

7 weeks for ages 8–12

The gospel in 7 words

One word a week. By the end, every student can tell the whole story in 60 seconds.

1	**MADE**	If God knew they would eat it, why put the tree there at all?	Genesis 1:27
2	**BROKEN**	It was one bite of fruit. Why was that such a big deal?	James 1:14–15
3	**GUILTY**	I'm a pretty good person. Isn't that enough?	James 2:10
4	**LOCKED OUT**	Why can't God just forgive everyone and forget about it?	Romans 6:23
5	**PAID**	How can one person's death pay for the whole world?	2 Corinthians 5:21
6	**ALIVE**	How do we know it really happened? Maybe the disciples made it up.	1 Corinthians 15:17
7	**HOME**	Isn't heaven just sitting on clouds forever? Sounds boring.	Revelation 21:4

Every week, 55 minutes

Hook, ask the big question, watch the book and read the Bible, an activity, real life, pray. The run-sheet has the clock times.

Telling hard truths

Say what the Bible says, calmly: no added horror, no softening. Let them argue. Never use fear to push a decision.

What carries over

The debt card (weeks 4 and 5), the marked plate (4 to 6), the seven words (every week).

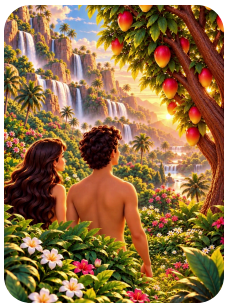
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Week 1 of 7 Teacher run-sheet, ages 8–12

MADE

God made me on purpose, to know Him.





0:00 ### Hook: Fingerprints

Ink each thumb and compare with a magnifying glass. No two match. Out of 8 billion people, God made one you.

0:05 ### Ask: The big question

"If God knew they would eat it, why put the tree there at all?" Let them argue it out. Don't answer yet.

0:10 ### Watch and read: Book + Bible

Play The garden, The one rule at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **Genesis 1:31** How did God describe what He made? *Very good. No death, no tears.*
- **Genesis 2:16–17** Count the yeses and the noes. Was God stingy? *Every tree but one.*
- **Genesis 3:8** What was the best part of Eden? *God walked with them.*

0:25 ### Do: Robot or real?

One volunteer is a robot that says "I love you" when you press its nose. Another is a real friend who chooses to say it. Whose "I love you" means more? God wanted children, not robots.

0:40 ### Live it: Real life

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 ### Pray: Respond

Thank God you were made on purpose, by Someone who wants to know you. Add "MADE" to the seven words.

0:55 ### Done

Memory verse

"So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female."

Genesis 1:27 (CSB)

Answering the big question

Love needs a real choice. A robot can't love you back. The tree let Adam and Eve show they trusted God. It wasn't a trap: it was a garden full of yeses with one no.

Handle with care

Some kids secretly feel worthless. Tell each one by name: you were made on purpose.

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
Ink pad, cards, magnifying glass

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MADE

God made me on purpose, to know Him.

1 Think

If God knew they would eat it, why put the tree there at all?

2 Read

Look up **Genesis 2:16–17**. Count the yeses and the noes. Was God stingy?

3 Live it

Someone at school says, “We’re just animals that happened by accident. Nothing really matters.” What would you say?

> **“So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.”**
> Genesis 1:27

The gospel in 7 words

MADE	2	3	4	5	6	7

This week’s challenge: Each day, notice one thing God made and thank Him for it.

Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, “If God knew they would eat it, why put the tree there at all?”

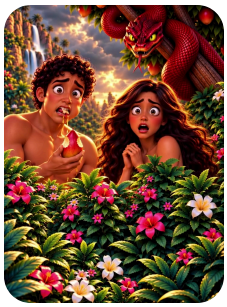
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Week 2 of 7 Teacher run-sheet, ages 8–12

BROKEN

Sin always promises more than it pays.





0:00 **Hook: The lure**

Show a fishing lure. Shiny, it looks like food. “What is the fish thinking?” Then show the hook. Every lure hides one.

0:05 **Ask: The big question**

“It was one bite of fruit. Why was that such a big deal?” Let them argue it out. Don’t answer yet.

