

Date: January 23 & 24, 2010
Text: various
Topic: The Gospel. Evangelism.
Series: Evangelism 101
CD #: 10-04

Focal Point Radio Ministries

Dr. Mike Fabarez

Mastering the Gospel

Making Sure We Deliver the Right Message



1. Avoid _____



2. Know _____

The Components

The Facts

The Implications

| | | |
|---|----|------|
| 1 | 1A | 1Ai |
| | 1B | 1Bi |
| | 1C | 1Ci |
| | 1D | 1Di |
| 2 | 2A | 2Ai |
| | 2B | 2Bi |
| 3 | 3A | 3Ai |
| | 3B | 3Bi |
| | 3C | 3Ci |
| | 3D | 3Di |
| 4 | 4A | 4Ai |
| | | 4Aii |
| | 4B | 4Bi |
| | | 4Bii |

3. Learn _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others

1. Read **2 Timothy 4:3-5** and **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**. How do words like "steward" and "trustworthy" help to elevate your vigilance regarding your need for precision and accuracy regarding the gospel?

What are some of the common distortions of the gospel that you see being tragically embraced by many today?

2. Review the "gospel chart" we covered during point two of the sermon. What are some of "The Facts" of the gospel message that are commonly overlooked, minimized or left unexplained?

How would you respond to those who say they "feel led" to only emphasize the "good parts" of the gospel?

3. The required response to the message of the gospel is obviously under attack today. Look up the following verses and describe how the biblical "call" compares to many of today's "invitations" to become Christians. **Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:3; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 3:19 and Acts 17:30-31.**

4. How proficient would you say you are in being able to "talk through" the meaning and implications of the gospel message? What can you do to gain a greater mastery over this important material?

5. To whom will you present the gospel this month?

Bible Reading Schedule

Go to ESV.org (*Reading Plans: Through the Bible*) for schedule prompts.

January 24th

Ex. 7-8 & Mt. 17

January 25th

Ex. 9-10 & Mt. 18:1-20

January 26th

Ex. 11-12 & Mt. 18:21-35

January 27th

Ex. 13-15 & Mt. 19:1-15

January 28th

Ex. 16-18 & Mt. 19:16-30

January 29th

Ex. 19-21 & Mt. 20:1-16

January 30th

Ex. 22-24 & Mt. 20:17-34

January 31st

Ex. 25-26 & Mt. 21:1-22

Here is a list of other recorded sermons by Pastor Mike which may assist you in your further study of today's message.

CD # 0815 – **How to Get Eternal Life: The Only Right Response**

CD # 0614 – **A Crash Course in Repentance & Faith**

CD # 0519 – **Understanding God-Induced Repentance & Faith**

CD # 0503 – **Avoiding the Mistake of Tinkering with the Gospel**

CD # 0564 – **Understanding the Primary Components of the Good News**

CD # 9724 – **But I've Always Been a "Christian"**

Here are some resources which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in this week's sermon.

Chantry, Walter J. **Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic?** Banner of Truth, 1970.

House, Paul et al. **Who Will Be Saved? The Biblical Understanding of God, Salvation & Evangelism.** CB Books, 2000.

MacArthur, John. **The Gospel According to Jesus, revised edition.** Zondervan, 1994.

Metzger, Will. **Tell The Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People.** InterVarsity, 1984.

Miller, C. John. **Repentance and the 20th Century Man.** Christian Literature Crusade, 1975.

Moody, Dwight L. **Only Trust Him.** Vine Books, 1988.

Nash, Ronald H. **Is Jesus the Only Savior?** Zondervan, 1994.

Roberts, Richard Owen. **Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel.** Crossway Books, 2002.

Sproul, R. C. **Getting the Gospel Right: The Tie That Binds Evangelicals Together.** Baker Books, 1999.

Spurgeon, C. H. **All of Grace.** Whitaker House, 1985.

Watson, Thomas. **The Doctrine of Repentance.** Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1987.

We cannot rightly deliver the message of the gospel to others until we have a clear understanding of what the gospel is and is not. That is why we took time this weekend to review the central biblical components of the gospel message, making sure we resonate with the gospel's emphasis and urgency.

