

Forty Sketch Board Messages for Street Preachers

Author/Editor Stephen Gurnett

**Forward by David Fanstone,
Founder of Open Air Campaigners GB**



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www.oac-streetwise.org.uk

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Dedicated to Julie my wife. My partner in life and this ministry.

**The author wishes to thank Gloria Bradford and Joe Hallett
who spent a many hours proof reading the manuscript.**

Foreword by David Fanstone

As I sit down to write this Forward to Steve's book, I am trying to imagine the sort of people who would pick up a book entitled *Forty Sketch Board Messages for Street Preachers*. I'm fairly certain one group would come under the heading of experienced Evangelists. If this is you, you have probably already given up reading this forward and are perusing the sermons to see if there are any ideas or illustrations you can use in your own ministry! Well that's okay - Steve has given you a wealth of field tested sermons and ideas and I'm sure you will find this book a constant inspiration and help in your preaching ministry.

However if you are still reading you are also the sort of person who can really benefit from this book. You've probably had limited experience of speaking in public and maybe you face a challenge – someone has asked you to speak at a meeting and you're desperately casting around for ideas. If this is you, this book is designed to help. Why not try speaking and at the same time illustrating your talk with some visual aides or as we call it in Open Air Campaigners, sketch board preaching.

Steve will explain elsewhere the advantages of visualising your talk and give you tips on painting etc. The first time you try it you'll probably do it badly - but persevere, practice and improve! Even after several attempts you may feel the painting is hindering your delivery and you will be better off just preaching. You'll quickly discover that this is not the case, particularly if you are preaching in the open air. The sketch board makes you an artist rather than a preacher and it is a definite help in drawing and keeping your crowd. A word of warning, especially in the open air where the audience are free to walk off at anytime, if you have nothing to say painting on the sketch board won't hold your crowd. In other words, an anointed message is more important than a perfect sketch board, but of course strive to improve both.

These sermon outlines will give you ideas and interesting details you can learn by heart, but when it comes to preaching Christ, the cross and your testimony, you must seek the anointing and freedom of the Holy Spirit to take over. There is no greater thrill for the Evangelist than to stand on the street and see the Holy Spirit powerfully impacting the crowd with the gospel as you speak and paint on the sketch board. I can assure you that if you learn the art of communicating the Gospel in the open air with all the noise, distractions and opposition, you will be equipped to reach an audience anywhere. The world will truly become your mission field.

"Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." Proverbs 22:29

In conclusion I would like to thank Steve for devoting many hours of his time during a well deserved sabbatical break to write this book. I'm sure Steve will think it all worth while if by reading his book you not only get a new message but some of you are introduced to a new ministry of effectively preaching Christ.

**David Fanstone,
Evangelist and Founder of Open Air Campaigners GB,
Brighton, UK.
March 2008.**

Before using and reading this publication you may want to know something about the author. So here goes:

My name is Stephen Gurnett, but friends call me Steve.

I was not sure whether to call myself author or editor as the main part of the book is made up of presentations mainly designed by others. Some are my own work, but most I have simply edited. I hope the publication will be a helpful to you, as you seek to share Christ with those who are yet to come to know him.

I was born and brought up in the heart of South East London, where my parents also spent most of their childhood. Having survived the Blitz, they met at their local Baptist church, where they were both members. I am grateful to God for the privilege of being brought up in a family where the God of the Bible was honoured. I always remember my father saying Jesus should always be first, education second and pleasure last.

With such a background, it is difficult to say where my Christian experience and understanding began. I firmly hold that when people are exposed to biblical teaching, it always achieves something in their life, even if they are unaware of it at the time. (Isaiah 55:11) My early exposure to God's Word led me towards a point in mid-teenage years when I decided to commit my life to following Christ. Clearly, I had much to learn about life at that point. My understanding of the nature of being a follower of Jesus of Nazareth has continued to develop, even to the present time. I believe a whole of lifetime will never be enough to search every facet of the Christian faith and the wonder of salvation which comes by faith alone.

As a teenager, I felt the need to share my faith with others and did so whenever I could. This desire continued into college and work life. I distinctly remember a college lecturer talking about the need to *know* a partner, in the biblical sense of the word – pre-marital sexual relations, before marriage could be considered and everyone in the class was nodding in agreement. I strongly disagreed, arguing the need to trust God and not rely purely on our own feelings. This led to a in depth discussion, where I was able to explain how faith in God effects every part of life. Fortunately, I was ready with a whole pack of Christian literature to distribute to the class after the opportunity had arisen. I wanted others to be enabled know the Lord for themselves, so I usually ensured I was ready with literature.

Later, soon after the birth of our first child, my wife and I became part of a small church plant near our home. We were encouraged to reach out to friends and neighbours and over a short period the church grew numerically. Many coming to faith for the first time through our evangelistic efforts. This took us into a situation where many of our people were new converts and had a massive drive to tell others about their new found faith. This consequently led to many visits to our local shopping centre on where Saturday mornings we enthusiastically shared our faith through music, acting, and preaching. That is where I first saw the sketch board used by our minister, although I did not use it myself. It was years later, when we had joined another church that someone invited an evangelist from Open Air Campaigners to demonstrate how the sketch board could be used for street preaching. It was then that I considered using it myself.

Either while I was learning to use the sketch board or soon afterwards a friend contacted me. He was from the church we had assisted in planting. He asked if I would consider

joining an open-air outreach team made up of people from various churches in the area. I recognised God's hand in this and from that time I regularly used the sketch board to preach publicly. This continued about once a month for approximately ten years as I worked with a team known as, Jesus for Woolwich. The group eventually disintegrated through people moving away, and I felt it was time to take a break from this regular activity.

I never expected what happened next. Nearly a year had gone by and I felt I should join a team for a week's outreach in London. This comprised a mission team of volunteers and team leaders from the London City Mission, OAC Ministries and Pocket Testament League. I was so touched by the amazing willingness of ordinary people to stop and listen to the preaching of the gospel. People who had listened would then stay and discuss at length how to apply the teaching to their lives. Many, having been moved by the messages, asked searching questions about life and faith. By the end of the week, I felt prompted to consider the possibility of joining OAC Ministries, as an Evangelist. To my amazement this came as little surprise to my wife. Many years before the Lord had clearly told her that I would work in Christian ministry but she had never told me for fear of pushing me either way. Within a few months I had applied to join OAC Ministries as a trainee.

During my training I attended a two year course at Theology College. The internal training with OAC covered open-air work, working with churches and children's ministry. Since those early days, I have been involved with ministry in all the above areas and additionally have worked in prison, with retired people, with young people, at fete's and had the opportunity to speak, not only in this country, but also in Nigeria. Although, I am happy to share the gospel or encourage Christians in any gathering, my heart is to preach the gospel in public, namely in the open-air and to enable and encourage others to do the same. This is because, there are an increasing number of people in our own society who have no understanding of salvation through Christ. Additionally, they are very unlikely to come into a church to hear the message, so we need to be going out to them.

My present church, Charlton and Blackheath Christian Fellowship, has been tremendously supportive to me in this ministry. They have actively supported us as a family financially, prayerfully and with other practical help and advice, for which I am thankful to God.

We are also privileged to have individuals who support our ministry, without whom this work would not be possible. We are indebted to God for them and I often feel I am representative of both Jesus and that band of supporters.

There is a third group of people, some of whom are also part of the above two. These are the men and women who form part of the outreach teams. Working on the street with a team is vital. They pray for each other and those for who stop to listen. There are even opportunities to pray with individuals right there on the street. They speak with the contacts and turn an impersonal message into a personal encounter. One person can scatter seed, but a personal conversation is like watering it in. These friends are very much part of the work of open-air preaching.

My prayer is that you will find this book inspiring, as you seek to serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the King! To him be praise and glory forever. Amen.

Every blessing *Steve*

List of contributors

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Those involved in OAC Ministries and friends of this ministry have always freely shared ideas and resources with each other and those we train, in order that the word of God can be effectively proclaimed in the public arena. Therefore, some of the messages contained in this book are a result of this and have developed over time. In many cases it is impossible to attribute the talks to a particular person. So rather than showing the author of each message, I decided to simply supply a list of contributors.

I am grateful to the following people who have contributed messages:

Geoffrey Beckenham
Linda Berry
David Fanstone
Dawn Getley
David Glover
Roger Gray
John Haywood
Derek Heyman
Stefan Hofler
John Howarth
Peter Kennelly
Hamish Leighton
Michael Norman
Alan Thorne
Rob Vollebregt
David Workman

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An introduction to preaching using the sketch board

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Some 20 years ago I was introduced to someone from OAC Ministries (formerly Open Air Campaigners) who took a small group of us to a local shopping centre. There he preached the gospel in the open-air, using a sketch board while speaking. A small crowd gathered to listen and were captivated by the message and the words which appeared, as if by magic, on the board. The gospel message was clear and simple and people stayed to listen. I cannot remember whether any personal conversations took place that day but I saw the effectiveness of the sketch board. People in a suburb of London had stayed and listened to a whole gospel message.

A short time later I attended a course run by OAC Ministries, in London and learnt how to use the sketch board myself. The Lord was already in this, of course. Years previously some people in my church had bought and used a sketch board for a short time and it was now stored in a garden shed together with a set of paint pots and brushes. During the course the board was excavated from among the bikes and garden tools and passed onto me.

Towards the end of the course I was telephoned by someone from another local church. He asked if I would be interested in joining a small group of people from different churches who wanted to do evangelism together in the local town centre of Woolwich, S.E. London. So there it was, a ready made team, keen to work together. Once a month we would gather in a local Baptist church to pray before venturing out to a busy shopping centre. I would often use the one sketch board talk I had learnt on the course. I tried a few other ideas I had picked up but they were less effective in attracting and holding a crowd. Over the ten years I worked with that team I had further contact with OAC and eventually learnt some new messages.

With a full time job, a family and church involvement, there was little time in which to prepare new messages for the street. Also, I had insufficient street preaching experience to know how to effectively develop new themes.

In time the Lord led me to apply to join OAC Ministries as a full time trainee evangelist and after a year, I was accepted on staff.

From this background, together with other London staff, I was part of a team which developed a new course to teach others how to use the sketch board for street preaching.

The idea for this book evolved from my own experience of starting out alone after the training course and then seeing others facing the same difficulty as I had confronted as a beginner.

Painting letters, using the ladder style, on the sketch board is in itself a very simple idea and therein lies the beauty of this technique. With just a few hours of practice one can become proficient in it. However, to master both speaking and painting simultaneously takes a little more practice.

There is, of course, nothing like learning from a mentor—someone who is out there doing the stuff. But not everyone is in the position to have a good street preacher living on the doorstep. There are only a few street preachers these days anyway and from observation many of those are not really connecting with people.

Why the Sketch Board?

There are already a number of books about sketch board preaching, so I do not intend to go over old ground, or 're-invent the wheel', as the saying goes. If you have purchased this book, my guess is that you are probably already convinced of the value of the sketch board. What follows are a therefore just a few observations about using the sketch board which you might find helpful.

In Great Britain today relatively few people attend church. Most people are therefore not used to listening to the preaching of God's Word and many are suspicious of those people who have enough conviction to stand in a crowded street and expound the truths of the Bible. In the context of today's British society, such people are usually ignored or treated as a little eccentric, at the very least. However, as those who follow Jesus of Nazareth, we know he taught crowds. By so doing, he taught his disciples how to do the same.

Consider for a moment the crowds being taught by Jesus, and later by the disciples. Now consider the crowds who listened to Wesley and Whitefield throughout Britain in centuries past. Certainly we see a different picture today. The reason for mentioning this is simply to point out that if we are going to preach in the public arena, it is essential to create an atmosphere where people will stop to listen; otherwise we may as well be speaking in a foreign language.

My experience is that we can still speak about the claims of Christ to crowds of attentive people, if we set up the situation correctly. They need to feel unexposed, valued and the spoken message must be relevant to them. In short, we need to create a virtual platform from which we can speak and clearly be heard.

The sketch board provides a focal point where people gather to see what an artist is painting. This creates an unthreatening environment where the message can be shared. The people do not feel exposed because it is natural to stop and watch something forming before your eyes. Additionally, people can quickly be made to feel valued, if the preacher explains that the painting, and the message accompanying it is for them alone.

The sketch board provides a genuine reason to stay and listen, because out of curiosity people want to see what comes next. At the same time the painting provides a lasting visual reminder of what has been said so far. As the message develops, the person will then make a decision having heard some of the content either to stay longer or to walk away. Experience has shown that once people have passed that point and decided to stay, many will remain through to the end of the message.

It is common knowledge that a person will remember much more of what they see than of what they hear. I have spoken to people who remember sketch board messages they heard days, weeks and even months before.

Additionally, the words on the board help a person who has come along during the course of the message to see what has gone before. When the message is finished the preacher or a team member can easily go back over anything covered before the person arrived.

On numerous occasions, myself and team members have explained the whole message again to individuals who have taken an interest in the painting after the message has been presented.

Why preach in the open air ?

As Christians we possess the one single most important message in the history of mankind. God is reconciling mankind to himself through Christ. The message of the cross is everything, and nothing compares with its all surpassing value. Men and women will be eternally lost without Christ and life here and now is unfulfilled without him.

We need to use every means at our disposal to effectively share the love of Christ with as many people as we can. Jesus gave us, his disciples, that task. Our mandate is to get on with it. Privately witnessing in everyday life is important, as is preaching in the church setting. But if we are to touch the masses, we need to be out there with the people. In a few hours on the street, with a sketch board, a small team can have many in depth conversations about the gospel.

To arrange a similar event in a church building is costly, takes much time to organise and often attracts only a few complete outsiders. An 'open-air' can be arranged easily, the venue is free and other costs are minimal.

The main cost for believers is that we feel uncomfortable gathering outside the security of a familiar building. However, those people with whom we want to communicate feel very secure because they can choose to stay and listen, or leave at any moment. The question is, are we willing to pay that price?

Getting Started

Basic equipment includes a sketch board, paints, brushes and a handful of gospel leaflets. A team is essential. Two people can be a team. I have worked as a team of two but a few more will help you engage more easily with people. In a very crowded area a big team will generally help to pull a big crowd, in a less crowded area a smaller team blends into the situation. A team helps those who are passing by to be able stop without the embarrassment of being the first or only person to be listening. It is helpful if members of your team do not hold large Bibles or stand together talking about church matters. People will be happy to join a crowd watching something interesting but they are less likely to stop if it is obviously a religious gathering. The team normally start out listening to the preacher. This has two effects: it helps to start a crowd, and secondly, the preacher is not talking to himself. The team needs to be briefed ahead of time so they know what to do. This is a team event and people who act independently will be unhelpful in this situation.

Many preachers using the sketch board start off with a blank page and prepare on the street. However, if you are new to this, it is often helpful to partially prepare before going out. Even then, leave a little preparation for the street so that you begin to paint before speaking.

Having prepared your board, you start to speak. Always, say the word or line after it has been revealed using the paint brush. If a crowd begins to form while I am preparing, I often turn and chat with them, telling them that I won't be long or asking if they have seen this before. It is all a matter of being friendly and showing that you care about them. When you have finished preparing, turn around and face the crowd, smile and look them in the eye. Stand to one side of the board. Right handed people to the right and left handed people on the left. Even though you may be nervous, look as if you want to be there and thank them for stopping. I often say something like,

"Thank you for stopping and looking at my beautiful painting."

You can go on to say something about the weather, the time of year or the smiling faces of all the people you are now looking at. Anything that will make them feel comfortable and

show you have noticed them and appreciate their attention.

I consider it helpful to give people some idea of what you are going to talk about without giving it all away or removing the curiosity factor.

You could start to explain that within a few moments letters will appear, as if by magic. Alternatively, you may ask someone to choose the colour of your border. It's amazing how people like to be involved in what you are doing. In addition, it is helpful to say something like,

“I hope you enjoy what I am about to show you but it will be challenging.”

I do not normally specifically indicate that the presentation is of a religious nature, at this stage, although some will guess. This is good because they are left wondering if they are right. Having said that, some sketch board messages in this book are very direct and they quickly progress onto spiritual matters.

As the message progresses, it is good to steadily bring in more and more Christian content so that eventually you are simply sharing the gospel. This is much better than leaving all the Christian content until the end, when people may feel you have tricked them into staying. Like any conversation, if you can start off talking generally then steadily get deeper until you are talking about more important issues, it feels natural. Watch out for awkward links as your talk progresses. A sudden change into talking about spiritual matters with a poor link from your previous material is likely to cause people to lose interest and leave. However, if your link makes sense then you will be able to take the crowd with you onto your next point.

Bear in mind it is not only what you say, but also the way you say it, that matters. Speak with conviction, but also speak with respect as if speaking to wise people who just need convincing of the truth. People are made in the image of God, and the Lord is not far from any of them. (Acts 17:28, Luke 10:9)

My hope is that this book may go some way to providing helpful material which can be used by those starting out on this journey. In addition I hope these ideas might inspire even the most experienced street evangelist with various concepts and different ways of bringing the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to ordinary people.

Having said this, it is vitally important that we do not rely on techniques and clever speech to bring people to Christ. That is the unique work of the Holy Spirit who touches people's lives and draws them towards himself; but there is a place for persuasion, as stated by the Apostle Paul. (2 Corinthians 5:11)

You might find it helpful to wear something bright and colourful. I invariably wear a bright red jumper when preaching outside. It helps you to be noticed and speaks of a bright and colourful type of person. I have a friend who wears a bright multi coloured jacket when preaching outside, he looks great in it. It is quite obvious he is there to do something. This is all part of creating your virtual platform from which to speak.

Using this book and making the message your own.

The messages contained in this book have come from OAC evangelists and others connected to the work. Some are completely original, while others have evolved over a number of years using ideas from various people. You will no doubt find some talks suit your personality, while others would not be as natural for you to use. Someone once said that preaching is communicating the Word of God through personality; so it is important to use the right messages for you.

Having read through a message, personalise it by using your own stories, testimony, or experiences to make it your own. At the end of each message rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you as to what sort of appeal to make. Leave people with no doubt that they need to respond to the message of the gospel. Effectively, to do nothing is a refusal of the message but, as Jesus said, each person needs to count the cost. Some need to take time to consider the claims of Christ and counting the cost is part of the response.

The types of people encountered at different times and locations will vary. Children, young people, families, the elderly or people with a shared interest, such as at a fete, or a sporting crowd, can all be encountered. So consider just how your message will relate to them.

Before starting out for the first time at a site, it is advisable to visit the proposed venue at the time and day you intend to hold the open-air meeting. Observe the density of the crowds and the type and age of people about. This will help you to consider your best approach. In general, children and young people will stop readily and adults will be more guarded. Young people will interact with you more easily but you will have to be willing to go along with their lively nature and jokes. That is well worth doing, because if you can make friends with them, they will listen to what you have to say.

Additional visual aids

In addition to the sketch board, I have found it helpful to use other visual effects to either draw a crowd and enforce a particular truth. I have ridden a unicycle, juggled, performed an escape from chains and handcuffs and used a magic props to perform illusions. These ideas need to be practiced and developed, but they can become helpful additional tools which will give both a visual representation of the message and hold attention. Unicycling or juggling at start of a sketch board message help in drawing a crowd but an illusion towards the end provides additional interest and keeps the audience guessing. I simply mention this as something you may find helpful in your efforts in reaching out with the gospel. I have found 'The Fellowship of Christian Magicians' to be a great source of encouragement and ideas in this area. They can be found on the Internet at www.fcmuk.org.

Literature

After the message, offer literature to those who have listened. It is best if the team does not take literature from you at that point because later on a person in the crowd may come to realise that that individual is with you, making them feel conned.

There is much Christian literature available. Find some you are happy using. Especially use literature you can take people through before leaving it with them. OAC has a very good leaflet called 'Turn to God', written by Peter Hodge, one of the Staff Evangelists. These can be obtained by sending a request to Peter. His email address is Pete@hodgmail.co.uk. The leaflet provides a good visual representation of the gospel. Each page contains relevant scripture verses and it is simple enough to go through with someone both in depth or more quickly, if needs be.

Some evangelistic literature is specifically designed for young people, the elderly or people of various ethnic or religious backgrounds. So try to obtain relevant material.

Local church details can be helpful for those who make enquiries, but remember we are not there simply to invite people to church meetings but to introduce them to Christ himself.

1. Never pick up the paint pots. It makes a terrible mess if you drop a pot full of paint.
2. Paint the word then turn to the crowd and speak it. Always paint up the word before you say it.
3. The team should be primed beforehand to listen to the preacher during the talk.
4. The team should be discouraged from starting personal conversations with each other or the crowd during the talk.
5. Encourage team members to pray, during the talk, for those listening.
6. During the talk, team members should attempt to manoeuvre themselves into a position where they can engage with those listening when the talk is finished.
7. The team should not take a leaflet from the preacher when one is offered. Doing so may give the impression the team is trying to fool people into taking one.
8. If a team member is standing away from the crowd of listeners, it is better to give leaflets only to those leaving the crowd, rather than those about to join it.
7. As soon as the preacher is finished, the team should try to engage those who have listened in conversation . A good opening line is, "Hello, I'm with the speaker. What did you think of what he/she said?"
8. If someone who has been listening starts to leave before the message is finished and a team member wants to talk to them, they should move a little way from the group so it does not disturb the rest of the meeting.
9. The team should try to blend in with the crowd and not intentionally stand out by carrying large Bibles or big bundles of leaflets.
10. Do not use loud P.A. as this drives people away, rather than drawing them close to listen. It can also be annoying to those living and working in the vicinity.
11. Do not cause an obstruction by setting up where there is insufficient room.
12. Do not stay too long. Leave people wanting more, not wishing you would go away.
13. Be friendly and smile a lot. Talk to local stall holders and shop keepers and tell them how long you intend to be there. It is also a good chance to tell them you will be praying for their business. I have seen the Lord bless the business of a stall holder we prayed for, after he had welcomed us when we preached near him.
14. Do not ask for permission, just be sensible about where you hold your meeting. Do not obstruct people's free passage along the highway. If you are in a public place, you do not need permission.

15. If approached by Police or other authority figures, politely and clearly explain that you are preaching the gospel. If applicable also tell them which church you are working with. Additionally, it may be helpful to tell them when you will be finished. If you are asked to move, which is very rare, ask the person to suggest a more suitable site nearby. There has been much discussion about highway obstruction and free speech over the years. I have avoided these issues, as the necessity to consider them in any depth is limited.
16. When speaking personally, speak about salvation and point to Jesus. Your particular denomination or church affiliation is irrelevant to those who need know how to enter the kingdom of God.
17. Do return to the site regularly whenever possible. It helps in making friends with local people and builds an element of trust. You will be surprised how people will return to speak to you again.
18. Do not stand in front of the board whilst speaking. Stand to the side. Right handed preachers stand on the right of the board and left handed people on the left. Lean across when painting so the audience can see the letters forming.
19. Group singing rarely has any useful place in this type of open-air work. It generally drives people away. Although, I have worked with groups who do sing in the open-air.
20. When speaking personally, listen carefully to what people say. It will help you understand what they need to hear.
21. Love God and walk closely with him. He will enable you to see people as he does.
22. Pray for your contacts and get local churches and individuals to support your efforts in prayer, even if they are unable to come out with you. Prayer partners are vital, as you are out on the front line. We have an enemy who will do his utmost to prevent the gospel being proclaimed in public, but more importantly we have a commission from God to announce his salvation.

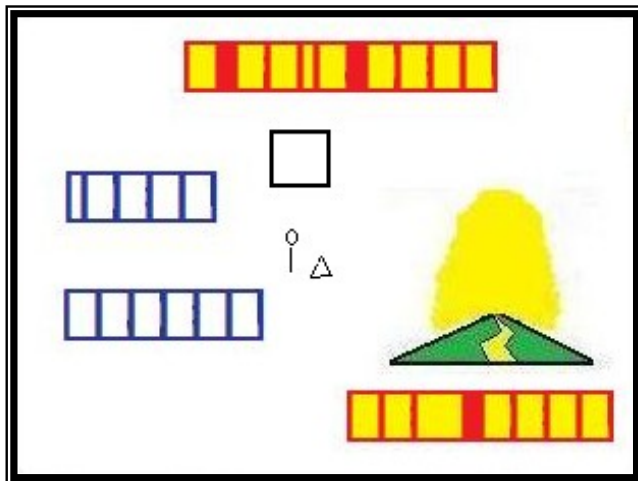
- Ladder lettering** A series of boxes painted on a board. The standard size of each box being about the size of a tape cassette case. Letters are formed with a few strokes of a paint brush, using the same colour as the original box.
- Wax resist** The method of drawing or writing on the board with a wax candle. When diluted water based paint is applied to the board in that area the words or drawing appears. To ensure this works properly press hard when using the candle. When causing the words to appear, dip the paint brush in water to ensure your paint is sufficiently thin to disperse on the waxed area. This is a simple method but people are often amazed by it. Please do not give away the secret, even though people will want to know the how you did it.
- Two curved cards** This is essentially an optical illusion. But talking about how people feel about big and little sins. See the message entitled, 'Beware your sins'. Cut out two identical curved pieces of card. If one is held above the other with the left or right edges together the lower curve appears to be larger. But they actually exactly the same size. If one is painted dark it assists with a discussion about dark and apparently lesser sins.



- Partial lettering** A series of lines where additional brush strokes form letters. These can be either upper or lower case and used as an alternative way to write a word or phrase. Young children, who are just learning to read will recognise words more readily in lower case. Therefore, such lettering has often been used, instead of ladder lettering, for presentations to children up to the age of seven.

For example:

Tecne liva — Jesus lives
TLCLIS LIVA — JESUS LIVES



NOTE: This is deliberately a simple message, with an easy to follow line of reasoning. It is maybe useful particularly to those with limited street preaching experience. Although, its simplicity should not be thought of as a weakness, as I have seen this message used by a most able and gifted preacher of the gospel.

"Good afternoon. Thank you for stopping. Maybe you are out looking for what I am about to write on my board...

A FAIR DEAL

That's what everyone wants, isn't it? A fair deal. You want people to treat you fairly. When you go into a shop, you look for a good deal. But in the end, you expect the shop keeper to make a little profit and not rip you off. So, it's give and take. If he wants your custom, he has to adjust his price so you'll buy and he can make a living. You say to yourself,

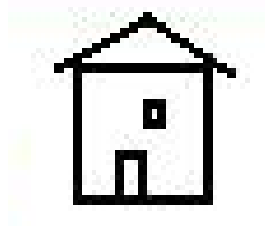
"That's a fair deal."

If you work for someone, you also want a fair deal. If you work hard for long hours, you earn your wages. You want enough money for all your time and effort. That's a fair deal, isn't it?

But you know many people today are looking for this...

IDEAL

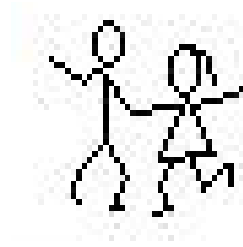
There's even an exhibition every year in the centre of London with a name which starts with this word. What is the exhibition?



That's right the Ideal Home Exhibition. It's ridiculous really, isn't it? Does anybody here live in the ideal home? Where everything is perfect all the time? No, so we set up a show and

pretend you can buy the ideal home. No wonder its so well attended. We all want to live in the ideal home, but in reality we realise it doesn't exist.

What else ideal are we looking for...



the ideal partner.

Wouldn't it be great to find just the ideal partner. Us boys may be thinking of a beautiful, young lady with a perfect figure. While the ladies want a hunk of a man, who sweeps you off your feet into his shiny sports car. But, does this ideal partner actual exist? If we could find one, would we be the ideal partner in return?

What about the ideal job. What's the ideal job?

First it needs to pay a big salary for short hours.

Secondly, it has long holidays and,

thirdly a big pension at the end. If you find it, let me know; I want to apply too!

It's true, isn't it we want everything to be ideal. But instead, many of us find the complete opposite.

We find that in reality,

lots of things are an...

ORDEAL

The home we live in is far from ideal. We could think of loads of places better to live. But circumstances and money, or lack of it prevent us moving. The neighbours are noisy, the place is too small, and the bills are too expensive.

And the ideal partner was not so ideal. The love we once felt has cooled off. We argue and fight.

Or maybe, home and partner are okay, but the job is such a grind. Everyday, the same old routine - up early each morning, never back until late, and the pay is just never enough. Not to mention the grief you get from the boss each day.

It's all a bit of an ordeal. You feel...



negative about life.

And you are...



divided from the ideal life you really think you deserve.

There is however, someone who knows and cares about your life and circumstances. He knows how you feel. In fact there is a part in the Bible which says he is able to sympathise with us. Because he knows how we feel.

Who am I referring to?... Don't run away!

The man Jesus Christ. The most famous man who ever lived.

When he walked this earth more than two thousand years ago, he spoke and gave people good advice about life. He spoke in such a way that thousands of people gathered to hear what he said.

Jesus once said,

"Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

If he can help me with the struggles in everyday life. He is worth knowing. Wouldn't you agree?

We are divided from God's ideal for us because we have gone our own way. We have said to God,

"I can do this on my own. I don't need you in my life".

We have all in fact rebelled against God and have kept him out of our lives. The Bible calls that sin.

That's why Jesus...



died on a cross to pay the price for our rebellion.

He wants to give us not a fair deal because what we deserve is his anger.

Not the ideal because that's our idea.

Not an ordeal because he loves us.

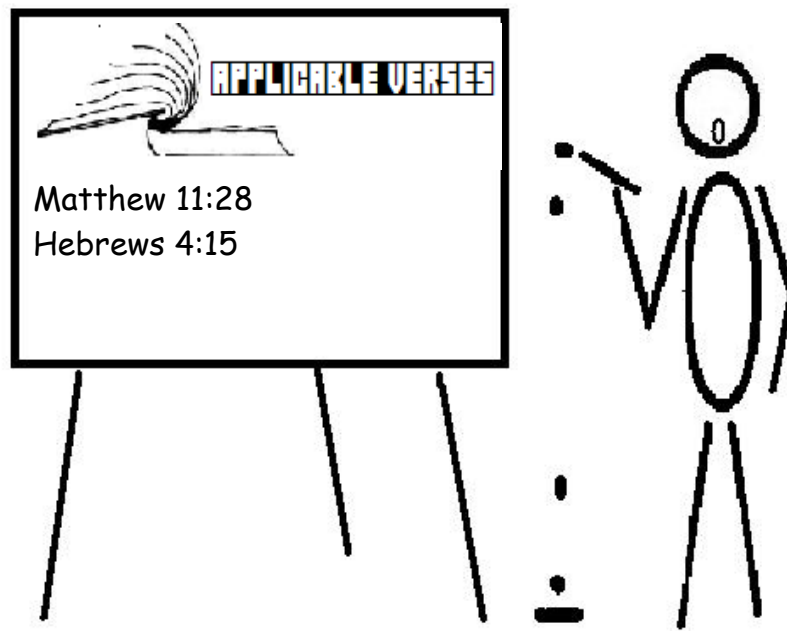
But he does want to give us a...

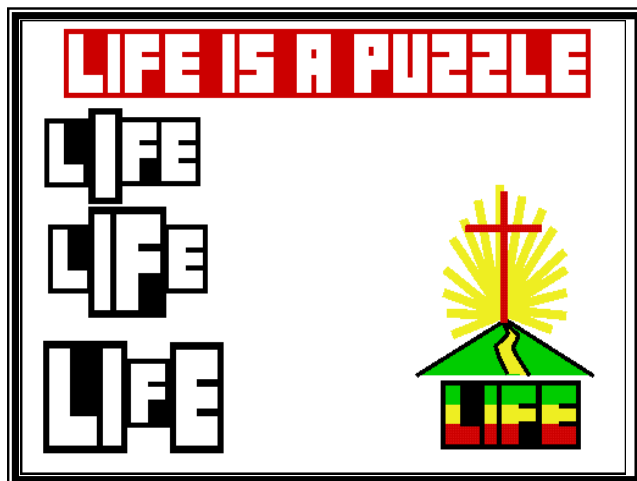
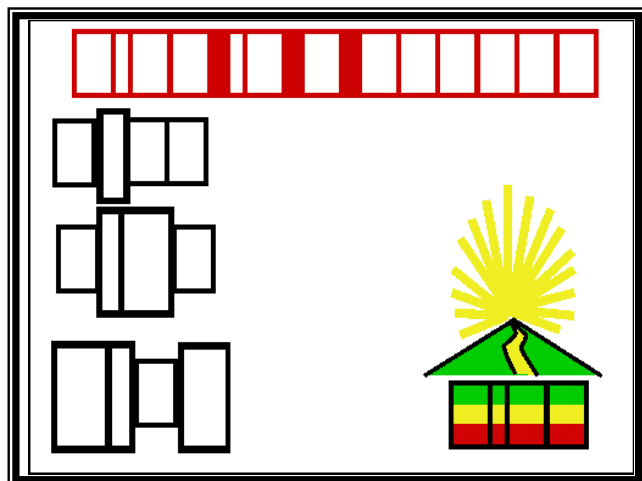
NEW DEAL

The deal is this: you give him your sin and rebellion, and he gives you forgiveness and eternal life.

For those who want to accept his forgiveness and are willing to receive his new deal; you can ask him for it, right now.

Please step forward and receive one of my free leaflets which will help you understand a little more about this new deal."





"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for stopping to listen to me this afternoon.

I'm glad you have, because I've got...

A PUZZLE

for you.

This writing is a puzzle for some

If you screw your eyes up, stand on your head or whatever, you should be able to read that, and tell me it says, - A Puzzle -

Thank you, I'm glad somebody's awake and intelligent this afternoon. Of course only good looking and intelligent people can read this.

Now can anybody tell me what is the hardest puzzle you can do?

No, it's not the Times crossword, or even how not to have too much month left at the end of your money.

It's actually this ...

LIFE

Yes ladies and gentlemen, I have discovered for myself and from talking to other people

that...

LIFE IS A PUZZLE

The greatest puzzle there is.

The reason life has become such a puzzle for us,

is that we've lost...



contact with the one who gave us life in the first place. Once that contact was cut, life became a puzzle and a problem.

Life is in fact such a puzzle. Some people can't cope and want to opt out altogether.

Like it or not, you and I know it's a puzzle that 100% of people have to try and solve. We are all involved.

So how do we work it out?
People approach it in different ways.

The first group of people I'd like you to consider do it,

this way...



They think about it, weigh up all the evidence and decide that there is only one way to make sense of this puzzle and that is by pleasing themselves.

By living totally to keep Number One happy, doing all I want and having all I want all the time. So they set a course through life governed by what pleases themselves.

You know if that's you today - you're looking to satisfy yourself in all you do, you're not the first.

A very wise man, about 3,000 years ago, did an experiment on this.

He gave himself everything he wanted and refused himself no pleasure.

Someone said, "His heart was delighted by all he did."

But when he considered his life, it was meaningless and living like that was like trying to catch the wind.

Although it was satisfied for a while, he was left empty.

Wiser men than I have discovered life like that doesn't really satisfy.

Let's try another way to cope with this puzzle.

Many people go through life,

like this...



Their theory is,

if only I were someone else,
if only I had more money,
if only I had a better job,
if only I had a job,
if only I didn't have the parents/house/wife/ husband.

How many of us have got stuck in the 'if only' syndrome? It's easily done, but these 'if only' statements are really excuses.

Would we be any different inside if outside circumstances changed?

A wise man who wrote a few books in the Bible said, once said,

"I've learnt to be content in whatever situation I'm in."

So how else can we answer this puzzle?

Many people try it,
this way



The idea here is to pretend to yourself and to everyone else that actually everything is great even when it isn't.

I've got life worked out completely, no problem. But underneath we are actually living a lie.

Sometimes it works very well. You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, and you may even fool yourself. But it can never really work.

We see this everyday on television and in magazines. The stars look great on the outside with their air brushed pictures made to show them looking perfect. It's all a lie. Just sometimes we get a view into their real lives and find many of them are sad and struggling with life just like the rest of us.

Deep inside we know that we are just fooling ourselves when daily we put on a mask.

We've failed to take account of the real problem.

The cause of the puzzle is - we've actually lost contact with the one who gave us life - the author of life itself.

We've allowed...



'I' to get in the way. All the selfishness, rebellion and wrong in our lives has made a barrier between us and God.

The only way to solve the puzzle of life is to somehow get across that barrier and regain contact. But you know we can't do that for ourselves. So there has got to be some outside alternative. That happened and I'll show you how, but some find this quite frightening.

About two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ came and showed us how to solve the puzzle of life. He lived a life of total obedience and devotion to his Father. When he spoke, thousands of people gathered to hear him because of the amazing things he said and did. We still remember some of those things today. Like, 'treat others in the way you want to be treated' and 'do not take revenge, but turn the other cheek.'

Jesus allowed himself to be hung on a ...



cross and be crucified to pay the price of our rebellion against him.

Jesus himself said,

"I have come so you can have...

LIFE

and have it to the full."

Now he offers life to all who will receive it from him.
Jesus can do that because he actually came back to life.

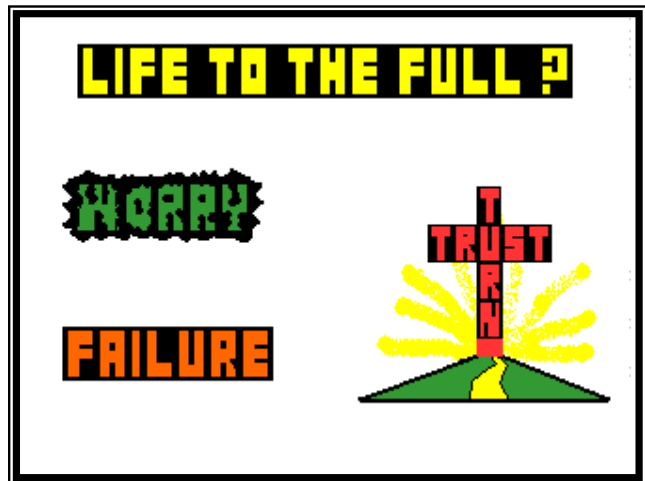
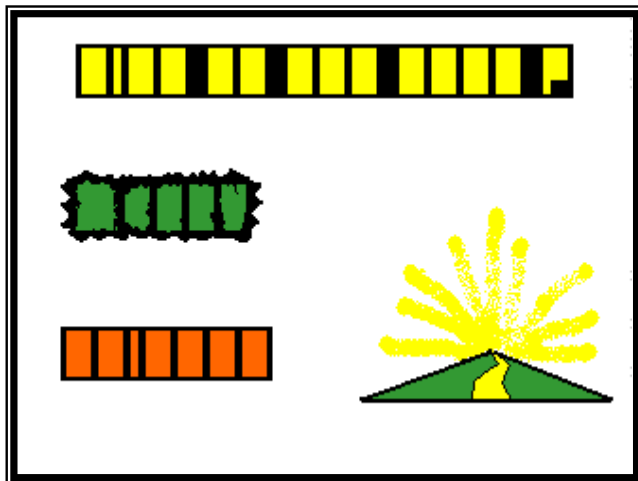
It means giving up your excuses, giving up yourself, giving up your lie about sin. It means turning to Jesus and trusting him for life. He'll never let you down.