0:10 **Watch and read: Book + Bible**

Play The serpent, The fruit, Out of the garden at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **Genesis 3:1–5** Find the serpent’s three moves. *Doubt God’s word, deny the danger, dangle a prize.*
- **Genesis 3:6–13** Eve’s three steps? What changed right after? *Saw, wanted, took. Then shame and blame.*
- **Genesis 3:21** What did the first clothes cost? *An innocent animal’s life.*

0:25 **Do: Spot the hook**

Read out modern lures; they shout the hook. “Just one more level.” “Everyone’s doing it.” “Nobody will know.” “A little lie keeps you out of trouble.” Then read James 1:14–15.

0:40 **Live it: Real life**

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 **Pray: Respond**

Ask God to help you see the hook and trust His word. Add “BROKEN” to the seven words.

0:55 **Done**

Memory verse

“But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.”

James 1:14–15 (CSB)

Answering the big question

It wasn’t about fruit. It was about trust: they decided God was lying and they knew better. Every sin says that. And it broke everything: shame, hiding, blame, pain and death.

Handle with care

Sin isn’t “fruit is bad”. It’s not trusting God. End with hope: God promised Someone would crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15).

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
A fishing lure (hook covered)

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BROKEN

Sin always promises more than it pays.

1 Think

It was one bite of fruit. Why was that such a big deal?

2 Read

Look up **Genesis 3:6–13**. Eve's three steps? What changed right after?

3 Live it

A friend posts tomorrow's test answers in the group chat. "Everyone's using them. Nobody will know." What's the bait? What's the hook?

> **"But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death."**
> James 1:14–15

The gospel in 7 words

MADE	BROKEN	3	4	5	6	7

This week's challenge: When you're tempted, say in your head: "That's bait. Where's the hook?"
Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, "It was one bite of fruit. Why was that such a big deal?"

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GUILTY

Not just them. Me.





0:00 ### Hook: The chain

Hang a bag of sugar from 10 paper clips, one per commandment. How many must break for it to fall? Pull one. It drops.

0:05 ### Ask: The big question

"I'm a pretty good person. Isn't that enough?" Let them argue it out. Don't answer yet.

0:10 ### Watch and read: Book + Bible

Play The long road, God's law at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **Exodus 20:1–17** Which commands do people break without noticing?
- **Matthew 5:21–22** What does Jesus say about anger? *God judges the heart.*
- **Romans 3:10, 23** How many are righteous? *Not one.*

0:25 ### Do: The courtroom

Put "Average Kid" (made up) on trial: lied to his parents, took money "just once", hated a classmate in his heart, ignored God. Defence: "He's nicer than most!" The jury decides. Would a good judge let him go?

0:40 ### Live it: Real life

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 ### Pray: Respond

Quietly admit to God that you are guilty too. He already knows, and He still loves you. Add "GUILTY" to the seven words.

0:55 ### Done

Memory verse

"For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all."

James 2:10 (CSB)

Answering the big question

Good compared to whom? We grade ourselves against other people. God measures against His perfect law, and Jesus said anger is murder in the heart (Matthew 5:21–22). Nobody passes. That's so we stop trusting in being good.

Handle with care

Never ask students to confess aloud. Say "I'm guilty too." The bad news is real, but not the last word.

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
10 big paper clips, a bag of sugar
A book for a gavel

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GUILTY

Not just them. Me.

1 Think

I'm a pretty good person. Isn't that enough?

2 Read

Look up **Matthew 5:21–22**. What does Jesus say about anger?

3 Live it

You told your mom you finished your homework. You didn't. It's "just a small lie." Is there such a thing as a small lie to God?

> **"For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all."**
> **James 2:10**

The gospel in 7 words

MADE	BROKEN	GUILTY	4	5	6	7

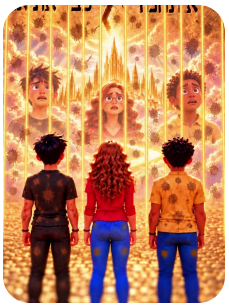
This week's challenge: Each night, ask God to show you one way you fell short today.
Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, "I'm a pretty good person. Isn't that enough?"

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Week 4 of 7 Teacher run-sheet, ages 8–12

LOCKED OUT

Sin earns death, and I can't pay it off.





0:00 ## Hook: The debt

Hand out debt cards: "Amount owed to God: everything." Give a few paper "good deed" coins. Can they pay? Collect the cards for next week.