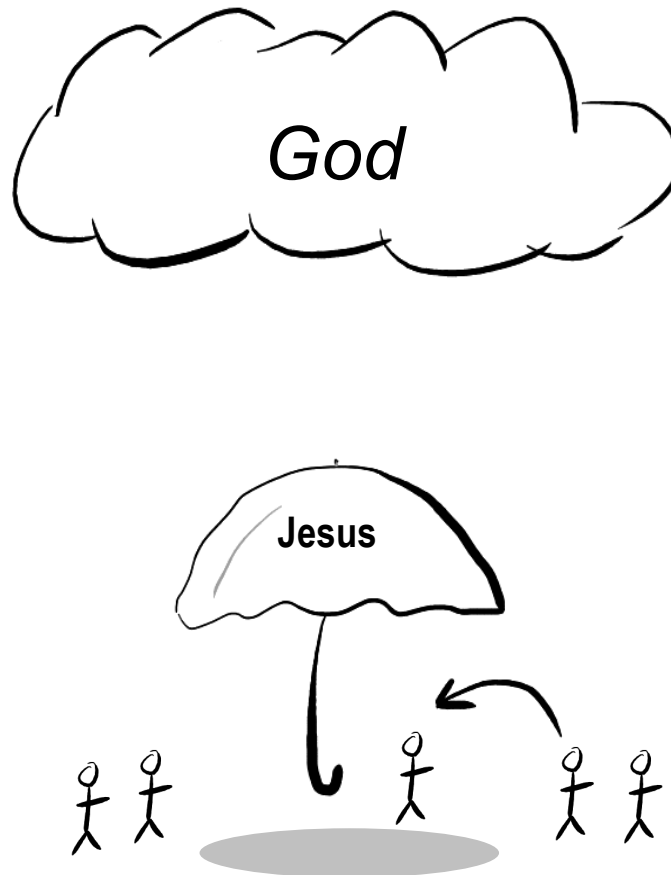
In hopes of assisting you in communicating the gospel content to others with an appropriate biblical emphasis and urgency, I want to provide you with my offering on how that might be concisely done. Having used other diagrams and illustrations over the years, I have chosen to create an alternative that I believe captures more accurately the urgency and arrangement of the components of the gospel message as presented in the New Testament.

I trust that as this presentation is committed to memory it might serve you in those situations when you want to sketch out for a friend or neighbor the essence of the message of the gospel.

