

Chapter Eight

How to Present the Good News

'And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul *called with a loud voice*, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here".

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household". Then *they spoke the word of the Lord to him* and to all who were in his house'.

Acts 16:30-32

After you have been praying for lost people, the next step is for them to actually hear the Good News of the Gospel! This chapter deals with how to go about telling others the Good News.

The jailer in the Roman city of Philippi mentioned above was overcome with shock by God's earthquake that night in the prison in which he had locked up the Apostle, Paul, and his fellow worker, Silas.

When he saw that all the prison doors were suddenly opened and all the prisoners' chains had miraculously fallen off, he felt his prisoners had escaped and that all was lost. He was ready to kill himself.

The penalty in those days for prison guards and jailers who let their prisoners escape was death by painful execution. Knowing his fate, the jailer drew his sword and was about to thrust it into his belly.

But Paul saw it and cried out **"Do yourself no harm ...!"**

The jailer, hearing this, called for a light and ran into Paul and Silas' cell. He fell down at their feet and, trembling with fear, desperately gasped out these words:

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

This was no intellectual enquiry. The jailer's cry was that of a man who had seen the power of God and knew that he was done for. He had only one chance – to beg for his salvation.

As the jailer asked Paul and Silas what he needed to do to be saved, they called upon him to believe in Jesus. And then Paul and Silas ***spoke*** the Word of the LORD to him. They ***explained*** the Good News to him.

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This event shows you that you need **to speak** the Word of the LORD to people. Yes, **you must speak!** Not just hint. Not just pass people a tract ⁱ (which they may very likely not read). But **speak the WORD!**

Earlier on in Acts, you can see how Philip, the evangelist, dealt with a question from an Ethiopian eunuch:

‘So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

.... Then Philip *opened his mouth*, and beginning at this *Scripture*, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptised?” ‘

Acts 8:30-36 (selected verses)

Too often people just make glancing references to the Gospel or ignore actually clearly stating the Good News. Many people who say they are Christians, for some strange reason, have never mastered the actual contents or essence of the Good News. So, when the opportunity comes to present it to others they cannot do it.

The Gospel is Good News but the lost sinner needs to be placed in a position to receive a clear explanation of this news so that he or she can respond accordingly.

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Tracts, leaflets, websites and television programmes all have their place. They certainly help but they are limited in effectiveness. If we meet with someone one on one, then we can present the Good News in a very personal way. This is often the way Jesus seems to have done so.ⁱⁱ Even when people like you and I just talk to people about Jesus, statistics show that at least one in five people are likely to respond.ⁱⁱⁱ

I believe, for the most fruitful outcome, the soul winner should follow Philip’s example as much as possible.

Note again Acts 8:35: **“Then Philip opened his *mouth*, and beginning at this *Scripture*, preached Jesus to him”.**

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That's the best sequence for all of us: **mouth – scripture – Jesus**.

To share the Gospel properly we must open our **mouths**, state clearly what the **Bible** says and boldly present **Jesus Christ** as the way of salvation, the Way of Life.

That's why we first developed **The Way of Life**.^{iv} It is a means to present the Gospel bringing about or triggering **The God Revolution** in the hearts of many in Australia and New Zealand.

We have observed that when people are prayed for (see Chapter 7) and then receive a clear and compassionate presentation of the Gospel, they will often respond in faith and receive Christ.



The expression '**The Way of Life**' is drawn from a number of Biblical statements and ideas.^v

After many years of trial in real life circumstances, **The Way of Life** has been designed to be used on your mobile phone in PDF^{vi} form to explain the Gospel in readily understandable terms. **The Way of Life** is one of a number of available tools. It is also available as an app through **Play Store** developed by Andrew Amos, an active participant in **The Way of Life Campaigns**, for Australia For Jesus. What makes it different is that it is meant to be presented in a visual way, one on one, from your mobile phone or small screen device.