0:05 ## Ask: The big question

"Why can't God just forgive everyone and forget about it?" Let them argue it out. Don't answer yet.

0:10 ## Watch and read: Book + Bible

Play Locked out, Can we scrub it off? at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **Romans 6:23** What do we earn? What is free? *We earn death. Life is a gift.*
- **Hebrews 9:27** What happens after we die? *Judgement.*
- **Luke 16:19–26** What does Jesus say about after death? *It's real, with a gap no one can cross.*

0:25 ## Do: The scrub test

Mark the plate. Each student gets 30 seconds to scrub it clean. It stays. What "soaps" do people try with God? Being good, church, "my good outweighs my bad." None work.

0:40 ## Live it: Real life

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 ## Pray: Respond

Tell God you can't pay what you owe. Thank Him the story isn't over. Add "LOCKED OUT" to the seven words.

0:55 ## Done

Memory verse

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (CSB)

Answering the big question

Because He is good. A judge who lets a guilty criminal walk free isn't kind; he's corrupt. Sin has a price. The question isn't "Will someone pay?" It's "Who?"

Handle with care

The heaviest week. Speak of hell plainly, as Jesus did, but calmly. Never use fear to push a decision. End: "Very bad news, but not the end of the story."

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
Debt cards (extras), paper coins
White plastic plate (keep it), permanent marker, soap, sponge

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LOCKED OUT

Sin earns death, and I can't pay it off.

1 Think

Why can't God just forgive everyone and forget about it?

2 Read

Look up **Hebrews 9:27**. What happens after we die?

3 Live it

Your friend says, "If your good stuff outweighs your bad stuff, you get into heaven." How would you answer, kindly?

> **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**
> Romans 6:23

The gospel in 7 words

MADE	BROKEN	GUILTY	LOCKED OUT	5	6	7

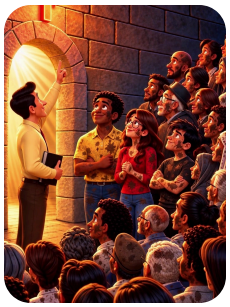
This week's challenge: Ask an adult you trust: "What do you think happens after we die?" Listen first.
Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, "Why can't God just forgive everyone and forget about it?"

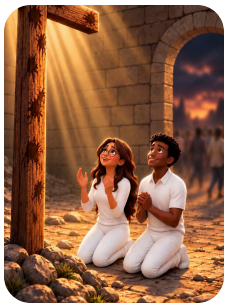
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Week 5 of 7 Teacher run-sheet, ages 8–12

PAID

Jesus paid what I owed.





0:00 ### Hook: Paid in full

Hand back the debt cards, now written across in red: PAID IN FULL. Let it sink in. Read John 19:30: “It is finished.”

0:05 ### Ask: The big question

“How can one person’s death pay for the whole world?” Let them argue it out. Don’t answer yet.

0:10 ### Watch and read: Book + Bible

Play The door, The cross at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **Isaiah 53:5–6** Written 700 years before Jesus. Whose sin was put on whom? *Ours, on Him.*
- **Mark 15:33–34** Why did Jesus cry, “Why have you abandoned me?” *He carried our sin, cut off from His Father.*
- **John 10:9** Jesus is the gate. How many ways in? *One.*

0:25 ### Do: The great exchange

Each student secretly writes some of their own wrongs on a dark square. The white square says: “Perfect. Never sinned.” Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. They put the dark square in the box at the cross and keep the white one.

0:40 ### Live it: Real life

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 ### Pray: Respond

Thank Jesus, specifically, for taking what you deserved. Add “PAID” to the seven words.

0:55 ### Done

Memory verse

“He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB)

Answering the big question

Because of who He is. Jesus is God the Son, worth more than all of us, and He never sinned, so He had no debt of His own. He took our sin; we get His goodness.

Handle with care

Describe the cross honestly but simply: whipped, mocked, nailed, hours of pain. The worst part was being cut off from His Father. Don’t linger on gore; linger on love. Shred the dark squares unread.

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
Last week’s debt cards, red marker
Dark and white paper squares, a box

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PAID

Jesus paid what I owed.

1 Think

How can one person's death pay for the whole world?

