from family to family and country to country. We have compiled the most common misunderstandings.

After you read these, take time to read any Scripture that will help you address misunderstandings with biblical truth.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

“God cannot take human form.”

Response: “Do you believe God is all powerful? Why is he not capable of taking human form to accomplish his purpose? Point them to Mark 10:27 and John 1:1–2, 14.

“There is no hell.”

Consider asking them why there is a heaven if there is also not a hell. Point them to Bible verses such as Matthew 5:29, 2 Peter 4:2, and 1 Thessalonians 1:8–9.

“All roads or paths lead to heaven.”

Ask them if “bad people” go to heaven. Say, “Following Guru Yeshu is the only path to heaven for bad (imperfect) people like me. If you know of any bad people who want to go to heaven, tell them about the path to heaven by a Guru who not only talked about his path to heaven, but died and returned three days later from the dead in order to prove his path is the true path.” Read John 3:16, John 14:6, and Acts 4:12.



“Sikhs/Punjabis cannot be Christian.”

“Many Sikhs have chosen to follow Yeshu. He is the only Guru who can forgive sins and unite them with God. Many of them still maintain much of the Sikh/Punjabi culture.” Consider sharing Colossians 3:11, Romans 1:16, and Romans 10:9–10.

“We only follow our holy book.”

Ask if they would be interested in simply reading a Bible. Offer them a free Bible and an opportunity to dialogue about it.

Consider sharing words from Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17.



// *Talking*

Use these basic steps to start a conversation and reach the point of sharing the gospel through Romans 6:23.

GREETING

You can always just say “hello.” But, if you want to see a person’s face light up with a smile, try greeting them in a way that is familiar to them. We suggest you practice this greeting phrase and use it as you begin to talk.

SIKH GREETING

“Sat Sri Akaal” (Saht-Sree-ah-kahl)

Meaning, “God is truth”

(Difficult to pronounce, but guaranteed to put a smile on a Sikh’s face when you greet him or her)



BRIDGES

Some people find it easy to transition a conversation to spiritual matters. Others struggle to do so. These bridge questions are tested and have been used to quickly and naturally share Romans 6:23. Choose one of the two bridges and memorize it so you can use it more naturally. From the point of greeting the person, move as quickly as possible to your bridge question. Typically, the longer it takes the less likely you will get to the gospel.

Bridge Options

Ask: “Do Sikhs believe that a person can rid one’s self of sin?” (Listen to their response. Sikhs believe sin is in man’s nature and cannot be overcome by one’s efforts. They know only God can take away man’s sins.)

Bridge: “I found one verse in the Bible that explains a special plan God made to free us from the curse of sin.”
(Share One Verse/One Story from the next page)

Ask: “Do Sikhs believe that God is holy (pavitra, ‘pah-vee-trah’) and we are unholy?” (Sikhs will agree. In the Sikh scriptures, the Gurus refer to sinners.) Say, “If so, how can we be united with God?”

Bridge: “I found one verse in the Bible that explains how we can be united with God.”
(Share One Verse/One Story from the next page)



ONE VERSE – ONE STORY

Romans 6:23 provides the structure for talking about the need for a Savior and concluding with the question, “Do you want God’s gift for you?”

Once you greet the person you want to share with, give the appropriate bridge question, and then use this simple story to explain Romans 6:23. It’s designed to be easy enough to draw on a napkin. See the description below for ideas and the illustrations.

End the story by asking, “Do you want God’s gift for you?”

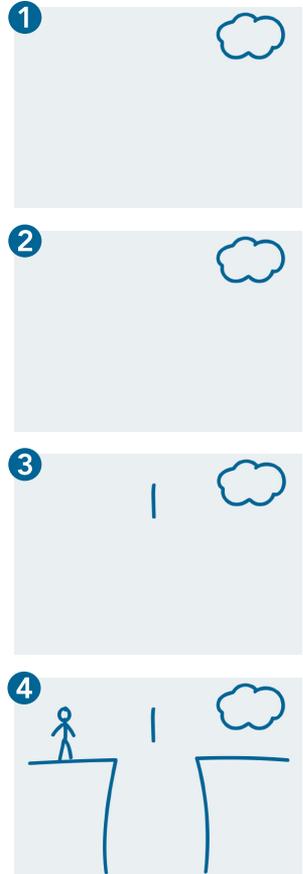
STEPS

- 1 “God has always been pure and holy.”
- 2 “God created man and the two were holy and together in paradise.”
- 3 “Man committed ONE sin of disobedience and was removed from paradise.”
Note: when you say “ONE” you need to draw a vertical line between God and man (see example.)
- 4 “One verse from the Bible that summarizes God’s plan to bring us back to him eternally in heaven is Romans 6:23.”

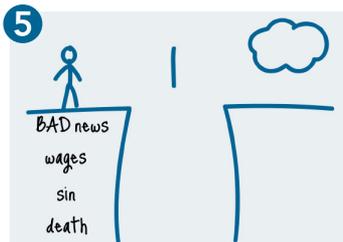
It says there is some bad news. “The wages of sin is (eternal) death.”

FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

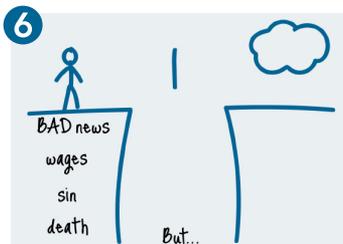
Romans 6:23 (HCSB)



- 5** a. Ask, “What is a wage?” (Let them answer. If they don’t, say, “It’s something you earn.”)
- b. Ask, “What is sin?” (Let them answer. If they don’t, say, “It’s disobeying God.”)
- c. Ask, “If you commit one sin, what do you earn?”
- (Let them answer. If they don’t, write the word death and say, “death.”)