-- Pastor Mike

The Umbrella Illustration

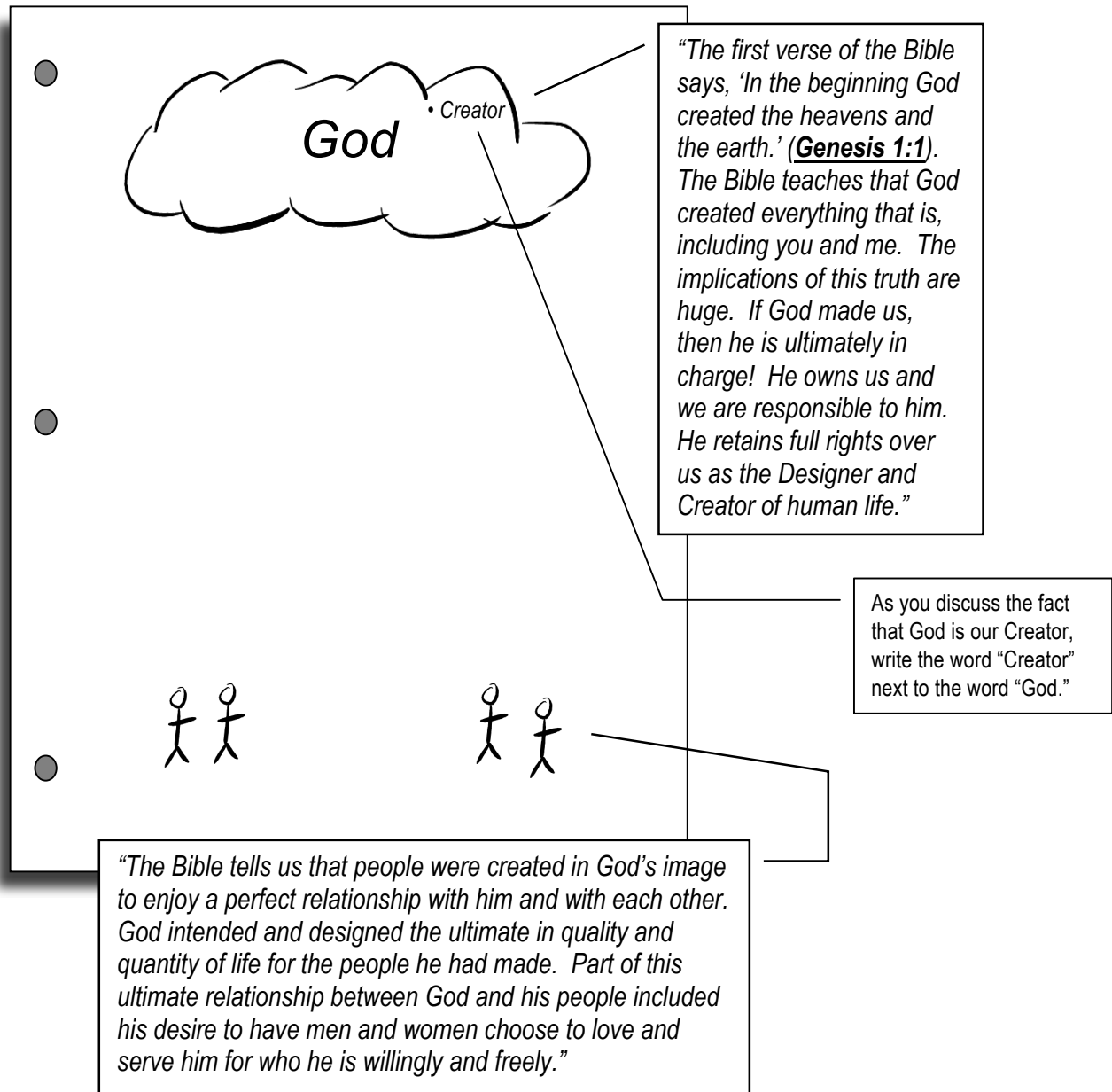
The umbrella illustration is designed to communicate the core message of salvation through an analogy people can easily understand. The umbrella diagram is designed to be simple enough for you to draw yourself when sharing the gospel with others. This can prove to be a helpful visual aid in showing people's need for forgiveness and God's gracious provision through Jesus Christ. Remember that the illustration and diagram are only supplements for a thorough explanation of each element of the gospel message which we will cover on the pages to follow. If you can draw the basic elements below, then you can effectively use the umbrella illustration when sharing the good news!



For more help in sharing the umbrella illustration go to:

www.sharetheumbrella.com

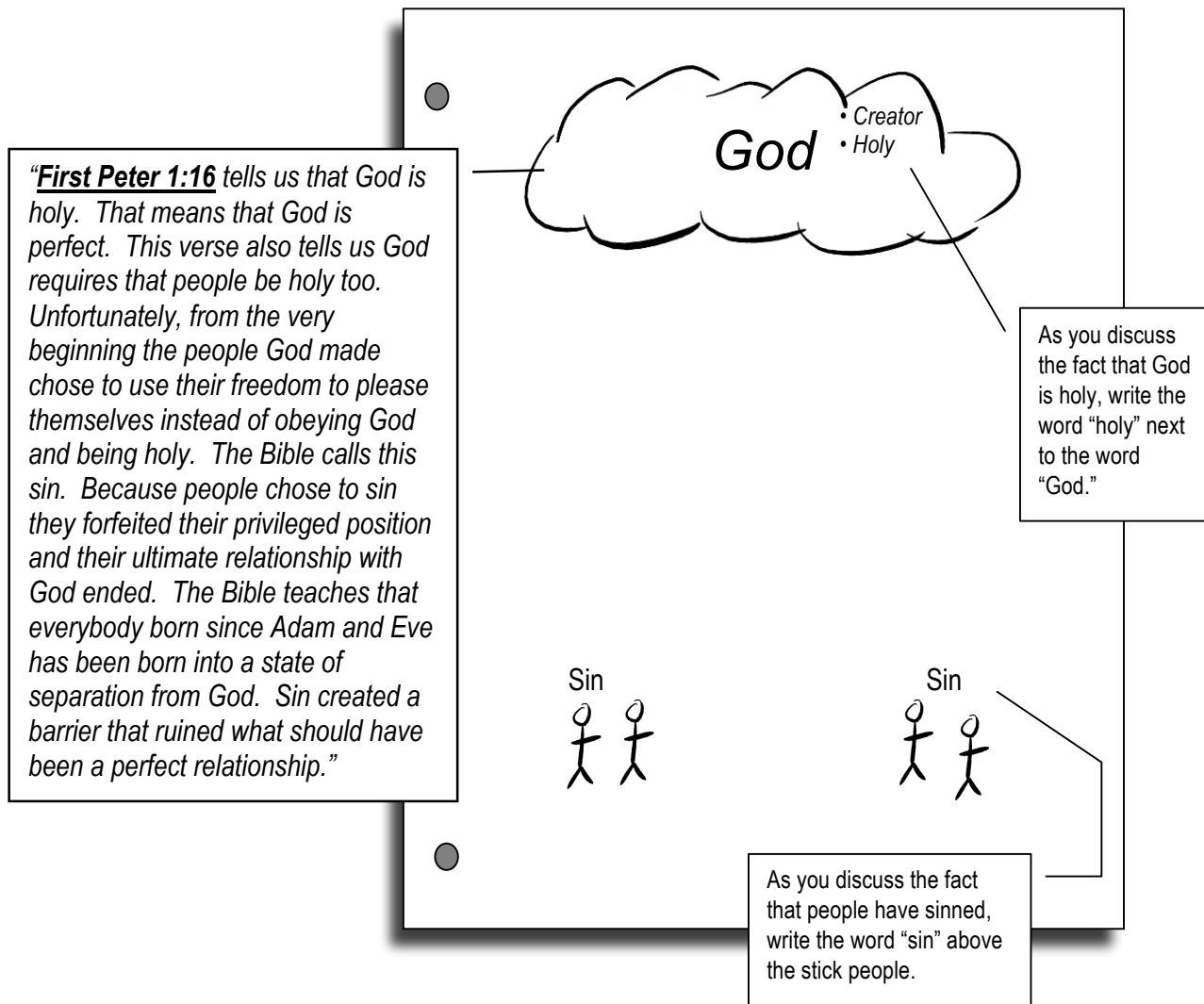
Step 1: Draw these first two elements (the cloud with the word “God” in the middle of it and the stick figures) and explain...



When talking about the implications of God being our Creator, you may have a few illustrations of your own. Ownership has a variety of implications that are key in realizing why the “God issue” must be addressed by everyone!

When talking about God creating people be sure to emphasize the goodness of God! Recall in your own mind the early chapters of Genesis where God gives Adam and Eve every possible advantage – a perfect world, perfect health, perfect relationships, etc.

Step 2: Write the words “holy” and “sin” in their appropriate places and explain...