2 Read

Look up **Mark 15:33–34**. Why did Jesus cry, "Why have you abandoned me?"

3 Live it

Someone says, "If God really loved His Son, He wouldn't have let Him die like that." How would you answer?

> **"He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."**
> 2 Corinthians 5:21

The gospel in 7 words

MADE	BROKEN	GUILTY	LOCKED OUT	PAID	6	7

This week's challenge: Read Mark 15 slowly. Write down one thing that surprised you.

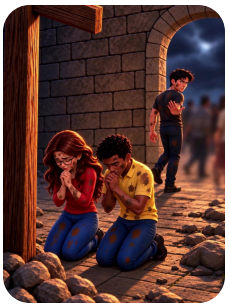
Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, "How can one person's death pay for the whole world?"

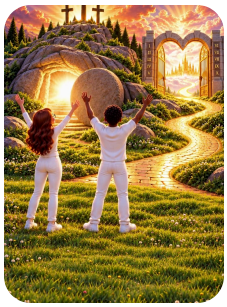
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Week 6 of 7 Teacher run-sheet, ages 8–12

ALIVE

Jesus is alive. Everything depends on it.





0:00 **Hook: Crime scene**

A box tomb, a rolled-away paper-plate stone, a folded cloth, tape across it. “Detectives, the body is gone. What happened?”

0:05 **Ask: The big question**

“How do we know it really happened? Maybe the disciples made it up.” Let them argue it out. Don’t answer yet.

0:10 **Watch and read: Book + Bible**

Play The choice, The empty tomb at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **1 Corinthians 15:3–8** List everyone who saw Jesus alive. *Over 500 at once!*
- **Matthew 28:11–15** What story did the guards tell? Does it hold up? *Asleep, yet they knew who took Him?*
- **Romans 10:9** What do we do with this? *Believe, and be saved.*

0:25 **Do: Evidence board**

Teams test 4 theories (stolen body, wrong tomb, He didn’t die, they imagined it) against 6 evidence cards. Which one is left standing? Then wipe the plate clean: “He lives, and He makes us clean.”

0:40 **Live it: Real life**

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 **Pray: Respond**

Jesus lets you choose. Talk to God honestly about where you stand. Add “ALIVE” to the seven words.

0:55 **Done**

Memory verse

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

1 Corinthians 15:17 (CSB)

Answering the big question

People don’t die for something they know is a lie. The disciples went from hiding to facing prison and death. Hundreds saw Him alive. His enemies never showed the body. The answer that fits the evidence: He rose.