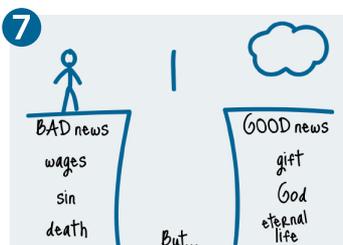


- 6** “However, that’s not the end of the story. The word ‘but’ brings us to the good news.”



- 7** “The next part of the verse says ‘the gift of God is eternal life.’”

- a. Ask, “What is a gift?”
- (Let them answer. If they don’t, say “It’s something you get for free.”)
- b. Ask, “If God wants to give you a gift, do you want to receive it?”
- (Let them answer. If they don’t, just continue.)

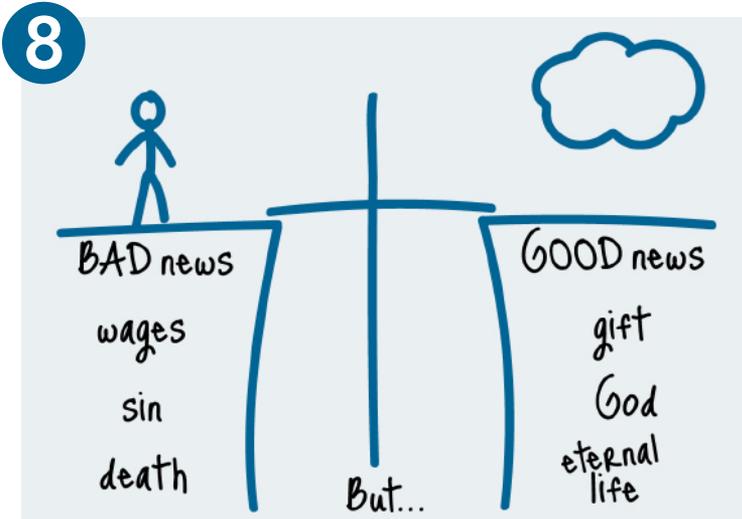


- c. Ask, “What is the gift God wants to give to you?”
- (Let them answer. If they don’t, say, “It’s forgiveness and eternal life in Christ Jesus.”)
- d. Ask, “Do you want God’s gift of eternal life?”
- (If they answer yes, then tell them that the verse ends with the way in which God has decided to give us the gift of eternal life: through Jesus.)

8 [Draw a cross over the *ONE sin line*.]

“When Jesus died on the cross, he paid your penalty of sin/disobedience. With your sin covered and paid for, you can now be united with God in eternity.”

If they answered YES to Question D, you can review and explain again the core truths of the gospel. Then answer any questions and encourage them to pray and tell God they are turning from their disobedience, believing the good news of Jesus and confessing him as Lord.



USING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

It's common for a person to need more time to make a decision for Christ. It's possible they still have gaps in their understanding of the gospel. You can determine if you need to use a Bible story or verse to fill address any confusion. Or, you may need to share a resource like the JESUS film.

The Gospel

The gospel is the good news that the only true God, the just and gracious Creator of the universe, has looked upon hopelessly sinful men and women and has sent his Son, God in the flesh, to bear his wrath against sin through his substitutionary death on the cross and to show his power over sin and death through his resurrection from the grave so that everyone who turns from their sin and themselves and trusts in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever.

CORE TRUTHS TO COVER WHEN SHARING THE GOSPEL

- G** God's character
- O** Offense of sin
- S** Sufficiency of Christ
- P** Personal response
- E** Eternal urgency
- L** Life transformation

/// Next steps

Possible responses and what to do next

- A) The person chose to accept God's free gift of eternal life. Seize the moment. Review and explain again the core truths of the gospel. Answer any questions and encourage them to pray and tell God they are turning from their disobedience, believing the good news of Jesus and confessing him as Lord. Get the person's contact information so you can follow up. Invite the person to your church or begin meeting at his or her house.
 - B) "I want to know more." Get the person's email or phone number so you can keep in touch and develop a genuine friendship. Arrange to meet them in a public place like a coffee shop to discuss this more.
 - C) "I am not interested." Ask how you can pray for the person.
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/// Share more

Everyone loves a good story. We remember them. We share them. Stories touch our hearts, whether they're movies, family anecdotes or Bible stories. They affect our decision-making and transform our worldview.

God's Word changes lives. Consider becoming familiar with one or more stories that will fill the gap in understanding the gospel. Having a Bible story in your mental toolbox will help you guide a person to understand the work of Christ in a way that fits his or her culture and background.

Telling a Bible story isn't strict memorization. Identify the essential parts of the story you must share.



Then, read over the passages of Scripture several times. Once you know the story, you are ready to share it in your own words. Run through the story in your head and share with a friend or relative to practice.

BIBLE VERSES FILLING THE GAP

Use these stories and passages to address some of the questions, concerns, or beliefs found in this religious worldview.

John 14:1-4, 6-7a (HCSB)

“Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to myself, so that where I am you may be also . . . I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will also know my Father.”

MORE RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Scripture: Isaiah 53:5–12, Acts 1–2, and the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- Video: *Eyes of the Heart*. An action-packed drama of a Sikh family who individually find their ways to faith in Jesus (film is in the Punjabi language)
- Tract: *God Loves You, Jesus: More than a Shaheed*, and *Jesus, the Suffering Servant*. These tracts were produced by IMB missionaries and Sikh Background Believers (SBBs) who have seen tremendous results with Sikhs coming to faith in Jesus.



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Need help?

Email southasia@imb.org

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