

First Person, Five Minute, Bridge Illustration (ESV)

Michael R. Daily, June 2013

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May I share with you how I became a Christian? It only takes 5 minutes.

(Take out a blank sheet of paper. Draw the two sides and label, "MAN" and "GOD").

As a child my parents took me to church to learn about God and the Bible. I learned that I was a sinner separated from God. (Write: "ISAIAH 53:6").

Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned — every one — to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

I also learned that I was dead to God. (Write: "ROMANS 6:23").

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

And I realized I was heading for judgment. (Write: "HEBREWS 9:27").

Hebrews 9:27 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

In college, I was invited to attend a Bible study - so I did. This is where I learned that God loved me and wanted to give me eternal life. (Write: "JOHN 3:16").

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

He also wanted me to have an abundant life on the Earth. (Write: "JOHN 10:10").

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

In order to give me these gifts, God decided to come to the Earth in the form of a man named Jesus Christ. (Draw the CROSS). Jesus paid for my sins by shedding His blood and dying on the cross. He was buried and 3 days later He rose from the dead. By doing this, Jesus became a bridge for me to cross back over to God's side and have life. (Write: "1 PETER 2:24").

1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

In order to cross back over to God's side I had to do 2 things. First, I had to believe these things that we are talking about. (Write: "BELIEVE" and under it write "JOHN 5:24").

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

(Draw the arrow from Man's side to God's side)

Second, I had to RECEIVE Christ as my Lord and Savior. (Write: "RECEIVE" and under it write "JOHN 1:12").

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

So, when I was 18 I prayed and asked Christ to come into my life as my Lord and Savior: “Lord I know I could never be good enough to earn my way to heaven. Thank you for paying for my sins by dying on the cross. Please come into my life right now and be my Lord and Savior”.

The moment I prayed that prayer God gave me eternal life and I can never lose it, because I didn’t do anything to earn it. (Write: “EPHESIANS 2:8-9”).

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Since becoming a Christian, Christ has changed my life for the better. (Write: “II CORINTHIANS 5:17”).

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

And I know for sure – 100 percent for sure - that when I die I will live in heaven with God forever. (Write: “I JOHN 5:13”).

I John 5:13 - I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- 1) If this is true, how would a person cross over to God’s side? (if they are not sure or get it wrong just tell them – “believe these things & pray to receive Christ as Lord and Savior”)
- 2) If this is true, where would you be on this bridge? (if they say anything other than God’s side ask question 3, if they say “God’s side” ask them when they received Christ. If they don’t know then ask question 3, if they really are already a Christian thank them for letting you share this with them).
- 3) Would you like to pray to receive Christ right now? (If they say “yes” then take their hand and pray with them to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. If they say “no” ask them if they would like to meet with you to study the Bible and learn more about these things. If they still say no thank them for letting you share this with them).

Draw the illustration below on a piece of paper while you are speaking. Let them keep the paper:

