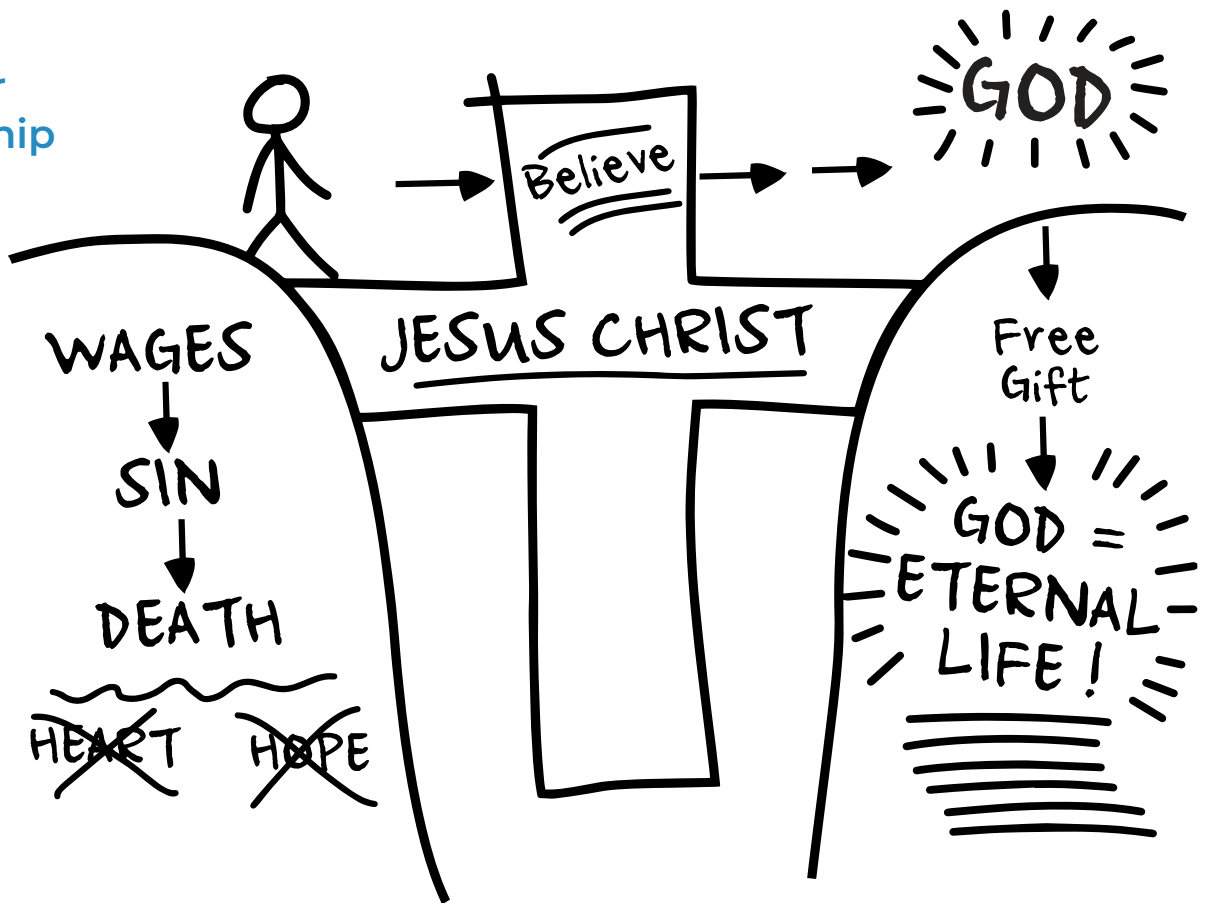




Navigator Discipleship Tool



THE BRIDGE to LIFE

Some of the oldest questions humankind has been asking are, “How can I know God?” What is He like? What can we do to please Him? How can we get to Heaven? If we work hard enough to be a good enough person will He accept us then? If we do enough religious activities to get His attention, will that do it?

Fortunately for us, the answer is surprisingly simple. The “Gospel” that the Bible talks about literally means, “the Good News,” and the news is good indeed!

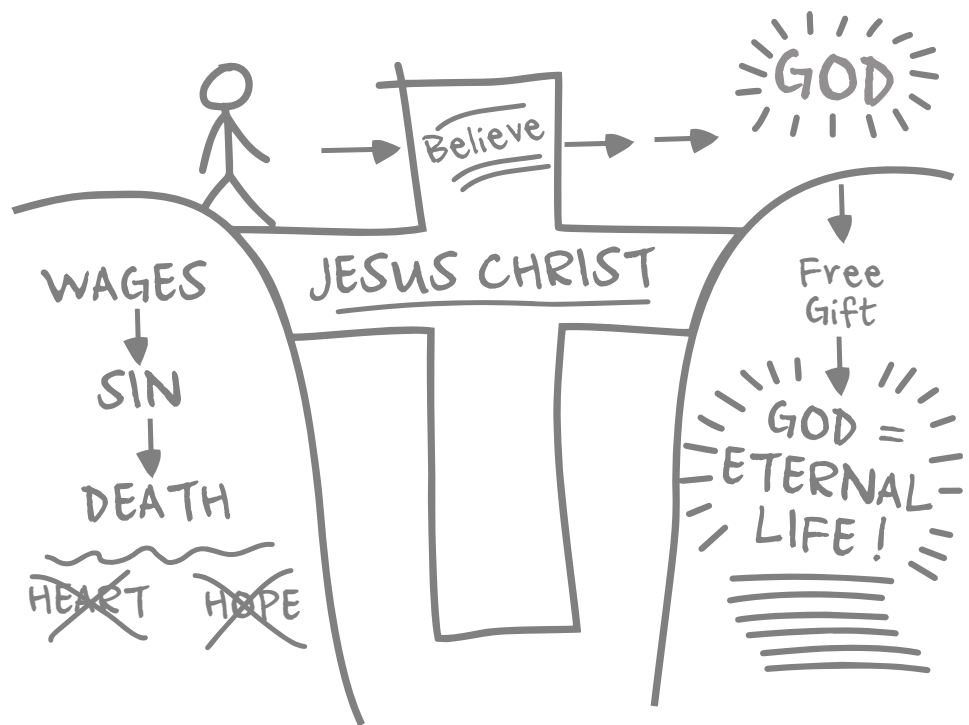
We have to start at the beginning. In *Genesis 1:26*, when God created the first humans, He said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness”, then God blessed them and spent the days walking and talking with the people He had created. In short, **life was good.**

But why isn't life like that anymore? What happened to mess everything up? This brings us to the second point: when we (humankind) chose to do the opposite of what God told us, sin poisoned the world.

Sin separated us from God, and everything changed. *Romans 3:23* says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” and in *Isaiah 59:2* we're told, “your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear.”

This is especially bad news because there is no way for us to get across that gap on our own. We (humankind) have tried to find our way back to God and a perfect world on our own ever since then, and without any luck. We try to get there by being good people, or through religion, money, morality, philosophy, education, or any number of other ways, but eventually we find out that none of it works. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” (*Proverbs 14:12*).

There is only one way to find peace with God, and the Bible says it is through Jesus Christ. We were stranded without any way of getting back to our Creator, and we needed a way to pay for our sins and be clean again so that



we could be welcomed back to be with Him. **Romans 5:8** says, “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **So this is the Good News**—that even though we were still enemies of God (as one translation says), **Jesus came to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins so that we could have a relationship with Him again.** **John 3:16** 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.”

This brings us to the last and most important part. **John 5:24** says, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; **he has crossed over from death to life.**” Jesus Christ himself even says, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (**John 10:10**), and **Romans 5:1** says, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

So how can I have peace with God, life to the full, and be confident of eternal life like these verses say? First, through an honest prayer to God, I have to admit that I’m not perfect—that I can’t escape my sins, and I can’t save myself. I follow this admission by believing that Jesus Christ died for me on the cross and rose from the grave, conquering death and sin. Then I invite Jesus Christ to live in me and be the Lord of my life, accepting His free gift of eternal life with Him.

The prayer can go something like this: *“Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I need You to forgive me. I know that You died a painful death so that my sins could be washed clean. Thank you. I want to make You the Lord of my life, and I will trust and follow You. Everything I have is Yours now. In Your name, Lord. Amen.”*

There is nothing magical about these words. It’s not the words themselves that make things right between you and God—it’s whether or not your heart really means it. We know this because in **1 Samuel 16:7**, the Bible says, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

The best part of this whole process is that it doesn’t matter how badly we’ve messed up, Jesus is powerful enough to save anyone from their sins—even the worst of us. **Romans 10:13** says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” That’s fantastic news—no matter how badly we’ve messed up, we can place our complete trust in Jesus, and He will wipe all of our sins off the face of the earth. **Jesus is the bridge to life.**

THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED.

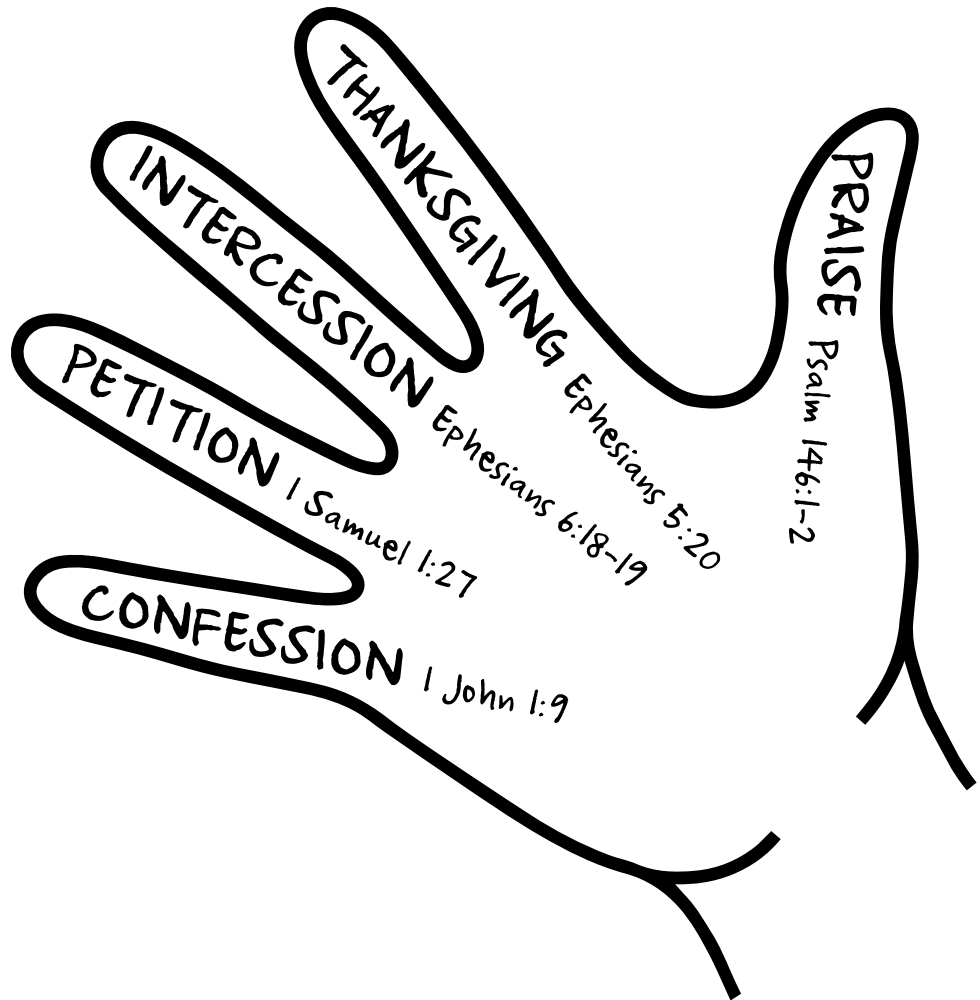
To download the Bridge to Life illustration visit navlink.org/bridge

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Navigator Discipleship Tool

Many believers find extended time in prayer is a difficult spiritual discipline. Here's an easy way to remember five essential aspects of prayer. Pray through each of these five aspects, remembering that prayer is really about aligning our hearts with God's, and as the fifth aspect explains below, praises to God should permeate every part.



THE PRAYER HAND

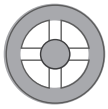
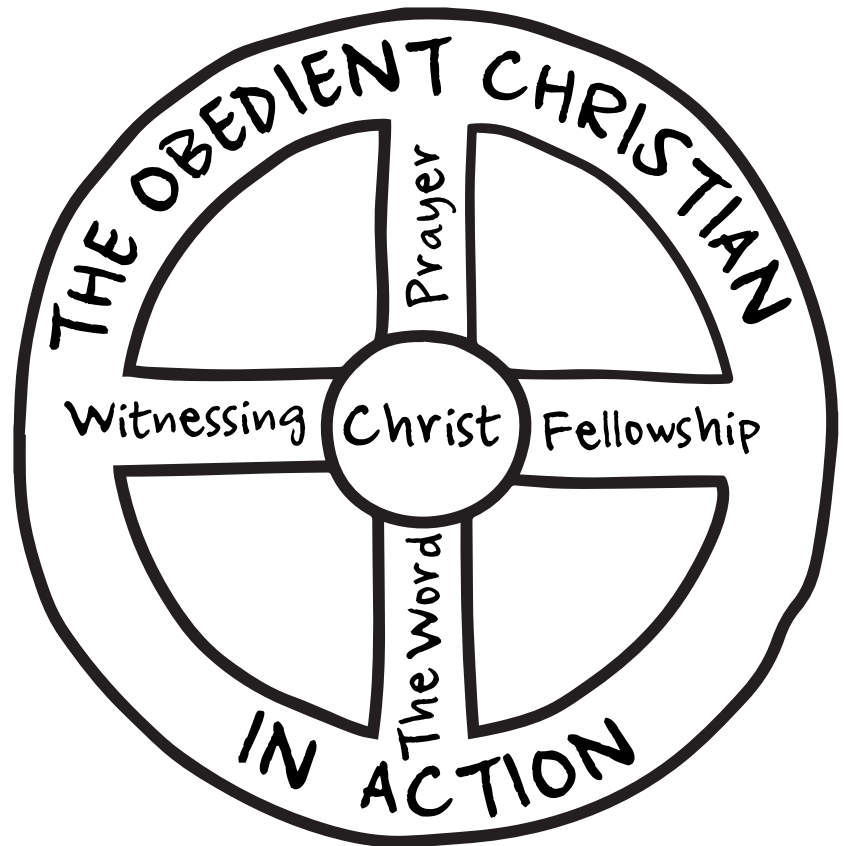
- ① **CONFESSION**
I agree with God about my sin.
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9
- ② **PETITION**
I ask God to provide for my needs.
“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.”
1 Samuel 1:27
- ③ **INTERCESSION**
I ask God to provide for the needs of others.
“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...”
Ephesians 6:18-19
- ④ **THANKSGIVING**
I thank God for what He has done in, through, and for me. I thank Him for His answers to prayers in the lives of those around me and for His ongoing work across the nation and the world.
“...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 5:20
- ⑤ **PRAISE**
I let my enjoyment and adoration of God overflow into words. As the thumb is able to touch all four other fingers, so praise should permeate every part of my prayer life.
“Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”
Psalms 146:1-2



Navigator
Discipleship
Tool

THE WHEEL

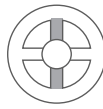
The Wheel diagram, created by Navigator founder Dawson Trotman in the 1930s, is a simple, effective way to visually explain the structure of a God-glorifying life. Sharing it can be as simple as drawing it on a napkin or notepad. The diagram challenges us to think deeply about how to be an obedient follower of Christ as each part represents a crucial component of a vibrant Christian life.



How you relate to yourself.

THE VOLITIONAL DIMENSION

- **The Hub**—Christ the Center: Total surrender to Christ’s authority and lordship is not always a decision made right at conversion, but is a necessary act of will. For the believer, the “old life” has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17), and Christ dwells through us instead (Galatians 2:20). God creates within us the desire to do what He wants us to do in order to express His lordship in our lives.
- **The Rim**—Obedience to Christ: Some acts of obedience to God are internal, such as attitudes, habits, motives, values and day-to-day thoughts. But even these eventually surface outwardly in our relationships with other people. Keeping His commandments in obedience is our outward indication of inward health and love for Christ—our worship (John 14:21, Romans 12:1).



How you relate to God.

THE VERTICAL DIMENSION

- **The Word Spoke:** The Word of God is His direct voice showing us not only who He is, but how to live and interact with everyone around us (2 Timothy 3:16). This means an earnest personal intake of God’s Word is essential for health and growth (Joshua 1:8). As God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we can see His principles for life and ministry, learn how to obey Him and become acquainted with the Christ who is worthy of our steadfast allegiance.
- **The Prayer Spoke:** Prayer is the natural response to God as we hear Him speak through His Word. It is sharing our heart with the One who longs for our companionship and who cares about our concerns. Prayer not only trains our hearts and minds to know the power and glory of God, but also turns His ear towards action in our lives and of those who we pray for (John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7).



How you relate to others.