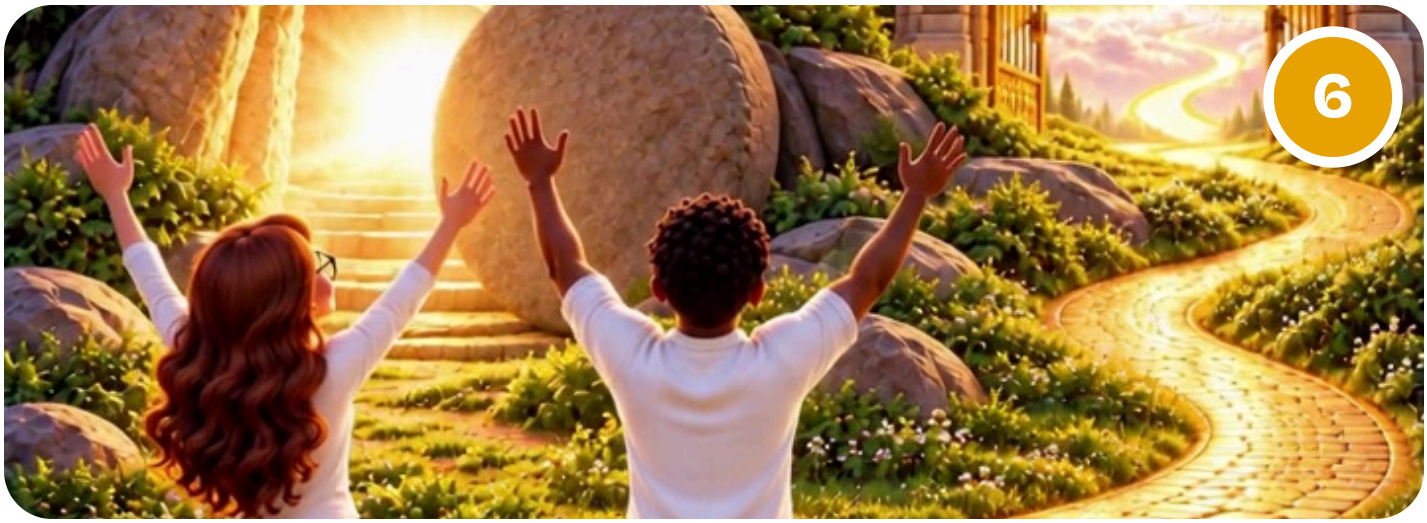
Handle with care

Welcome doubts: honest questions are good, and the truth can handle them. Don’t push for decisions; next week has the invitation.

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
Box, paper plate, cloth, tape
Evidence cards (extras), last week’s plate, rubbing alcohol

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ALIVE

Jesus is alive. Everything depends on it.

1 Think

How do we know it really happened? Maybe the disciples made it up.

2 Read

Look up **Matthew 28:11–15**. What story did the guards tell? Does it hold up?

3 Live it

A classmate says, “Dead people don’t come back to life. That’s science.” What’s a fair answer?

> **“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”**
> 1 Corinthians 15:17

The gospel in 7 words

MADE | BROKEN | GUILTY | LOCKED OUT | PAID | **ALIVE** | 7

This week’s challenge: Learn the first six words on your fingers. Teach them to someone at home.
Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, “How do we know it really happened? Maybe the disciples made it up.”

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Week 7 of 7 Teacher run-sheet, ages 8–12

HOME

Jesus is bringing me home. Who am I bringing?





0:00 ### Hook: Cross it out

List the worst things about this world on a board (death, sickness, bullying, war). Read Revelation 21:4 and cross each one out in red.

0:05 ### Ask: The big question

"Isn't heaven just sitting on clouds forever? Sounds boring." Let them argue it out. Don't answer yet.

0:10 ### Watch and read: Book + Bible

Play Heaven's gates, The new earth, Follow Jesus at **thewaybackhome.net**. Then look up:

- **John 14:2–3** What is Jesus doing right now? *Preparing a place, and coming back.*
- **Luke 9:23** What does following Jesus cost? *Saying no to yourself, every day.*
- **Matthew 28:19–20** What job does He give us? *Go and tell.*

0:25 ### Do: The 60-second challenge

In pairs, tell the whole story in 60 seconds, counting the seven words on your fingers. Swap and go faster. Give everyone a bookmark, and a response card to fill in privately.

0:40 ### Live it: Real life

Talk through the case on their sheet. Then answer the big question together (see right).

0:50 ### Pray: Respond

Read A, B, C from the book. Invite anyone who wants to follow Jesus to pray, and to fill in a response card. Add "HOME" to the seven words.

0:55 ### Done

Memory verse

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away."

Revelation 21:4 (CSB)

Answering the big question

That's cartoons, not the Bible. God makes a new heaven and a new earth, better than Eden: no death, no pain, and God living with us (Revelation 21:1–5). Everything good, nothing broken.

Handle with care

Invite, never pressure. Read response cards privately and follow up one-on-one. Tell parents if a child decides to follow Jesus.

You need

A screen, Bibles, student sheets
Whiteboard, red marker
Timer, bookmarks and response cards (extras)

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HOME

Jesus is bringing me home. Who am I bringing?

1 Think

Isn't heaven just sitting on clouds forever? Sounds boring.

2 Read

Look up **Luke 9:23**. What does following Jesus cost?

3 Live it

Your best friend thinks church is weird. You're nervous they'll laugh. What's one small step you could take?

> **"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away."**
> Revelation 21:4

The gospel in 7 words: MADE · BROKEN · GUILTY · LOCKED OUT · PAID · ALIVE · **HOME**

This week's challenge: Tell one friend the seven words, or give them a QR card for the book.
Grown-ups: hear the book together at thewaybackhome.net, then ask, "Isn't heaven just sitting on clouds forever? Sounds boring."