Some of you standing here know you need a solution to the puzzle.
You've tried for years and not succeeded and you know that the only way is for someone outside to solve the problem.

Jesus can give you real life now, today.

I want to ask those of you who know you want a solution, who know you want life to step out of the crowd and take a leaflet from me to show God you mean business with him and you want life."





"Good evening, thank you for stopping and looking at my artwork. I hope you enjoy what I am about to do, but it will be challenging. It's free, so I won't ask for any money, although you can buy my picture when it's finished in you want. I hope what I am about to say will give you something important to think about.

I guarantee everyone here and anybody who comes along later wants this...

LIFE TO THE FULL

We want to squeeze the best out of our lives. After all, you only have one life, so make the most of it. Everyone has a different idea of how to achieve a life like this. For some it's just having a good time and chilling out with friends whenever you can. For others, it's getting the greatest job. So they study and work towards their chosen career as a doctor, engineer or scientist. For others, it's the pursuit of romance and a lasting and magical relationship.

But for many this kind of life is illusive.

They would put a...



question mark on the end. Is it possible to have a life that really is full of meaning and a life that makes sense.

There are some things down here that work against us living life to the full. I wonder if you will agree? I have found that everyone suffers from them.

Here is the first one...

WORRY

I've written it in wobbly writing because that's how it feels sometimes. It's that nagging feeling at the back of your mind that just won't go away. Of course, it's a fact that ninety percent of the things we worry about will never happen, but that doesn't stop us worrying about them!

We worry about health, our own and that of others. They say that something like seventy percent of people will contract cancer at some time in their lives. So health is a concern. Then there are the things you've said or done. What will happen if or when someone finds

out? Then there is how people think and react to me. What if I get abandoned or I do something that causes my friends to reject me?

Do you remember the film, The Lion King. Simba? The young lion prince, believes he is to blame for his father's death. He has made a mess of life, so he runs away and is met by two characters who say they live by the principle of 'Hakuna Matata', which means 'no worries'. They are laid back and apparently worry about nothing. But life like that cannot last. They remove themselves from real life, never achieve anything and take no responsibility. Real life is having people who rely on us, being responsible and at times relying on others too. With responsibility come concerns; so we are back to worry again.

There is someone down here (point to bottom right of the board) who is able to help you carry the things that weigh you down. I will talk about him in a minute.

So worry stops us living life to the full. Would you agree?

Another thing that stops us living life to the full is... **FAILURE**

Has anyone here every failed? (Put your hand up and look at the crowd, it will encourage others to respond) Sometimes we fail an examination. But we also fail by letting people down. We do something, without thinking it through and then we want to wind the clock back. It's too late, we've said it, or done that thing. From now on we are a failure. It's like having a big sign hung around our neck, which says failure.

How can we live life to the full when we feel like that. Sometimes we can feel a failure because of what other people have done too us. We feel as if somehow it must be my fault. These feelings bring more worry about the future. It's all rather depressing.

The same person who wants to help you with your worries is able to forgive you for your failure. You see, if you are forgiven for your failure, it's as if you never failed.

Jesus took your failure on himself

when he...



died for you on the cross. He loves you. Jesus had never done anything wrong. He had never failed but when he died he was taking all your failure, and mine, on himself. It was as if he had failed. We fail in loads of areas. Not only do we fall below our own standards, but we fall far short of God's standards. The Bible calls that 'sin'.

To live life to the full we need to do two things. Here is the first one.

Excuse me while I mess up my painting... **TRUST**

We need to put our trust in Jesus. Say, thank you for dying for me and give him all your failure and sin. Do you think you could do that?

Turn from the way you are going and follow Jesus.

Another word for turn is repent. The Bible says,

"God commands all people everywhere to repent."

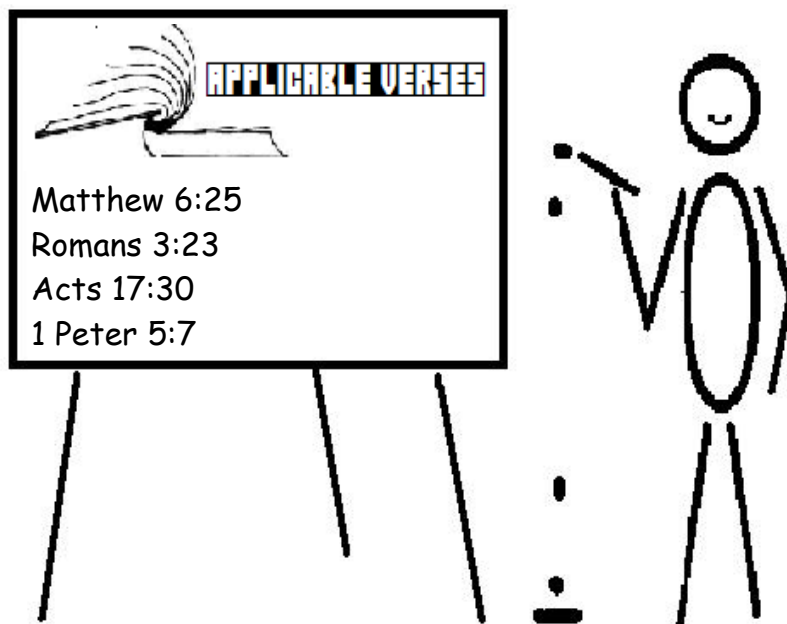
If you will trust and turn to Jesus, he promises to forgive you. That means you are no longer a failure.

The good book says,

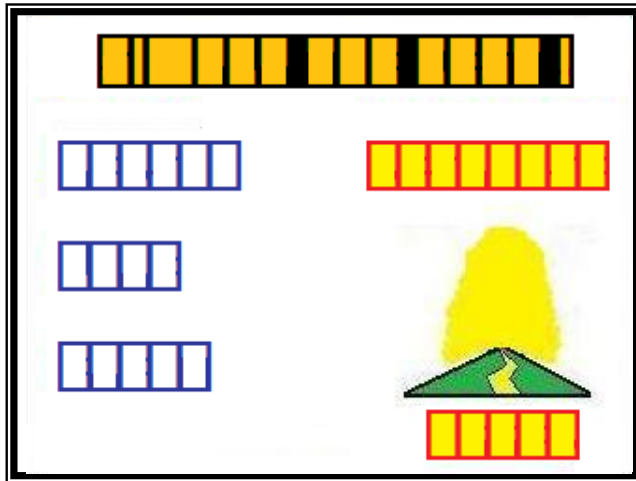
"Cast your anxiety onto God because he cares for you." NIV

God proved he cared when died on the cross in the form of Jesus. Of course, Jesus did not stay dead but came back to life. You can know him today.

Please take one of my free leaflets, which explains how you can turn and trust Jesus for yourself. Thank you for listening."



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"Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for stopping. Now if you watch very carefully, I will make orange letters appear using a black paint brush...

SIMPLY THE BEST!

There, do you see it? Simply the Best!
Who sang that song? Yes that's right, Tina Turner.

What boxer had that as his theme tune and motto? Do you remember Chris Eubank?

Not without reason, he simply claimed to be the best Super-Middleweight Boxer in the world. Many other sporting heroes and teams have also been heralded by this song.

But even Chris Eubank wasn't claiming to be

the best...

PERSON

If we were to travel the world and ask,

"Who do you think would be the best person who has ever lived?"

What would be the answer?

You know there is someone who stands out far above any other. There's not even a close rival. Who is that person, who lived a perfect life, yet was not arrogant or conceited? Who was it that could change water into wine, make blind eyes see, deaf ears hear, walk on water and raise the dead? Who is that man who spoke with compassion and with authority so that they said,

"No one ever spoke like this man?"

Who was it that was the only person who "committed no sin"?

Everyone of us has! The good book says,

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

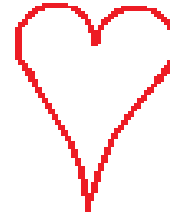
We have rebelled against God and rejected his way.

This sin acts as...



a barrier, which separates us from God now and for ever, if its not dealt with. But Jesus never sinned and so he stands out clearly as "Simply the Best!" person who has ever walked this earth.

What about the best...



LOVE

The Greeks had to invent a new word to describe the kind of love that Jesus showed in his life and in his death.

They called this love...

Agape'

Jesus was willing to die for us to demonstrate the depth of God's love us, even when we were still rebellious people.

The Bible says,

"For a good man [one of us] might possibly dare to die."

But it goes on to say,

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." NIV

The perfect man, the best person ever, died

a horrible death...



on a cross to bridge the gap between God and Mankind with his perfect love. Now that must be the best love!

What do you think would be the best...

EVENT

in history?

England winning the World Cup? VE Day?

Let's look at it another way. What's the worst thing about life? Surely it must be death.

What answer do you have for death? Is there an answer? A cure? Jesus even has the answer to death itself! He died, was buried,

but on the third day...



he rose again. If that's true, that's amazing!

It's the best thing that's ever happened. Death has been defeated! And Jesus did it for us!

We can share in his victory!

The evidence for the resurrection is compelling. It is the best-attested event in history. Would you be willing to take an honest look at the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!

Of all the things that have ever taken place, this must be "Simply the Best!"

As you look around the shops today, you will see lots of offers,

but what is the best...

OFFER ?

There has never been anyone to match the person of Jesus. No-one has done so much or loved so selflessly. No-one else has the answer to life and death. What God offers us is truly incredible.

We have all turned our backs on God. But if we stop rebelling against him and begin to live under his rule, he is willing to forgive us. God accepts us because when Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment we deserve. We then become God's friends and are adopted into his family forever!

The Bible says,

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Also, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath (anger) remains on him."

NIV

My last question.

What would be the best...

RESPONSE

to the best offer?

I hope you will agree with me that Jesus is 'Simply the Best.' His life, his love and his resurrection from the dead prove beyond doubt that he is unique. How should we respond to him?

"God commands all people everywhere to repent"

That means to turn to him, trust him and live for him.

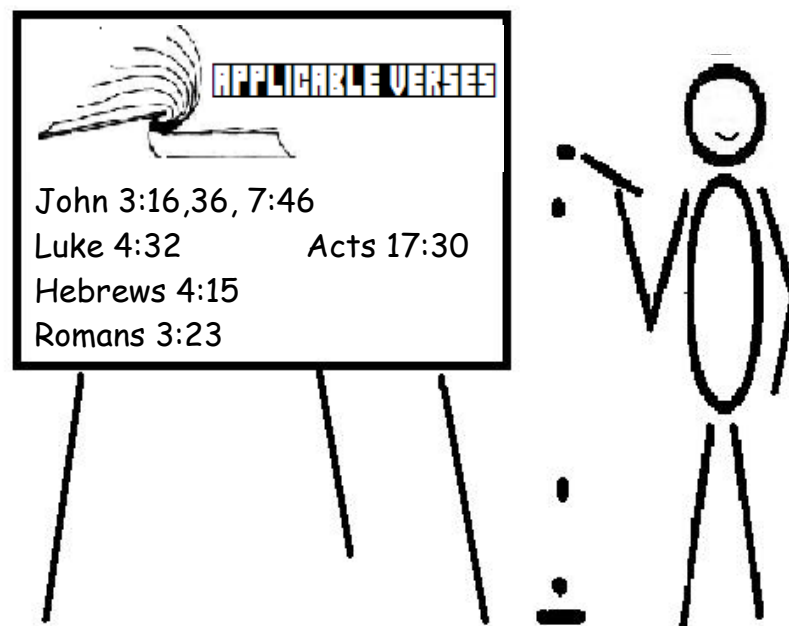
Will you say this prayer, to make the best response to the Lord of Heaven and Earth?

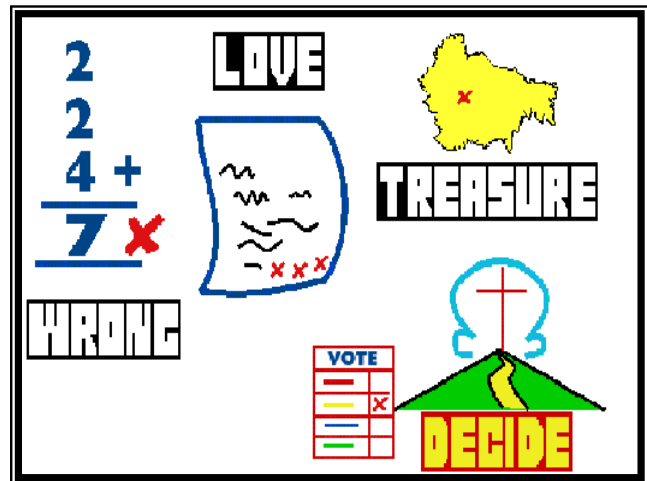
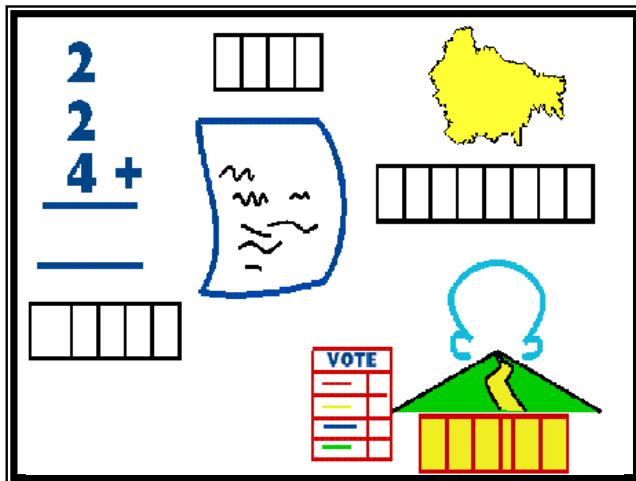
You could say something like this.

"Lord God, I am sorry for all my sins. Now I want to go your way. Please help me to do that. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying and rising again for me. Please forgive me and clean me up from all my sins. Please come to me and take over the running of my life. Amen."

If you said that prayer, or you know that you want to know Jesus for yourself, I would like you to come and take one of these leaflets from me."

NOTE: When praying with a crowd. Do not shut your eyes as it is good to keep eye contact with them.





" Good afternoon. Thanks for stopping. I hope you enjoy what I am about to do. Hopefully, you will find it a little entertaining. But I also hope you will find it challenging, too.

There was once a little boy who went to school. Anybody here ever been to school?

Yes, well that's good because you can help me.

Oh, I forgot to tell you his name. His name was Stephen.

When our friend, Stephen, went to school, the teacher put some sums up on the board. This was one of them. I'm sure you know the answer. So did Stephen, he said,

"That's easy." ...

7

Stephen was really pleased with himself because the teacher put a

big...

X

red cross in his book. He took his book home and showed his mum. But his mum was not so pleased. She said,

"Stephen, it's not good to get a red cross because that means the sum is...

WRONG "

But it was okay, because Stephen became much better at sums after that.

You know, sometimes we don't know we are doing things wrong until someone shows us. Then we can learn and get it right.

Down here, *(point towards where the cross of Jesus will eventually be shown)* is something really important and many people don't really understand it. But it's really important to see that we need to change.

Stephen began to grow up, and he saw a lovely girl. They began to spend time together. One summer she went away on holiday and she sent him a letter. He was really pleased until he got to the end where he saw...

X X X

"Oh no," thought Stephen, "I must have done something terribly wrong."

He was looking a bit glum and he showed his mum.

"You haven't done anything wrong. That means she loves you!"

Stephen was relieved and really pleased all at the same time.

Do you know, there is someone who loves you very much? I'll tell you about him in a minute.

On another occasion, Stephen was shown a map of an island.

On the island was a small...

X

cross.

Now, thought Stephen,

"Someone must really love that island. Maybe they went on holiday there."

"No", said a friend, "It's not because someone loves the island."

"So someone must have done something wrong there," Stephen replied

"No, it doesn't mean either of those things. It means there is treasure buried at that spot on the island."

Isn't it amazing how one symbol can mean so many different things?

Now, we all want to find something of real value. That's why people do the lottery etc. But to find treasure, we normally need someone to show us. There is something of real value just here. (*Point at bottom right hand corner*)

When Stephen grew up he went along to vote in an election. The instructions said,

Put a...

X

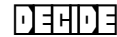
against one of the names.

Now, this is confusing, which one is it?

Have they done something wrong? Well, they are politicians!
I certainly don't love any of them.
I wouldn't think this has anything to do with treasure either.

Then he realised, "When I put a cross here, I am making a choice ..."

He had to...



which person he wanted.

Lastly, Stephen then saw a different type of...



cross.

What does that mean then?

Someone showed Stephen, that means all these and more.

Firstly, Jesus died on the cross because of the things we have done wrong.
We have all said to God,

"We don't want to do what you say. We want to make up our own rules. We have rebelled against God."

Secondly. Jesus came to earth from heaven and died on the cross because he loved us. He wanted to demonstrate his love.

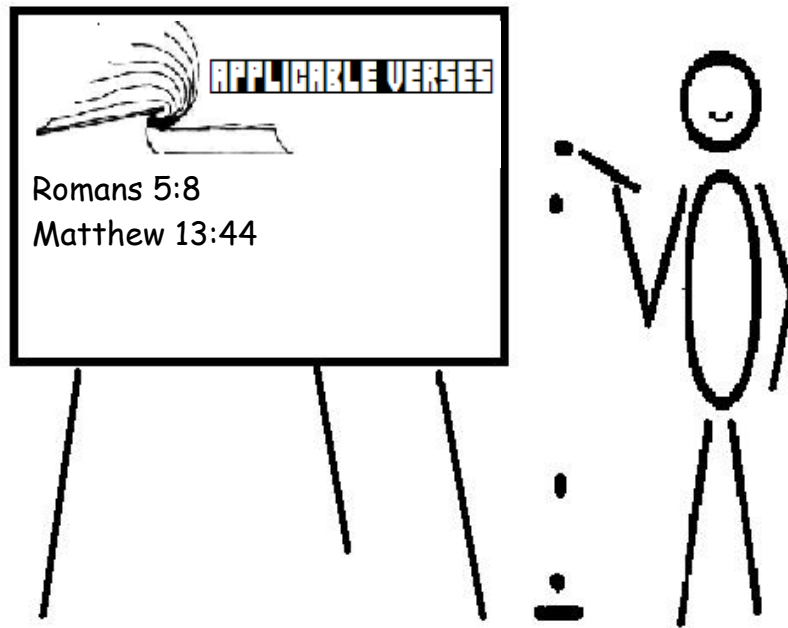
"God demonstrated his love, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us".

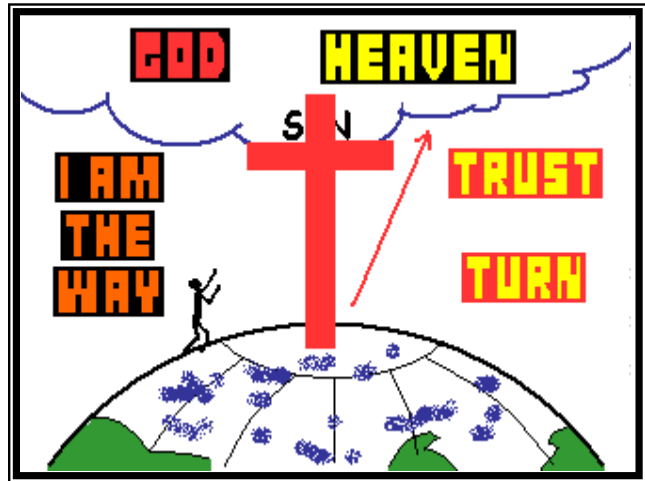
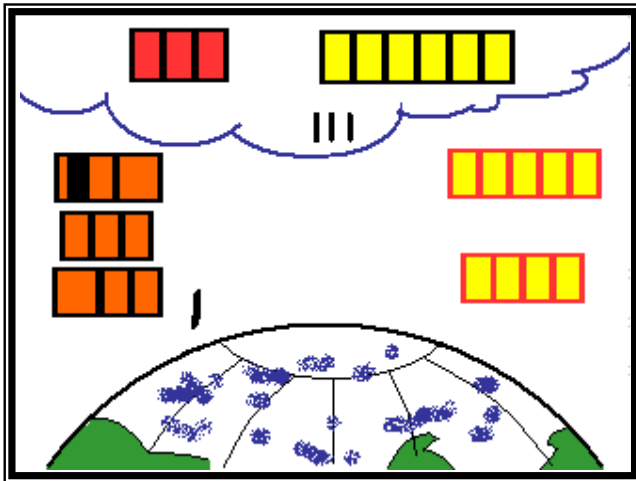
Thirdly, finding Jesus is not easy. There are a lot of obstacles along the way. Some people don't even bother to try to find out. Even the Bible says that the way to real life is hard to find and not many people make it.

Lastly. We all have to make a choice. Will you choose to look for and find Jesus, or will you vote against him."

A personal conversion story would fit in here. *(Especially using your own name fits here because you can explain how someone showed you the way to the treasure.)*

Finish with an appeal to follow Jesus.





"Good morning. Thank you for stopping. I hope you won't be disappointed. I am about to produce some coloured letters using a black paint brush. I can see you are impressed already! You will be pleased to hear that this live artwork is not only free, but it could change your life. Now that's got you are thinking!

Mankind is truly unique....



We are different from animals in a number of ways. Well, most of us! I have met a few people who have reminded me of animals - my kids mainly! I guess you can think of a few examples too. Better not go there.

Joking aside, we are different from animals. We explore our surroundings, the earth and even the universe. We want to know how it works. Mankind is always advancing and making new discoveries. Medicine is advancing quickly. A few years ago if you contracted cancer, you would die but now they can give you treatment which extends your life or even destroys the cancer completely. We are even getting to the stage that we can keep people alive so well, that we have to consider when to allow them to die.

We seek knowledge in every area. We even want to discover what life is really all about. Is there a spiritual side to life?

Is there really life after death? A...

HEAVEN

to be gained or a hell to be avoided.

Is there a...

GOD ?

If so what is he like?

The Bible says that creation itself tells us how wonderful and great God is.

Some people say, "I would believe in God if I could see him."

The trouble is there is a barrier which prevents us from seeing God. That barrier is an old fashioned word.

But it is something we all have. It is...

IN

everyone of us. You know, the unkind things we say and do to other people.

Have you ever had an unkind thought?

What do unkind thoughts lead to?

Yes, doing unkind things.

The interesting thing is I am very unlikely to be unkind to you, because I want you to think I am a nice person. I am much more likely to be unkind to my wife or those I am supposed to love.

When we behave in this way the Bible calls it...

SIN

Sin acts as a barrier between us and God.

Firstly, I don't want to listen to God because I want my own way.

Secondly, if I recognise God is real I would have to change the way I want to live.

So sin is a barrier which we cannot break through. For most of us it's rather convenient to pretend God doesn't exist anyway.

God wasn't willing to leave it like that. The Bible says,

"God loved the world so much that he...



sent his one and only son into the world."

What did Jesus do for a living?

Yes, he was a carpenter, or builder. He got his hands dirty. He knows what it's like to be human. That's amazing, because the Bible says that Jesus is now in heaven and we have someone up there with God, who knows what it's like to be human. It says that he actually sympathises with us.

When Jesus was on earth, he said some amazing things.

But he said one thing which was not very politically correct.

He said...

"**THE WAY**"

to get to God."

He didn't say,

"This is the way."

he pointed to himself and said,

"I am the way."

He was either telling the truth, or he was crazy. Or perhaps just a bad man. You judge for yourself.

When Jesus was thirty he became a preacher. When he spoke, thousands of people gathered to hear what he said. He must have been a wise man. Many of the things he said two thousand years ago are still repeated and lived by today. In fact, much of western society is built on the principles that he taught. For instance, caring for those in need or less fortunate than ourselves.



When Jesus was thirty three he allowed himself to be...

crucified. A cruel death, where he was nailed to a wooden cross. He died to deal with the sin barrier between man and God. He had to become a man, so that he could become that bridge between man and God.

When he died he was taking my place and being my substitute. You know what a substitute does? In sport he takes the place of another person, so they can have a rest. If they have been injured, he replaces that person. We have been injured by sin and been cut off from the relationship with God we were created for. We need someone to step in the gap for us. That is what Jesus has done.

So now there is a way to back to God and a route to heaven. But will you take it?

Some people think you have to get all religious and do certain things to gain God's acceptance. That's not true. You cannot do anything to gain God's acceptance. He has paid the price and offers you the free offer of eternal life.

Are you willing put your...

TRUST

in Jesus today. The part of the Bible I mentioned earlier, says,

"God sent his one and only son into the world that whoever believes in him will have eternal life."

The trouble is the Bible tells us that the way to God is narrow and the entrance is small and not many people find it. God is holy and you have to use the route designed by him.

To know God, we need to be willing to...

TURN

from your own way and trust him. You have to say sorry for your past and ask him help you

live as he shows you. He promises to forgive you.

Jesus loves you and will help you live a new life in him.

He can do that because after he died he came...



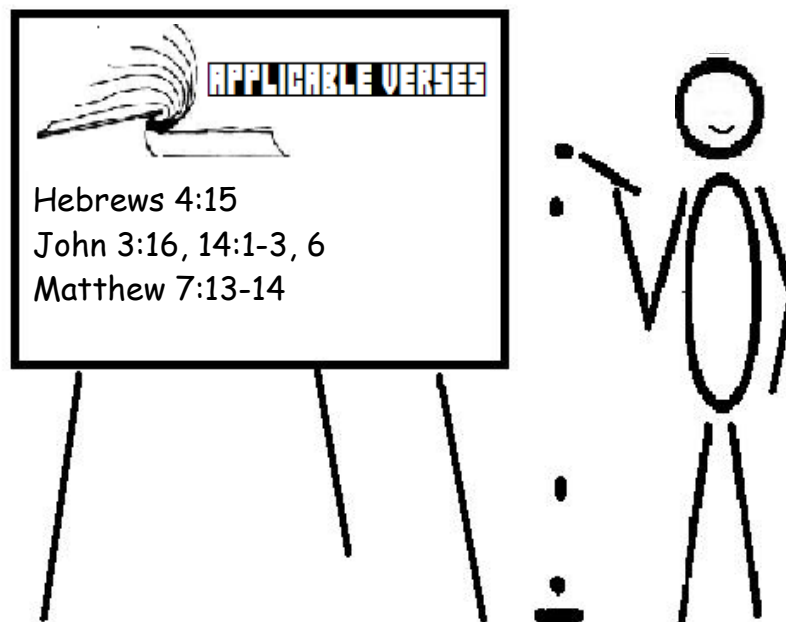
back to life. You can also be sure that he will prepare a place for you in heaven for all eternity.

For those of you who are wanting to trust Jesus please take a leaflet, to show you want to make that commitment today.

Others of you may be thinking,

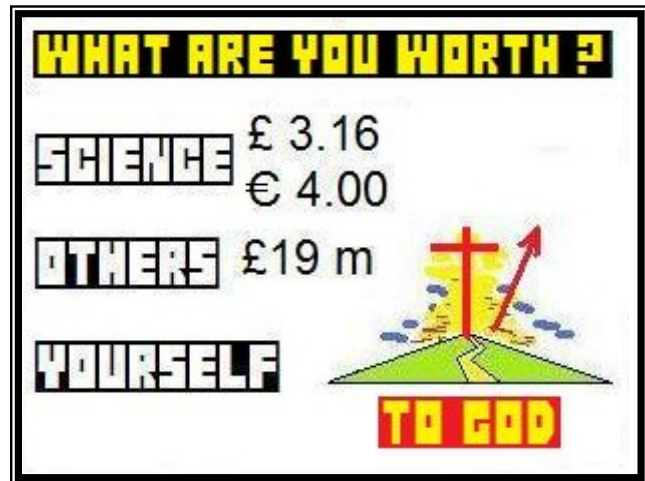
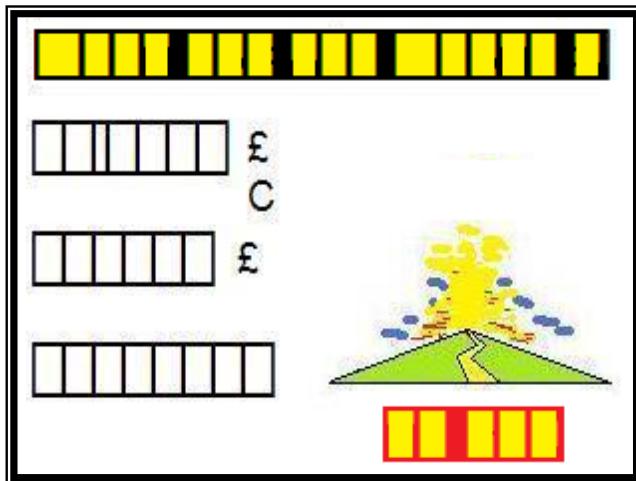
"That makes a lot of sense, I need to consider these things."

You are also welcome to take a leaflet from me. But don't just leave it. God is speaking here today."



What are you worth?

44



"Good morning everyone. Thank you for stopping and looking at my beautiful painting.

I want to ask you all a
question...



WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

Of course you can judge your value in different ways.

For instance, how much are you worth to

SCIENCE ?

You are made up of about 80 % water. That's not worth much is it?

There is enough calcium in you teeth and in your bones to make about 2 sticks of chalk.

There is enough fat in your body to make a bar of soap.

What about iron? Enough to make a small nail.

Lastly there is enough phosphorus to make a very small explosion. Enough to blow up a Leggo house perhaps.

Altogether that comes to about £3.16 or €4.00 if you are feeling European.

I hope you realise you are much more valuable than just a few pounds.

Here is another question, a little deeper, this time.

What are you worth to

OTHERS ?

To your employer you may be worth a few thousand each year. But that is because of what you can do for them. Apart from what you can do, how valuable are you to others?

To you family you may be very valuable. They love you because you are one of them and in return you care for them. But even sometimes even families breakdown and we can feel under valued by our families. And that can really hurt.

It's good to be valued by other people and for us to value others. But often people don't show their appreciation, so we don't know how we are valued. You know what they say, you don't really appreciate what you've got until it's taken away. Often we don't say anything because we are thinking of Number One instead of thinking how others feel.

There is an old proverb which says,

"A wife of noble character is worth more than precious stones."

That's in the Bible.

He had discovered it's not the situation, but the way you handle being in it, that really counts.

It's no good having a great partner and not telling them, how much you value them. Tell someone how much you value them, today.

There was a footballer (Rio Ferdinand) who was sold from one club to another for a massive £19 million, a record at the time. The talk in the sports world was,

"Can anyone be worth that much money?"

The answer given by Laurie McMenemy, a sports commentator, was profound. He said,

"If someone is willing to pay that much money for him, that is what he is worth?"

Remember that, when we get to the end.

Another question.

How much are you worth to

YOURSELF?

That's a lot deeper.

The way you value yourself is very important.

If you think you're valuable, you are likely to treat others with respect and love too.

Some people think they are God's gift to the human race, whereas others suffer with low self esteem and feel of little value for all sorts of reasons. For some of us, it's because of things we have done in the past which we are ashamed of. For others it's because they have always been told they are worthless and a waste of space.

But did you know - there is a person who values you very highly and he did something to prove it? Let me tell you about him.

Here is the last question and the answer to this will effect how much value you place upon yourself and how much you value others.

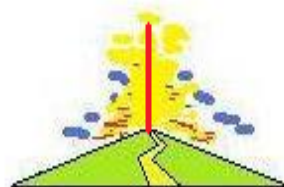
How much are you worth

TO GOD ?

God values you so much he decided he would pay a high price so that you could know him.

When God made us, he didn't value us by the chemicals which he used. He valued us enough to want a relationship with us.

Represented by this red line...



But people said to God...



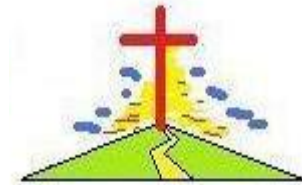
"No thanks, we want to be in charge and make our own rules."

And they cut God out of their lives. Having cut God out, who becomes the most important person? That's right, Number One and if I am the most important person, others get under valued. We as people have broken the two most important rules which God has given.

Love God with all your heart and love others as yourself.

But remember how much we are worth to science.
There is part of the Bible John 3:16 which says

"God loved the world so much that he gave ...



his one and only Son, that who ever believes in him will not die but have eternal life".

Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for us going our own way and saying, "No," to him. We have rebelled against him, but he gave his life for us.

How much are you worth to God?

Remember the sports commentator, he said,

"If that is what someone is willing to pay, that makes him worth it."

How much are you worth to God?

The life and death of his own Son!

He suffered and died because God loves you that much.

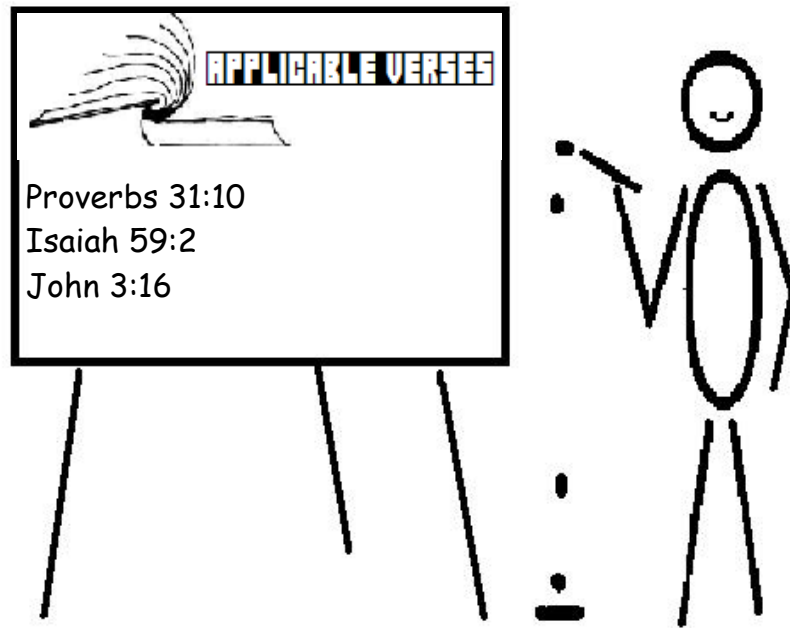
The question is will you respond to him and turn from going your way, ask him to forgive you, and start to follow him?

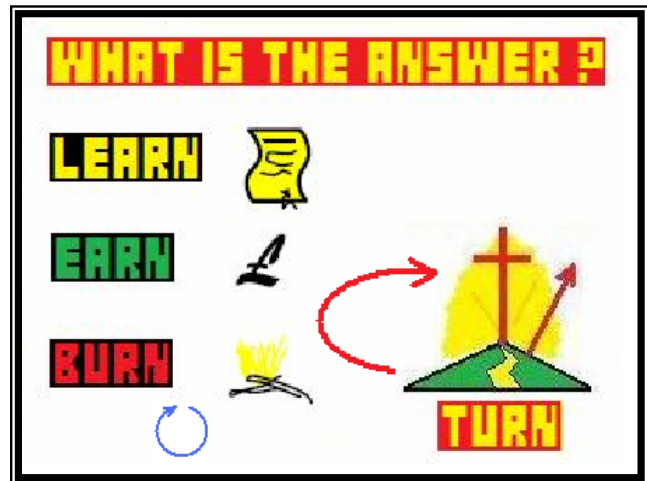
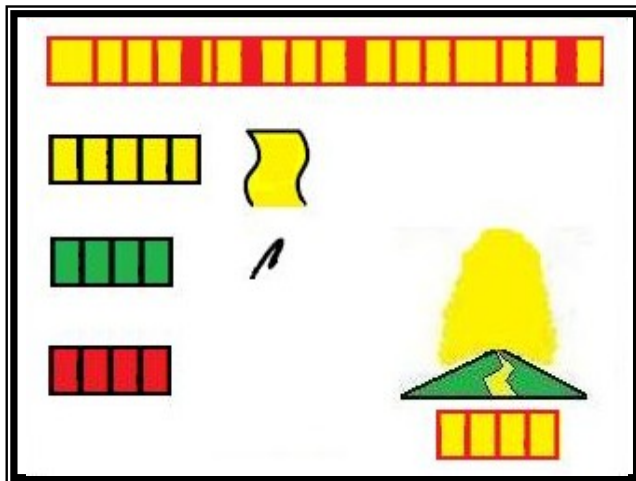
Jesus did not stay dead...



he came back to life and you can know him.

Why don't you respond to him today?"





"Good morning. Thank you for stopping to look at my painting. Now if you stop for just a few minutes longer, I will complete the picture. Then I will ask you to take a step which will change your life forever.

I want to ask a...



question.

Here it is...

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

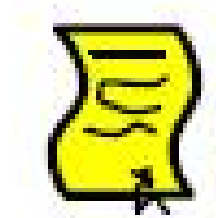
"That's a bit of a stupid question," you might say. If you told me the question then I might tell you the answer. But this is the question many people are asking today. What is the answer to peace in my heart and in my mind?

Some people say this is the answer...

LEARN

What you need is a good education.

Get plenty of these...

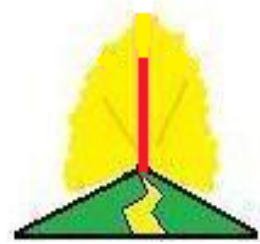


certificates, diplomas and degrees, then you will have peace of heart and mind. But the world has always been full of educated people who had no peace. Einstein was troubled that his great learning helped develop the atom bomb. He said.