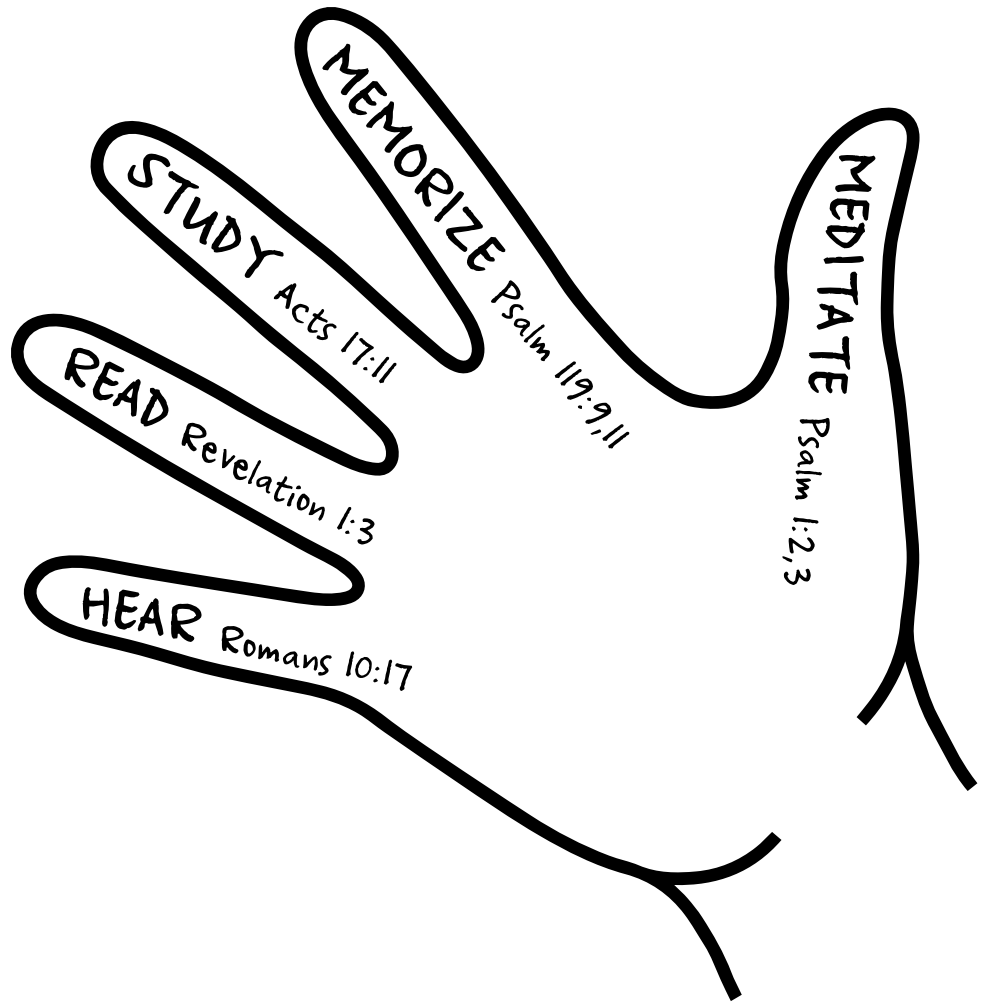
THE HORIZONTAL DIMENSION

- **The Fellowship Spoke:** God has directed Christians to build each other up through inter-dependence and loving relationships with each other (Hebrews 10:24-25). Gathering together as the Body of Christ draws God close around us as we praise Him and encourage one another (Matthew 18:20).
- **The Witnessing Spoke:** God has given believers the joy and responsibility of telling the world about the Good News of Christ’s work on earth (Matthew 4:19). In fact, sharing this spectacular news with others should be the natural overflow of a rich, vibrant life in Christ (Romans 1:16).



Navigator Discipleship Tool

The Word Hand is an easy-to-remember tool highlighting five methods of learning from the Bible. Use it for your own spiritual growth and to share with someone else.



THE WORD HAND

- ① **HEARING**
the Word from pastors and teachers provides fresh insight into the Scriptures. The weakest finger—the pinkie—represents hearing, because we retain only 5 percent of what we hear.
Romans 10:17
- ② **READING**
gives us an overview of the Bible and is the foundation of a daily quiet time. This is represented by the ring finger. We generally retain 15 percent of what we read.
Revelation 1:3
- ③ **STUDYING**
the Scriptures deepens our convictions. It requires greater time and effort but results in increased Bible knowledge. Most people retain 35 percent of what they study. This is represented by the middle finger.
Acts 17:11
- ④ **MEMORIZING**
God's Word enables us to use the Sword of the Spirit to overcome temptations and to have verses readily available for ministering to others. The index finger, our strongest finger, represents memorization. We remember 100 percent of what we memorize if we consistently review it.
Psalm 119:9–11
- ⑤ **MEDITATION**
is the inward process that accompanies each of the other four methods of Scripture intake. This is why meditation is assigned to the thumb. Only the thumb can touch all the other four fingers. By meditating on God's Word as we hear, read, study, and memorize, we discover its transforming power at work in us.
Psalm 1:2,3

THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED.

To download The Word Hand illustration visit navlink.org/word-hand