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Debt cards

For weeks 4 and 5. Cut out one per student. In week 4, collect them. Before week 5, write PAID IN FULL across each one in red.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT **No. 6:23**

Name: _____

Owed to: God, the Judge of all the earth

For: every lie, every unkind word, every time I put myself first, every time I ignored God…

Amount: **EVERYTHING**

"For the wages of sin is death…" Romans 6:23

Status:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT **No. 6:23**

Name: _____

Owed to: God, the Judge of all the earth

For: every lie, every unkind word, every time I put myself first, every time I ignored God…

Amount: **EVERYTHING**

"For the wages of sin is death…" Romans 6:23

Status:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT **No. 6:23**

Name: _____

Owed to: God, the Judge of all the earth

For: every lie, every unkind word, every time I put myself first, every time I ignored God…

Amount: **EVERYTHING**

"For the wages of sin is death…" Romans 6:23

Status:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT **No. 6:23**

Name: _____

Owed to: God, the Judge of all the earth

For: every lie, every unkind word, every time I put myself first, every time I ignored God…

Amount: **EVERYTHING**

"For the wages of sin is death…" Romans 6:23

Status:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT **No. 6:23**

Name: _____

Owed to: God, the Judge of all the earth

For: every lie, every unkind word, every time I put myself first, every time I ignored God…

Amount: **EVERYTHING**

"For the wages of sin is death…" Romans 6:23

Status:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT **No. 6:23**

Name: _____

Owed to: God, the Judge of all the earth

For: every lie, every unkind word, every time I put myself first, every time I ignored God…

Amount: **EVERYTHING**

"For the wages of sin is death…" Romans 6:23

Status:

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Evidence board

For week 6. One set per team. Cut on the dashed lines. Test each theory against the evidence.

EVIDENCE 1

The tomb was empty

Even Jesus' enemies didn't deny it. They made up a story that the body was stolen.

Matthew 28:11–15

EVIDENCE 2

Guards and a sealed stone

Soldiers guarded the tomb, and the huge stone was sealed.

Matthew 27:62–66

EVIDENCE 3

More than 500 witnesses

Over 500 people saw Him alive at one time, and most were still alive to ask when Paul wrote.

1 Corinthians 15:6

EVIDENCE 4

Women found it first

Back then, women weren't trusted as witnesses in court. If you made the story up, you wouldn't say women found it.

Luke 24:1–11

EVIDENCE 5

Scared men became bold

The disciples hid in fear. Weeks later they preached in public, and faced prison and beatings rather than stop.

Acts 4:18–20; 5:40–42

EVIDENCE 6

His brother changed

James, Jesus' brother, didn't believe in Him. Then Jesus appeared to him, and James became a leader of the church.

John 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:7

TEST IT

Theory: the body was stolen

Past armed guards and a sealed stone? And would the disciples then suffer for a lie they knew they made up?

TEST IT

Theory: the wrong tomb

Then the enemies just had to open the right tomb and show the body. They never did.

TEST IT

Theory: He didn't really die

Roman soldiers were experts at execution, and a spear was thrust into His side (John 19:34). A half-dead man couldn't roll the stone and convince people he'd beaten death.

TEST IT

Theory: they imagined it

Over 500 people don't share one dream. He ate fish with them and they touched Him (Luke 24:39–43).

Gospel-in-7 bookmarks

For week 7. Cut on the dashed lines. One to keep, more to give away.

The gospel in 7 words

1. **MADE**
   God made me to know Him.
   Genesis 1:27
2. **BROKEN**
   We didn't trust Him, and sin broke everything.
   Genesis 3
3. **GUILTY**
   Everyone has sinned. Me too.
   Romans 3:23
4. **LOCKED OUT**
   Sin earns death. I can't pay it.
   Romans 6:23
5. **PAID**
   Jesus died in my place.
   2 Corinthians 5:21
6. **ALIVE**
   He rose again!
   1 Corinthians 15:3–4
7. **HOME**
   Turn and trust Him. He brings you home.
   Romans 10:9

Hear the whole story:
thewaybackhome.net

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Response cards

For week 7. Cut out one per student. Read them privately and follow up one-on-one.

Where am I?

Only your teacher will read this.

☐ I have already trusted Jesus.

☐ I want to follow Jesus, starting today.

☐ I'm not sure yet. I have questions:

_____

_____

☐ Not right now.

Name: _____

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