It is particularly appealing with bright and up to date images which capture the full force of the concept being put across in each frame.



Reports keep coming in to us of how many people have come to faith in Jesus because someone has actually sat down with them and explained **The Way of Life** to them from their mobile phone. People are receptive to sharing things from their mobile devices and **The Way of Life** is easy to use, readily understood and totally transferable. People can be taught how to present the Good News in a very short time using

The Way of Life. (**The Way of Life** is also available in limited edition booklet for those who wish to use hard copy).

We encourage you to become familiar with **The Way of Life** and use it at every opportunity to help people meet Jesus and be saved.

The Way of Life, being in PDF form, can be readily stored on your mobile phone. After you have shown it to an interested person you can then send it to them straight away by email from your phone using a special form that becomes visible as you click on the last slide.

<https://www.australiaforjesus.org.au/wayoflife-responder/>

See also <https://www.australiaforjesus.org.au/twolcampaign/>

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and follow the written instructions. This allows you to take the initiative and place this presentation firmly into the hands of the person to whom you have just explained it.

As a means to present the Gospel, *The Way of Life* has been thoroughly researched so that it incorporates all the essential elements of the salvation established by God for us through Jesus Christ.^{vii viii ix}



The Way of Life is designed to be simple and readily usable with its one sentence questions that start out the presentation backed by pictures. These pictures help to reinforce the questions in the mind of the hearer(s) as well as the person presenting the Gospel.

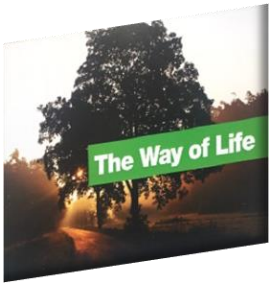
This system of word pictures or ‘memory chain’ *mnemonics*^x enables you to fix the key questions into your mind so that they eventually become readily memorised. Here are the first five examples shown in the opening of *The Way of Life*:

1. [Have you ever wondered] **What is the point of life?**
2. [Really,] **what [do you think] happens when someone dies?**
3. **How can you know what is the truth? Does God exist and can you know him? Is there a heaven and a hell?**
4. **Do people [automatically] go to heaven when they die?**
5. **If God said to you “Why should I let you into my heaven?” What would you say?**

You can use the presentation in a format very much like PowerPoint® directly from your phone.

But it is sometimes more natural to ask questions shown in paragraphs 1. to 5. above in a conversational manner. You can then go on to the actual presentation on your phone after the conversation has progressed. It is largely up to you to pace the conversation with your hearer in such a way that both of you feel comfortable about the way it is conducted.

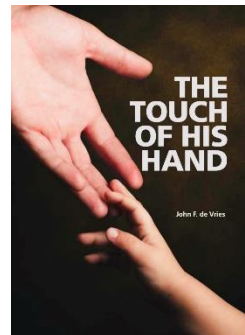
...*The Way of Life* presentation seems to flow quite positively with people because they are quite used to seeing a presentation on a phone or iPad or some other tablet or device.



I have noticed that **The Way of Life** presentation seems to flow quite positively with people because they are quite used to seeing a presentation on a phone or iPad or some other tablet or device.

As I stated earlier, **The Way of Life** is also available in an A6 (half A5) booklet form. You can contact us for a sample.

For people who do not have access to, or cannot use these devices, we recommend the use of **The Touch of His Hand**^{xi} booklet. It includes many pictures and statements that can get a conversation going that you can use to help people come to the point of understanding the Gospel. Ian Nott from Melbourne, a key leader from Victoria, Australia, among the leaders running Way of Life Campaigns across Australia, along with Esther Schipp from Bunbury, WA, have developed a very useful series of training talks on **The Touch of His Hand**.¹



In terms of communicating the Gospel clearly, **The Way of Life** has many advantages:

- ✓ It is simple to use.
- ✓ It is clear in its message.
- ✓ People are used to seeing visuals on smartphones and so they find the presentation quite socially acceptable.
- ✓ The actual presentation, being visual, draws attention away from you the presenter to the actual message. This way the hearer of the message does not have to spend his or her time evaluating you, the messenger. Instead they can concentrate on the message.
- ✓ **The Way of Life** logically takes the observer through the key points of the Gospel in a friendly but nevertheless purposeful way including all the key points needed:
LIFE'S PURPOSE – DESTINY – SEPARATION FROM GOD – THE INEVITABILITY OF JUDGEMENT – THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE SINNER – CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SOLUTION – BELIEVING IN CHRIST AND BEING FORGIVEN AND CLEANSED FROM SIN – PRAYING TO RECEIVE GOD'S LIFE (THE HOLY SPIRIT) – GROWING UP IN HIM – LIVING IN VICTORY – WHAT TO DO NEXT.
- ✓ It has been 'checked out' thoroughly by reliable people from all walks of life including church men and women, theologians, business people and ministry leaders, not-for-profit leaders and, most importantly, by lost people who have

¹ See afj videos on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ZpDB629-mqk>

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responded to it and then who have prayed the prayer of salvation and come to a living faith!^{xii}

- ✓ It can be shared verbally and at close quarters with friends on a one on one basis
- ✓ It can be presented to a group and people can be instructed in its use in a theatre or a church
- ✓ When you have shared it with others, ***The Way of Life*** can be emailed in PDF form to them for their further consideration and for their personal follow up – use the link on the last slide to complete their details
- ✓ The images and concepts are user friendly and can be easily learned by anyone with the most basic education
- ✓ It replaces overly conceptual or unbalanced or incomplete methods of presenting the Gospel. I won't name them but some presentations do NOT mention the **Need for Repentance**, the **Love of God**, the **Resurrection**, the **Obedient Christian life**, the **Ongoing Relationship of the Saved with the Soul Winner**, **How to Stay Close to God**, **What to Do Next** and the **Need to Belong to a good Bible-believing Church**.

The above list does not exclude the possibility that ***The Way of Life*** may yet be improved. Indeed, it has been through many improvements as learned and intuitive people have made their suggestions.

With your participation in ***The God Revolution*** and your use of ***The Way of Life***, there will be more upgrades that will prove necessary as styles of presenting change and spiritual issues need dealing with.

You may have a suggestion too. If so, we would like to hear from you.^{xiii}

The important thing is that when God grants you the opportunity to tell others the Good News of Jesus Christ it is vital that you actually communicate this Gospel by telling them clearly and completely how they can be saved. Then, having done so, they will understand how they may be saved and receive Eternal Life through belief in Jesus' Name.

In fact, that's exactly the way the Apostle John put it in his Gospel. John's whole reason for writing the Gospel of John is:

“ ... that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”.

John 20:31

If you present the Good News to others, many will believe and receive God's Gift of Eternal Life. What wonderful, miraculous changes will occur in the lives of these people!

When these things happen, you will be ready to take the next step with those whom you are leading to Christ, that is, you will become their SPIRITUAL PARENT.

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“Dear Father,

You sent Jesus to earth, God in a human body, not just to teach us, not just to show us how to live but you sent Him to declare The Good News of our salvation. He, The LORD, became our salvation. Psalm 118:14

Our hearts are filled with joy because of Who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Our hearts cry out for those whom we know around about us, in our homes, families, workplaces and public life who do not yet know You. They have not learned or understood Your Great Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Give us the strength by Your Holy Spirit that we may lift up the Name of Jesus, presenting your Good News compassionately and clearly to others that they may hear and respond to Your call with repentance and thus receive Your Gift of Eternal Life.^{xiv}

We pray this for Your Glory, Father.

In Jesus Name,

Amen

ⁱ There are many examples where a tract or booklet has kindled faith in someone’s heart and God does use this method. Giving a person a tract may result in some people reading it and being saved. In the author’s view, it is far more effective to actually explain verbally how the person may be saved. A tract or booklet is very helpful as a means to follow through.

ⁱⁱ See page 45 above: “Incredibly Jesus focused more on the individual than the crowds.” Many stories in the Gospels demonstrate this fact.

ⁱⁱⁱ See www.talkingjesus.org - this UK based site tells us that 67% of people of the population of the UK know a practising Christian, 43% believe that Jesus rose from the dead and 20% (that’s one in five) want to know more. In Australia, when we started with the Australia For Jesus Network, after taking a sample in Chatswood Mall, Sydney over a 14 week period we discovered that about one in every five people we approached would listen and watch as we presented *The Way of Life* presentation. Of 140 who received a presentation of the Gospel, about 45 people responded with the sinner’s prayer and asked to receive a copy of the presentation. That was in April – May 2018 and since then the average number of people praying the sinner’s prayer has averaged 40 to 45% of every full presentation of *The Way of Life* presentation.

^{iv} First published by Business Life Publications. www.businesslife.org.au it has since been adopted by www.australiaforjesus.org.au which is governed by Business Life Network Limited and employed with that organisation’s exclusive permission.

^v Genesis 3:24 ‘... **the way of** the tree of **life.**’ Proverbs 6:23 ‘For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs and instruction are **the way of life.**’ Proverbs 10:17 ‘He is in **the way of life** that keeps instruction’ Proverbs 15:24 ‘**The way of life** is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.’ Jeremiah 21:8 ‘... Thus says the LORD; Behold, I set before you **the way of life**, and the way of death.’ Acts 2:28 ‘Thou hast made known to me **the ways of life**’ John 14:6 ‘Jesus says to him, **I am the way**, the truth, and **the life**: no man cometh to the Father, but by me.’ Acts 18:26 ‘... **the way of God**’ Acts 19:9 NET ‘... reviling **The Way** before the congregation’ Acts 19:23 NET ‘At that time a great disturbance took place concerning **The Way.**’ Acts 22:24 NET ‘I persecuted **this Way** to the point of death’ Acts 24:14 ‘But I confess to you, that I worship the God of our ancestors according to **the Way** (which they call a sect)’ Acts 24:22 NET ‘Then Felix, who understood the facts concerning **the Way** more accurately and adjourned their hearing’.

^{vi} PDF or ‘Portable Document Format’ is a format saved from any standard Word or PowerPoint document which cannot be altered once saved in that format. Users can store PDFs on *Books, Good Reader, Adobe Reader* or other storage apps on their android phones or iPhones. See also <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.andrewamos.thewayoflife>. Please also register with Australia For Jesus on: <https://www.australiaforjesus.org.au/register/>

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vii 'The Archbishops' Committee of Inquiry on "The Evangelistic Work of the Church" in 1918 framed the following definition of Evangelism : "**To evangelise is so to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Saviour, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of the Church.**" The definition could hardly be bettered.'

Quoted from: http://churchsociety.org/docs/churchman/059/Cman_059_4_Rochester.pdf

viii 1 Corinthians 15: 1- 4. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you**, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**" My emphasis is in bold type.

ix *Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God*, J.I. Packer, Intersity Press, 1961 '...the truth is that you cannot make sense of ... Jesus until you understand the *incarnation*- that ... Jesus was in fact God the Son, made man to save sinners according to his Father's eternal purpose.' P.73 James Packer goes on to list *atonement, resurrection, ascension* and *heavenly session* as crucial components of the Gospel.

x *Mnemonics* is defined as "*the study and development of systems for improving and assisting the memory.*"

xi Produced by Business Life for Bible League in Australia and New Zealand. Now available exclusively through www.australiaforjesus.org.au. Contact us through this website.

xii <https://www.facebook.com/AustraliaForJesusNetwork/videos/483784725357016/>

xiii Email your suggestions by contacting us through www.australiaforjesus.org.au.

xiv Acts 11:18