"If I'd known, I would have been a watch maker."

Now don't get me wrong; I've nothing against education. It's good to be qualified. But sometimes learning can fill us with pride.

Look what...



I have achieved. We all know a conceited person does not have the answer to life. You see, there is a vast difference between knowledge and wisdom.

The good book says,

"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom."

But many people are too concerned with Number One to think about God.

The Bible also says,

"People are forever learning, and never coming to a knowledge of the truth."

So maybe although education is good, it's not the full answer.

You may say,

"No that's not the answer, this is the answer..."

EARN

earn as much...

£

money as you can, then you'll be happy."

That's why people do the lottery, they think;

"If I have lots of money, I will be happy."

But look at people who have been there. George Harrison said,

"The time with the Beatles was a waste of time."

All that money and fame and it didn't satisfy.

King Solomon had everything but was also wise. He said,

"Whoever loves money never has enough and whoever loves wealth is never satisfied."

He concluded,

"This is meaningless."

You see money so often...



separates. People fight and argue over money. The trouble is money cannot buy, love, inner peace and freedom from guilt.

Some people say, "What you need to do is...



Build a big...

bonfire and throw our present society on and start again. Have a revolution.

The trouble with a revolution, by definition it goes...



around 360 degrees and where do we end up? That's right, back where we started again. You ask those in communist states. Revolution seems a good idea, but the trouble is it only changes things on the outside. It does not change anything within us.

What makes us empty within is that we were made to have a loving and permanent relationship with God

but we have been...



separated from him by our selfishness. The Bible calls it sin. If you want peace in your heart and mind, you must have sin dealt with. That is the answer.

The Bible says,
"God loved the world so much that he gave...



his one and only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

God has done all the work. Jesus died on the cross. There he took my place, he took our place, and paid the price of the punishment for our sin.

Jesus has done the work.

When he died, he did not stay in the grave but....



rose back to life.

What you and I need to do is...

TURN

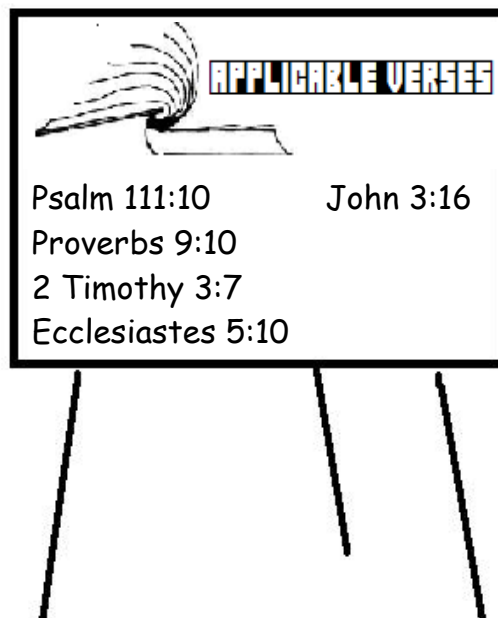
Turn from going your own way.

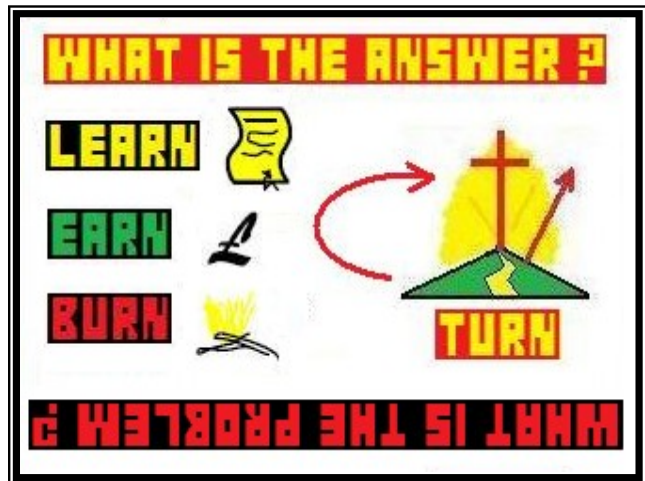
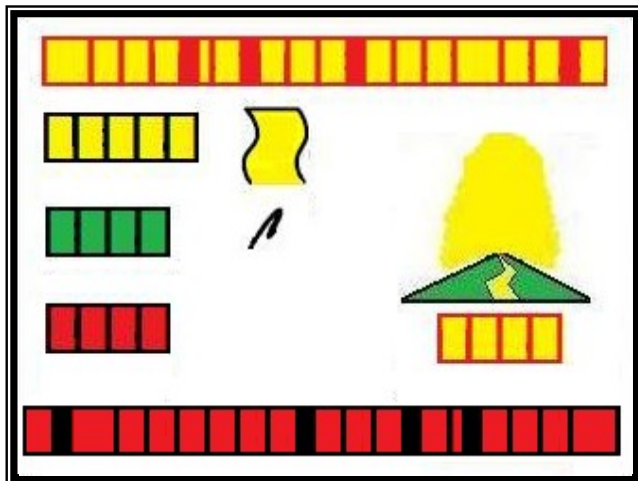


Turn back to God; acknowledge your need for him in your life. You can do that today.

Why don't you step forward, right now, and take one of my leaflets to show that you are willing to turn to him.

Thanks for listening."





NOTE: This is an example of how a message can be altered, in an unusual way.

To use this message it is necessary to practice both preparing and completing ladder lettering upside down.

Additionally, a mechanism needs to be designed where by the speaker can turn the sketch board upside down and then back again while speaking.

Using the same basic message after presenting the title line. The speaker continues...

"By asking another the question, another immediately comes to mind..."

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Can anybody read that?

Sometimes we need to view things from a different angle. If you stand on your head...

No, I have a better idea... (Turn the board)

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

When we view the problem we often look outside of ourselves.

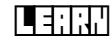
But just maybe...

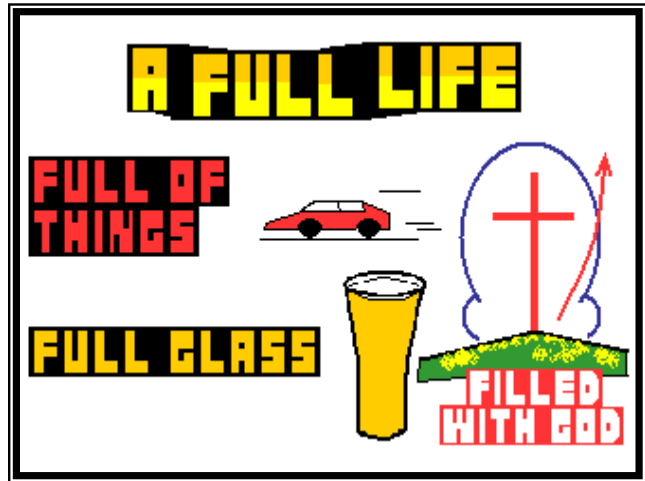
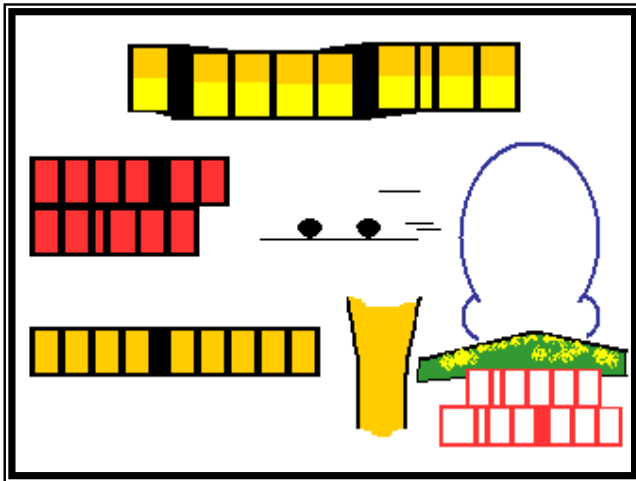


I am the problem. The big Number One.

Are you willing to have a look at why? Lets see."

(Turn the board back and continue from...)





"Hello! Thank you for stopping and looking at my painting. You may be asking,

"What is this person about to do?"

Let me introduce myself? I am ..., and I come from ... What I am about to do for you is completely free. I hope you will enjoy my presentation. But, I must warn you, I will mention some things which some people find quite frightening.

What I am about to talk about effects us all!

Look carefully. With a black paint brush, I will make some multi-coloured letters appear.

A FULL LIFE

I guarantee everyone here, including me, wants to live a full life. By that, I mean a life with purpose, that is really fulfilling. Sometimes, life like that can be a bit illusive. If I were to ask you all personally, what a full life would be for you, everyone of you would have different ideas.

Some would say, 'Money.' Others, 'Love' or maybe 'Long hot holidays.' But some would have an interest in one particular thing.

Like a fast...



car. Have you seen the program on TV, where a group of mechanics and professional panel beaters work on an old banger of a car and transform it into a shining custom car. The part I like best, is where the owner comes in and sees his car for the first time. Sometimes they actually fall over with excitement and sheer delight at the transformation standing before them, that used to be an old bashed up car.

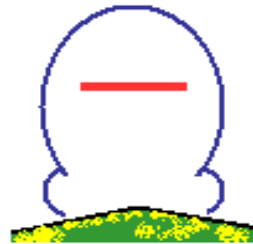
But, is a life...

FULL OF THINGS

equivalent to a full life? Actually, wanting things and having things gives us other problems, whether it's a car, holidays, computers, the latest mobile phone. When do we want it?

We want it...now! We live in a 'now generation'. So what do we do? We borrow the money. I don't know if you have ever borrowed money to buy something. But, next time you look at your statement from the bank or credit card company, you will have

a great big red...



minus. That means you are in debt. Our generation has never been so well off. We have never had so much disposable income. But, people have never been in so much debt.

A very wise person once said,

"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income." NIV

That's from the Bible.

Debt and the need to buy more and more things can become very stressful. How can I de-stress and wind down with all this pressure?

Many people turn to...

A FULL GLASS



I'm not saying, there is anything wrong with a drink with friends. But, drinking and associated issues, like health and violent behaviour, are now a major problem. So much so, they are regularly discussed in parliament. Most people realise it's pretty stupid to get wasted, but you can't say, "No." Can you? Actually, it does relieve the stress for a few hours, but personal problems are still there in the morning. The drinking scene is all part of searching for that illusive full life.

If we are honest about it, owning lots of things and getting out of our head on alcohol, or drugs, doesn't actually give 'a full life'. For many people, and you might be able to relate to this, there is a voice inside, which says,

"There must be more to life than this!"

Perhaps, like me, you have recognised there is a minus sign. Not only in your bank account but also deep inside your life.

The most famous person who ever lived, once said,

"What good is it if a person gains the whole world but loses his very soul?"

We are far better off now, than ever before. We have more holidays, leisure activities, possessions than any other generation but people are more dissatisfied with life. Genuine, individual happiness seems to be missing. On the outside people look okay, but within there is sense of being less than fulfilled.

What is life really meant to be? Surely, life with a real goal would be tremendous, but if you aim at nothing, you are sure to hit it. At the same time, life should be filled with love, truth and peace, shouldn't it?

Some years ago I learnt of a person, who was about to change my life in a deep way. He was able to give me a full life, as a gift. You probably know who I am speaking about already. You may be thinking, "It's alright for you but does it work for everyone?"

I am speaking of the man Jesus Christ. He was able to change my life from a negative into

a ...



positive. Through him, life can be changed. Jesus said,

"I am the way, the truth and the life."

Many people back off when they hear his name. They don't want to be told what to do. For many their slogan is,

"I can run my own life."

The only problem is, for many of us, and I include myself in this, running our own lives leads us to a place where we know we have failed. We break God's rules, like lying, being unkind, or selfish. We even fail to keep to the standards we create for ourselves. The Bible calls those things 'sin'. This puts us in a position where we are in debt to our creator, God.

But, Jesus paid the price, by dying on the...



cross. He loves you, and me, so much that he was willing to die a cruel death on a cross. He took our place and was punished for our sin instead of us. He was treated like a common criminal. He was separated from his father. That is why Jesus cried out

"...my God, why have you forsaken me?" NIV

He did that for you. He did that for me. There is an old hymn which says,

"In my place condemned he stood. Sealed my pardon with his blood."

This amazing account does not end with Jesus' death. Jesus said that he would rise from the grave and he did.

On the third day he...



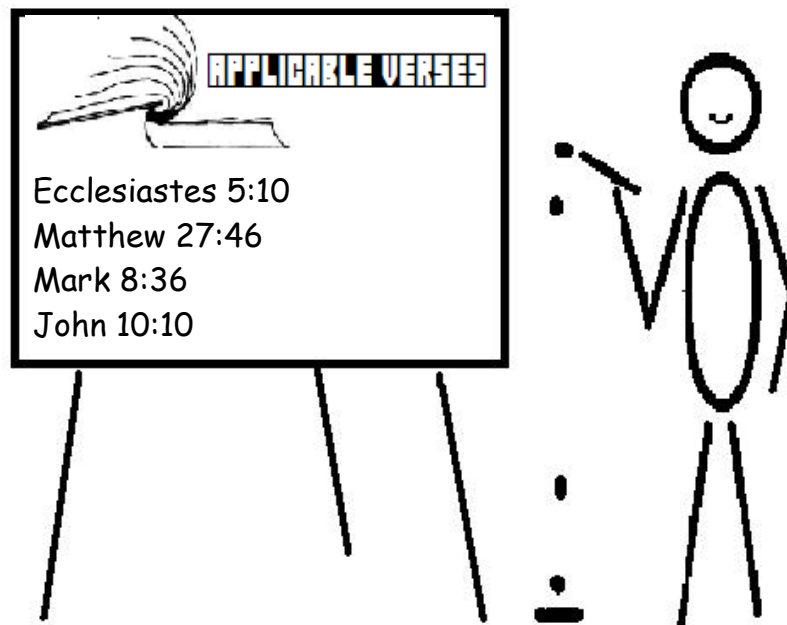
came back to life, just as he promised he would.

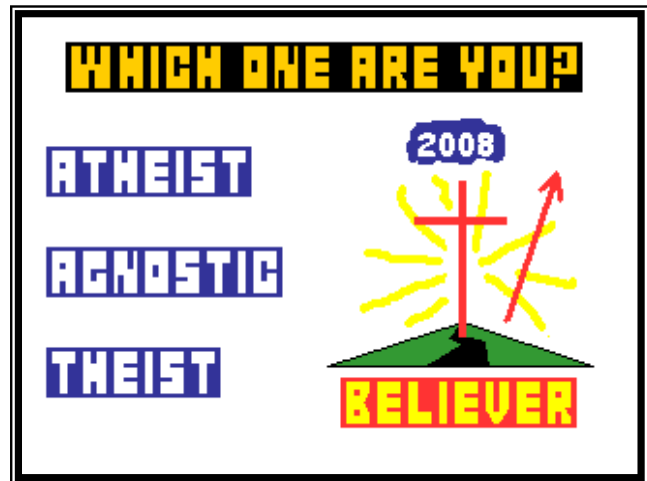
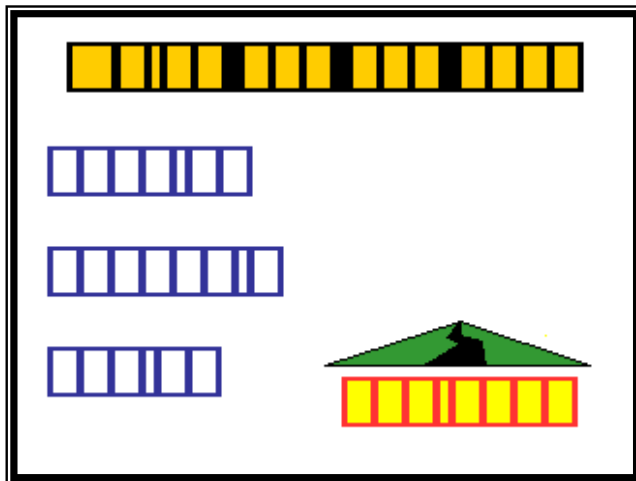
Jesus said,

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." NIV

Jesus offers a full life. But to receive that, you have to allow him to be in the centre of your life. That gives you and me a simple choice. Are you willing to submit to him today? It is not church or religion that will change your life, but a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That is what really counts. Would you like a full life? Receive Jesus. Would you like to be forgiven for everything you have ever done wrong? Receive Jesus.

For those who want to do that please step forward and receive one of my leaflets. They are free. Inside is a simple prayer of commitment, which you can use."





"Good morning. I guess you didn't expect to see an artist here today. "I haven't seen an Artist," someone is saying. Okay, I'll make the jokes! I'm not a great artist but this is free and it's live. But, I must warn you, this is entertainment with an edge. My name is ... and I have come here today to tell you about something really important. Probably, the single most important thing you will hear today.

If you look carefully at the board, with a black paint brush, I will make some coloured letters, suddenly appear...

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

I hope you can read the question. Which one are you?

I have three words which I will put up in a moment and I guarantee everyone of us will fit into one of the three choices.

Here is the first choice...

ATHEIST

If you want to be really clever, the word comes from two Greek words, 'A' meaning to be without, and 'Theos' which means God. So an atheist is someone who doesn't believe in God. In my experience, there aren't many atheists about.

To be a proper atheist, you have to prove God doesn't exist. How can anyone be one hundred percent certain God doesn't exist? You may feel personally convinced of your view but unless you can produce proof, it's just your opinion. If you can't be sure, then that makes you, the next word, down here. (Point to the second word in the list.)

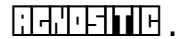
There is an ancient proverb which says,

"The fool says in his heart, there is no God." NIV

Maybe, that's because no one could ever be absolutely sure!

If you're not sure, and that's where most people stand,

that makes you an...



More clever stuff. The root of this word means 'without knowing'. If, you're an agnostic and I were to say to you,

"Do you believe in God?"

You would reply, "I just don't know."

If you are an agnostic, the jury is still out. You may, of course, think it's not possible to find out. But, how do you know, it's not possible to find out if God exists? Just because you are, 'without knowing', it doesn't mean it's not possible to know. Or it may be that you just have not found out, yet!

If you are an honest agnostic, now is a good time to find out. You don't have to stay in a position of not knowing. You have a head start on the atheist. His or her mind is already made up—but without proof.

Where is the evidence for God?

Just think about it for a minute. Nothing gets here by accident. Look at that building. (Indicate a nearby building.) It was carefully planned and built. It's the same for everything around us. You can go right back and ask where did the bricks, sand, and mortar come from.

When it comes to the sun, moon and earth, the atheist says something like,

"There was a...



big bang and it just came together like this."

So nothing exploded and here we are!

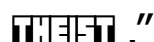
It makes much more sense, to believe that something, or someone, caused the universe to exist. That someone, is God and he exists outside of time and space.

Secondly, living things look as though they have been designed. Some scientists, who used to be agnostic, have looked at the complex designs of living things and come to the conclusion, they must have been designed by a creator God.

There is a great deal of evidence really. But, it has been said, that mankind has always chosen to suppress this truth. It has also been written, that in the past God chose to overlook such ignorance. (Us just not knowing, being agnostics.) But, now he says that we must change our mind. We are now without excuse.

Once you have decided to accept the clear evidence, you may find yourself saying,

"Now I am a...



That is someone who believes God must exist. To him it's obvious! But that brings us to new questions.

"Who is this God? And is it possible to know him?"

There are plenty of people who have no trouble in believing God exists but who, quite rightly say,

"There are so many different religions. They can't be all right."

Firstly, there are some religions which can be discounted immediately by any thinking person. There is no evidence to support them.

There is just one other type of person that you might become, perhaps even today. It's

NOTE: Reveal the year by using Wax Resist. See Glossary of terms.

down here. (Point to the last, as yet undisclosed, word)

Would you agree, there is must be only one true and living God?

If you had been in Israel

About...

2008

years ago you could have met him face to face. I'm not kidding you!

There was a man alive at that time who showed by his life, character, and miracles, that he was not just a man - but God himself. He is the most famous man whoever lived and he changed the world forever. We run our calendar from when he was born, and still celebrate his birthday and death and resurrection each year.

But the thing we remember most about him is his...



death on the cross.

It is through his death that we can know this God personally. Jesus, the God-man gave his life for you and me, so that I would not be punished for my failures. He took the punishment instead of me.

His...



resurrection from the dead proved, conclusively, that he really is God and Lord of all.

There is just one other type of person, down here. Which one are you? You may now be a theist, and say yes, I agree, there must be a God. But, he loves you and longs that you should know him personally. You really can!

Are you a...

BELIEVER ?

A person who has said,

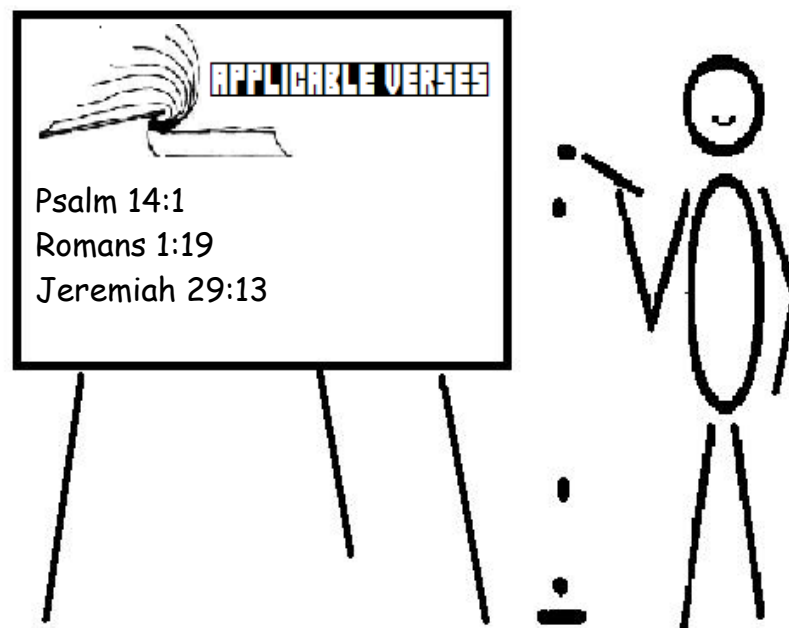
"Yes, I see the need, not only to believe God exists, but to accept that Jesus lived and died for me."

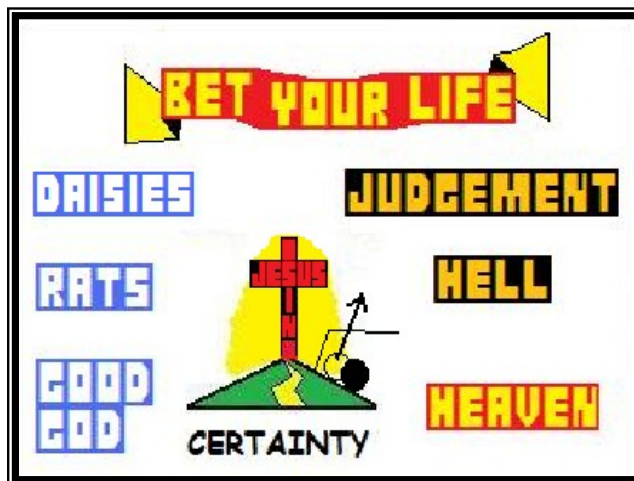
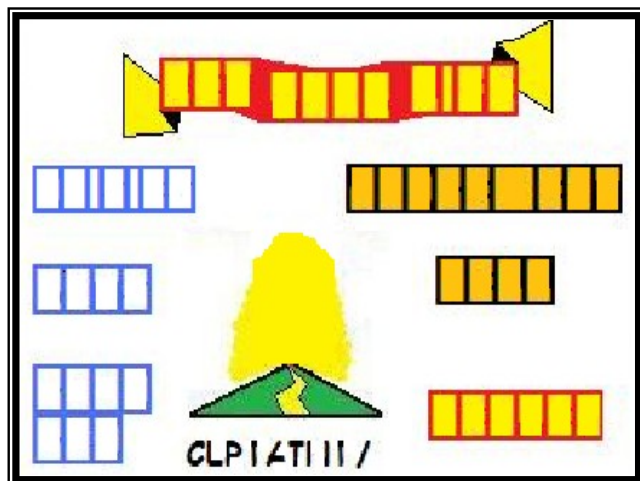
Whether, you are an atheist, agnostic, or theist. Take a look at Jesus.

The Bible says of God that,

If you seek me, earnestly, you will definitely find me. If you seek with all your heart.

Please step forward and take one of my leaflets. It will further explain how you can know God personally. Don't just leave it. Ask God into your life, right now!"





"Some people like to gamble. Every week some people hope they might win the national lottery. But every one of us has gambled at one point. The stakes are high. In fact they could not be higher. In this particular gamble we bet all we have...

BET YOUR LIFE

our very life! To bet a thousand pounds we would have to be pretty sure. To bet twenty thousand we would have to be certain. To bet a million ... Well who would be that foolish? Yet every day we bet our very lives.

When the stakes are this high, we need to be sure about what we are betting on. When they are the ultimate, we need to be absolutely certain.

Someone once said, "Eternity is only a heart beat away."

Death is coming. It usually does not have a six month warning attached to it. It usually comes by surprise: heart attack, car crash, plane crash, drowning, murder, fall, poisoning, etc. They all come without warning.

Death is coming but what then? Our answer to that question will dictate where we place our stake, or should I say, our life.

So... "Who is telling the truth about what happens next?"

DAISIES

There are many people today who are betting their life on the idea that there is nothing after death. You are just put in a box in the ground to push up the daisies and feed the worms. You are no more than an accident of nature and to nature you return. Life is meaningless. There is no God and so there is no future to look forward to or to fear. While this sounds very comforting, in reality it is an empty philosophy with no hope for anyone.

How sure are you that there is nothing after death? Has anyone ever come back to tell you that there is nothing there? Then how can you know? This is a false idea to escape having to believe in God and what he says. It makes you feel good about how you live your life, however immoral. But you are betting your eternal future on it being true with no evidence to support it. That is not a good bet.



Then there are others who believe that after death you come back as something else. Most people in the West believe you come back as another person. The real teaching on reincarnation teaches that it is something to escape; that it is a curse. You could come back as a cow, or a snake, or a rat, or a banana or even (God forbid) a woman.

(In India, they refuse to kill the rats thinking them to be ancestors. These rodents eat approximately 20% of the grain each year. That's enough to fill a train long enough to stretch all the way across the Atlantic Ocean.)

I suppose it is a comforting thought to try to escape the idea of personal responsibility to a holy God. There is no evidence to support it. Maybe you have heard stories of people who have been hypnotised and recounted stories of a previous life to which there was some truth. Don't forget that there is a spiritual world out there and that demons know all about history. These stories often have some truth in them, but also error. They lead people away from the truth so that they bet their lives on the mysterious experiences of some who claim fantasy as reality.

People do strange things under hypnosis!
That is not a good bet.

Then there are those who believe that there is no such thing

as...



God is good and there is no way that a good God would send anyone to suffer agony in a place of torment, fire and darkness for all eternity.

Yes, it is true that God is good. If you have a judge who is good, what would you expect him to do with offenders? Would you expect him to let them off? How would you feel about a judge who let off the murderer of your child? Would you believe that he was a good judge? How can you say that God will not punish the wicked? He sees anger as murder. If you are angry with one of his children, have you not in effect murdered his child? While God is good, he is also holy. In his holiness, he will not leave sin unpunished.

Maybe you would say that Hell is too severe. The severest punishment is there for the severest crime. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength. To fail to do so is the greatest crime for which there is in store the greatest punishment. Hell cannot be a pleasant place as it is not heaven and outside the presence of God.

You may say that fear is bad and that it is wrong to use it to scare people into believing God. But fear is good. We often use fear in our daily lives. We tell our kids not to go and play on the road because we fear for their lives. Fear makes us tell them, and fear keeps them off the road.

Fear of drinking poison means we label bottles. Danger!

The Bible says,

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;..." [NIV](#)

How can you be sure?

How can you be sure that there is no hell? Who's word are you going to take for that idea? It may make you feel more comfortable about your future, but that doesn't mean there is no Hell.

To bet your life on this, with only a feeling, is not even logic and it is not a good bet.

So, what did

FEEL

say in the matter? After all he is the expert. He existed before time began as he is the Creator and as such knows all about it.

In his word Jesus says that after death comes...

JUDGEMENT

There is coming a day when we all will have to give an account of how we lived our lives.

Read: Rev 20:11-15

Great and small

On that last and final day everyone, great and small will be found standing in front of the throne for judgement. It doesn't matter if you were a king or a servant.

Books will be opened with a record of all that you have done. Nothing will go unnoticed. Each careless word that you have spoken, each bad thought, each deed not done that should have been or done that should not have been.

How will you do in the judgement?

Let's have a mock test here and work through God's standard as he sets it out in the Ten Commandments. (Go through a few of the ten commandments, as in talks; Who goes to heaven? Or What must I do to inherit eternal life?)

This is information you should consider carefully as you bet your life on your concept of eternity.

Hell is not the place that God wants you to be. That's why he warns us about it.

Jesus said that the road to destruction is broad and many are on it, whereas, the road to life is narrow and only a few find it. You can bet your life on that!

All of us have rebelled against God in our unbelief. We are prepared to bet our life on anything but the truth because we don't want to admit our own personal sin. However, we can see from the 10 Commandments that we are all guilty.

God must punish our rebellion and sin as he is good and holy.

But God loves you so much that instead of sending you to hell to suffer in torment and agony for all eternity he became a man in the person of Jesus, demonstrated his power and care through many miracles and signs.

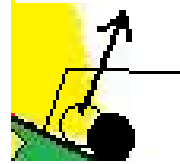
Then to show the full extent of his love he...



died on a cross, enduring the wrath of the Father and our judgement for our sin.

He was judged in my place. He paid for my sin with his life for one reason only. It was not that I was good enough. None of us are. It was that he loved me. He loved me even though I did not love him and went my own way believing what I wanted. Betting my life on a lie.

On the third day Jesus...



rose from the grave and returned to heaven from where he had come.

It is interesting that many people say they don't know what is after death because no one ever came back to tell us. But Jesus came back to tell us. Not only that but while he was still on earth he said that if we do not believe the Bible, we will not believe even if someone rises from the dead.

Jesus rose from the dead and there is enough evidence to prove that in a court of law today. It is not blind faith but faith in something we can test. Check it out for yourself.

I have decided to bet my life on Jesus. If I am wrong, which I don't believe I am, I have nothing to lose. My life is far better now than it was before I met Jesus and he saved me. However, if you are wrong, you have everything to lose.

When you bet everything and you get it wrong you will pay the price for all eternity.

Jesus is a...

CERTAINTY

and that is where I place my bet. Place yours there too. He loves you so much that he has

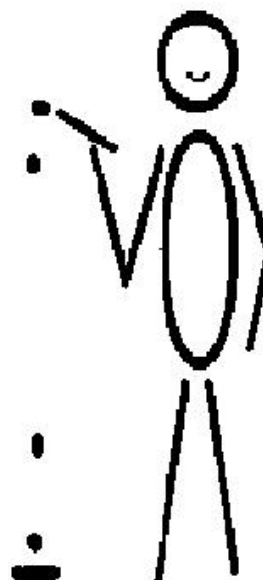
NOTE: Use partial lettering as another form of producing words

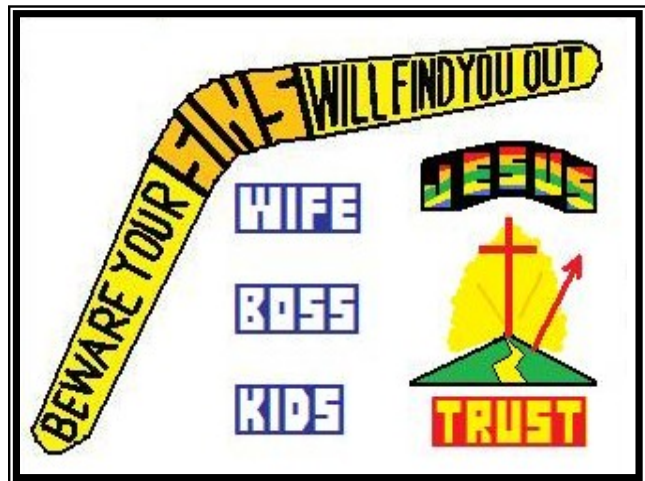
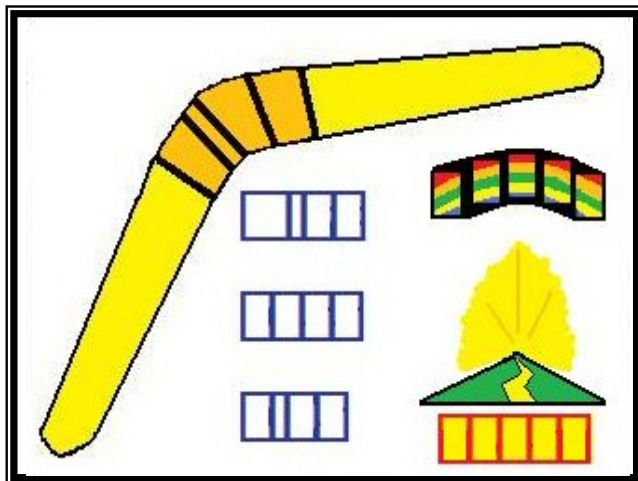
done everything to write your name in the book of life.

He wants you in

HEAVEN

"





" Good morning. I want to thank you for stopping and looking at my painting. Now I hope you enjoy what I am about to do. It should be a little entertaining, but this is entertainment with an edge. It is supposed to make you think. So if you go away saying, 'That really made me think about important issues,' then I'll be happy.

I reckon, (an Australian accent helps here) you can guess what I have painted. That's right; it's a boomerang. The boomerang come from Australia. Both boomerangs and non returning hunting sticks were used by Aboriginal people. The amazing thing about a boomerang is that it always comes back.

There are other things in life that come back too.
There is a very old, famous saying, which was written down, thousands of years ago.

BEWARE YOUR WILL FIND YOU OUT

NOTE: Possibly ladder lettering but I suggest you use wax resist. See Glossary of terms.

It's a warning. It's never nice being caught doing something which you are trying to hide. Who is likely to find you out?

What about your... **WIFE** or husband

I know there shouldn't be secrets between marriage partners, but sometimes we hide things. What happens when she finds out you've forgotten her birthday? I knew a man who never told his wife what he earned. Another friend of mine owned a model helicopter. It was very expensive. One day he had a crash landing. He never told his wife because if she found out the cost to fix it, he would have been banned from playing. And what about that present you got cheap. Coool if she finds out you're a cheap skate!!

Who else might find out something? The... **BOSS**

Some things not even the boss knows - the extra phone calls, the additional hour put on the time sheet.

What about the reason the computer got broken in the office because you were playing indoor cricket, between the desks. Never done that, it's a great game. But hopefully he or she will never know. Well, if they do find out, you're be out of a job. Who else might find out?...

The...



What if the kids find out we're not going to Disneyland after all. Hey, if the kids find out you've done something your other half doesn't know, you can guarantee it will get back eventually. My kids are grown up, but more than once they've said,

"Wait 'til Mum gets home."

The thing is there are some things we just want to keep quiet, aren't there?

We've talked about not wanting to be found out, but there are some things that do really bother people. This is where I fill in the missing word.

The old saying goes like this...

"Beware your...

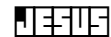


will find you out."

That's a verse from a very old book in the Old Testament of the Bible.

That's quite frightening, isn't it?

The Bible says we will all stand before...



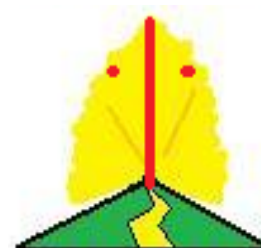
and give an account of our lives. It is written that even idle words will be remembered.

If it's bad when the wife, the boss, or even the kids find out. What about when God finds out? Well actually, he knows already.

One day we will all have to give an account of our lives to him. In 100 years time, we will all have been there. All our sins will come back, just like a boomerang.

But that is why Jesus came. He came because God loved us so much. God knew that our

sins would...



separate us from God in life and would one day will separate us from him for eternity.

Jesus came to this earth as a baby. We celebrate that at Christmas time. He lived a perfect life, a life with none of the hidden dark corners that we have in our lives. He said amazing things while he was here, so fantastic that 2000 years later they are still quoted and form much of the basis for our society. He even touched people who were sick and made them better. Do you know, he is still here today, changing people's lives?

Some people say,

"I don't do bad sins like this person. I only tell white lies. Yes I have used the phone at work, but I am not a robber. I wouldn't hurt anyone."

But God looks not only at what we do but into our inner most being. The person with a difficult and unhelpful upbringing, they might do something really bad. But in context, what we have done is even worse, even though it's a small thing. Do you see why the Bible says, 'Sin is sin.' It is all the same. It all separates us from God.

Note: This can be illustrated using two pieces of curved card whilst talking. See Glossary.

That's why Jesus...



died for me and you.

Have you responded to his call?

He said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." NIV

He still says that because he is...



alive. He came back to life and he is here to carry your burden today.

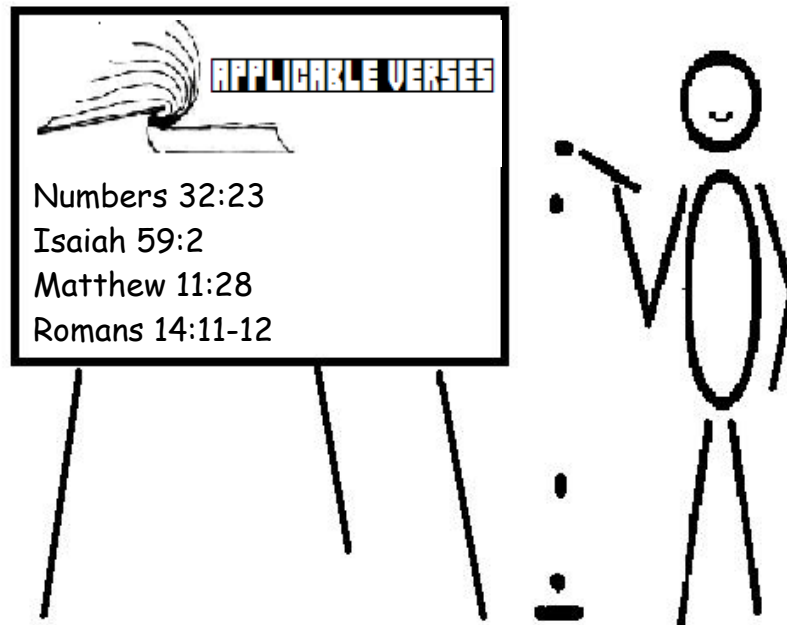
Will you...

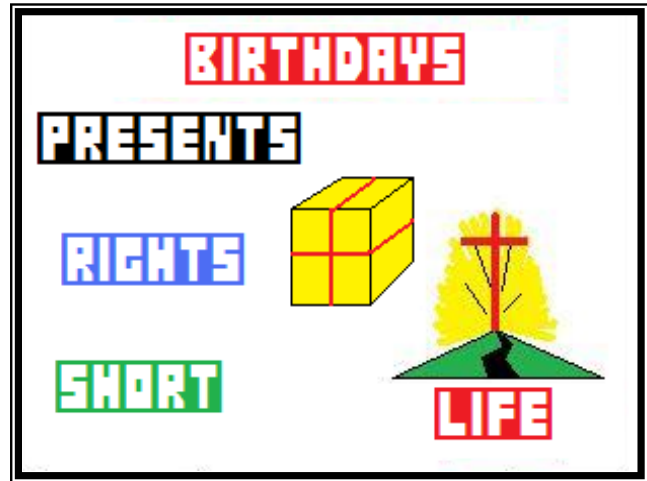
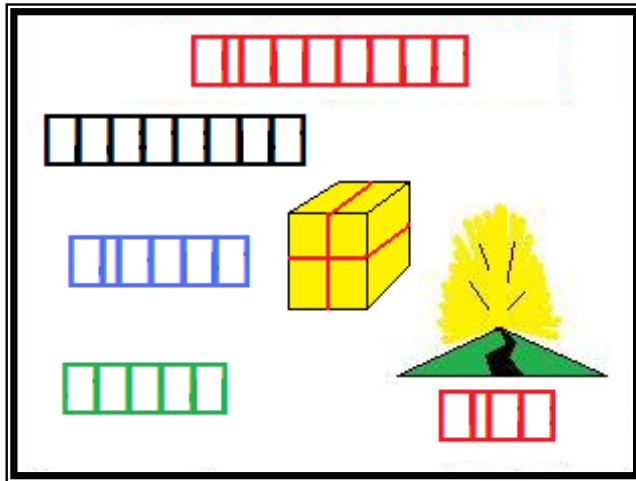
TRUST

him today?

Just like a boomerang, beware your sins will find you out. But Jesus offers forgiveness and eternal life as a gift.

All you have to do is trust him."





"Good evening, thank you for stopping and looking at my beautiful painting. In just a moment you may see some letters appear. If you cannot see them, don't tell anyone because only good looking and intelligent people can read this type of writing.

This is something we all have. Some people have collected more than others but you have definitely got one coming in the next year...

BIRTHDAY

When you are young they can't come round quick enough but as you get older they seem to come round just a bit too often.

But what ever age we are we look forward to them because you always get...

PRESENTS

If you are a kid you might get a bike, or the latest gadget or computer game. As adults we might get our partner to buy us some item of clothing. Or very fashionable idea today is the 'experience voucher'. I remember when my wife bought me a hot air balloon ride. An unforgettable experience!

The good thing about birthdays is that...



I can look forward to presents, party, the focus on me.

That is what we are like inside. We like things that revolve around me, or Number One.

That number one-ness can lead to selfishness and pride and envy of others, which becomes a barrier between me and other people, and also is a barrier between me and God himself.

The Bible calls that barrier sin. Notice the centre letter in the word SIN is I.
 I don't need other people, I can do it on my own and I don't need God either.
 I can run my own life.
 The Bible says that we have all rejected the love and guidance of the one who loves us and who created us.

The Bible tells us that everyone of us has wandered away from God. We have behaved like sheep, who just wander off on their own without a care in the world and, just like sheep, we end up doing things that damage our lives.

God has sent us a terrific present - his son, whom he sent into the world, but we have refused him and would rather have all the material things we can lay our hands on and refuse the only gift which will last forever.

Another thing we get at birthdays are...

RIGHTS

17 you can drive a car or motorcycle.
 17/18 you can leave school.
 18 marriage, vote
 25 cheaper insurance
 50 cheaper insurance, cheaper holidays
 60 Bus pass
 65 pension

When we get rights, that's great!
 Independence, do what you want, with no one telling you what to do.
 But with rights comes responsibility.

Independence is good in that we want to be responsible for our own life and not be ruled by others. But independence has a selfish side to it. Because of this sinful 'I' nature, we put ourselves first and put other people second.
 We also want to live independent of our creator, God.
 The Bible says,

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" NIV

Our nature is to rebel against God and rule in his place. We even make up our own rules and ignore what we know is right.

Some people say,

"It's okay, I'm a good person; I never hurt anyone."

We do try to be good people, when it suits us; help the elderly neighbour, give a bit to charity, etc - but we cannot change our nature by being good. The Bible says that

We have rebelled against God and we need a change of heart.

Jesus God's son provided the answer.

He said,

"I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
NIV

Jesus provided the way back to the Father by taking the judgement that we deserved on himself,

By dying on the...



Another thing about birthdays is they are...

SHORT

They only last one day and that's it.

That is a bit like life, isn't it?

You know older people will tell you, the older you get the faster life goes.

The Bible says,

"You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. Your life is like a mist; you can't get hold of it, and it quickly disperses and is gone."

Ever felt your life is like that?

Each birthday is a year nearer to the end of life. We all have regrets, don't we?

If only I hadn't done that, said that. But time has gone and many of us would have done it all differently if we had our time over again. I remember my Dad saying, "If I had my time again, I would have spent more time with my children while they were young."

The Bible says, that we will stand before God and give an account of our lives. He will stand in judgement over us. Will you be guilty or not guilty?"

Will you go to heaven? Can you be sure?

Jesus promises ...

LIFE

to those who come to him.

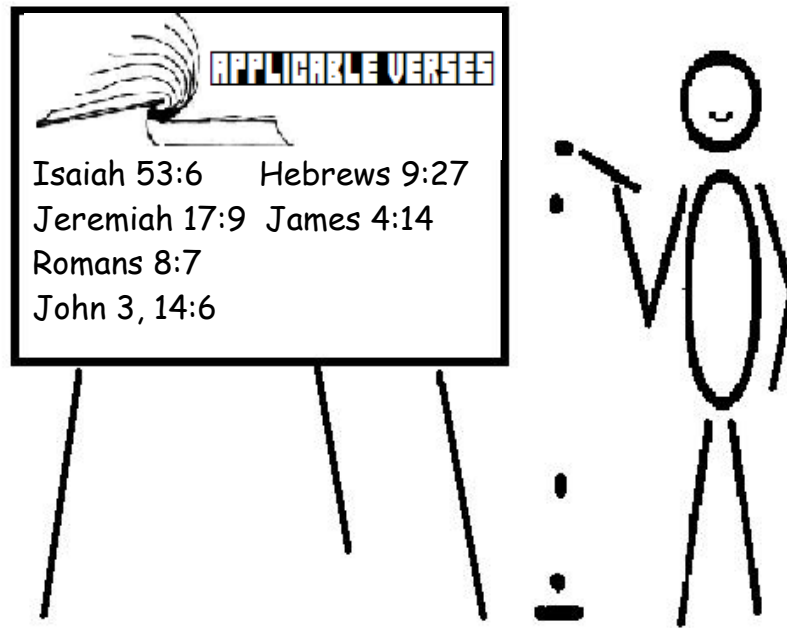
The Bible says you need a...

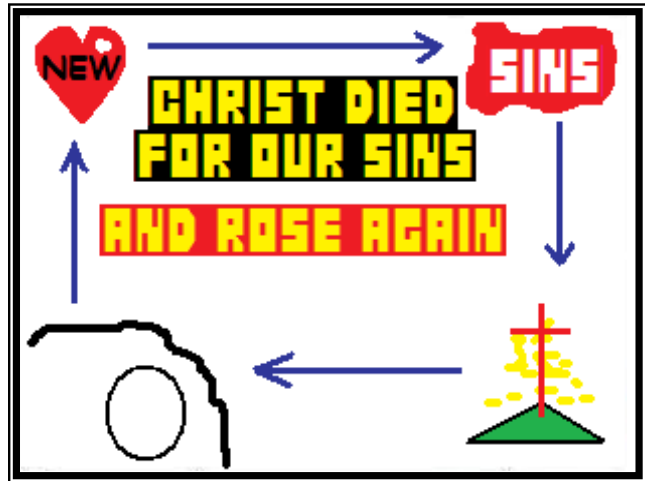
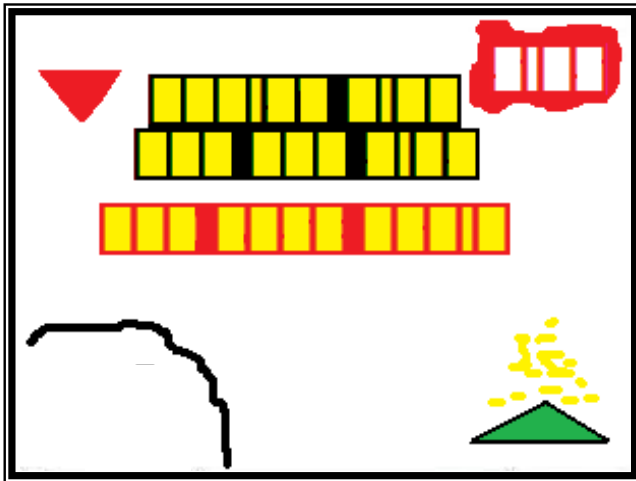
2nd BIRTH

Each of us needs to start again with God.

For those of you who want to start again with God today and know that he has died in your

place, please step forward and take a leaflet."





Good afternoon. I am about to complete my painting. It's free to stay and watch. But I must warn you, it is supposed to be challenging - probably the most controversial thing you will hear today. Let me know what you think.

I will first put up an international symbol...



What does that stand for? That's right. As soon as we see that, we think of love. It's a heart thing. When it comes to love, we are not ruled by our head or logic, but our emotions deep within. When you're young and you fall in love, it makes you go light headed. Isn't that right?

But people have always written about deep human emotions - talking about the heart or the person who we really are.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" NIV

That's a quote from the Bible.

But we all know that us human beings who are capable of such love are also capable of doing very wicked things. History and even our own conscience itself bears that out.

There was a King called David in the Bible. Do you remember the carol, 'Once in Royal David's City?' Well that was a place named after him. When he realized he had done something really wicked, he wanted God to help him. He wrote a poem. It said,

"Create in me a pure heart, O God." NIV

The most famous man who ever lived, Jesus, said,

"Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, sexual immorality, theft, lies and slander."

Oh dear, the old heart looks like it's in trouble, even though it is a symbol of love.

You see, when we do things which are wrong it comes from within...

The Bible calls it...



SIN

Sin is like a cloud. Like clouds block out the sun, so sin separates us from the God who made us and loves us. Because it's our nature to rebel against God, there is nothing we can do, even if we wanted to.

But God has done something for us.

He actually came into the world in the form of...

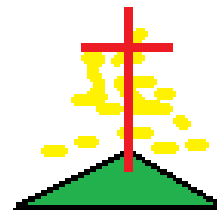
CHRIST

We know him as Jesus Christ, these are two of his names. Jesus was his human name and Christ was a title given to him. It means anointed one. He must have been an amazing person. We still celebrate his birth and death and resurrection today. He said and did good things that still effect our lives today. But he was more than just a good man. Jesus was perfect. His heart was not effected by sin, like your and mine.

Christ came to the earth...



with the expressed intention of...



dying like a common criminal. He...

DIED

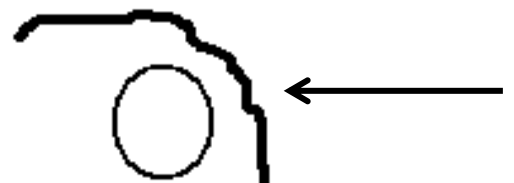
not because he was a criminal, but because he wanted to die in my place.

He died...

FOR OUR SINE

He had done nothing to deserve death, but on the cross the Bible says that all our sins were put on him. It was as if he had committed every one of my sins himself. He was substituted in my place - in our place!

After he died, they took his body and put it in a...



grave. They called it a tomb in those days and that was the last we heard of him!

That's not true, is it? This Jesus had said he would be back. Even his own friends and followers did not believe that. His scattered, frightened and disappointed followers were sickened by the whole ending...

AND

You say, what do you mean 'and?'

Some of his friends came to the tomb to mourn but his body was not there.

He...

ROSE AGAIN

just as he promised. Jesus Christ came back to life and you can meet him today. He loves you personally and

can give you a...

NEW

heart. As, I said, the Bible tells me the old one is damaged by sin.

The Bible actually says,

"...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
NIV

Christ died for sins and rose again is a statement of fact but it's also a promise for all those who will trust Jesus. He has paid the price for your sin. You can be a new person, know God now and be assured of a place with him in heaven.

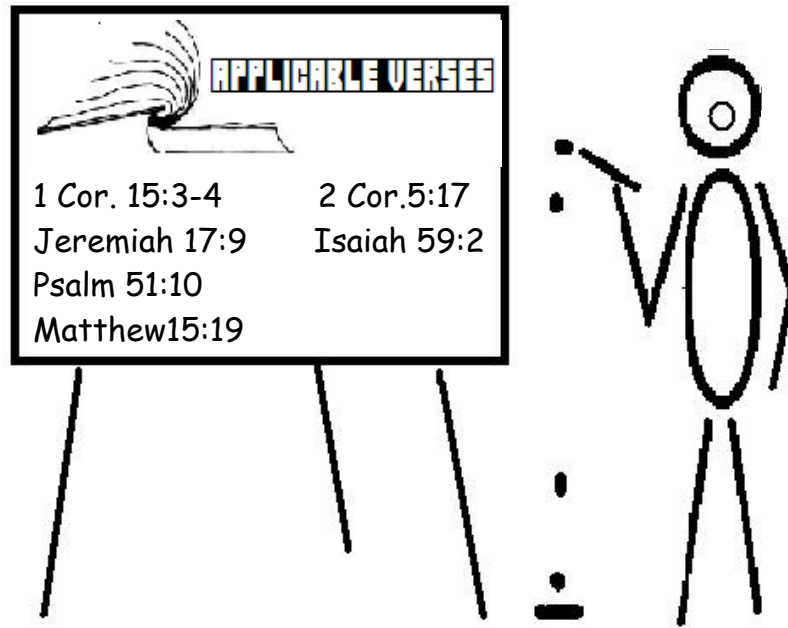
I urge you, as the Bible says,
be made right with God today...

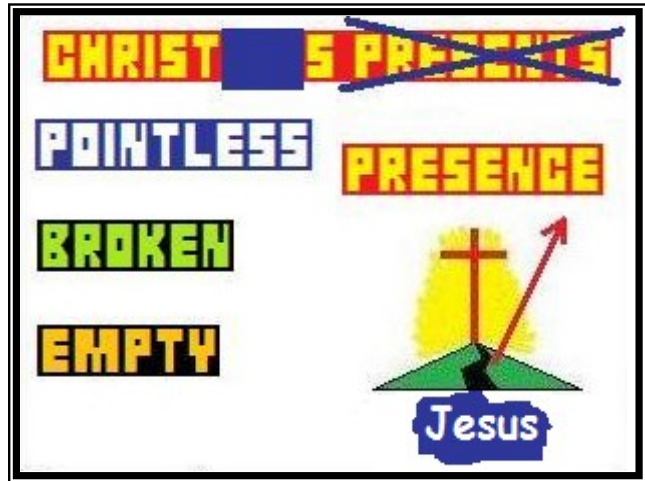
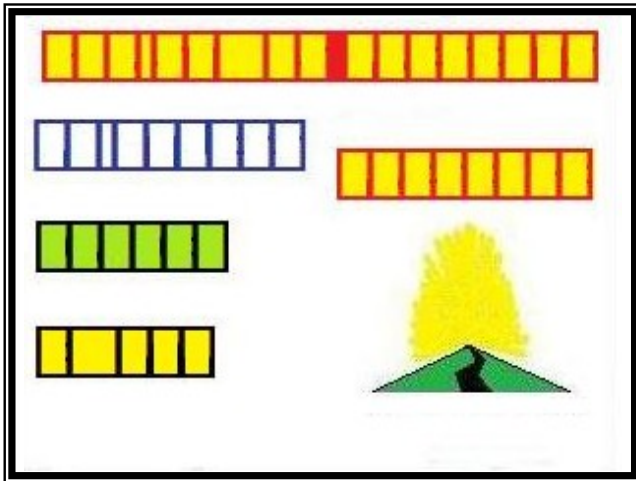


Put your trust in Jesus Christ.

Please take one of my leaflets which will explain further how you can know God personally.

Thank you for listening.





"Good evening everyone. In a moment with a red paint brush, I will make some yellow letters appear.

At this time of year you may be thinking about...

CHRISTMAS

You may have bought all your presents already. But each year, we all have the difficult problem of finding

the right...

PRESENTS

for each of your friends and family.

I don't want to worry you, but there are only X shopping days to go to the big day.

Some people say,

"Christmas is all about spending money you haven't got, buying presents they won't want, for people you don't like."

Not long now to get all of those presents. But however stressed you are feeling looking for presents for friends and family, comfort yourself with the fact that they are probably feeling just as stressed over looking for presents for you!

When you receive presents, they come in different ways. But there is nothing worse than opening a present and discovering

that it is...

BROKEN

You know, the 20 piece dinner service that is now 200 pieces, or the indestructible toy that your little darling has destroyed whilst getting it out of the box.

There is sadness when things that should be working fine but are broken.

It may be that it's time for Christmas presents. But as you look back at the year just gone, you might have had the experience where something in your life has been broken. Maybe

your health or your heart or your mind. It may not have been your fault. Something that someone has done to you. Or maybe it was just life. Perhaps it was your fault, and now you can't see how the thing that you have broken can be fixed. There is someone who specialised in not breaking things.

It says about him that ,

"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out." NIV

However, there may be something worse than finding a broken present. When you open it up

and you find it is...

POINTLESS

You remember those wedding presents you got? We got a yoghurt maker. The trouble is that it was easier, cheaper and nicer to buy yoghurt already made and flavoured.

Someone once gave me a 'grow your own Bonsai tree.'
The first instruction was to put the seed in the freezer for a few months.
The trouble is, I forgot all about it.

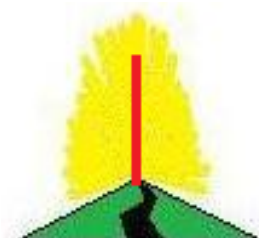
Pointless!

Maybe at Christmas time, you may be thinking a bit more about life. You know, a lot of people find this time of year difficult because they look back at the past year, look back at their life. They look around at other peoples lives that seem so full, and full of purpose. They look at their own life and it seems so pointless.

Surely there is more to life than spending, eating, drinking, and wishing things were different!

You know the Bible says that there is so much more to life than all of this. In fact it says of each one of us that we were all made by God for God.

What is the meaning of life? Why are we here?
We are here to know and enjoy a close, personal, intimate, growing relationship with God.



But we have changed and corrupted that into a selfish, self-centred existence that keeps God completely out of the equation.



In thinking about Christmas presents; there may be something worse than a broken or pointless present.

You open a present and find the box...



They forgot to put the present in. All the excitement you felt turns quickly to disappointment.

Do you think this could describe your experience of life? If this is true of you, that you have excluded God from your life, the God who made you and who wants to be at the centre of your life... if this is true, then no wonder your life feels empty!

You know, Christmas time, this present time, is all about a baby

born from heaven...

JESUS

God come to earth.

Note: The word 'Jesus' was resist see Glossary of terms.

Who grew up to be a carpenter, someone whose job it is to fix things. If you will ask him he will fix your life. He said at one point,

"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest".

Maybe your life is pointless. He said,

"Follow Me"

God says,

"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Maybe your life is empty. Jesus said,

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." NIV

God is the one who has given us life.

The glory of Christmas is that God has come to us because he loves us with a passion.

One of the titles that Jesus was given was Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'
God come to be with us. God on our side. God for us!

And 30 or so years after he was born, and placed in a manger of wood, he was lifted up

on a...



cross of wood to die. To die for you, to be the sacrifice for your sins and the sins of the whole world.

He emptied himself. He was broken for us. It was not pointless, but glorious. Because of his death, we can have life, real life. But how?

Well he offers life to us as a gift, for us to receive as a gift. All we have to do is to admit our need of him.

After Jesus died for us, he...



came back to life. He is not just part of history. He is very much alive today and we can know him personally. He has been raised to life and is now Lord of all.

Why don't you ask him to become Lord of your life.

You see, Christmas is not just about presents but today if you ask him,

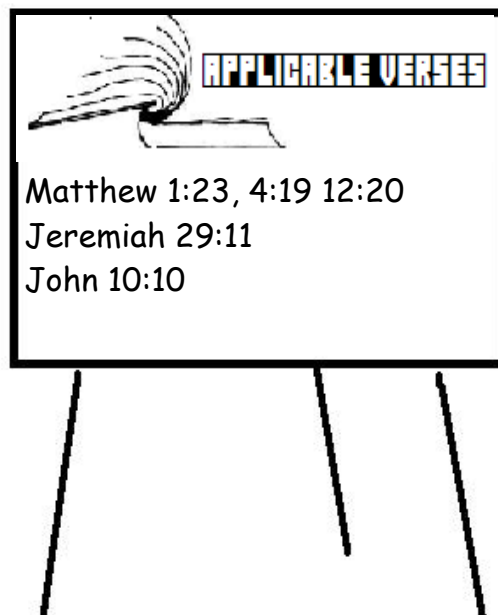
you can really know...

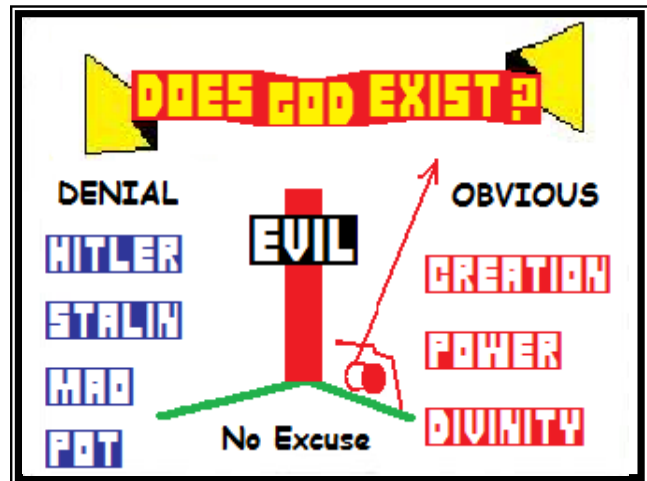
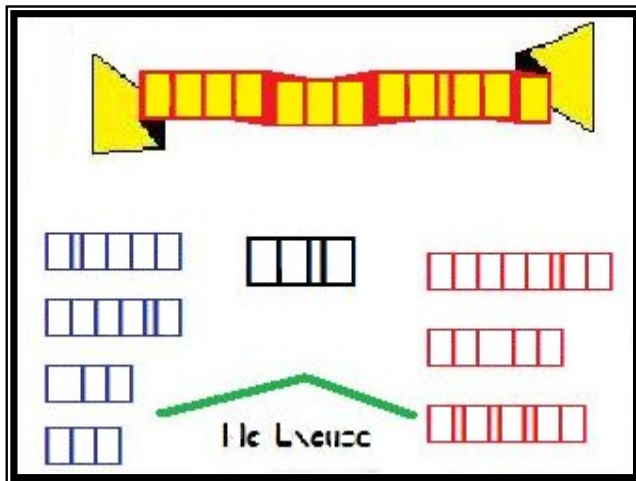
~~CHRIST'S PRESENTS~~

PRESENCE

with you now, for the rest of your life and for ever more.

Immanuel, God with us."





"Good afternoon. Thank you for stopping.

See if you can read this...



Well done, it's a question mark.

In just a moment I am going to write up a very controversial question. It will provoke a reaction. Each of you will all have an immediate answer. It's a question people have always asked. Although our answers will vary dramatically, it is likely, we will all be absolutely convinced we are right.

So here is the question, what will your answer be?...



Some people don't like the idea of God because we don't like to be told what to do. We want the freedom to make our own choices. Generally we think of God as a killjoy. All the things we enjoy doing, he seems to be opposed to: partying, getting drunk, stoned, screwed, angry, violent, stealing, lying, jealousy, disobeying our parents. We want to be free so we get rid of the God who tells us what is right and what is wrong.

It is an interesting question because people normally fall into two categories. Which one are you?

Here is the first one...

DENIAL

Some people use arguments like,

"How could a good God create such an evil world?" or

"We evolved, so there is no God."

The result of abandoning God is that there is no basis for morals, so we are free to do anything we like. But are we really free?

We have some wonderful examples of what happens when you take God out of society, led by famous men in history.

Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher, said that because God died in the 19th century, the 20th century would become the bloodiest century in history. And he was right!

Here are some of those examples:

HITLER

had a plaque put up over the gate at Auchwitz. It read,

"I freed Germany from the stupid and degrading fallacies of conscience and morality ... We will train young people before whom the world will tremble. I want young people capable of violence - imperious, relentless and cruel."

STALIN

has been given the title of, The greatest killer of all time.

State led action had been responsible for the violent or unnatural deaths of some 125,000,000 people during the century, more perhaps than it has succeeded in destroying during the whole of human history up to 1900.

MAO

Thousands of them were put to death as Mao sought to accelerate the Marxist revolution in a gigantic piece of social engineering that was eventually to cost the lives of millions; at one stage, opponents of his plans were being executed at the rate of over 22,000 a month.

POL POT

The blood letting in the 'killing fields' of Cambodia was terrible. Between April 1975 and January 1977, over 1,500,000 people, one fifth of the country's population were slaughtered.

Pol Pot said,

"To spare you is no profit; to destroy you is no loss."

When you get rid of a holy God who tells us what is good and evil, in his place you put a man who decides who lives and who dies. Someone must decide what rules we are going to live by. Far from making life good, history shows us that getting rid of God makes life horrendously evil with the most vile corruptions imaginable. Freedom is not the result. If God is removed from the picture, who makes the rules? You? Me? What is there to stop us going in the same direction as these societies who have rejected God.

We are already going down that road. Abortion is legal up to 24 weeks and beyond in some cases. Western society is seriously looking at euthanasia and, in some European counties, this is already practiced.

This century alone has shown where the

denial of God ends...

EVIL

Actually the truth is...

OBVIOUS

There is a part of the Bible that says...

CREATION

makes it obvious that God exists. When you take time to look at the intricate design of natural things, you realise that life is not an accident. It is clear someone has designed and created it. Look at this building. If I told you that one day it just appeared, you would think I was crazy. It clearly has a designer, builder and now someone maintains it. It is the same with life and creation, which are billions of times more complicated than a simple man made structure.

His eternal...

POWER

can be seen through the creation all around us. How much power does it take to destroy a city with an atomic bomb? How much more did it take to create out of nothing the entire universe with all its massive vastness let alone all that lives on this planet we call earth.

His...

DIVINITY

can be clearly seen through creation. But, many people continue to deny this evidence, that shouts at us each and every day.

We all have been made with a sense of right and wrong to start with. If we try hard enough for long enough we can destroy our consciences, but absolutes are not something we can escape.

A statement you may have heard, or even said yourself:

"There is no such thing as right and wrong."

This is a statement that says that it is wrong to believe in morals, but in itself is a moral statement.

To say,

"You cannot believe in God because of the evil in the world"-is to make a moral statement, which is dependant on the existence of God.

But, God loves you so much that he became a man. He revealed himself personally to the world, in

the person of Jesus and...

died to pay the price of your evil.



He...



rose on the third day proving that he had power and authority to pay for sin and to conquer death itself.

He is the author of life and the one who tells us right from wrong.
Creation speaks, Jesus speaks, the Bible speaks.

If you don't believe God, it is because you don't want to, not because there is no evidence.

There is...

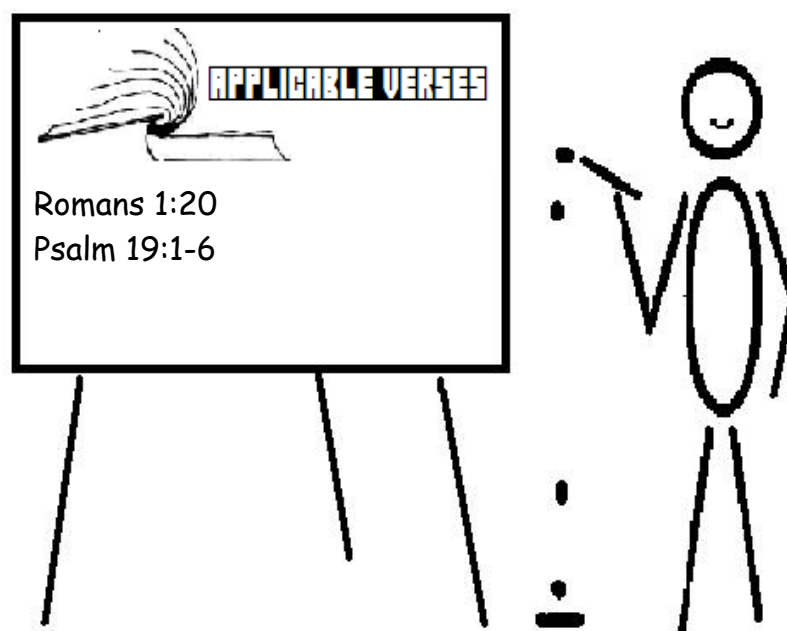
No Excuse

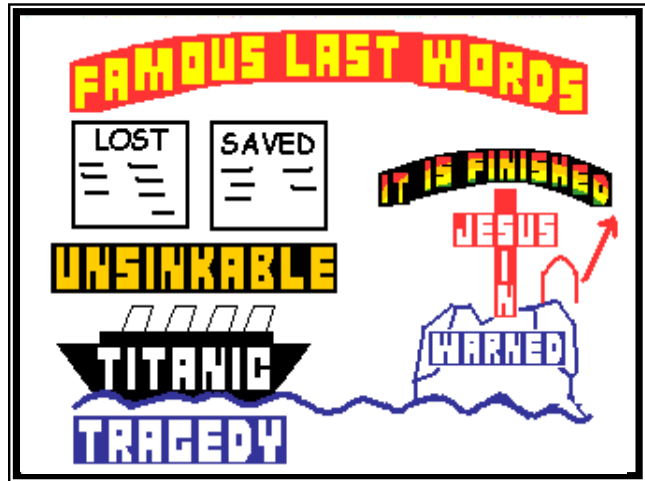
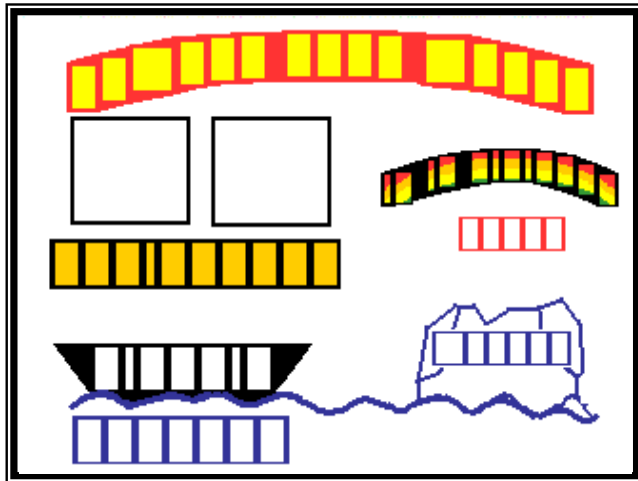
Does God exist? Be honest and answer that for yourself. But, do not deny the evidence.

The Bible tells us that, "God commands all people everywhere to repent." To repent means to turn around from going our own way and to follow him.

You can do that right now. Don't put it off, put your trust in Jesus who paid for you with the ultimate demonstration of love."

Note: The words 'DENIAL' and 'OBVIOUS' use wax resist. See Glossary of terms.
The phrase, 'No Excuse' will be the last words, therefore, use either partial lettering or ladder lettering, as people will then be aware you still have some words to reveal.





"Good afternoon. Thank you for stopping and looking at my beautiful painting. Now this is very clever and only clever people can read the words I am about to write. I went to Oxford, you know... It rained so I came home. Even if you didn't go to Oxford, you may still be able to read this.

Are you ready for this? I forgot to tell you. This is not just entertainment. I am hear to tell you something really important which some people find challenging.

Here goes...

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Now, you know what famous last words are, don't you? That's when I say, "I am going to go over there and I won't fall over." But, a soon as I take a step, I fall flat on my face.

See if you can recognise this...



The ship sailed from Southampton on 10 April 1912. It was operated by the White Star Line. It had four funnels...

That's right, the...

TITANIC

It was the largest ever floating vessel at the time. Probably the most famous passenger-liner ever built.

What were the famous last words they said about the Titanic?

A steward on the ship said that it was...

UNSEINKABLE.

He was heard to say,

"Not even God could sink this ship!"

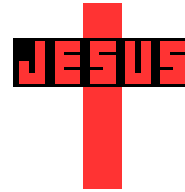
What were the famous last words of the most famous man who ever lived?
For that matter, who was the most famous man who ever lived?

We run our calendar from his birthday...

1914 .

What were his famous last words? These are not 'famous last words' like those that were said about the Titanic. These are his actual last words.

When Jesus was dying on the...



cross he said...

"IT IS FINISHED"

When did Jesus say these words?

He was just about to die and he cried out in victory. "It is finished." He did not say, "I am Finished." The main thing that he came to earth to achieve was now complete. Most of us, when we die, will say, "I'm not ready yet." But Jesus had completed his work.

Jesus willingly went to the cross. He knew he would have to suffer and die but he went through all that because of his great love for you and me. He loved us so much that he was willing to die in our place - even though we were his enemies and had no regard for him.

On the Titanic, the captain was...

WARNED .

"Slow down! There is danger ahead." But, he refused to listen. He wanted to break the record and become famous. He sure became famous, but for all the wrong reasons.

If only the captain had taken more care, the disaster may have been avoided. Hindsight is a great thing. There were icebergs around but he chose to ignore the warnings.

Sometimes we act in a similar way. We are warned that if we smoke, we will damage our health. We see people who have had their lives destroyed by alcohol or drugs but misuse of both is on the increase, in spite of the warnings and press coverage.

The Bible warns, that if we live with no regard for God, we are going to have problems in the future. But many choose to ignore this message.

The Titanic went full steam ahead and at 11.40 pm on the night of 14 April, 1912 it struck an iceberg. Are you doing the same?

The hull was breached. From that moment on, it was just a matter of time.

Once the ship had struck the iceberg, there were only hours left before it would sink. Does anyone know how long it took to sink? It took just two hours forty minutes to disappear beneath the waves.

While the ship was sinking, the band played music to keep the people happy. It's amazing. People have discussed why they continued to play. Facing death and about to be thrown into the freezing cold ocean the band played.

Before the ship finally sank, the last tune played was a hymn, "Nearer, my God, to thee." It was all about this person here. The words of the hymn mention the cross of Jesus. He is the only one who can bring us nearer to God.

In one hundred years time, we will have all faced what these people faced; death itself. That's when we really will need Jesus. We will come face to face with God and we will have to give an account of our lives to him.

The Bible says something which is ...

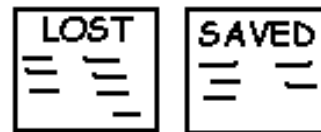


inside all of us is going to cause us a problem. Can you see the word 'sin'? Some people think sin is doing really bad things like robbing banks and killing people. The Bible says sin is simply ignoring God and running our own lives instead of letting him be in control. That leads to selfishness and putting one's self before God and other people. We will all be found guilty of sin, me included.

When Jesus died, he took my place and died. He was cut off from God, his father instead of me. We need this man. We need to know him for ourselves and receive him into our lives. Don't ignore the warnings and keep on steaming forward without taking action, or you will shipwreck your life.

Back in Southampton, two lists were put up...

They read...



Lost and saved. As human beings, we are lost without Jesus in our lives. We need to be saved by being forgiven. Which list are you on?

You and I need to receive the free gift of forgiveness which Jesus offers each one of us. God's wrath is rightly on us because of our behaviour. But because he took our place and received our punishment, Jesus can save us.

When Jesus died they put him in a...



grave and that was the end of him... That's not true, is it?

He actually came back to...



life and you can know him today.

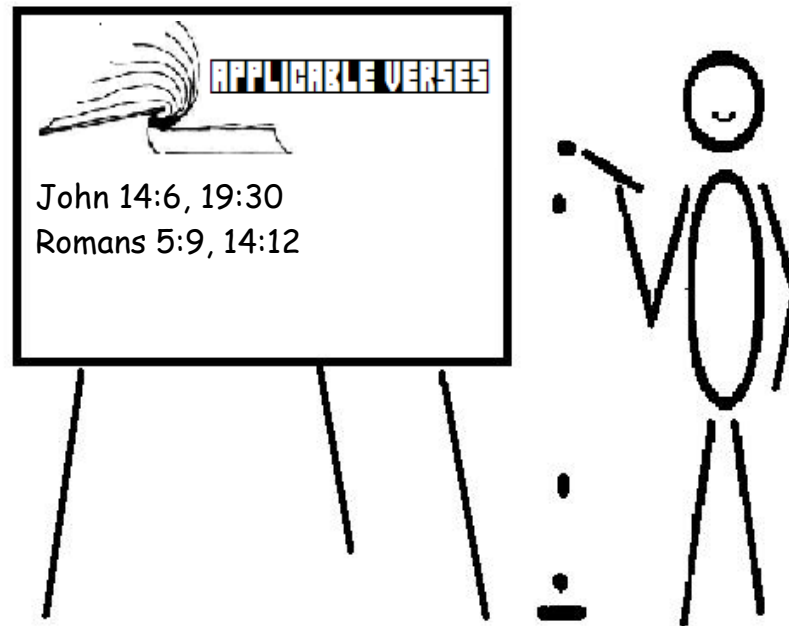
A saying has come from the sinking of the Titanic. When a large scale disaster occurs,

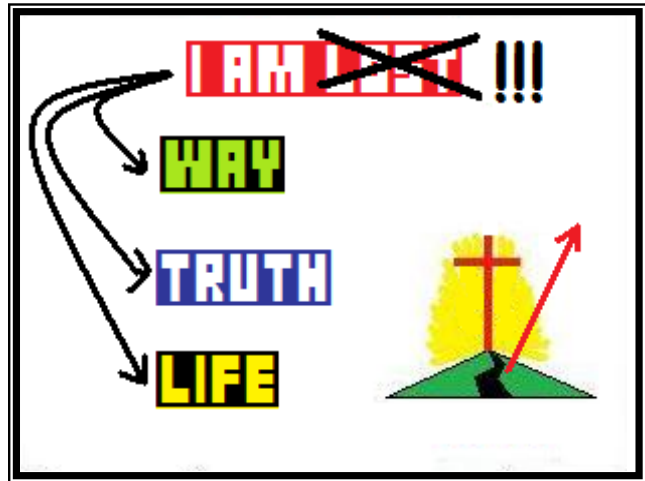
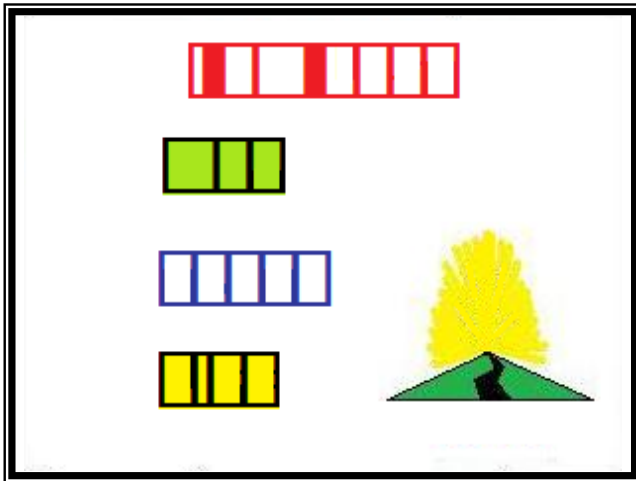
we say, "It's a...

TITANIC TRAGEDY "

It would be a Titanic tragedy if you were to hear this message and do nothing about it.

Ask him to forgive you and come into your life today. I have a free leaflet here which will explain how to receive Jesus yourself. Please take one."





"Good afternoon everyone. Thanks for stopping...

If you are a visitor to this city – or if you have lived here, like me, all of your life, I am sure that you have said

these words...

I AM LOST !!!

What?

"I am amazed at how cheap everything is?"

"I am impressed by how friendly the Londoners are?"

No, here is a phrase I am sure that you have said at some point today or possibly this week

I am...

I AM LOST !!!

There are lots of different ways of being lost, aren't there?

But this is the most common one

When you lose your...

WAY

It is horrible to lose your way because you quickly become baffled and confused. You don't know where you are going and you don't know where you have been.

But it is not just that we are lost geographically.

There is a deeper sense of being lost in all of us.

Usually, we don't admit it to other people, or even to ourselves.

But it is there.

Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?

There is a line from Handel's Messiah that quotes the Bible. It is talking about us human beings:

"We all like sheep have gone astray; each one has turned to his own way"

Do you think that that might be true of you?

There is another element fundamental to life that we have lost:

TRUTH

And it is the question that has kept philosophers thinking throughout the ages.

There seem to be so many truths and some of them contradict each other. So some of those apparent 'truths' must be wrong.

So, what is truth?

In fact, that is a famous saying in English. It is famous because it comes from the Bible.

A very famous man called Pontius Pilate said these words, when standing in front of an even more famous man, Jesus Christ. He said,

"What is truth?" NIV

And he said that because Jesus had just said to him,

"Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" NIV

You will never know full, true truth until you know Jesus.

The world has lost its way... and maybe, so have you.

The world has lost its truth... and maybe, so have you.

And if those things are remotely true, then this is also a fact...

LIFE

Now you haven't lost your physical life yet. You are still here listening to this. You know, it's God's sheer mercy to you that you are!

What I mean is that if you have lost your way morally, spiritually, if you have lost the truth about you and God and Jesus...

then you have lost the real point of life,... and that is to know God...
to have a close personal relationship with him!

Because of our sin and disobedience, we have lost the opportunity and ability to do that

There is a...



barrier between us and God. We can't ever break through. That's terrible, isn't it?

But God can break through it
and in Jesus he has...



died to take your punishment on the cross.

He died to rescue us from being lost. He died for the reasons we are lost...

our lies, unkindness, failures.
He died our death.

Okay, so how can I get to know God's way for me, God's truth and God's life?

Jesus said...



I am the...



way

and the...



truth

and the...



life. No one comes to the father except through me!

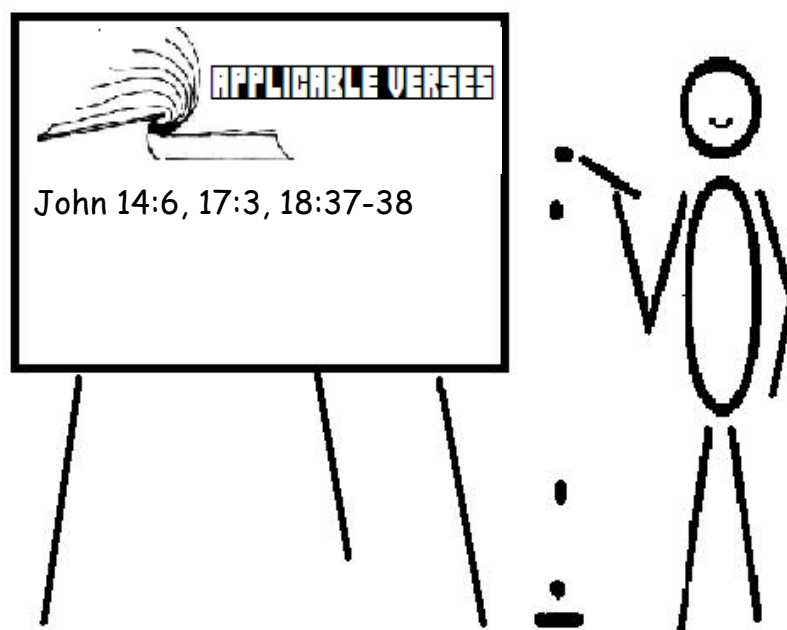
"This is life, eternal life, knowing the only God and Jesus whom he has sent."

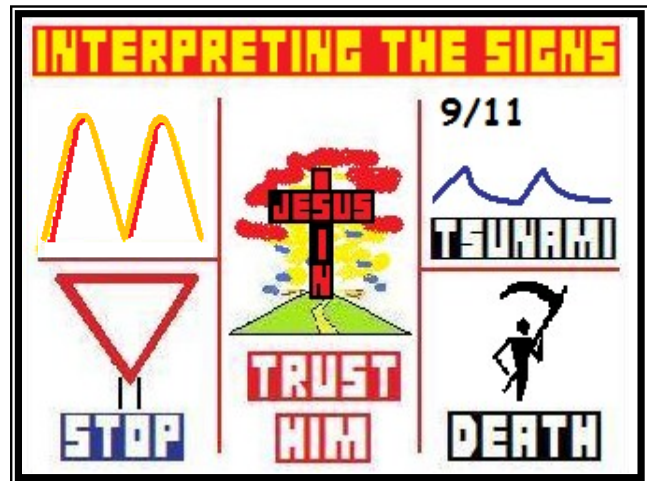
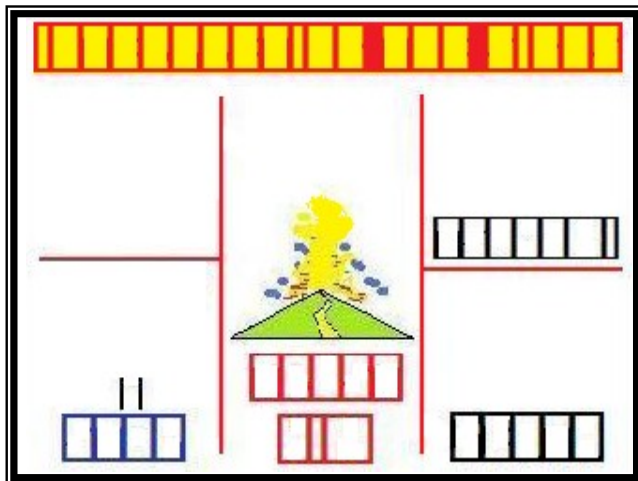
Jesus did not stay dead, he...



rose from the grave. You can know him today.

Thank you for listening. Please step forward and receive one of my leaflets explaining how you can really know God for yourself."





"Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I hope you enjoy my painting today. I hope you find it entertaining but its also challenging. See if you can read this writing.

INTERPRETING THE SIGNS

That's right. I'm glad someone can read my writing.

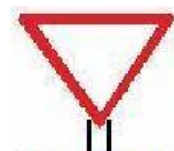
Do you know, we are interpreting signs all the time?

Have a look at this one...



Everybody knows what that sign means. It has become an international symbol for a cheap meal. A place where you can take the kids and they'll be happy for half an hour. MacDonalDs.

You've interpreted that sign now lets try another...



Every driver should know this sign. When you get to a road junction and you see this sign you must...

STOP

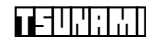
or give way at the junction. I'm not getting into a car with some of you. You don't know the signs!

Signs are there for a reason. They give us a warning. They say something is about to happen, we better get ready, or we need to do something.

Now this is a bit deeper.

What about these signs?...

9/11



A few years ago most of us didn't know what a tsunami was. But these terrible events, what did they mean?

Some people say,

"Why does God allow things like this to happen."

Others say,

"If things like that happen, there can't be a God."

Many years ago when Jesus was around, a tower fell down and killed 18 people. The same type of questions, came up. They asked Jesus,

"Why did this happen? Was it because the people killed had been very wicked."

Jesus said,

"Do you know what this means?"...

(Paint the sky red)



That's right, "Red sky at night Shepherd's delight." If the sky is red in the evening, it's likely to be a nice day tomorrow. But if it's red in the morning, you had better take your brolly with you!

Jesus said,

"You know how to interpret the weather, which is not earth shatteringly important but when it comes to more important signs, you don't have a clue."

Jesus said about the disaster of the tower,

"They did not die because they were especially bad, but let it be a warning. You too need to turn away from doing wrong or you will also perish."

You see, what Jesus was saying is that we must not ignore the signs.

What does this sign mean?...



Any young people will be able to tell me straight away.

That is a sign for...

DEATH

In one hundred years time. None of us will be here.
We will have faced death.

(A story about a death close to you can be helpful at this point. Be gentle as people may be hurting if they have been recently bereaved)

This last sign is the most important one I have today because it is the antidote to death.

If this was true and I really did have an antidote to death, what would it be worth?

It would be priceless. It would be worth more than anything else in the whole world.

It is true. Let me show you...



How can an instrument of torture, where thousands of people were crucified, by the Romans be the antidote to death?

When...

HE-LE

was nailed to a cross, he did not deserve to be there.

This man had lived an exemplary life, proving himself to be, who he claimed to be, the Son of God. When he spoke, thousands of people gathered to listen to his wise words. His words are still, taught and remembered today!

When he touched people, they got better.

The Bible tells us that Jesus took all the wrong things I have ever done and he was punished in my place.

The Bible calls that...

FIN

If you read down, you can see why Jesus had to die - to take my sin.

The Bible tells me that I will stand before God one day and be judged by him. I know I'll be guilty because I have rebelled against him and turned my back on him.

But Jesus has paid the price for me and all those who will put their...

TRUST

in him.

After Jesus died, they took his dead body and put it in a grave. They came to anoint it a few days later, but it was gone. You see Jesus had come back to life... and you can still know him today.

Jesus said,

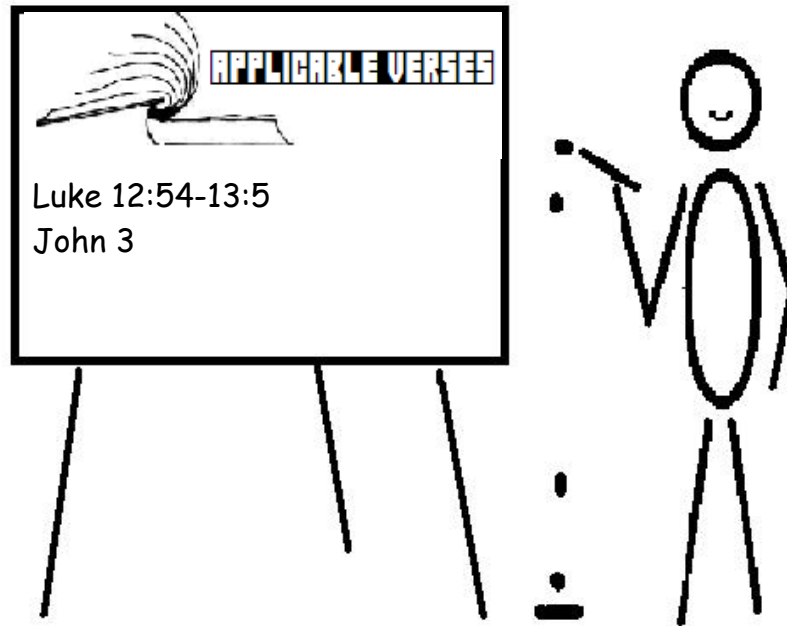
“Those who are willing to trust me will have eternal life.”

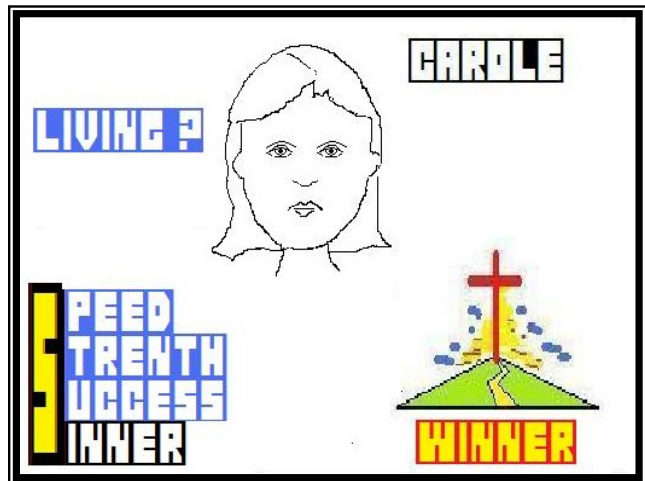
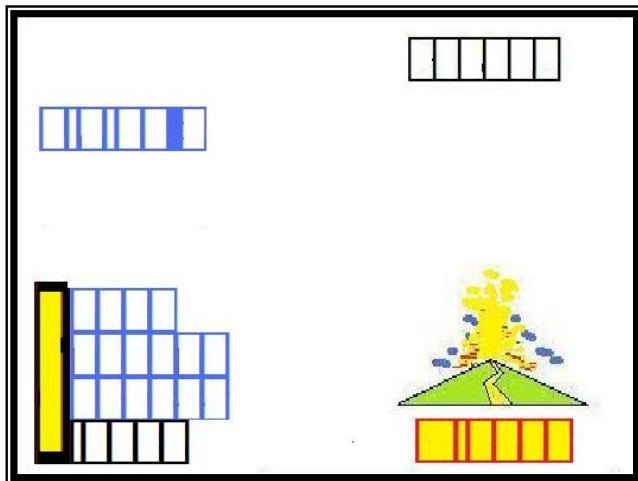
Look at the signs, interpret them correctly,

and...

TRUST HIM

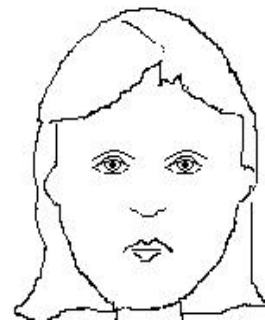
today!”





"Let me introduce you to someone.

This is not a very good likeness,
but use your imagination...



This is a true story of a lady named...

CAROLE

She was originally from Scotland but had moved to Tenerife. Lucky lady!
Who would like to live in Tenerife?

She was...

LIVING

the good life, most of us just dream about.

Or was she really...

?

After all, everything looked great on the outside!

Always warm, living on a holiday island, she had it made!

She was attractive, married to a nice guy with whom she had started a family, she had a good job in the timeshare business, fast car, she went clubbing, everything was going so well.

She could drive at...

SPEED

in her fast car.

This was one lady who had...

STRENGTH

and her position in life reflected that.

To all intents and purposes she had achieved...

SUCCESS

Part of the scene was drinking heavily and misusing drugs.

Despite all she had there was still something missing. Maybe that's why drinking and drugs were involved.

She was still searching for that missing ingredient in life.

Sometimes her life felt hollow and empty. She wouldn't have admitted it, of course. But sometimes she did to herself. A voice inside her would scream out,

"There must be more to life?"

In this driven and powerful world in which she lived,

She looked successful. But what is success ?

The Bible says that when people leave God out, living becomes like trying to fill a bag with holes in it, whatever you try to put in leaks out. (*Haggai 1:6*)

That's how Carole felt.

"My life is full, yet so very empty."

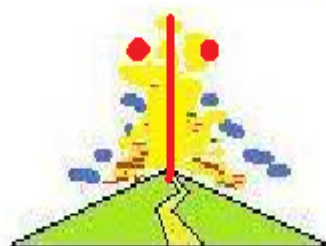
During a conversation about how she was feeling, a friend told her how her life had been turned around by someone she had met. She had been feeling like she was in the dark, but it was like someone had turned the light on.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."
NIV

Could this be what was missing?

Carole, the woman with everything, went along to a church meeting. This became a regular thing, but she couldn't grasp it.

She realised



she was separated from God. Her selfishness had caused a barrier.

This caused her sadness not happiness. But she was coming to realise the truth: that if we live for ourselves, real life, God's life, becomes distant and unreachable.

She realised she was a

SINNER

She would often find herself crying because of the separation from God she felt deep inside.

Then there was another coincidence, or was it?

She met a couple from her Scotland who offered her a Gideon New Testament.

(Show one, or mention the fact they are given out in schools and are often found in hotel bedrooms.)

In it she read in the Psalms:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (*Psalm 119:105*) NIV

Still she searched for the truth but it eluded her. After two years she had left her search behind. But still occasional thoughts of finding real life came back. The seed of God's word was growing.

Something made her return to the church and the minister knew her name.

How was that possible? They had never met. But the Scottish couple, who had given her the Bible had spoken to him, and they had all prayed for her for more than two years.

Carole was touched by these strangers who cared so much for her. She then realised that God had been involved all along and he loved her too.

She read a small booklet that explained why Jesus



had to come to die on the cross.

He had died to pay the price of her rebellion against God. He took all her guilt on himself. God really did care for her. After reading that, she committed her life to following Jesus.

She realised that all of her life had been a preparation for this time when she would start all over again with God.

Now instead of feeling like a SINNER, for the first time in her life,

she felt as if she was a...

WINNER

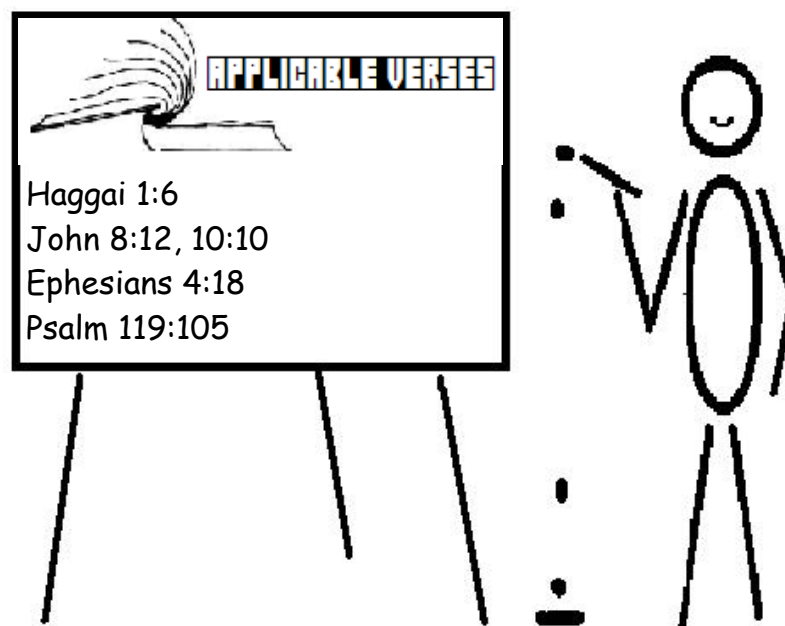
Something had changed inside her life.

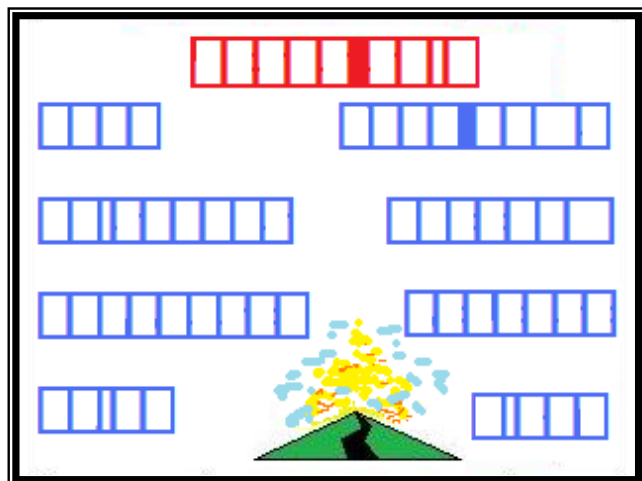
For those of you who realise God is speaking to you about your life, don't just leave it. Speak to God today and receive him. As one who wants to radically change your life, he is waiting for you to respond.

Please step forward and receive a leaflet which will explain a little more about becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said,

"I have come that they might have life to the full!"





"Hello, thanks for stopping. I hope you enjoy what I am about to do. With a red paint brush I will make some white letters appear as if by magic! But, beware! What I am about to write is challenging.

FAID

What people have said in the past is very important. The spoken word is very powerful. Politicians use speeches to persuade us that they are the people to be in charge of the country. Our opinion is swayed by their words. Then there is the media. Each day we listen to the news on the TV and radio. The way we see the world is shaped by what other people tell us.

Many years ago there lived a very famous person, who said amazing things and people still remember what he said today. In fact what he said was so important, people wrote it down in a book. We even run our calendar from the time of his birth.

Do you know who I'm talking about? Some people find his name quite frightening so don't

run away!

FEFUL

Jesus said some quite amazing things to different groups of people. As he is probably the most famous man who ever lived, it's important to know what he said.

He spoke to these people...

POOR

He said, "I've got...

GOOD NEWS

What would be good news for the poor?

Money, food, housing? Maybe, but you can be poor in more than one way. Can't you?

People like you and me can look well fed, wear lovely clothes, like some of you folk are wearing here today. You might live in a big house and even have a smile on your face, but inside you can feel empty. That's another way you can be poor. The Bible calls it poor in spirit.

When Jesus spoke: he often spoke to people who were financially poor. But those sort of people are very often willing to admit they also have other needs which involve deeper issues. When people have a lot of material possessions they like to think they have life all sorted out. But often, if we are honest, many of us have deep needs inside that we long to be helped with.

Jesus offers good news to the poor. But you have to be willing to admit to him you need his help.

Jesus said something different to these people:... **PRISONERS**

What would be a good thing to say to prisoners?

That's right... **FREEDOM**

I don't know if any of you have ever been a prisoner. But it means losing your freedom. You cannot go outside. You have to eat and sleep when you are told to do so. You live in a harsh environment.

Hang about! Was Jesus talking about going down to the local prison and letting out all the thieves, murderers, and rapists? That would have been a bad thing to do.

You can be a prisoner, without ever having visited a jail.

Many people, and maybe that includes you, are imprisoned in many different ways.

You can be a prisoner in a life situation, a prisoner in an abusive relationship, a prisoner to guilt, ill health, drugs, alcohol and numerous other situations.

Jesus said, "I have come to give prisoners (like you possibly) freedom."

That's good news, isn't it?

Then Jesus spoke to the... **OPPRESSED**

Those people who are kept under by something or someone.

If you've experienced being depressed, you'll know what I mean. A lot of people suffer with that. I have friends who have suffered badly with depression; it's a terrible thing.

You can be oppressed by ill health or circumstances over which you have no control.

However when the circumstances are of your own making, that makes you feel twice as bad, because it's all your own fault.

Jesus said to those people... **RELEASE**

That's good news. If Jesus can give that, he must be worth knowing.

Jesus spoke to these people too... **BLIND**

What is it that they needed?... **SIGHT**

We all know that Jesus, when he was here on earth, touched people and they got better. Even blind people received their sight. Wouldn't it be good if he were around today. I know some people I would take to him.

But Jesus wasn't just talking about those who can't see physically. You know it's possible to be blind in our understanding about God.

In fact the Bible says we are blinded by the god of this age, so we cannot understand the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some people will say, "How can you believe in God at all?"

Others say, "I just cannot see what you are saying about God."

But Jesus promises to restore the sight of the blind. But you need to ask him to help you. I guess, in this case, you need to admit you cannot see for him to be able to help you.

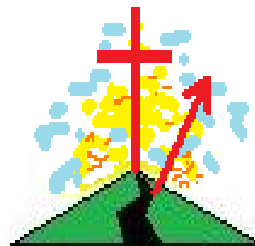
Jesus lived a life showing people how to receive, good news, freedom, release and sight, which only he could provide.

At the end of his life Jesus died a cruel death on a...



cross so we could be forgiven for our past life and go on to receive all he has for us in the future.

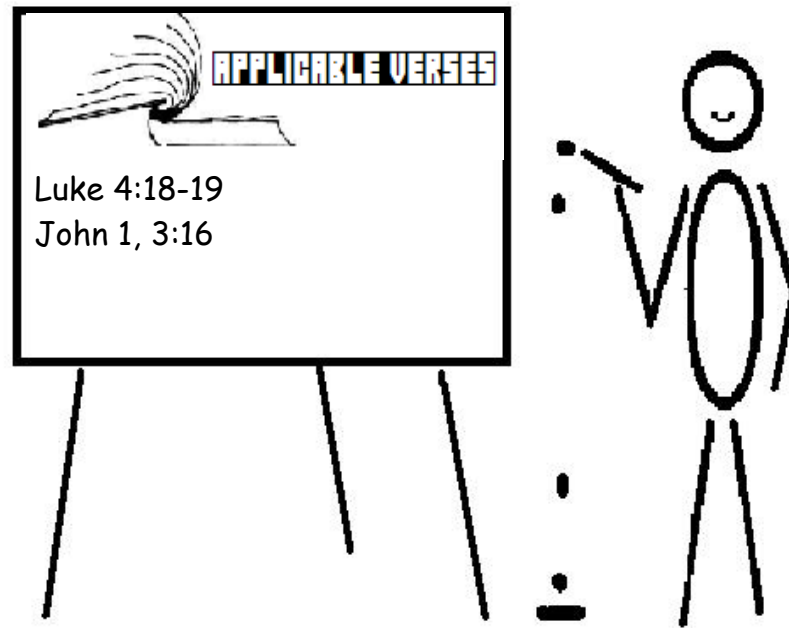
He did not remain dead but was raised back to

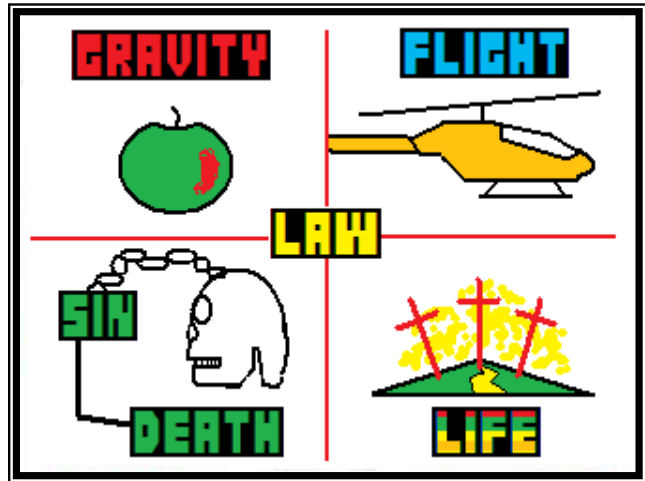
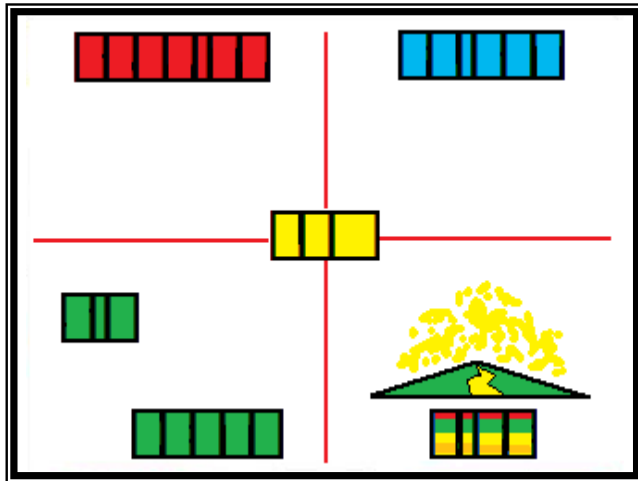


life by God and you can still know him today."

NOTE: A relevant part of your testimony may be useful at this point.

He still promises all these things and they are available for you today if you are willing to admit your need of him.





“ Good afternoon. Thank you for stopping.

I want to talk about something which effects us all. Also most of us find it both scary and interesting at the same time. It’s a three letter word.

Are you ready?...



Law is interesting because we are often thinking of ways to get around it, or how to get away with breaking it. When we were kids and we broke the rules; we would always have a good excuse for breaking them.

“Yes, I know I shouldn’t be here but someone pushed me behind the bike sheds and then stuck this cigarette in my mouth.”

It doesn’t take much thought to realise, the law is something vital. For instance if we all drove along the road and there were no traffic laws, think of the chaos, destruction, death and anarchy that would happen.

But we want to be free and do what we want. Do our own thing! That’s why we look for ways of getting around the rules, if not just breaking them.

Take the speed limit for instance. Well, we all want to get there quickly. So we go as fast as we can and just make sure we slow down at the cameras. That’s right, isn’t it? We think, ‘speeding is okay.’ But you mustn’t get caught.

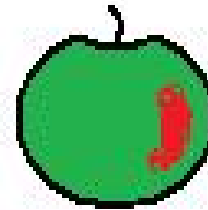
What about those signs like, ‘keep off the grass’ and ‘out of bounds.’ Don’t you just want to go and walk on the grass, and have a look around the places you are not supposed to be?

There is a story told of a bishop in Australia who was on a train one day. He read a sign on the carriage window. “No spitting.” Now before he saw the sign, he hadn’t even thought of gobbing out of the window. But the sign tempted him to do it. He began to salivate, the prohibition notice was there to stop spitting, but it had actually caused this godly man to want to break the rules.

Rules are good, but they do not give us the power to keep them. In some ways law makes it harder.

Here is a law which is really good. It is given for our good and we couldn't live without it.

The law of...



The apple. It was discovered by Sir Isaac Newton in about 1700. Apparently he was sitting under a tree and an apple fell off his head. He worked out there must be a force called...

GRAVITY

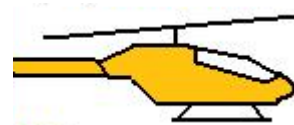
Sir Isaac Newton was a brilliant mathematician, scientist, MP, theologian, keeper of The Royal Mint. Using his maths and physics, he not only worked out the existence of gravity but the existence of the then unknown planet, Uranus.

But this is an example of another necessary law. What would happen without it? Everything would just be floating away. You couldn't just have a drink in a cup, it would float out into the air.

Like all laws, people wanted to be free of the law of gravity. Men started to flap their arms and see if they could fly. Then they stuck lots of feathers together and strapped them to their arms and jumped off cliffs and similar places. Splat! Injured people everywhere!

But then another law was discovered,

the law of...



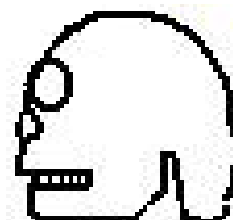
FLIGHT

Otherwise known as the law of aerodynamics, but I can't spell that! This new law was able to overcome the law of gravity which since time in memorial had held man down on the ground. So man learned to propel himself off the ground and now we've even been all the way to the...

(walk slowly around)... moon.

Now here's one law that affects all of us. No one escapes this law. I want to demonstrate it by drawing your face here. You will all recognise yourself.

Now, I must concentrate very hard to do this. Please be very quiet, no noise. It's difficult to paint you all at once so you will recognise yourself...



Well, I didn't say when I would paint you. This is a picture of you and me after...

DEATH

After all said and done we all look, more or less, the same. We can all recognise ourselves after death. The law of death affects each of us. No one shall escape it. In 100 years time we will all have been through it.

However, everyone wants to avoid it. Woody Allen said,

"I don't fear death; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

Death is part of the world but it wasn't part of the original plan.

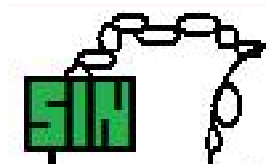
God did not want us to experience death. But people wanted to go their own way.

People were selfish, not wanting to obey God.

the Bible calls this rebellion against God...

SIN

We are all...



chained to death by sin.

Death is the last great enemy but sin is what makes death so terrible.

"The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law." NIV

That is the bad news. But the good news is...

God has sent an antidote to death and sin...

God does not want us to suffer the law of sin and death, so he introduced a more powerful I

law of...

LIFE

Jesus said,

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." NIV

The Bible says of Jesus,

"He who knew no sin became sin for us."

Jesus, the son of God, never did any wrong.

But he was punished on the cross, in our place...



He personally took that punishment, as if he had personally committed all the wrong things each of us has done.

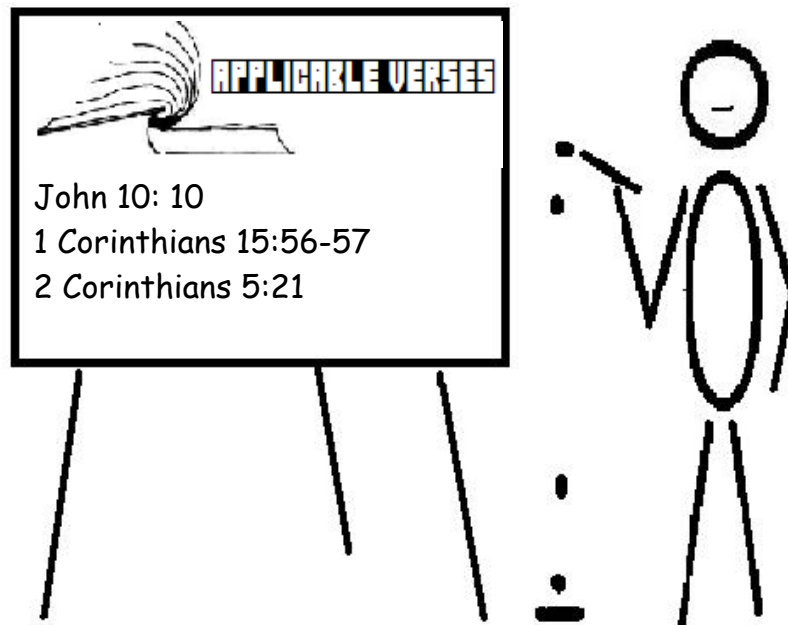
He actually died in my place.

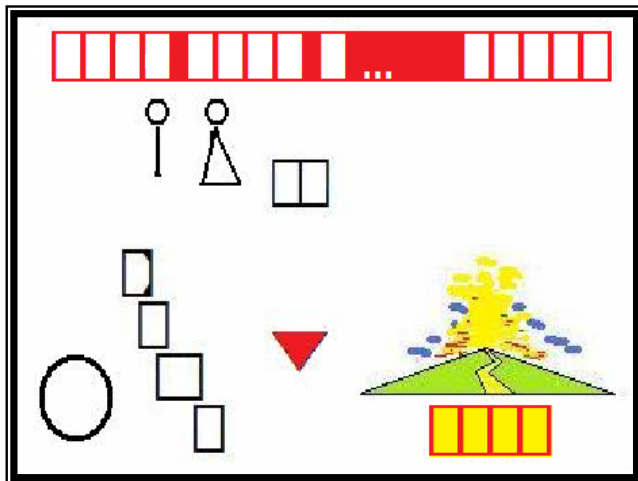
God's forgiveness through Jesus is a gift. The law of life is dependant on you accepting that gift and allowing God to forgive you. He died in your place, too, and all you have to do is to put your trust in him.

Will you do that today?

For those willing to make that step, please step forward and take a leaflet. Others may be saying, this makes sense but I need to know more. This leaflet may help you understand some more of what Jesus can do in your life.

Thank you for listening."





"Isn't it great when someone says...

LET'S TAKE A BREAK

They have even made an advert out of the saying'

"Lets take a break. Have a... KIT KAT."

It could be a weekend away, or a holiday, in England or even abroad.

You know what they say,

"A change is as good as a rest".

So it's good just to have a break and change your routine because you come back refreshed. That's why the Bible talks about having one day of rest. It's good to take a break. I hope you have a great time when you do.

But some breaks are far from good. What about something we seem to be seeing more and more of?

I guarantee it's happened to you, someone in your family or someone close to you.

I'm talking of...

BREAK UP

We hear a lot about marriage break up. Just under half of marriages end in divorce.

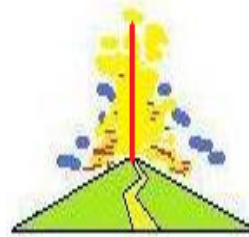


People who once really loved each other begin to become alienated.

Then of course there are those who say, "Let's not get married because we may break up later." But even then, it's a break up and can cause the same damage. But why does it happen so often?

The papers tell us, it's partly because of our 24/7 life style.

We have hardly got time for ourselves, let alone to consider our partner.

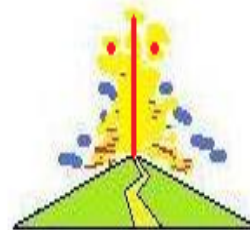


We look after number one. 'I' refuses to give way and 'I' is the most important person.

The Bible says, "We all like sheep have gone wandering off. We have all turned to our own way."

We do our own thing and fail to consider each other.

This...



big 'I', separates us from each other and causes a big barrier. This number oneness not only separates us from those we love, it also separates us from the one who loves us, God himself.

Other people experience

BREAKDOWN

Caused by:

Overwork, failing to take enough breaks.



Debt and money worries. The average debt per person in UK is very high. That can be a massive pressure, it's never out of your mind. Then, the job goes and bang real trouble.

Then there are educational pressures, exams and possible failure, or worries about relationships and the job insecurity.

Instead of sharing our problems, especially us men, we bottle it up.

"I can cope. I can handle life and deal with this pressure".

But you know, doctors will tell you, worry will kill you.

The...



heart can't stand it.

Worry is just as harmful as heavy smoking and drinking!
We were never created to bear such problems on our own. The body is not designed for that.

In the book of Psalms the Bible tells us to;

"Cast our cares on the LORD and he will sustain you." NIV

We were never meant to carry these things alone.

Even those who are already followers of Jesus can forget to do this. We are all susceptible to heart disease.

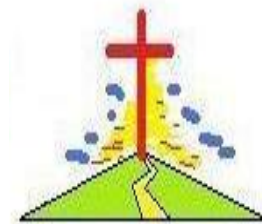
God loves you. Give your worries to God and stop carrying them alone.

We all have a 'God shaped hole' in our heart, which only God can fill.

There is just one more type of break to talk about.

Now you've stayed this long and heard the bad news.

This is really good news...



When Jesus died on the cross. He took all the weight of our number oneness on himself. The Bible calls that number oneness, or selfishness, sin. The Bible says an amazing thing.

"He became sin for us."

The one person who never did anything to deserve death and separation from God was punished in my place.

He did that so that we could...

BREAK FREE

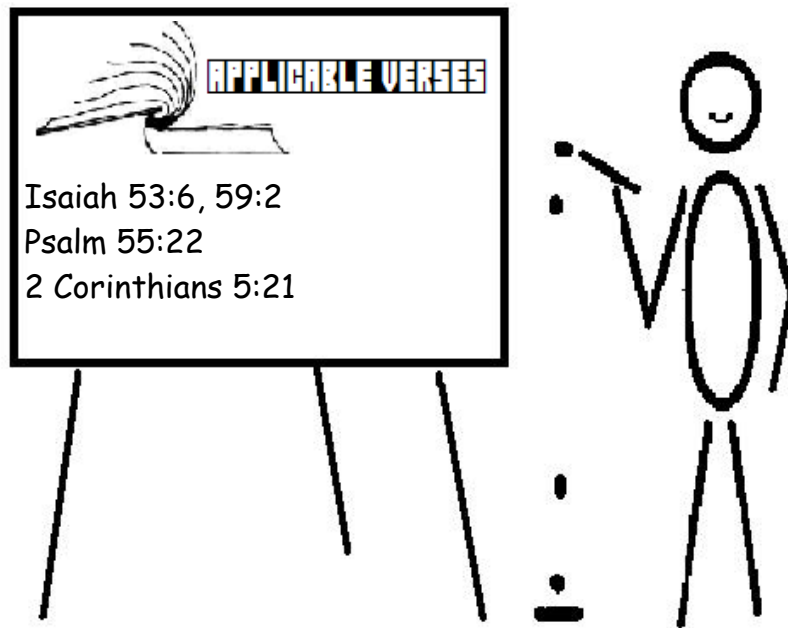
from the control of sin. That number oneness, which separates me from people and God, and causes me to have to carry all my burdens alone.

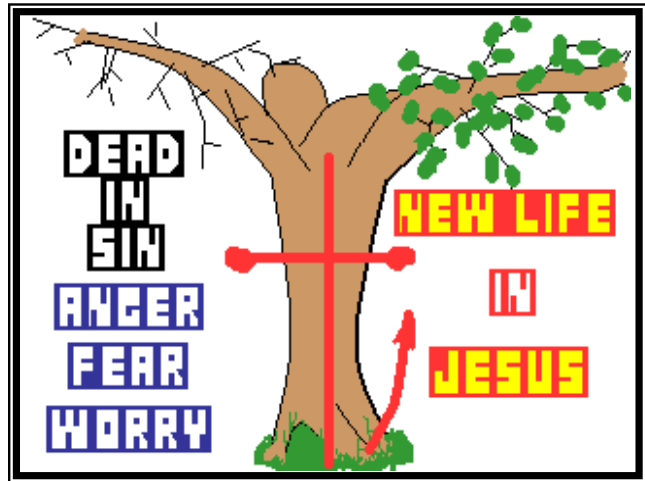
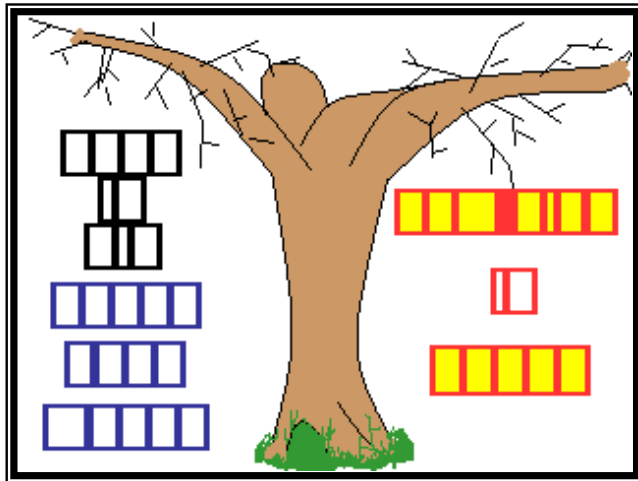
He says,

"Give it to me; I died for you."

After Jesus died, he did not remain dead. He came back to life, showing that he had the power to break free from death, the last and greatest enemy of us all.

You can be set free by Jesus today if you are willing to admit your need of him."





"Good afternoon. Thank you for stopping and looking at my painting. Have any of you seen this before? In just a moment, some coloured letters will appear from these boxes. This should be a little entertaining and I hope you enjoy what I am about to do. But, I must warn you - this is supposed to be challenging.

I love the time of year when this happens...



From dead looking branches, suddenly buds and leaves appear. When this happens, we can see the tree has...

LIFE !

Each of us here has life. You can tell that, because you are all standing here and looking very intelligent. You can hear what I am saying and see the painting. We have life! Or do we?

Sometimes, we feel as if life is a strain. We don't feel as if we are living life to the full. Something is missing.

Now, if it came to spring time, and all the trees were coming into leaf, and a tree stayed like this side. We would say,

"The tree is...

DEAD "

Have you ever felt like this? As if you are more over on this side, (indicating the left of the board) than living life to the full. There are things in our lives which stop us reaching our full potential.

Let me suggest a few.

This is something we all feel from time to time...

ANGER .

The emotion of anger releases adrenalin into our systems. Adrenalin gives us strength and helps us in an emergency.

For instance if that building were on fire, and you saw a child at a window calling for help, you may well rush off, get a ladder and climb to the top of the building in order to perform a heroic rescue. Later, you may think about it and say,

"I don't know how I did that, I can't run any distance normally and I'm scared of heights."

But, the adrenalin enabled you to behave in a superhuman way. Now, if you get angry, and stay angry, the adrenalin, and other chemicals released, will damage your body. No wonder the Good Book says,

"Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry." NIV

That's good advice. Sort out your anger quickly or it will literally kill you.

What else keeps us on this side?...

WORRY

Experts tell us that ninety percent of the things we worry about will never happen. But, some of us are born worriers. We worry about the future and we worry about the past. We all have skeletons in the cupboard - things we don't want other people to know about. What if someone finds out. Someone once said,

"Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but you don't get anywhere."

Worry, often leads to...

FEAR .

Fear can be very debilitating. Fear is an extreme form of worry.

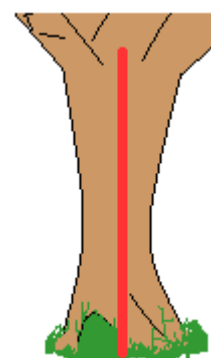
People can become fearful of many things - the way others may treat them, fear of not being able to pay off your debts, and what may happen then. We can fear illness, losing your job, or even fear death itself.

The most famous man who ever lived was Jesus, he said,

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." NIV

That is because Jesus knew that fear keeps you away from the full life he wanted people to have.

The Bible says, "There is actually a big...



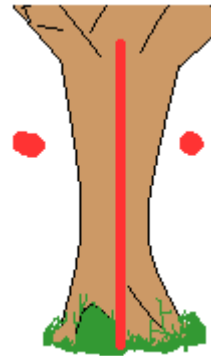
barrier between us and the full life that God intended for us.

Right back at the beginning of time, human beings said to God,

"No thanks, we don't want your rules; we don't want your life. We can do this life on our own."

Have you heard that before? That had something to do with a tree and some fruit that the people were not supposed to eat. But, ever since we have all been saying the same thing to God.

We were never made to live...



separate from God. No wonder we are suffering these things.

The Bible puts it this way:

"We are all...

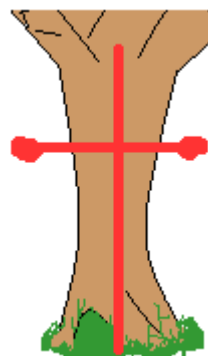
DEAD IN SIN."

but, God loved us so much that he sent his one

and only son...

JESUS,

to come to the earth and...



die to pay the price for our sin and rebellion. He came to bridge the gap between death and life.

When I realised that Jesus had actually given his life for me and made a way to get right with him again, I said to him,

"Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong and come and be Lord of my life."

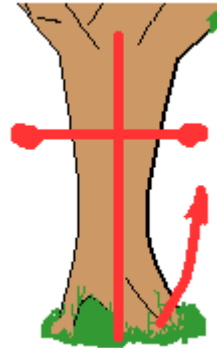
He promises that all who come to him, he will never drive away.

Which side are you on? The left or the right?

Today Jesus offers you a...

NEW LIFE

Jesus can do that because after
he had died he...



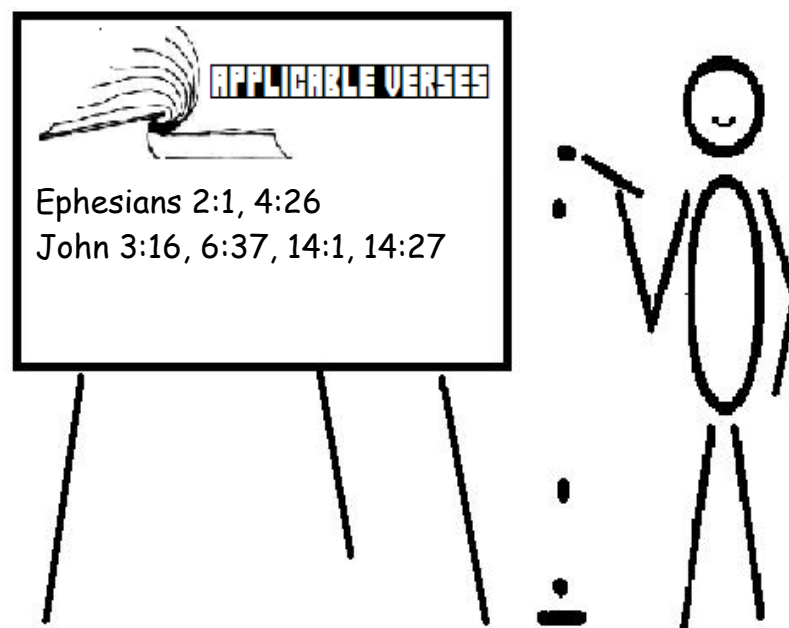
came back to life, proving he really is God and that he had conquered sin and death.

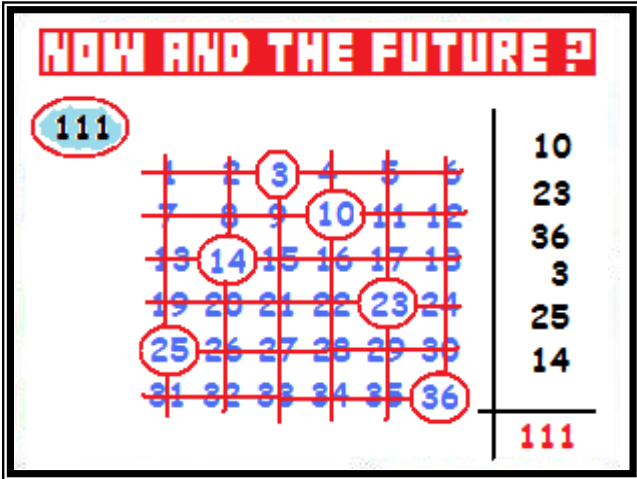
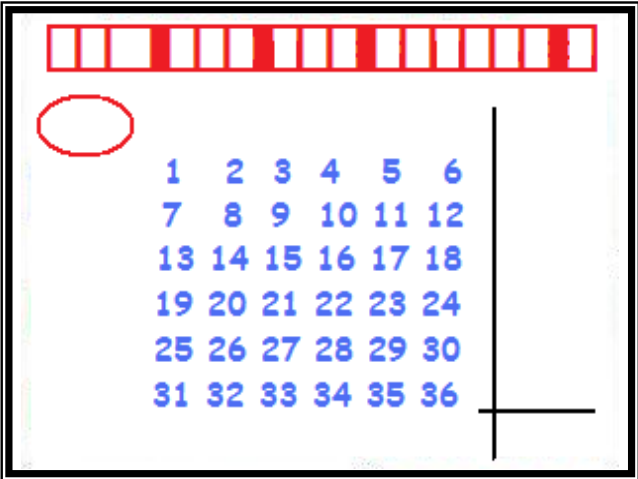
Why don't you ask him to forgive you today

and start a new life...



Jesus?





NOTE: This message is essentially a number puzzle. It can be used as a crowd gathering exercise in order to lead onto another part of a presentation or combined with another sketch board message. The answer, revealed at the end of the presentation, should be written up using a wax candle during your preparation. (See Wax Resist in Glossary of terms)

If it is intended to lead to a further separate presentation. Ensure you mention it once or preferably more than once, before the end of this sketch board or you may lose your crowd.

"In just a moment I will create some yellow letters using a red paint brush. But first of all, I will test to see if you can read my writing. I hope you will enjoy what I am about to do. It is free but it is supposed be challenging..



Can you see the question mark?

I am going to ask a question.

NOW AND THE FUTURE

The question is; do these two things have any connection?

Yes, of course they do. Because what you do now will effect what happens in the future. So you have to be very careful about the way you behave now.

For instance, if you rob a bank today, you are likely to be arrested tomorrow.
If you are kind to someone today, they might help you in the future.
However, if you are nasty to someone today, they may become your enemy tomorrow.
So we have to be careful because what we do affects the future.

I have a number puzzle here and I would like you to help me.

It works like this:
You can choose any numbers you like. I will write them up over here and when I add them together I already know the answer. In fact the answer is on the board, it's just that you cannot see it.

Note: Early on in the preparation of the board write the number in wax in the top left hand corner of the board. This will be revealed later. See wax resist in Glossary of terms.

Would anybody please choose a number.

(Wait for a response or ask someone specifically, repeat that it's free)

Number X, thank you. You don't want to change your mind do you?

No, okay, that's a good choice.

I will put a circle around the number and write it up over here. Then I will cross out all the numbers in the horizontal and all the numbers in the vertical.

Now let me explain, in the future you cannot choose the numbers that have been crossed out. You have to be careful because the numbers you choose will effect the choices you have in the future. It's a bit like life, isn't it?

Would someone else choose a number please. Choose a number...

As each person chooses a number, circle the choice and cross out all the other numbers above and below it and all the numbers to the left and right on the same line. Each time a number is chosen talk about the choices we make and why this is important.

E.g. Students need to work hard at school and do their homework because then they get more choices in the future. If you decide to take up smoking or drinking heavily, it will effect your health in the future..

At each choice, there are six in all, make a comment on both choices and how some choices effect a few days, some effect your whole life and some choices will effect the whole of eternity.

When you cross out numbers in the horizontal, the line looks like a minus sign. That gives an opportunity to talk about negative or bad choices. Ask the crowd if they have every made a bad choice.

At another point when both lines are crossed out, it looks like a positive sign, talk about making positive or good choices.

When the grid is nearly complete, you will end up with a single number. Ask for a choice and point out there is no choice at all, because the choices we made earlier forced us to choose this last number. That is again a bit like making life choices. We may end up with no choice at all.

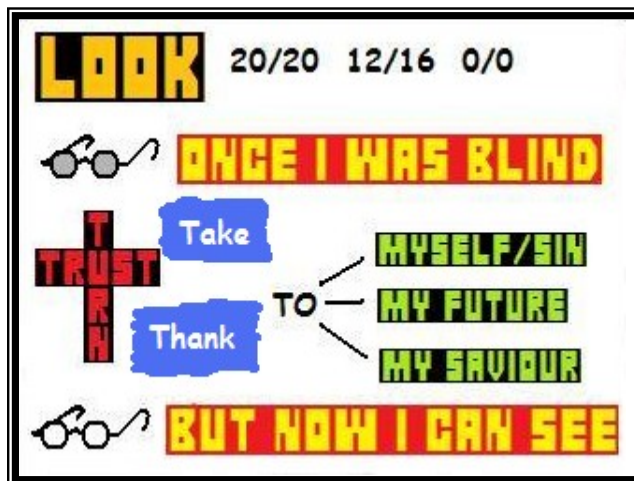
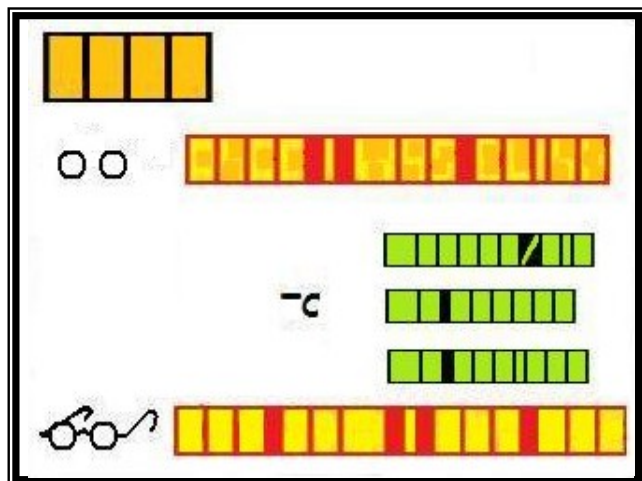
I am now going to add up all the numbers you have chosen. Could you please help me and check I'm not cheating. The answer to the sum is 111.

Before you came along I wrote this number on the board..."

111

This simple number puzzle can be used as a lead up to a second part of a presentation, such as presenting the gospel with using an illusion.

It can also be used with a simple gospel outline, on another part of the board, ending again with the importance of making good choices about eternal issues.



"Good evening.

Have a...

LOOK

How is your eyesight? Can you see the word?

If you went to the optician and he said

"You've got ...

20/20

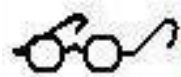
vision. What would that mean?

Yes you are right ... perfect eyesight.

If he said...

12/16

you would be in need of...



But what if he said,

"Your vision is...

0/0



Okay, you've got it; you would be blind!

I am going to write an amazing statement on the board. ... are you ready?

ONCE I WAS BLIND

It's true! Once I was blind! I know it looks like I have made a remarkable recovery so I probably need to explain. I was blind to some very important things.

What is it called when you cannot see things close to you?

Long sightedness!

I had it big time! I couldn't see the closest thing to me. Me! It's true.

I was blind to...

MYSELF

I could look in the mirror and see what I was like on the outside but I couldn't see what I was really like on the inside, what kind of person I was. We all have this problem. We don't see ourselves as others see us, warts and all!

What is worse, I didn't see myself as God saw me.

I certainly didn't see my...

FIN

We rarely do. Sin is what the other guy does. We love to point the finger but none of us are perfect. I was comparing myself to others and coming out alright. The truth was my life was a mess and I couldn't see it. I was at odds with God and I didn't know it. I was in need of forgiveness and a change of heart and I hadn't got it!

My other eyesight problem was that I was short sighted!

I couldn't see the things that were a long way away! I was OK with what was happening around me now,

but I had no vision for...

MY FUTURE

Okay, there was the odd dream about what I might be when I got older. But as regarding anything beyond that, anything regarding life beyond death, anything regarding eternity, heaven or hell, I just didn't see it! Somehow it was all too far away.

Death was what happened to old people, and I was a young man. I only had eyes for the here and now.

Are you like that?

Short sightedness is something that we are all inclined to suffer from. The fact is that this life is only a very small chapter in the story of our lives. Deep down we probably all believe in a hereafter; that death is not the end. The Bible tells us of a heaven that is beyond our wildest imaginations, a place where there is no more sickness, crying, or death. A place of beauty and peace! A place where we will live in the presence of Almighty God. Sadly, many will not see they are not headed there until it is too late.

Bad enough that I couldn't see myself, my sin, or my future. But what was worse, because of those things,

I was blind to the one who could open my eyes and let me see ...

MY FATHER

I couldn't see that there was a God above who loved me in spite of my sin. I couldn't see that there was a God above who was preparing a place for all those who love and serve him. I couldn't see that there was a God above who had provided a way for me to have my sin forgiven and a home in heaven.

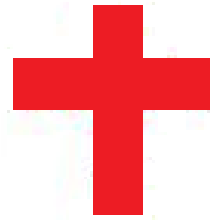
The Bible says,

"...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." NIV

God had provided a Saviour in Jesus and I couldn't see it!

BUT NOW I SEE

Something happened many years ago that turned my whole life around and enabled me to see. Literally, it was like scales falling from my eyes. I saw myself as I really was. But I also saw that there was a hope and a future for all those who know and love God. What was it that made the difference? I saw that there was a Saviour...



Jesus who gave his life upon the cross of Calvary that I might be forgiven and have a home in heaven. I'd heard the story so many times before but never saw the truth of it or my need of it! Seeing all of this for the first time, I acted in simple childlike faith, putting my hand into the hand of God.

I did 4 life changing things.

TURN

I turned from my sin and asked God to forgive me.

TRUST

I put my trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to save me.

THANK

I thanked God for the gift of His Son and for opening my eyes to his love.

TAKE

I took Christ as my Saviour and opened my heart to the Holy Spirit of God.
You can do that right now where you stand.

Note: Possibly use wax resist for the words, 'Thank' and 'Take'. See Glossary of terms.

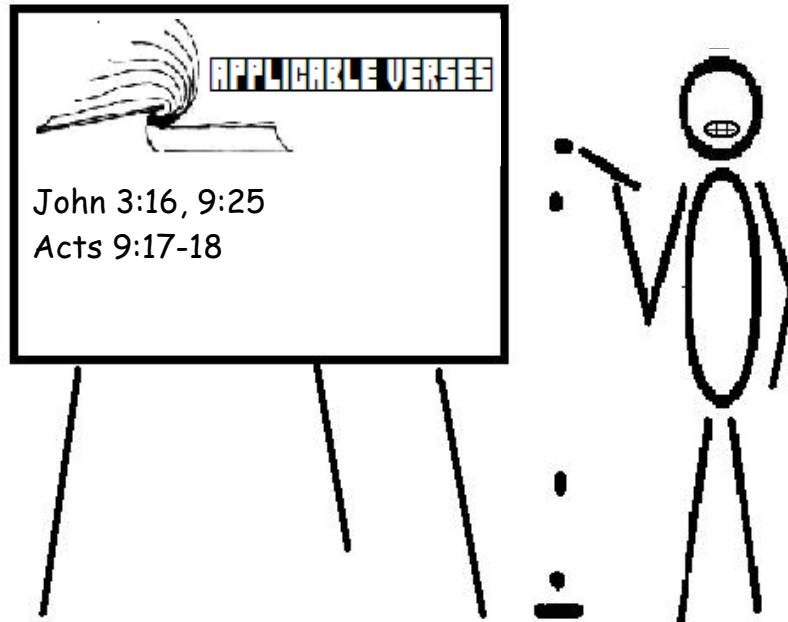
If you have felt, as I have talked, that the scales have been dropping from your eyes and that God has been speaking to you, why not respond to Him?

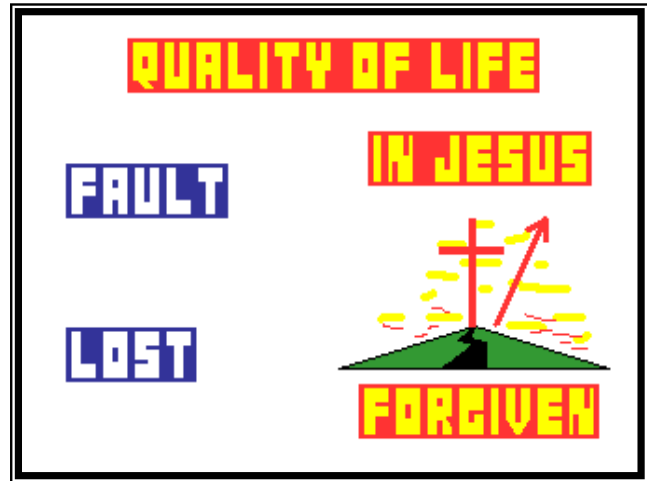
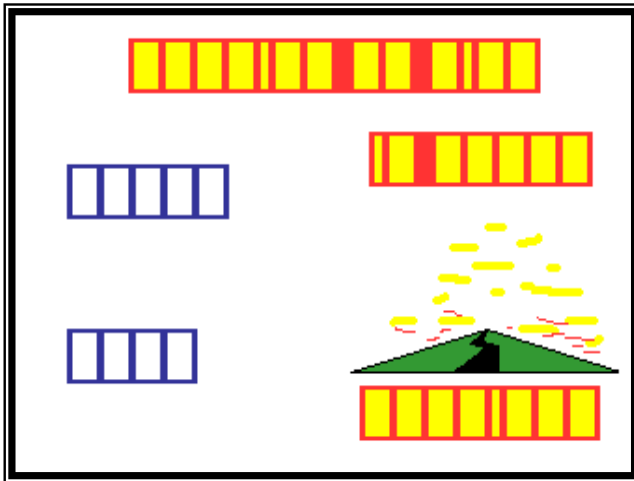
Say something to God, inside your heart.

"I now understand that you love me. Thank you for dying in my place. Please forgive me all my sins and come and be the King of my life."

If you have prayed, I would like to give you something to take away which will further instruct and encourage you. I would also like to shake your hand, get to know your name and pray for you as you begin your new life with Jesus.

Please step forward right now!"





"Good morning. As you can see, I am an artist. I especially like to paint while people are watching, so thank you for stopping. I would like to speak to you about something we are

all looking for...

QUALITY

We all want quality food, quality homes and quality holidays. You may have heard the buzz words, 'Total Quality Management'. There is a British Standard for quality control methods and many companies are working hard to ensure their goods and services remain good quality.

Behind all this search for quality is the desire for...

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality is becoming more and more important to us. And why not? My favourite book, the world's best seller, says that we are all pretty good quality ourselves. It actually says that we are wonderfully made.

But, what about quality control?

Has this ever happened to you? You buy a particular item and when you get it home, it doesn't work. It's especially disappointing at Christmas; you buy something for the kids, wanting to see their delighted faces. But when they open it, it doesn't work.

There is a...

FAULT

You eventually get a new one or your money back. But, it's so inconvenient. All that trouble of going back to the shops. So annoying and a waste of valuable time.

But, we are like that too, aren't we? Even though we are wonderfully made, there are things in our lives, things we do and think, that reveal we are not perfect. These things sometimes make other people reject us. Sometimes they even make us hate ourselves inside. If we are honest with ourselves, we know something is wrong.

We all have our faults. That best selling book, I mentioned earlier says,

"There is no one righteous, not even one." NIV

The biggest fault we have is...



the big 'Number One'. I am 'number one' in my world and you are 'number one' in your world, but what happens when we bring those worlds together. We end up with people fighting and arguing, friend against friend, neighbour against neighbour. Many of us even find it difficult to get along with our own families.

What happens to a faulty product? It gets thrown away. That's bad news for the manufacturer,

because it's...



It's no use to anyone. But it's the same with us. Because of all the wrong things in our lives, we are lost in the eyes of our creator.

The bible says that the wrong in our lives...



separates us from God. We can try as much as we like to improve the quality of our lives but we can never fully succeed while we are cut off from the one who made us. That is why many people feel so empty. I used to feel that way until I heard some great news.

The good news is that God loves us and doesn't want to leave us on the scrap heap. He loves you and he loves me so much,

that he...



crossed over the barrier between us and him by sending his son, Jesus. Jesus showed what real quality of life was all about. People were not attracted to him by his money or his social circle. He had neither. They were attracted by his life, totally lived in harmony with God, and his love for each individual.

When Jesus died on the cross, it was no accident. He died to pay the price for all the faults in our lives - things that separate us from God, making us lost.

Then he...



came back to life to prove his victory over evil and to show us the way back to God which he had opened.

I was lost but Jesus found me. He showed me the way back to God. He showed me there was no need for fear or emptiness,

because I could be...

FORGIVEN

for all the wrong things in my life. I could ask God into my life, and he could make it what he wanted it to be. We have to be ready for God to change our lives. He has done that for me, but he hasn't finished yet. He keeps working on those who are his.

If you are willing to do this, God promises you:

true quality of life...

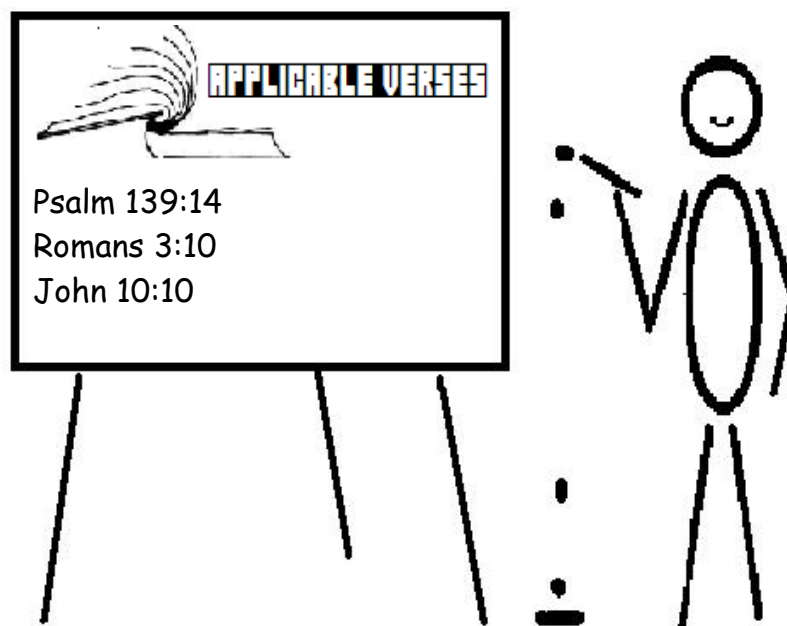
WHEE

Jesus said,

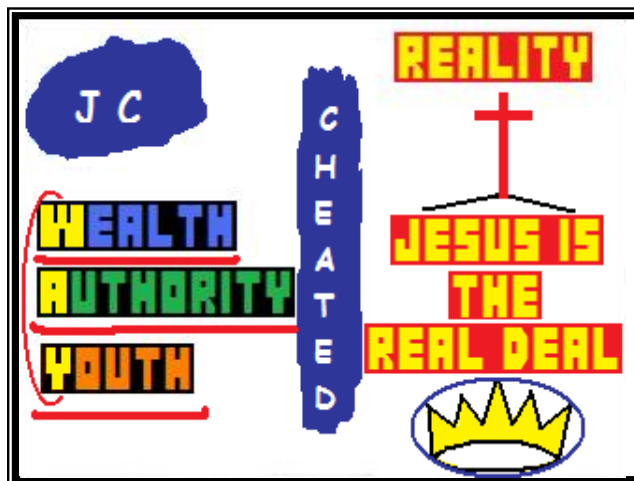
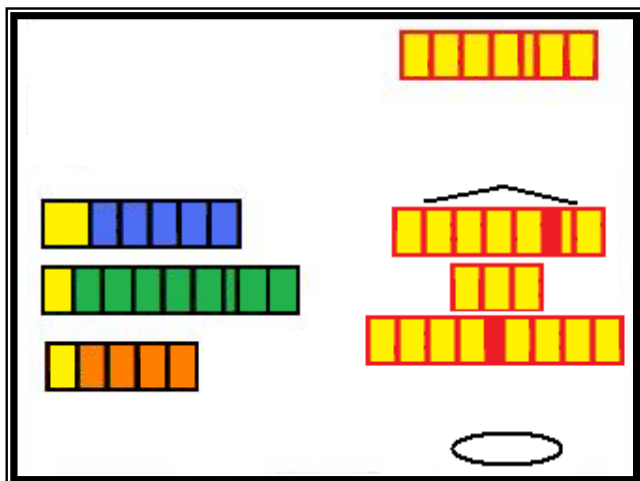
"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." NIV

He showed that abundant life did not mean there would be no hardship or suffering. But it did mean a life in a relationship with God, who loves us. You can receive that life from God today. Who would like to receive it?

To show that you want to, step forward and take a leaflet. There is no significance in the leaflet itself and coming forward does not make you a Christian. It is simply an outward sign of what is happening inside you."



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"Good morning, I hope you're having a good day so far. I hope when you walk away from me you don't feel...

CHEATED

What I am about to do is free but have you ever felt cheated? We all know that gut wrenching feeling of having been done! Having the wool pulled over our eyes. Having been subject to a scam!

There was once a school boy who went to see the...



crown jewels!

He looked with wild eyed wonderment at the crown, the mitre and the orb plus all the other amazing pieces of jewellery on display. If a little older, he would have realised the unlikelihood of the real crown jewels being on display in a local primary school in the North East of England. But he didn't, and so it was an immense disappointment when he found out they were just fakes. You might have had the same experience at a market or a beach on holiday, when you bought a designer item at a bargain price only to find out that it was a copy and not the real thing. Expert art dealers have been ripped off, to the tune of millions of pounds, over replica paintings.

I want to tell you a true story of a man who had been cheated, big time! Let me describe him to you.

He had...

WEALTH

He was a very rich guy. Wouldn't we all like a little bit of that.

He also had...

AUTHORITY

He was a powerful man. He had people under him who, when he said, "Jump" they responded, "How high!"

Wouldn't we all like a bit of that too. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to tell others what to do

instead of us always being told what to do?

He also had a commodity not normally associated with first two.

He had...



Yes, he was just a young guy. His whole life was before him. Oh to be rich, powerful and young enough to enjoy it! Maybe that's what your parents wanted for you. It is the goal of so many today. Money, power and youth!

Get these and that is the...



to life.

But wait a minute this young guy had all these things but he felt CHEATED.
(Point to word on the board)

They did not give him the satisfaction he was looking for. Though it doesn't seem to make sense, he wasn't happy. The world is full of examples of exactly this. We swallow the lie that money, power, and youth are everything. But are they really?

We have bought in to the celebrity culture that aspires to a big bank balance, independence, and a figure and face to die for. The result is we stand as witnesses to the emptiness of that way of living as we watch celebrity lives destroyed through their drink and drugs and sexual freedoms.

The young man in our story saw the emptiness and passing nature of it all and went looking for answers.

He went to...

JC

That's right, Jesus Christ! He didn't go there to get religion because, being religious, he saw the emptiness of that too.

He went to Jesus because he sought...

REALITY

He went to the right place because Jesus dealt in just that. Jesus doesn't criticize him. He doesn't knock the fact that he was rich and powerful. (There is nothing intrinsically wrong with either of those things). What Jesus does do is see his sincerity and love him! It is worth noting that the Bible says that Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn us but to save us! When Jesus looked at this young man (in the same way that he looks at us), he could see that all he had was counterfeit, like my crown jewels, cheap imitations of the real thing!

Jesus knew, and experience proves, that riches never satisfy. Money will buy you pleasure for a time but will always leave you empty.

Jesus knew, and experience proves, that authority and power, will never bring peace and respect, (Big fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite them and little fleas have lesser fleas and so ad infinitum!). Loneliness and fear are the result!

Jesus knew, and experience proves, that youth soon passes. That liar Satan said to Eve in the garden, "You will not die!" But they did and so will we all!

The wages of sin (disobedience to God) is death! The body is corroding and the Spirit, the real you, is defunct and heading for an uncomfortable meeting with God and judgement!

Jesus offers reality

(Point to the word)

because he is God's Son!

Jesus offers real...

WEALTH

The Bible says that though Jesus was rich, he became poor that we, through his poverty, should become rich! Rich in the things that money cannot buy: love, joy, peace, forgiveness, acceptance, a home in heaven!

Jesus offers real power and...

AUTHORITY

authority!

Jesus said to his disciples,

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." NIV

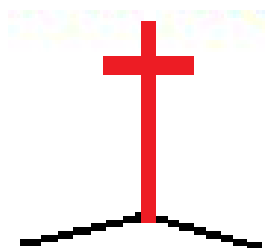
And they did!

Their lives were transformed and God did amazing things through them. They became world changers! Jesus could do that because all power was given to Him! He demonstrated that with signs and wonders, amazing miracles.

His greatest miracle was in that he said,

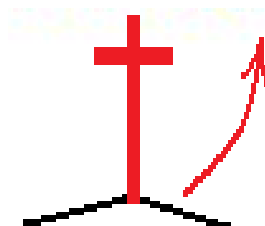
"I will lay my life down and take it up again."

We see that so clearly in his death...



on the cross, where he gave himself for you and for me,

and his miraculous...



resurrection.

Jesus offers real...

YOUTH

When you are born you are an apprentice senior citizen! When you are born again (when

you seek God's forgiveness and take Jesus Christ as your Saviour and King), you start a new life with Christ that goes on into eternity, a life that never ends!

He offered the young man, as He offers you and me right now, the opportunity to let go of our counterfeit life and take the new life that only He can offer.

YESUS IS THE REAL DEAL

The problem for him, as for us, is that you have to let go of 'living for yourself' to get the life with God. Like a child with sweets clutched in their hands and being offered an ice cream, they don't know what to do. They want the ice cream but don't want to let go of the sweets. The young man we are told hung on to the sweets because he had great wealth, and note this, left sorrowful!

What will you do?

Jesus wants to be...

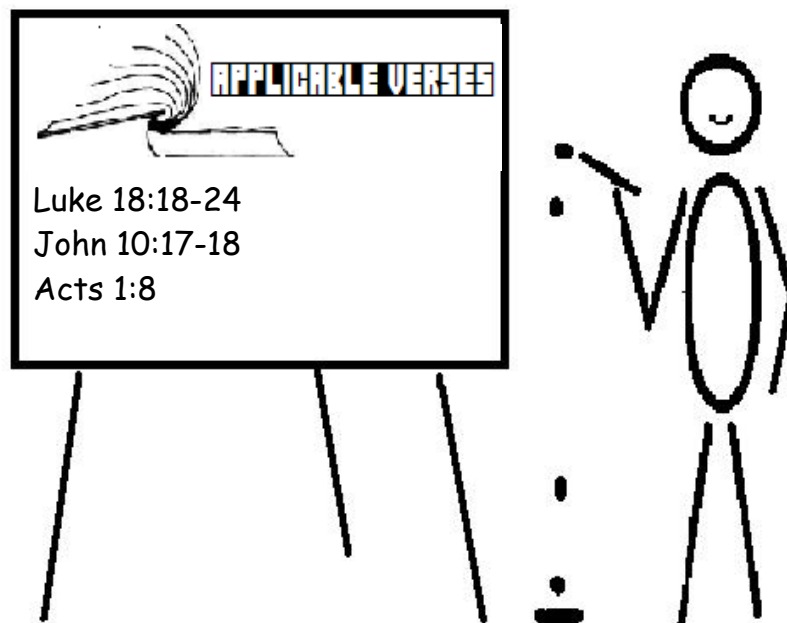


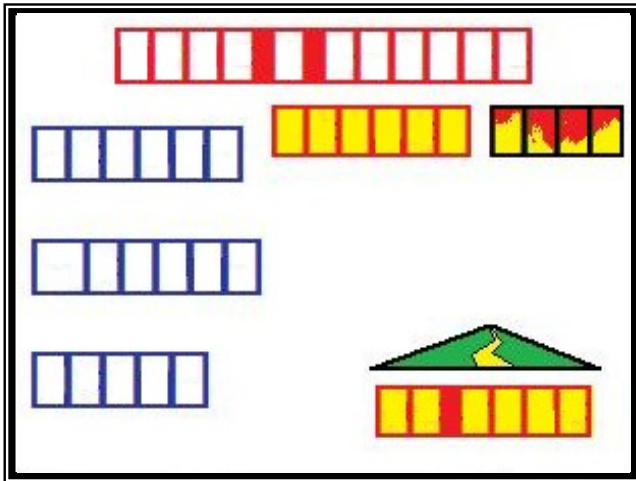
King of our lives...

NOTE: The word, CHEATED and the letters JC. Use wax resist see Glossary of terms.

He died that we might be forgiven, He offers us eternal life. Will you let go and let God have his way or will you go away sorrowful."

Conclude with your choice of invitation.





"Good evening. I hope you enjoy what I am about to do. It should be a little entertaining but it will also be challenging.

I guarantee that everyone here has said this from time to time;

I am willing to...

TAKE A CHANCE .

What would you take a chance with?

Do you remember playing Monopoly. One of the cards in Community Chest was '*Pay a £10 fine or take a...chance*'. No one ever paid the £10 fine. It was always worth taking a chance. After all, you might '*Advance to Go and receive...£200*'.

Here's something in real life,
with which people take a chance ...

HEALTH .

No, surely not? We are more health conscious now than ever before.

Apparently about 30 million of us are involved in some sort of sports activity every month. Health clubs are booming. Watch the TV adverts - they all tell us we need to eat healthy food: 'Activate yoghurt' to keep the digestion working (How did the human race survive without it?) and low fat butter. Other adverts tell us to quit smoking. They have even tried to make school dinners more healthy. In the last few years, we have become very health conscious. Although, our bodies are more healthy, for many people things are desperately wrong in other areas. The NHS drugs bill for depression and related illnesses is rocketing each year.

The Bible says,

"People look at the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart."

There is more to us than just flesh and blood. What's the problem, then?

Inside everyone of us is a big...

Number One. I am in charge of my world and God has been thrown out of most people's lives today. The big problem with that is that the buck stops with you and me. Any failures, worries fears, and other things that bother me, I have to carry them alone with no-one to help.

We were never created to carry such a heavy burden.

The...



heart and mind can't take it.

No wonder we, as a nation, are popping more pills for anxiety related illnesses every year.

The Bible says,

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." NIV

You don't have to carry that weight of worry, guilt, or fear any further. God wants to carry it for you.

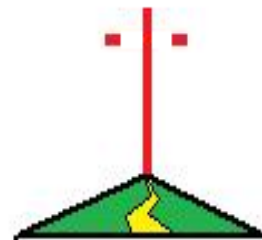
Speaking of chances, each Saturday people go their local news agent. They buy a news paper and a... lottery ticket. There are incredible odds against ever winning the jack pot, but many people are willing to take a chance with a pound or two every week. Did you know, if you buy a lottery ticket on Monday, statistically, there is more chance of being dead by Saturday than winning the jackpot?

So, we also take a chance with...

WEALTH .

Money is very important, but it also has the illusion of bringing happiness. We all want plenty of it, because we think it will bring satisfaction. But look at Elvis, for instance. He was rich and famous, but the one thing that eluded him was happiness.

Money often...



separates us from one another. It also causes all sorts of arguments and greedy attitudes.

Jesus said,

"...a mans' life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." NIV

There is so much more to life than the things we can buy with our money. Money cannot buy freedom from guilt, real friendship, or peace in your heart and mind.

What else do we take a chance with?

Now this is getting deeper. We take a chance with the one thing that all of us– 100% of us must face. The only guaranteed thing in life.

Which is?...

DEATH

“Hang about.”

You might say,

“How are we taking a chance with death if it’s a certainty?”

Let me explain. A very successful business man was once asked,

“Where are you going when you die?”

He replied,

“Heaven, I hope, but Hell I expect.”

He was taking a chance.

If you were asked that question. What would you say?

You can be sure!

Jesus, God’s Son, came to earth. We still remember his



birthday every year.

He came as a...

king. Which of course he was. He had every right to be served as a king. Even though he was God he came to earth himself and lived an incredible life of service to others. When he spoke he gave such good advice that thousands of people came to listen to him. Many of the things he said still effect our society today.

But, the religious people of that time hated him because he showed them up for being, what they really were: full of pride and self importance.

They had Jesus...



nailed to a cross.

But Jesus went to the cross, voluntarily. He did not shout or cry out about his innocence. He suffered, and bled and he died for you and me.

He died to pay the price of our sin even though we have turned away from God.

He did that because, contrary to popular belief, there is a...

HEAVEN

to be gained

And a...

HELL

to be avoided at all costs.

For those of you who are willing, trust Jesus today.

You don't have to
'take a chance'. You can be ...

BE SURE

of a place in heaven.

The Bible says,

"...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish (go to Hell) but have eternal life." NIV

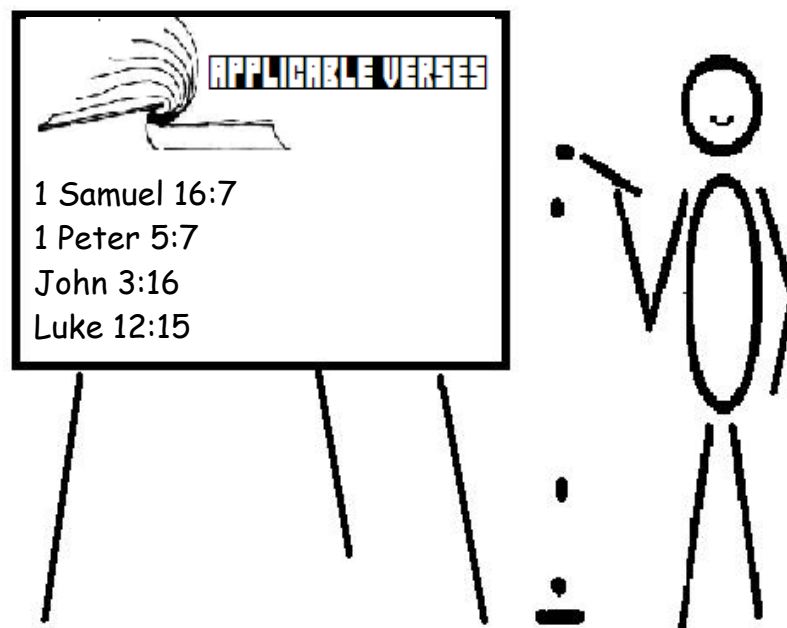
Jesus...

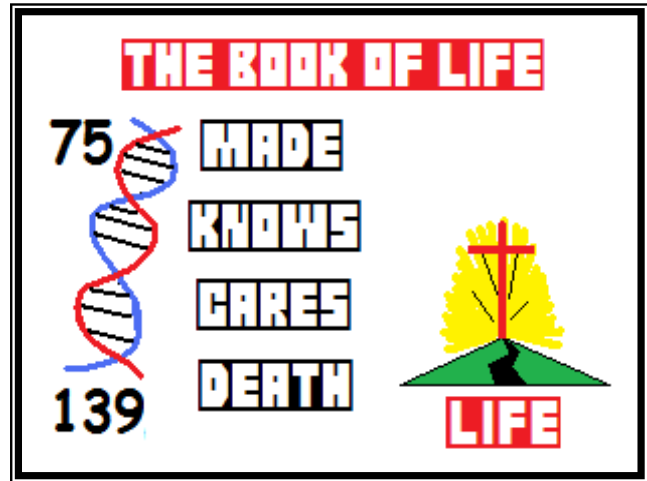
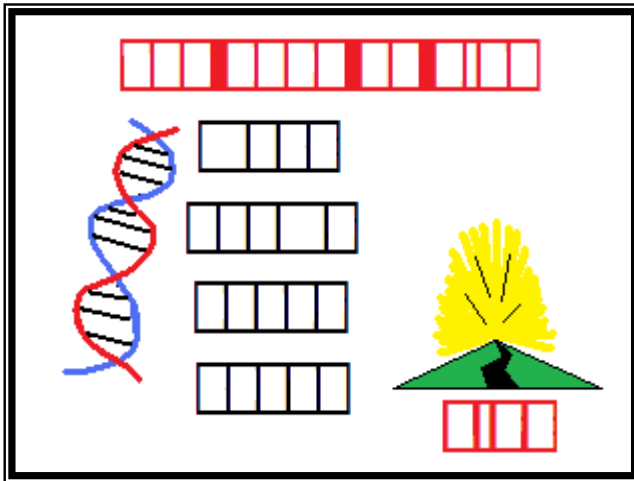


came back to life after he had died. Proving, he really was God himself.

Will you take him at his word and believe in him today?

Ask him to forgive you for everything you have ever done wrong and start living a new life with him today."





" Hello everyone, it's great to see you here today. Thank you for stopping. I will only keep you for a short time.

I want to ask you to think about something that is of vital importance to us all. We all have it. We are all trying to make sense of it. We all hope to have more of it, and on top of all

that it is always in the news.

LIFE

Would anyone like to guess what the number

75 means?

It could be the number of hairs on my head.
Some people might say it's my waist measurement
or perhaps my IQ for standing here!

What it actually represents is the number of cells that go to make up each one of us.
Did you know that each one of us is made up of 75 trillion, not million or even billion, but 75 trillion cells!

Now some of us may be carrying a few more than that. But it's mind blowing isn't it, 75 trillion cells!

A few years ago a group of scientists published the results of research which had taken years to compile:
the blueprint of what it means to be human, a study of our cells, chromosomes, and genes - our DNA. They have given it some longwinded scientific name but they nicknamed it...

THE BOOK OF LIFE

And it's mind blowing isn't it, 75 trillion cells equals you!

The absolute complexity and organisation of it all, that is you!

But how did all of this happen?

Imagine if you were on a London tour and you went to some important buildings, like Westminster Abbey or Buckingham Palace.

"When was this built?" you ask, and the guide replied,

"The palace was not built it just happened by chance. There was an explosion in a stone quarry 200 miles away that forced tonnes of stone up into the air, where the atmosphere formed and shaped them. Gravity and high winds caused them to fall to earth one on top of the other into the shape of the building you see here today. As for the glass and the wooden doors, scientists are still working on where they came from."

You would know the guide was either joking or mad, because every building has a designer and builder.

And you know I believe, in our quieter moments, when we are thinking about life and our life in particular, thinking big thoughts,

we know that we too have been

MADE

The Bible says,

"We are fearfully and wonderfully made."

Speaking about you, it says,

"You knit me together in your mother's womb." NIV

Speaking about Jesus, the Bible says,

"all things have been made by him and for him." NIV

and you know what that means don't you?

You have been made by God for God.

It means that even if your mum and dad didn't want you to be born, God did.

He wanted you to be born.

He created you, you are unique and precious to Him!

You were not an accident.

Maybe you feel that nobody wants you, ... God wants you.

So whether you believe in God or not, he believes in you.

There is something else about you that you might like to know.

This is where you need to remember the number

139

it is important.

There is a part of the Bible that says...

God

KNOWS us.

People say that London can be an anonymous place... But life itself can be an anonymous place too, and more than anything we ache to be known by someone.

Well this part of the Bible, I am thinking about, tells us that God knows us inside out.

All of you are open and exposed to him.

We all have to wear masks at work, at home, when we are with friends. Is there anywhere where we can be the real us? In front of God.

Now, there is good news and bad news.

What do you want to hear first?

(Wait for an answer)

The good news is that God knows all about us, so we don't have to pretend any more. There is no need to wear a mask in front of God and that is a relief - finally someone who knows the real me!

But the bad new is what God sees, when he looks at the real me?
Well, the Bible says he looks into my heart

and he sees...



a great big I or a big number one.

I am Number One in my world and you are Number One in your world, and you know what that means don't you? Conflict is bound to happen because of our number one-ness or selfishness. Friend against friend, neighbour against neighbour, partners against partners, even nations at war.

But this part of the Bible that I am thinking about,

and remember



139

It says that he doesn't just know you,

he also

CARES

for you and he looks after you, even if you couldn't care less about him.

It says that the thoughts that he has about us are impossible to count.

But look; all this talk about life can't let us forget the one great statistic of life

and that is; 100 % of people face...

DEATH

Of course, you might say,

"Don't worry me about death. I am only young and with all this gene therapy, death is out there and scores of years away."

But I am not talking about a death that is physical and out there, but a death that is spiritual

and is in here!



(pointing at your own heart)

We are all spiritually dead. We are all cut off from God now. Divided from this God who made us, knows us, and cares for us now!

Physical death may indeed seem a long way off, but face it. We live under its shadow every day: accident, sudden illness, or incident can take our life from us today.

You might say,

"If God made, knows and cares, why is there death to face.
Why does he allow that?"

It is because of our sin, our number one-ness. We earn and deserve our death. We have said to God,

"I want to be in charge." Many of us simply ignore him.

But there is one more thing that I want to say about God.

God

LOVE

you.

The Bible says, "...God so loved the world...



that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life". NIV Jesus, the son of God, gave his life.

He died in my place, because God loved me that much.

The part of the Bible, that I have been thinking about, is found in the book of Psalms.

Psalm 139.

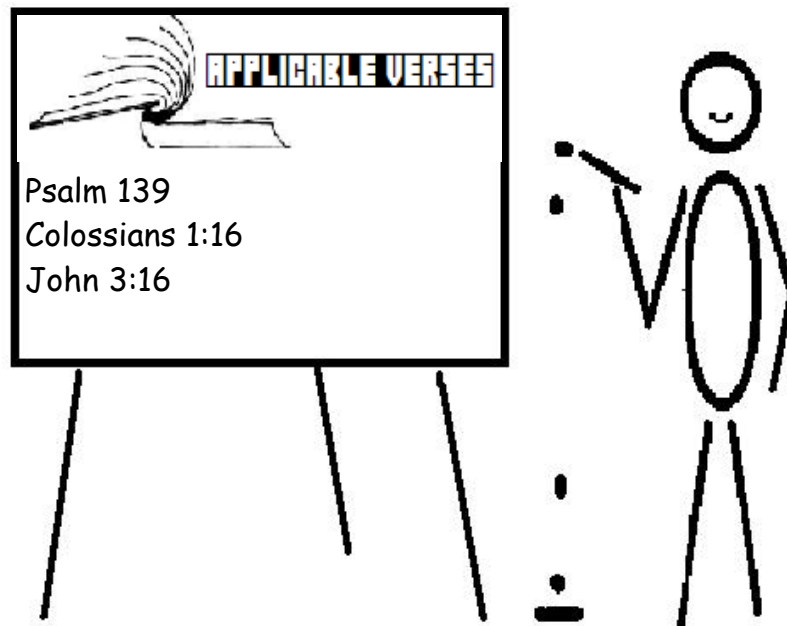
It says most of what I have said today and at the end there is a prayer, the writer asks God,

"Search me and see if there is any offensive way in me."

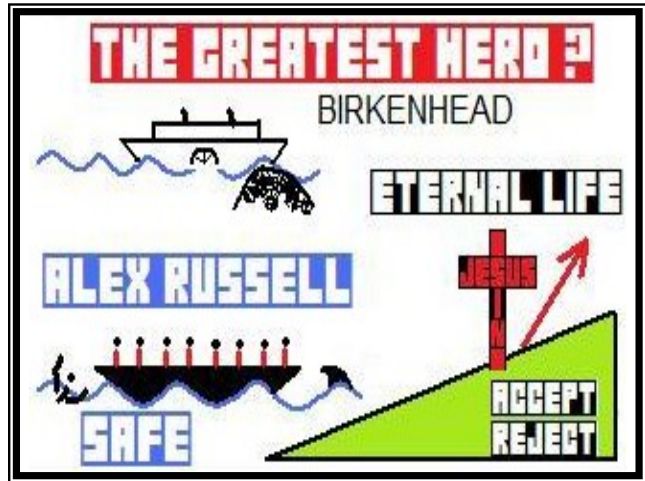
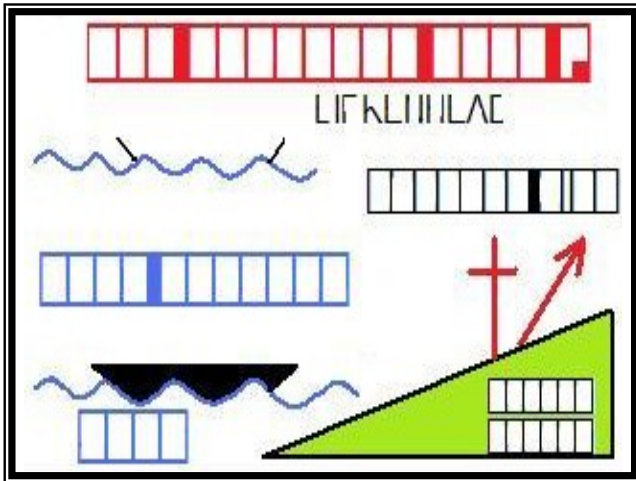
If we are honest, we know that there are offensive ways in us. The Bible calls it sin. Only God is willing to forgive all those who come to him, because Jesus died to take the punishment that you and I deserved on that cross.

After Jesus had died, he was raised to life. His promise is if you come to him, he will receive you as his own.

Why don't you come to him right now?"



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"Good morning everyone. Thank you for stopping.

I wonder if you can read my first letter...



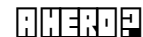
That's right. The first letter of the Alphabet. Just checking if you can read this funny writing.

Note: Write the letter  using the second box in the title line. It can be easily changed to a letter  later.

I want to tell you two stories today. Both are true and happened some years ago. This one, pointing to the left of the board, happened in 1852. Some 150 years ago. The other happened many years before that.

See if you can how they are similar.

I wonder if we have any of these here today...



(Usually no one responds)

You may be surprised but I'm a hero. Just the other day my wife said to me, "You're my hero!"

All I did was fix machine and I've become her hero. I'm sure you've all done something that's been an extra help to someone and for a short time you are a mini hero. Be someone's hero today!

But have we got...



here today. That's someone who does something really courageous or outstanding. Can you think of any great hero's? Maybe Douglas Bader, the spitfire pilot in the 2nd World War who after having his legs amputated went back and flew again! Maybe the great football players of the past, or someone like Florence Nightingale.

Have a look at this.

What sort of ship was it?

That's right, it was a paddle steamer.



This ship was built just over 150 years ago. One of the first iron ships.

It was called Her Majesty's Troop Ship...

BIRKENHEAD

The boat sailed from Ireland carrying 600 troops and a few women and children. It was on a voyage to Africa where the British were fighting a war. Aboard this ship was a young officer, just 19 years old.

Can you read his name?...

ALEX RUSSELL

At 3 am in the morning it struck...



an uncharted rock near South Africa. That rock is now called The Birkenhead Rock.

The captain tried his best and if his plan had gone well he would have been a great hero. He caused the ship to go astern and forced the ship from the rock but instead of saving the day, the ship was ripped apart and sunk quickly.

The captain tried his best but was...



divided from being a hero.

Have you ever felt a complete failure? Hindsight is a great thing but we cannot turn back the clock. Sometimes we do things which we later regret. Even worse, sometimes we do things we know are wrong. That causes us to be divided from each other and the Bible says it divides us from a relationship with God himself.

The ship was not far from land but there was only time to launch three life boats...

Who goes in life boats first? Yes, women and children.



One boat was filled with people all women and children except Alex Russell managed to squeeze into the full boat which was almost sinking with all the people.

But what's that in the water?



Alex Russell saw a drowning man in the water, the man couldn't swim. In fact his wife was in the life boat.

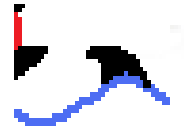
Alex Russell was...

FAITH

in the boat but he decided to give up his place and allow the drowning man to have his place.

Alex was a strong swimmer and he jumped into the dark, cold water, so the drowning man could have his place in the life boat. He began to swim for shore, which was not too far away.

But as he did, he met something unexpected...



You see, around the shores of South Africa the great white swims and the story goes that Alex Russell suddenly disappeared beneath the waves and it was believed he was taken by a shark. The sharks had gone into a frenzy with all the noise and blood in the water.

Alex Russell did not only give up his place of safety

but gave up his...

LIFE

so that someone else could be saved.

I think he was a great hero don't you? He is still remembered today for his heroic act.

What would be said of a person who actually gave up his life so that everyone could have not just ordinary life,

but...

ETERNAL LIFE

I wonder if you know who I am talking about...



Jesus Christ he gave his life for you and me.

Everyone knows that when we put up the cross,

we are talking about...

DEATH

Jesus died on the cross to pay the price or punishment

for our...

SIN

Some people think sin is robbing banks or killing people. But the Bible says that sin is simply ignoring God and doing things our way, instead of his. We are all guilty of saying, "Look God, I want to be in charge, not you or anyone else is going to tell me what to do." Even if we don't say it. That is how many of us live.

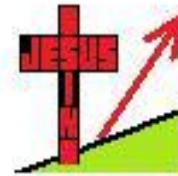
Jesus is...

THE GREATEST HERO

who ever lived.

That is why many people still, love him and live for him today.

Jesus did not stay dead...



but came back to life.

I have discovered that if you are willing to...

ACCEPT

him he will come in and take away your sin.
(You could quote John 3:16)

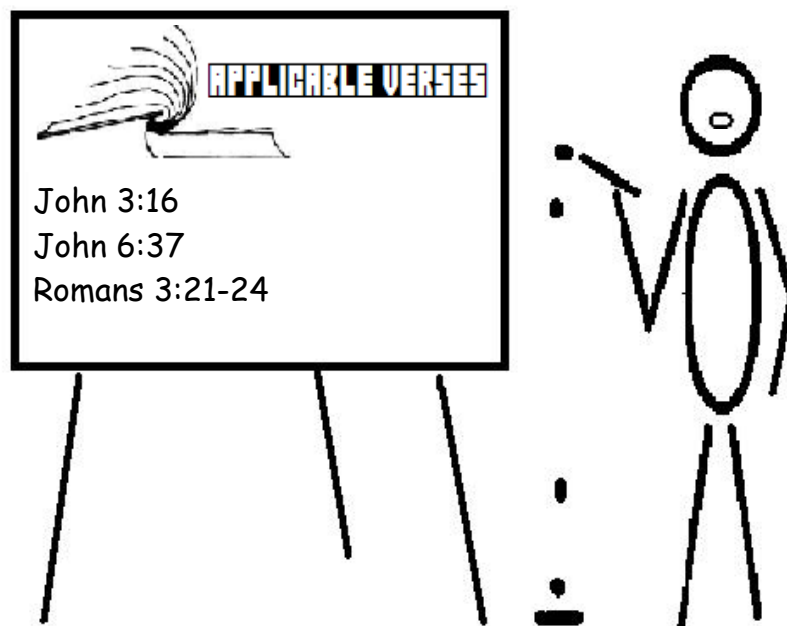
When Alex Russell gave up his place of safety. In order to be saved, the drowning man had to accept the offer of the space.

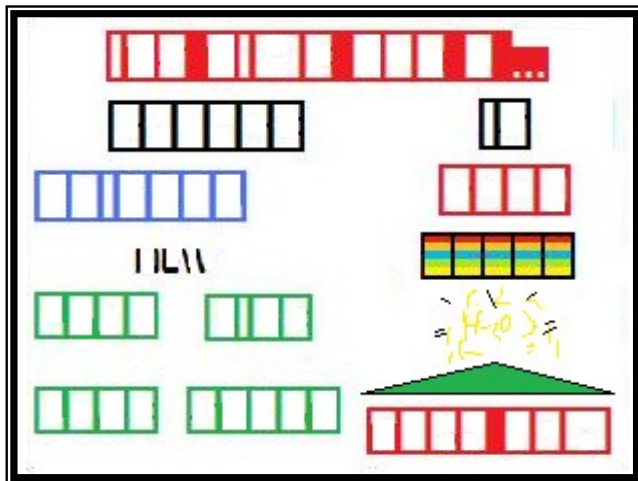
Jesus, the Son of God gave up his place of safety in heaven to come and give his life for you.

His promise is that those who come to him, he will never turn away.

Will you accept the offer of life today or will you...

REJECT him."





"Good afternoon, thank you for stopping. I am about to put up a phrase that you will probably recognise. You may have said it in the past or even recently.

Look at the white bits and you may see some words appear...

IT'S TIME FOR A... CHANGE

There is an ancient philosophical poem which says,

"There is a time for everything; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to reap, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to mourn and a time to dance."

That's from the Bible.

So situations change; our lives change; our feelings change, nothing lasts forever! Sometimes when you have been doing the same old things, day after day, month after month, year after year. You say to yourself,

"It's time for a change."

Some changes can make us feel refreshed and full of life again.

The old saying goes... 'A change is as good as a rest', and that can be true, can't it?

Sometimes change...

IS PAINFUL

If suddenly someone is removed from our life by a divided relationship, illness or even death, yes, we have a change; but it's so hard to deal with.

The change when we lose a job can be very severe too. All our security is suddenly ripped away from us and we feel alone and exposed.

Sometimes change is painful and difficult.

Then at the same time we learn things about ourselves and others, which we would not have known any other way. It can build character and we gain in one area where we have lost out in another.

Sometimes change is...

GOING

moving to a new home or a new job. Or for ladies particularly, you fancy a new

LOOK

so you go off to the hair dressers, book in hand, and you say, "I want to look like that." And out you come looking like a new person. Fantastic. Of course, these days, you can change your body shape with a bit of lipo suction, a face lift or numerous other ways of changing your appearance. You still look 20 when you're in your 40s.

Then you can have a new...

LOVE

That seems to be fashionable these days. Try something different. A new person comes along and you have a change. Well, I was fed up with the old one.

That can lead to a completely new...

LIFE

That's what some people are looking for. They actually want a completely

new...

START

The only trouble with all these things is to have a change, you have to lose what you have already.

That's a principle of life. Someone once said,
"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it will never produce fruit."

It was Jesus who said that.

Imagine a grain of wheat in the store room. It's picked up and taken out and planted. It swells, splits, and sprouts. The root goes down and the stalk grows up. The seed is gone. This new life will produce fruit because the seed gave its life.

Jesus gave his life in order that we could find ours.
He was like a seed planted in the ground, and because of his death on the cross, we can be changed.

You may have many changes in your life, but the Bible says we need to change in one very significant way.

The Bible says we are...



divided from God by our rebellion against him. We have said, "No" to God being in charge and have rebelled against the one person who can give us life to the full.

Jesus' death was physically painful but also spiritually

because on the...



cross, he took our punishment upon himself and was wrenched apart from his Father. It was as if all our sinfulness was put on the holy and pure Son of God. That is why he cried out.

"...my God, why have you forsaken me?" [NIV](#)

I deserved to be divided from God for all eternity but God allowed his Son to take my place.

It's time for a change of heart. Take a fresh look at what Jesus has done. Don't be tempted to leave it for another day...



and ask him to forgive you and invite him to be ruler in your life.

(Your testimony may be useful here.)

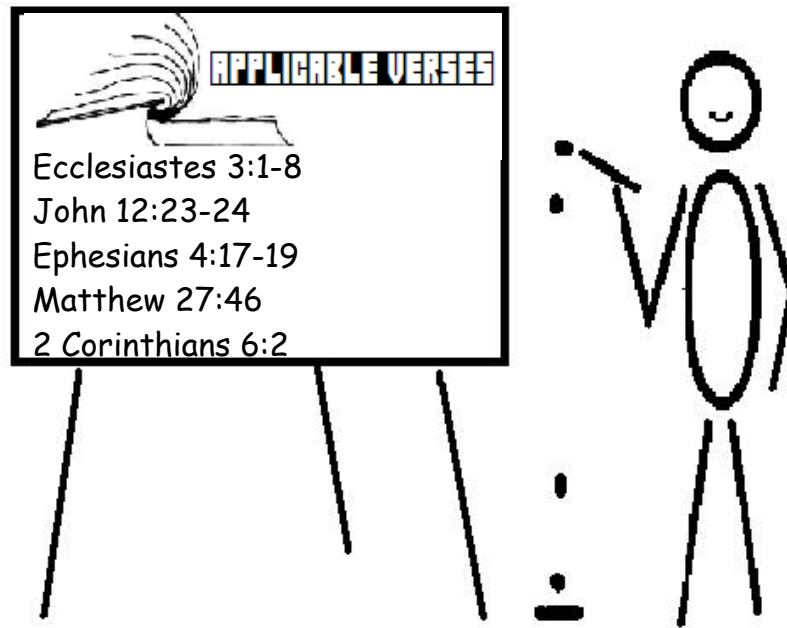
Jesus died and that was the last we heard of him.

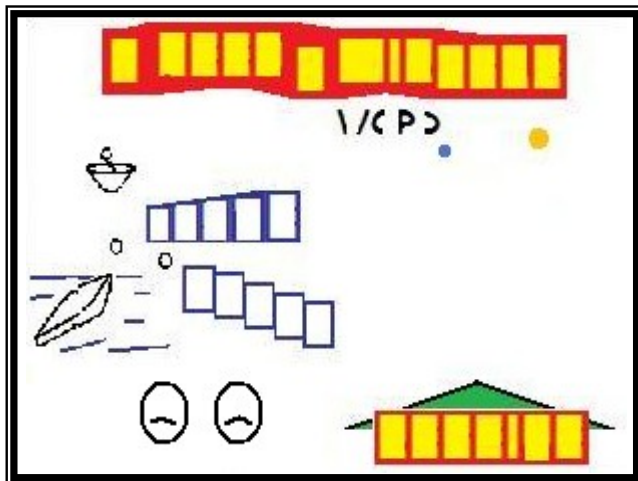
That's not true, is it? No, he came back to life and you can really know him today.

Thank you for listening.

Please step forward and take one of my leaflets, to show you want to make a new start with Jesus today.

Some of you may be thinking, 'I need to know more about this Christianity,' this leaflet may help you too."





"Hello, everyone. See if you can read this magic writing. Watch very carefully and you may see some words appear. This is free, incidentally, but it's supposed to be a challenge.

Are you ready...

A MIRACLE

That's when something absolutely amazing happens, right?

What would you say if I said...

I NEED

a miracle?

Most people would say,

"Too right, I do!"

Like a lottery win or the kids tidying their room for once, or my other half helping around the house. Now that would be a miracle!

What is a miracle anyway? I guess it's something God does outside the laws of nature.

What was the first ever miracle? (people may answer water to wine)

What about much earlier than that?...

He created all this universe and put our little planet exactly...

93

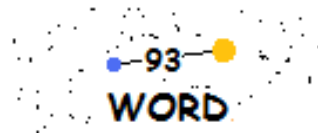
93 million miles from the sun. Did you know if we were just a little closer we would burn up and just a few miles in the opposite direction and we would freeze to death. Some people talk about this just happening by chance but if you have any logical thought at all, there must be a designer and creator.

The Bible says,

"God spoke the...

WORD

and the...

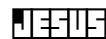


universe came into being.”

NOTE: Use wax resist to make the stars appear. See Glossary.

There is little evidence for evolution, but many of us have been taught it since we were kids. Even many scientist are doubting the theory of evolution and are considering the alternative,... intelligent design! That’s clever speak for God created it.

Then God turned up on our planet. What was his name?



Not surprisingly, he is the most famous man who ever lived. He had more impact on the world than any other human being. Well, he was God!

After that, what was his first miracle? ...



Water to wine, at a wedding



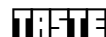
A man loved a woman. They were celebrating. It’s good to celebrate good things in life. Any excuse for a party! Jesus did a miracle. He turned ordinary water into wine. Not natural but supernatural.

He took something
ordinary and made it really...



special. The story goes on:

when they had a...

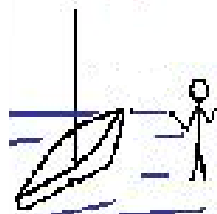


they said, “This is good stuff; in fact it’s the best.”

There is a part in the Bible that says you have to,
“Taste and see that the Lord is good...” NIV

But you have to allow God to become part of you or you will never really get it. Some people are just too scared to try God for themselves. But it’s the only way to really know.

What other miracles did Jesus do? How about this.



He turned up one night, just walking on the water, in a storm. Now that ain't natural. But it gets better. He said to Peter, one of his friends, who was in the boat,

"Come to me on the water."

That required real trust. Would you have taken the risk or stayed in the safety of the boat? Peter did get out and he was walking on the water too!

The good book says..."

TRUST

in the Lord with all your heart and don't try to figure everything out on your own." There's only one step God wants you to take. It's down here (point to where final word 'RECEIVE' will go) But I'll come to that soon.

Jesus performed many other miracles,

like healing people...



He made deaf people hear and blind folks see! But, do you know his greatest miracle?

It was sorting people's...



hearts out. I don't mean the big fist size muscle that pumps and keeps you alive, but the real you inside.

Many people think they are...



Superman or woman.

But the big S stands for something that is...



inside everyone of us. Can you see it? Sin That's the part of us that says,

"God, I don't need you. I am in charge. I can run my own life."

We are acting like Superman, we are too proud to admit we have a problem.

Let's check out the problem. Has anyone here never told a lie?

How many lies do you have to tell to be a liar?... That's right, just one.

Who has never stolen anything?... Well, I wouldn't believe you even if you had put your hand up, because you just told me you were all liars. (Smile and you'll get away with it)

We have all broken the rules, and even if we hadn't, we have taken charge and not given God his rightful place.

That is why Jesus...



gave his own life on a cross for you and me. He did this to pay the just punishment for our sin, our rebellion against God.

Jesus died for sins. He died for you too.

A few days later Jesus...



rose in power. He is alive today and is still able to do that miracle in you heart and life.

Now...

2008

years later. But just like these men you need to make a choice.

This is what God wants you to do today.

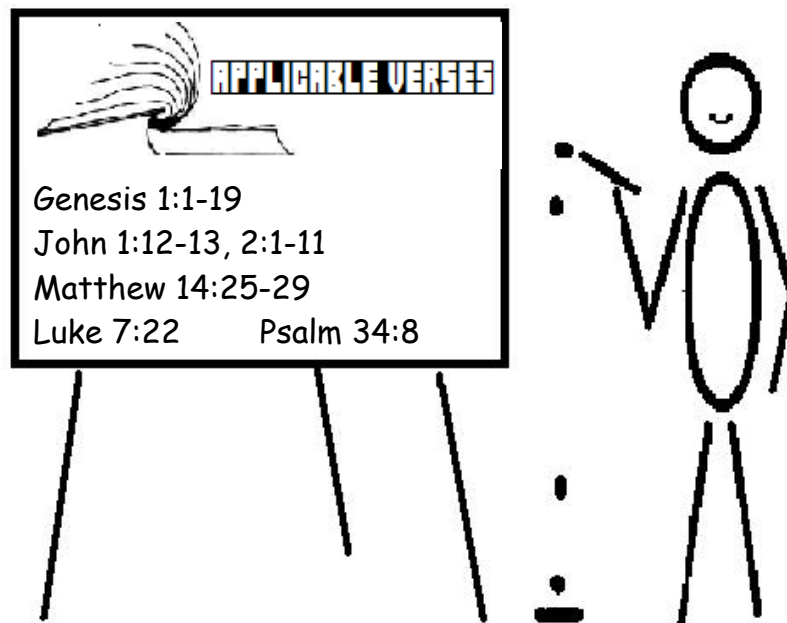
Will you simply...

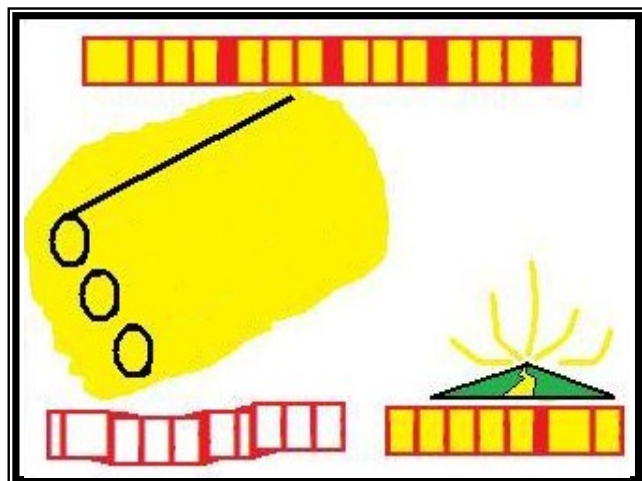
REHEVE ?

The free gift of complete forgiveness for all you have ever done wrong. With that comes eternal life, peace in your heart and incredible joy."

(Your testimony.)

Finish with an appeal to receive that gift now and showing it by stepping forward to receive a leaflet.





"You may be wondering what I am doing. Well, in just a moment, I will make some yellow letters appear using only a red paint brush. I hope you enjoy what I am about to do. It will be a little entertaining.. Its free as well, but it is supposed to be challenging.

Just before I start, I will just check you can read this writing.

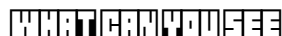
Are you ready...



Can you see what that is? Only good looking and intelligent people can read this.

Yes, it's a question mark. So that tells you I am going to ask a question.

Here goes...

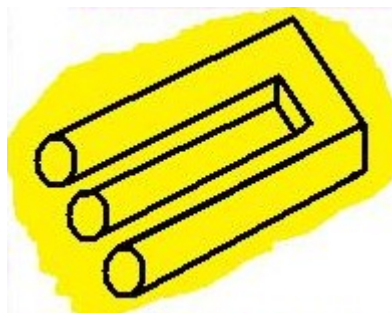


Now that's a silly question. Surely it depends on where you are looking. If you look left you can see the cinema and when you look right you can see the main road. But also it depends on who you are, your life experiences and your memory.

Did you know that a baby can see perfectly well but at first just sees a series of meaningless images. It's not until the child begins to learn about what they are seeing that the images make any sense.

Put it another way, if you were my wife standing here today, you would be looking at the most handsome man in South London and you want to live with me for the rest of your life. Sorry ladies, if you are looking at me like that. I'm taken. But you see what I mean? What you see depends on lots of other things. We can all look at the same thing and see something completely different.

Have a look at this...



I will let you stare at that for a moment. I don't know about you but that does funny things to my brain.

You see your brain is seeing one thing but is saying,

"That's...

IMPOSSIBLE "

Now, I told you this would be challenging.

What about this person here...

AD

Some people say,

"He's impossible."

Others say,

"I would believe in him if I could see him."

But is that true? You could have seen him if you had been here at the right time.

What is the year now?...

2008

Two thousand and eight, what? There are two letters that come after that.

That's right, a prize for the man in the green jacket...

AD

What does AD mean? Yes, Anno Domini, which is Latin for, year of our Lord. It's 2008 years since God showed up here on the earth. It's not a fairy tale, we even run our calendar from the year when he was born. I'm sure you know who I'm talking about. We even have a sign for him and as soon as I put it up everyone one will be clear who I am

talking about...



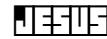
the man Jesus Christ. He is the most famous man who ever lived. When he was here on earth, he made it obvious who he really was. No one had ever spoken like him before. When I speak, sometimes a few people gather to listen. But when he spoke, thousands came and pursued him. Many of the things he said are still used in every day language to-day. When he touched people, they immediately got better. If he were here today, I know some people I would take to him, don't you?

But why is it that the one thing we remember about him more than anything else is the way that he died - the cross. Now you didn't know that when you came out today you would get a theological lesson on how the cross works but bear with me just a second.

Please excuse my back. It's my best view anyway.

I will just mess up my painting. (Thicken the red lines of the cross ready and prepare the ladder to reveal the word, 'JESUS'.)

When most people see the cross they think of...



Jesus, as I have said, was a wonderful person. He cared for those in need and loved the unlovely people. In fact, he showed us how we should live and care for others. He never did anything wrong, except that he ruffled the feathers of the powerful religious people of his time. They hated him so much that they nailed him to a cross. But, it was God's plan that he should die and be punished, not because of what he had done wrong

but for something...



everyone of us.

Inside each of us is something that causes us to think of Number One more than anything else. We harbour bad thoughts and are unkind to each other. You might say,

"I try my best."

but if we are honest we mainly try our best if there's something in it for us. Just imagine if you had a television screen on your forehead and it showed all your thoughts for everyone to see. It would be pretty bad. I don't know about you but I would always be covering mine up.

Can you see the problem?

If you can read down, you can read the word 'sin.'

Jesus died to pay the just punishment for sin. God said,
"Steve, that's my name, you deserve to be punished for the way you behave, for the things you have done and said. In fact you deserve hell and judgement."

But God loved me so much that Jesus was willing to take my place and die instead of me.

You know, a few years ago, I realised that this was not a fairy tale. But Jesus really did come to this earth and die in my place. I said to him,

"Lord, please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong."

An amazing thing happened. He took away my... (Paint out the word 'IN', on the cross) sin. He will do that for you too. But you first need to do one thing.

When Jesus was here he would say to people...



Will you put your trust in him today?

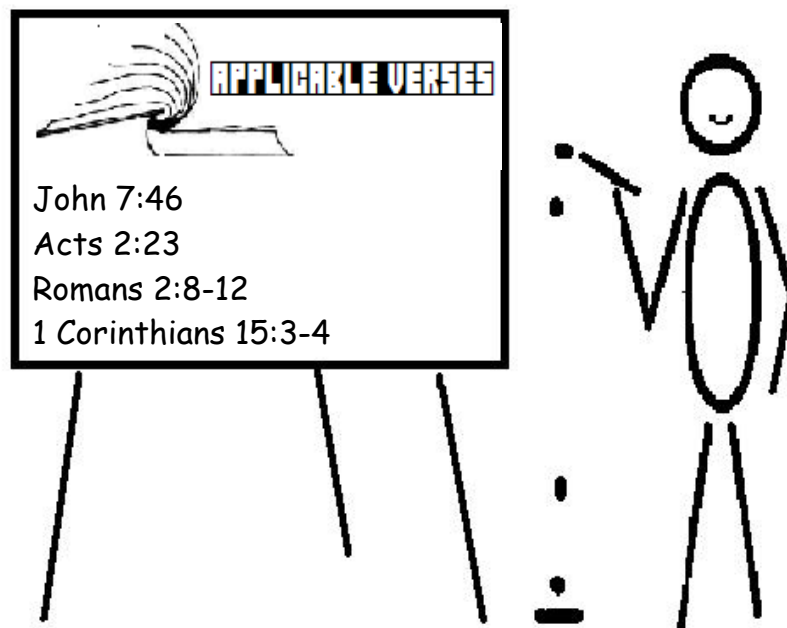
Thank you for listening. Please take a free leaflet. Don't go away and just do nothing. There is a prayer in the back of this book. Say it and mean it. Put your trust and faith in Jesus today!

Jesus did not remain dead...



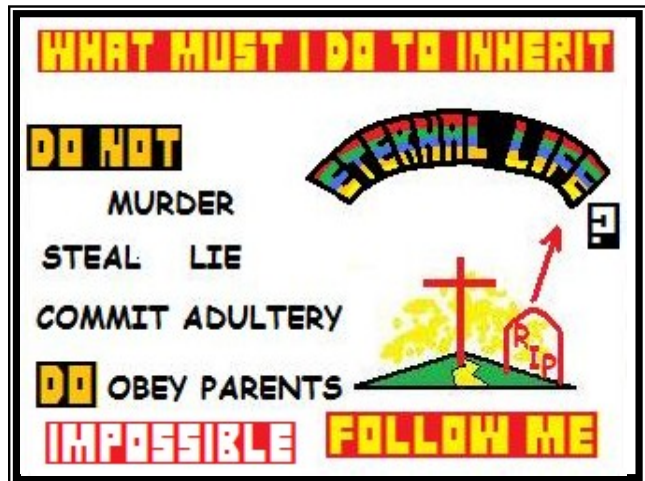
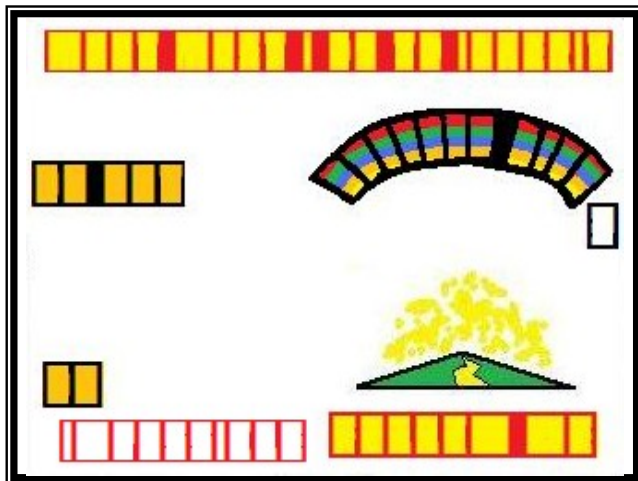
He came back to life, because it was impossible for death to hold him."

NOTE: The year 2008 and the letters AD should be written in wax and over painted. See Wax Resist in Glossary of terms.



What must I do to inherit eternal life?

158



"Hello and thank you for stopping to look at my painting. In just a moment I will be using a black paint brush to make multi coloured letters. But first I must check you are able to read the words. This is a test.



Can you read the symbol? Only good looking and intelligent people can read this. That's right. It's a question mark.

I hope you enjoy what I am about to do but I must warn you. It will be challenging. It's free and I won't ask for your money.

Today I want to talk about something we all have....



We all have life. You know you have life because if you pinch yourself it hurts. If you cut yourself, you bleed. You have life. But do you have this sort of life. (Point to the word proceeding life). All will be revealed in a moment.

Many years ago there lived a very rich man. He had a good life, everything he wanted. He was a good man too, even religious. But there was a voice inside him which told him something was missing? Do you know what I mean? There is a sort of, hollow feeling inside, not all the time; it comes and goes.

Well, this man came and asked a person who is probably the most famous person of all time, a question. This is the question.

WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT

That's an interesting question for a rich man to ask. He had already inherited loads of money; so it wasn't money he wanted.

No, he wanted to know how to inherit something that would last...

ETERNAL LIFE

And the man he asked was a person we have all heard of...

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Jesus wanted the man to understand, so he asked him about the rules.

Some of the rules start like this...

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

And some like this...

■ ■

There are ten of them. Do you know them?
Some think they are the ten suggestions.
Some people treat them like an exam; try any three of ten.
But the Bible says you have to keep them all!

Do you know any of them?

Four of them are to do with our relationship with God and six are to do with how we treat others.

That's right... do not ...

MURDER

That's a good rule isn't it. The only trouble is Jesus made it harder. He said even if you hate someone, you've already murdered them in your heart. You see Jesus was showing us that murder doesn't start when you stick a knife in someone or shoot them but when we start hating each other. Just to cheer you up, you know you are much more likely to be murdered by someone in your family than by a stranger. That's because people begin to hate each other and one thing leads to another.

Well that's just one. Do you know any others?...

Do not...

STEAL

Is there anybody here who has never stolen anything, value irrelevant? Well done, you see there are not many people who can honestly say 'yes' to that one. It's so easy, isn't it? Just put an extra zero on the tax form. Use the phone at work for private calls. Leave work early or arrive a few minutes late. It all counts. It's stealing. How many things do you have to steal to be a thief? One, that's all. That makes us all thieves, here in (whatever place). Watch your wallets! I'm not pointing the finger at you; there are four pointing back at me, this concerns all of us.

Another one... do not...

LIE

Anybody never told a lie? No that's right. Wow, now we are admitting we are all murdering, thieving, liars. It's not good, is it?

There is one other Jesus mentioned. Do you know which one?

Do not...

COMMIT ADULTERY

I knew it: God messes up all our fun.

But God's ideal is that families should stick together, even when it's tough. The trouble is this rule is not very fashionable. Every night you can switch on your TV and see extramarital affairs portrayed as something good and exciting. But, you know, people break this one because they are selfish and are interested in 'ME' more than anything else.

Jesus made this one tough too. He said,
"Even if you look at someone lustfully, you have already committed adultery in your heart."

Just one more, they are not all negative. What must you do...

OBEY PARENTS

or honour them. That's a good one too. Did you obey your parents? No, we all rebelled in one way or another.

Remember, this man who asked the question? He said an amazing thing.

"All these I have kept since I was a boy." NIV

That's amazing isn't it? Has anyone here kept all of these? (Pause)

I don't know about you but I think that's...

IMPOSSIBLE

You see that's why Jesus...



died on a cross. He, the Son of God, who had never done anything wrong was crucified in my place. The Bible says an amazing thing,

"He who knew no sin became sin for us."

Sin is failing to keep God's rules. Jesus knew you couldn't keep them but he was willing to take your punishment on himself.

Jesus looked at the rich man who had asked him the question and said that he had one more thing he needed to do.

and Jesus says the same to you...

FOLLOW ME

The only trouble was, Jesus told the rich man that he, Jesus, would have to be more important than his possessions. The man went away, sad, because that was one step too far.

After Jesus died they put him in a...



grave.

What do you put on a grave? ...

RIP

Rest in peace. Jesus did not stay there. It was impossible for death to hold him.

He...



rose in power!

That is why we can still follow him today.

For those willing to follow Jesus, please step forward and take a leaflet. It will explain how you can begin to follow him.

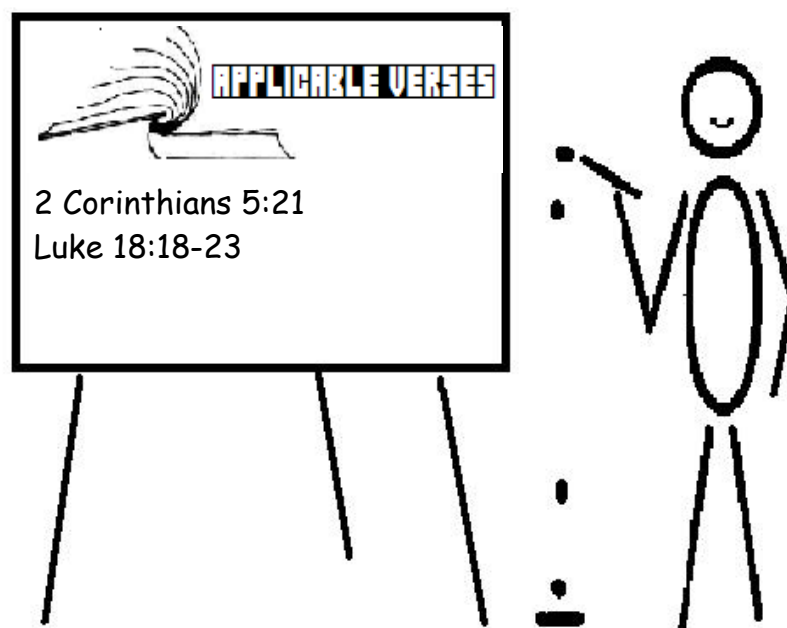
Thank you for listening."

Note 1:

This message uses the law in a similar way to the message entitled, 'Who goes to heaven?' See the notes for alternative words when using the law.

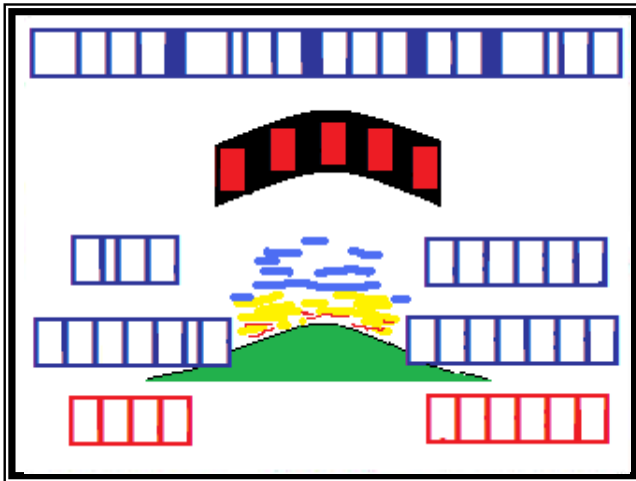
Note 2:

The words **MURDER, STEAL, LIE, COMMIT ADULTERY** etc. should be written in 'wax resist'. (Letters written on the paper with a wax candle so that when paint is applied the letters appear). See Glossary of terms.



What will you do with Jesus?

162



"Hello there! Thank you so much for stopping. Now listen carefully, I will say this only once... This great piece of art work is live; you will find it interesting, its free and most importantly, it will challenge you to think about important issues of life and death.

How about that then? And all free. This sounds so good I wish I was standing where you are.

First see if you can read my incredible writing.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will not be offended by my next word. Some people use it as a swear word, but others find it quite challenging.

JESUS ?

This is a real question.

When he was around, some people loved him, others hated him with a passion. But... what will you do with Jesus?

Jesus lived on earth, as a man, more than 2000 years ago, but he still influences all of our lives today.

Was it not Jesus who said,

"Treat others in the way you, yourself want to be treated."

That's good, isn't it?

It was Jesus who said,

"Love your enemies and pray for those who mistreat you."

That's good, isn't it, because it stops things escalating and getting out of hand.

It was Jesus who taught us the Lord's prayer, how does it go?

Our Father in heaven... etc.

Jesus taught things which 2000 years later we still remember today.

Later it was followers of Jesus who brought free education to poor people in England, free medical treatment and campaigned for the abolition of slavery.

Why. Because Jesus treated people as if they all had value.

Some people say,

"Jesus was just a great teacher."

But Jesus said,

"If you have seen me, you have seen God himself."

He claimed to be the Son of God.

If that's not true, he was not a great teacher but a...  or worse.

And on that basis we should...  him.

But history shows that those people who truly followed him did actually shape the world for good. Look around. We have a free country. Granted, things are not perfect. But there are many people in the world who would love to swop places with you and live here in England where there are opportunities to live freely, get an education, make a reasonable living, have food, clothes and a roof over their heads.

These things come from a society built on the values of Jesus - the ones he taught.

Then there's the evidence that he did live, and that he did die on a cross. Lastly, there is ample evidence to show that Jesus really did rise from the dead.

Others say Jesus was a... 

What if I claimed to come from God and be God ?

You would rightly say,

"You're crazy to believe that."

Because it was a deeply religious society where Jesus lived, people got very upset when he said that stuff. They said he was blaspheming. The penalty for blasphemy, like some countries today, was death.

That's why they had the authorities arrest him

and nail him to a...



cross to get rid of him.

If he was just a lunatic we should definitely...

NEGLECT him.

But if Jesus is neither of these and has actually lived and died and been raised from the dead,

he is really...

LORD

just as he claimed to be.

The Bible tells me that one day we will all stand before him and give an account of our lives of what we have done - whether good or bad.

If we are honest with ourselves, we will recognise that we will be guilty of breaking God's rules. You know the ones. There are ten of them. The first one is you must love God more than anything else.

Have you kept even that one?

The others were summed up by Jesus,

"Love everyone else as much as you love yourself."

You see, most of us put ourselves first, don't we?

Jesus died on that cross to take the judgment of God on himself for all the things I have done wrong. He never did anything to offend God, but I have. He died for me. He died for you too, if you are willing to...

REJECT

him as Lord of your life. Or will you continue to reject and neglect him.

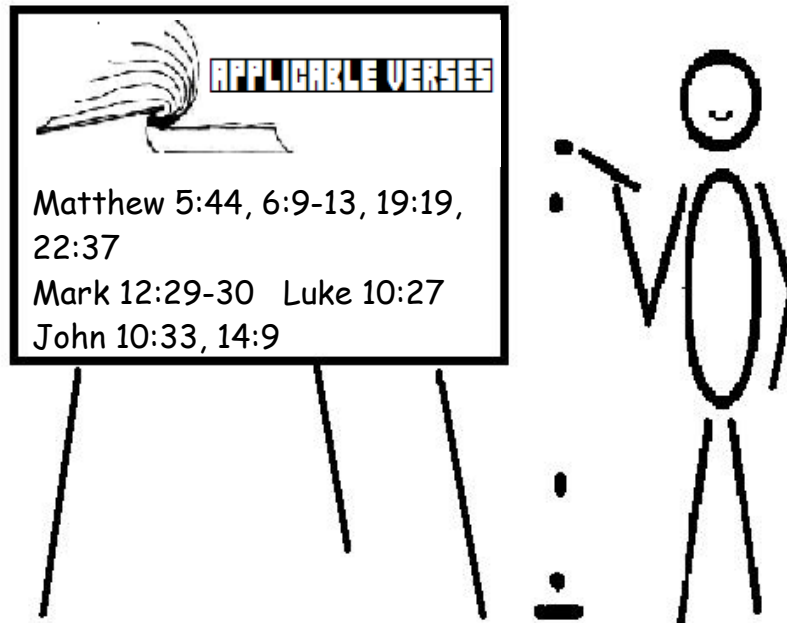
Jesus really has been

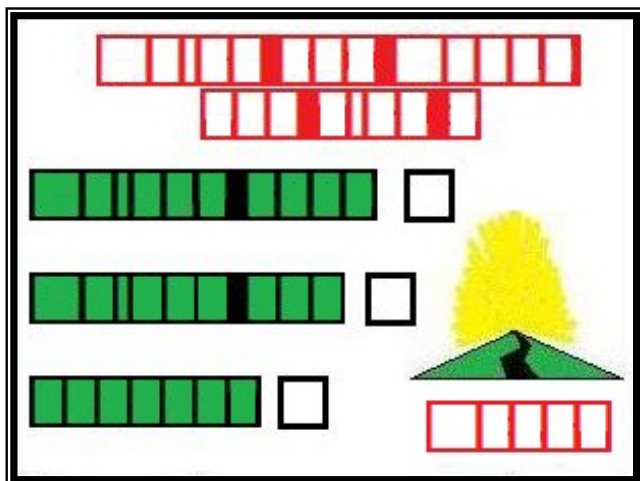
raised back to life.



He is Lord.”

A testimony of turning to Jesus for the first time would fit well at this point, followed by a call to follow Jesus.





NOTE: This is a short message, possibly for a cold day or in a situation where people may be in a hurry.

"Good evening everyone. Thank you for stopping on this very chilly evening. I don't know if you have seen this before but I won't keep you long. Hopefully it will give you something to think about as you go on your way in a minute.

Which box would you tick?

MAINLY GOOD

Like the thief caught last week. He pleaded guilty, but said,

"Basically, I'm a good person."

Perhaps you would tick this one...

MAINLY BAD

The older I get, the more I am inclined to tick this one, because I count up all the things I have done, or the things I think, or things I have not done which I should have. Do you know what I mean?

Or perhaps you would tick this one...

PERFECT

Well, surely no one would tick this one. I used to be arrogant but now I'm perfect.

What do the first two have in common?

FIN

Discuss with the crowd using the ten commandments. See talks, '*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*' and '*Who goes to heaven?*'

There was of course one person in history who actually was perfect. He is probably the most famous man who ever lived. Some people have trouble thinking about him because his life somehow makes them feel uncomfortable.

Don't run away...

NEE-UF

lived an amazing life. Living for other people and not himself.

Gave his life as a substitute for us because, whether you consider yourself a big sinner or just a little sinner, you are still a sinner and are in debt to God.

But because of God's great love for us, he came and died in my place and your place too. You just have to accept his incredible gift of life. He died in your place. The good book says,

"He became sin for us."

The holy son of God, died in my place, where I should have been.

If you ticked either of the top two boxes. You definitely need Jesus the Saviour.

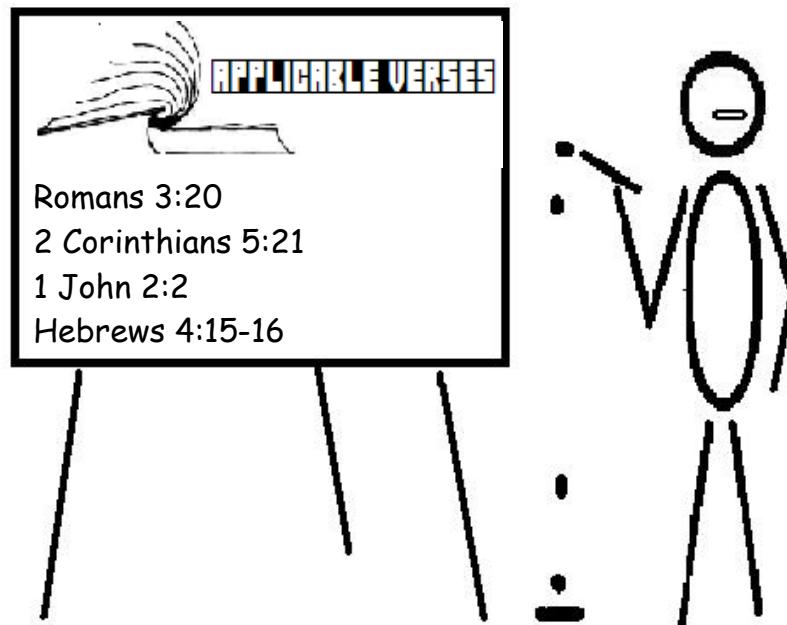
The last word is probably the most important because Jesus offers, not punishment for our

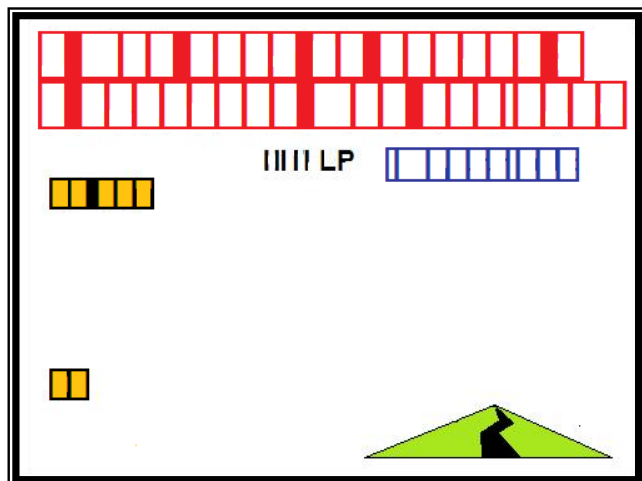
failure but...

MERCY

because, he bore that punishment for us. Will you receive that mercy today?

Thank you for listening. Please take a leaflet. Read it carefully and respond to him by saying the prayer on the last page."





"Good morning. See if you can read the letters on my board. Q Q Q

At the top I am going to write a question and below I will write an answer. This is a very difficult question; one which mankind has been wondering over for... well for a very long time. To some it's quite frightening. Maybe nobody has ever seriously asked you this question before.

WHO GOES TO HEAVEN?

Of course we all know that the goldfish goes to heaven, and of course, for children, grandma always goes to heaven. But seriously, who goes to heaven?

Some people say this is the answer...

EVERYONE

Wouldn't it be good if everyone eventually went to heaven in the end whatever you do. It's all going to be okay in the end.

But I wonder if you can think of anyone who will not be in heaven. Think of someone in history, who, if you had your way, they would not go to heaven.

What about this fellow...

HITLER

If everyone goes to heaven old Adolf will be there with us.

Most people would say, "That's...

IMPOSSIBLE

Hitler can't be in heaven, he was so evil. But of course if he's in heaven so will all the other murderers, rapists, and evil tyrants in history. (Pick a few people involved in recent atrocities to go along with these.) The trouble is Hitler broke the rules. There are ten of them and you can find them in the Bible.

Some start like this...

DO NOT

and some like this...

DO

Some people think they are the ten suggestions, and some people treat them like an exam, try any three of ten, but God says you have to keep them all.

Which one did Hitler break?

(Wait for an answer)

That's right

MURDER

He killed millions of people. But of course you and I would never do anything like that, would we? The only trouble is Jesus said if you hate someone, you have already committed murder in your heart. In other words Jesus was saying that murder doesn't start when you stick the knife in or shoot someone, he was saying it starts when you hate people and would like to see them dead. Makes you think doesn't it?

Well that's just one of the rules do you know any of the others? (Wait for the answer, give them a clue if necessary)

That's right, do not

LIE

Put your hand up if you've never told a lie... How many lies do you have to tell to be a liar? Just one, we've all done that haven't we?

What about another rule?

That's right, do not

STEAL

That's a good rule isn't it?

Put your hand up if you've never stolen anything.

Well I wouldn't believe you, even if you put your hand up because you just admitted you are all liars. (This normally, gets a laugh and helps with communication)

What else must you not do?

COMMIT ADULTERY

Now you say,

"There you go God messes up all our fun".

But God wants whole families who stick together even when its tough. All the best films end with the couple living happily ever after, not breaking up but even Jesus said divorce was allowed by God because people's hearts were hard and uncaring.

What must you do? The Bible says you must
with all you heart mind and strength.

LOVE GOD

Many of us don't even think about him from one year to the next.

Then there is

OBEY PARENTS

or honour parents.

But many young people think they know best and those of us who are older were just the same!

May be the answer is: no one goes to heaven!

But I can prove to you there is a thief in heaven.
Someone who has broken this rule

When Jesus died...



on the cross there were two thieves crucified either side of him. I am sure you are

familiar with that story. One of the thieves said to Jesus.

"Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" NIV

The other thief suddenly understood something. He said,

"Don't you fear God. We deserve our punishment but this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he turned to Jesus and said,

"Remember me when you come into your kingdom." NIV

Jesus answered and said to that thief,

"...today you will be with me in paradise." NIV

He was not able to get down from the cross and change anything. But Jesus said he would be in heaven.

When Jesus died, he was paying the price for all of us who are willing to admit we have broken the rules.

The answer to the question, 'Who goes to heaven?' is not everyone

but...

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES

that Jesus died in their place.

Jesus did not stay dead but came back to life and you can know him today.

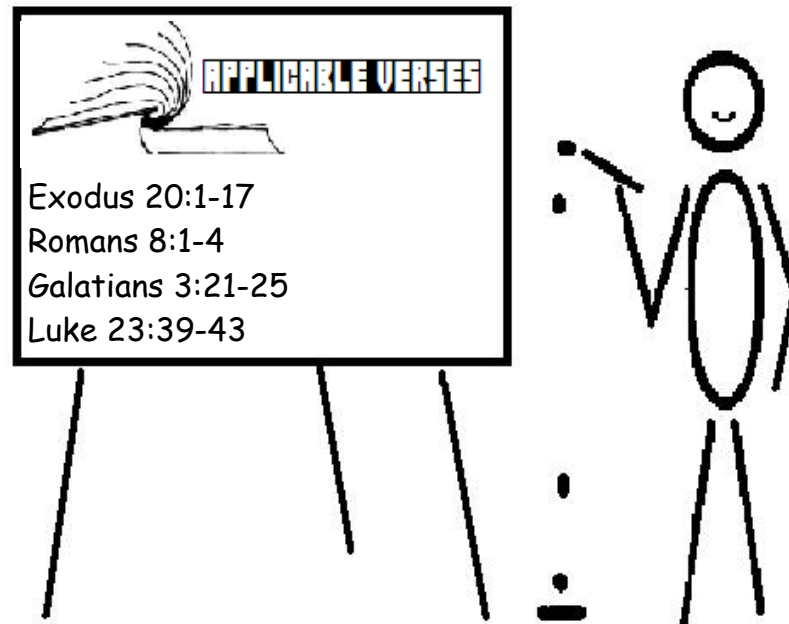
For those of you who are willing to put your trust in Jesus right now and admit you need to be forgiven, I invite you to come forward and take one of my leaflets.

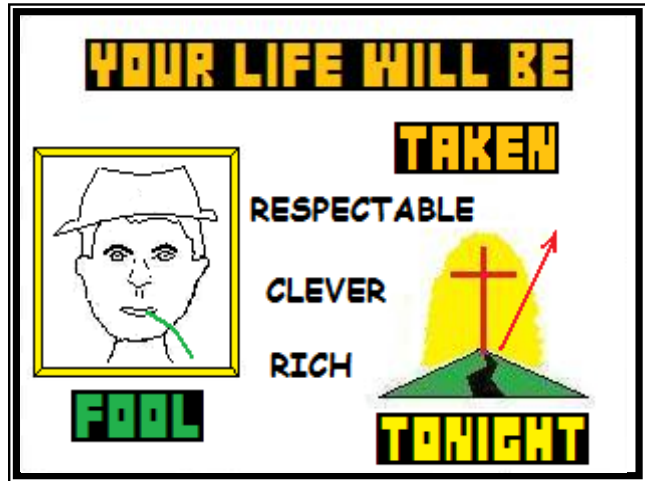
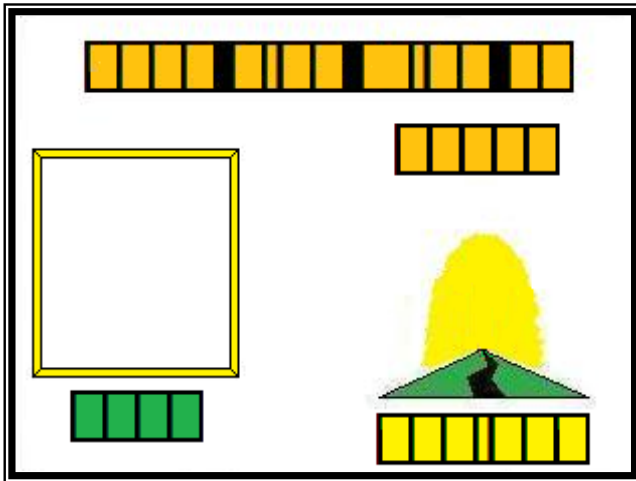
Note:

The words **MURDER, STEAL, LIE, COMMIT ADULTERY** are written in 'wax resist'.

The name **HITLER** is written using partial lettering.

See Glossary of terms.





"Good morning. Thank you for stopping. I guess, you didn't expect to find an artist in the street today. This painting is an original. It could become very valuable in the future, so make me an offer when it's finished. What I am about to do is free. I hope you will enjoy my presentation. Although, I will not ask you for any money, I do ask for a few minutes your time. What you are about to see, will be challenging, and is likely to cause you to consider some deep issues.

I am painting this picture for...

YOU

So, I'm glad you're here to see it.



Allow me to introduce you to someone...

He lived some years ago now but was very well to do. You might say he was posh. Despite all that, he was like many people today. Everything in his life was going very well. You can see that by the big smile on his face.

Can you work out what he did for a living? This might help. (Paint a blade of grass in the mouth)

(With that and a few clues, the crowd should be able to establish that he was a farmer.) Yes, that's right he was a farmer. He was a very rich farmer and he owned acres and acres of good, fertile land.

This man was about to make some crucial plans, about his future. Have you made any plans for your future? I do hope so.

Don't worry, I'm not here to sell you a pension plan.

Most of us have a hope in the future of what...

LIFE WILL BE

But be careful not to make the same mistake as the man in this story.

The story is about to become a bit deeper at this point. Are you prepared?

With a mixture of good management and the goodness of God, in providing just the right amount of rain and sun, our friend had been doing rather well over the last few years. This particular year he had a bumper crop with much more produce than he was expecting.

When he realised his good fortune, he began to consider his future.

"What shall I do? I haven't got anywhere to store all this produce."

He could have sold it straight away, but that would have flooded the market and the price would go down. Then he had a brilliant idea!

"I know. I will demolish the existing barns and build some mega barns. Bigger than anyone else. Then I can store my grain and next year I can store even more. I have got it made now.

I will make such a massive profit that I can put my feet up, from now on and for years ahead. I can take it easy. I will eat, drink, and be merry."

On the face of it, it looked like a fantastic plan;

But!...

God said to him,

"You're a... **Fool**."

I don't think he heard God say it. But if he had, he may have said,

"But I'm very... **Rich**."

Then God would have said,

"Then you're a rich fool."

He may have replied,

"But I'm a... **Clever** business man."

Then God would have replied,

"The you're a clever fool."

Finally he may have said,

"But, I'm.. **Respectable**."

And he was too. Probably a very respected member of the community.

But God would have replied,

"Then you're a respectable fool."

Why did God call this man a fool? After all, it's a bit harsh.

God called him a fool because he said to the man...

YOUR LIFE WILL BE TAKEN

God called him a fool because he had made very careful plans for his earthly life but had taken no thought for eternity. What about you?

The Bible clearly teaches that this earthly life is only the beginning and is a preparation for eternity. The famous author, C.S. Lewis, wrote that everything that happens in our life here is only the cover and title page of a whole book.

Are you living for just today?

If our friend had realised what was coming he may have said,

"I will give up all my wealth." Or "I'll become religious." Or "I'll give up my bad habits."
Is that what God wanted from him?

There is nothing wrong with trying to be a good person. But, the Bible says that Eternal life is a gift, paid for by God himself. It also says,

"How shall we escape, if we ignore such a great salvation?"

Jesus Christ...



came to earth and died on a cross. He died to pay the debt that we owe God for going our own way, rather than putting God first in our lives. We are all like this farmer. We live for ourselves rather than for God. We hardly give God a thought. But when we face death, we need this man. That's why at funerals we pray and look forward to the life to come.

The shocking thing for this man was, that God said,

"Your life will be taken...

TONIGHT ."

He was unaware that he only had hours to live.

In one hundred years time, one hundred percent of us will have all experienced the fate of this man, and gone through death, and into the presence of God, where we will answer for the life we have lived and what we did with Jesus.

Are you prepared for eternity?

Jesus died for you and has...



come back to life.

The Bible says,

"...now is the day of salvation." NIV

And, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" NIV

Don't be foolish by making preparations for this life but making none for eternity.
Turn to God today.

Thank you for listening.

Please take eternity seriously and really plan for the future by inviting God into your life."

NOTE: The words, Rich, Clever, and Respectable can be made to appear using wax resist.
See Glossary of terms.