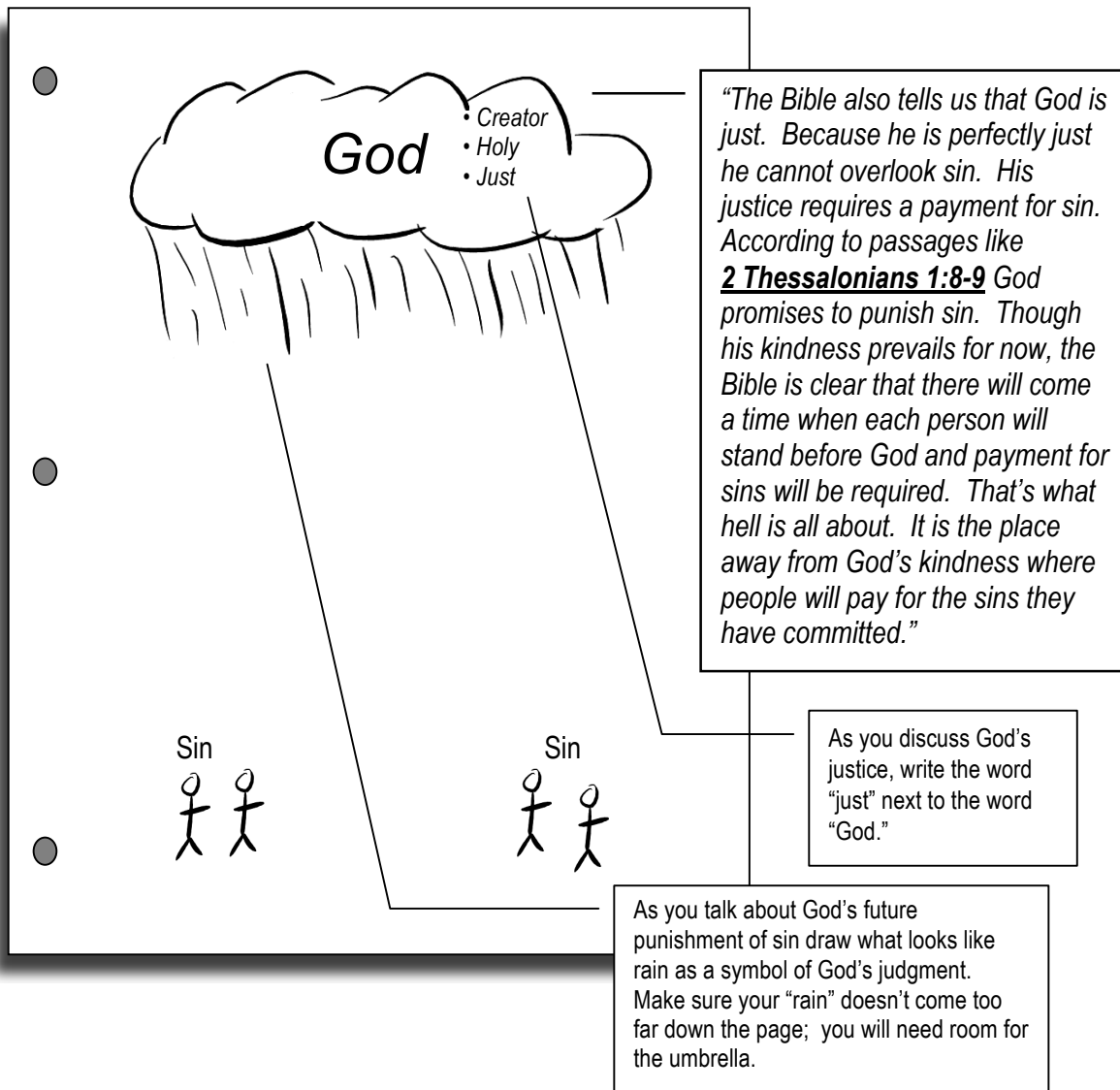


Often it is helpful to actually show the person the verses you are talking about (the verses that are underlined). It is excellent if you commit them to memory! At least know the gist of each verse and where it is found.

When discussing the problem of sin, another helpful verse is Isaiah 59:2 (*“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he does not hear.”*). You might want to utilize the wording of this passage in explaining the separation that sin caused.

It is important to make the distinction between Adam’s sinful act that led to separation and our sinful acts that stem from a state of separation. Though our choices confirm Adam’s choice, his sin was quite different from ours. This is important, as Romans 5:12-19 says, because Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us in the same way as Adam’s sin was imputed to us.

Step 3: Write the word “just” in the appropriate place and draw what looks like rain coming from the cloud while continuing your explanation...



This may seem an uncomfortable part of the gospel presentation. Few people like talking about or hearing about “hell” and “God’s wrath,” but they are essential elements of the gospel. The good news will mean little, if the bad news is not made crystal clear.

Don’t be ashamed of sharing the bad news. The pattern of New Testament evangelism that God left for us to study in the book of Acts focuses hard on the sobering reality of what our sins will cost us if we don’t “get saved”!

As mentioned above, God’s kindness prevails for now. His patience and grace prior to his day of judgment should not lull us into believing that God will go easy on sin; it should, as Romans 2:4 says, lead people to repentance (see also 2 Peter 3:9).

Step 4: Write the word “loving” in the appropriate place and draw an umbrella labeling it “Jesus” while continuing your explanation...

*“Thankfully, the Bible also tells us that God is loving (**1Jn.4:8**). In his love for sinful and separated people God has provided a solution – a way out for people who otherwise would have no hope! This is the “good news.” Much like an umbrella God has provided Jesus, his own Son – God in human form – who has endured the punishment that we deserve so that we won’t have to. As God, Jesus lived the perfect life for us as well as incurring the wrath of God for us while dying on the cross (**2Cor.5:21**). Because the umbrella is rained on, there is a place beneath it that isn’t – so it is with Christ! After living the life we needed and dying the death we deserved, Jesus rose from the dead to prove to the world that sin and the penalty for sin had been adequately dealt with.”*

God

- Creator
- Holy
- Just
- Loving

Jesus

Sin Sin

As you talk about God’s love, write the word “loving” next to the word “God.”

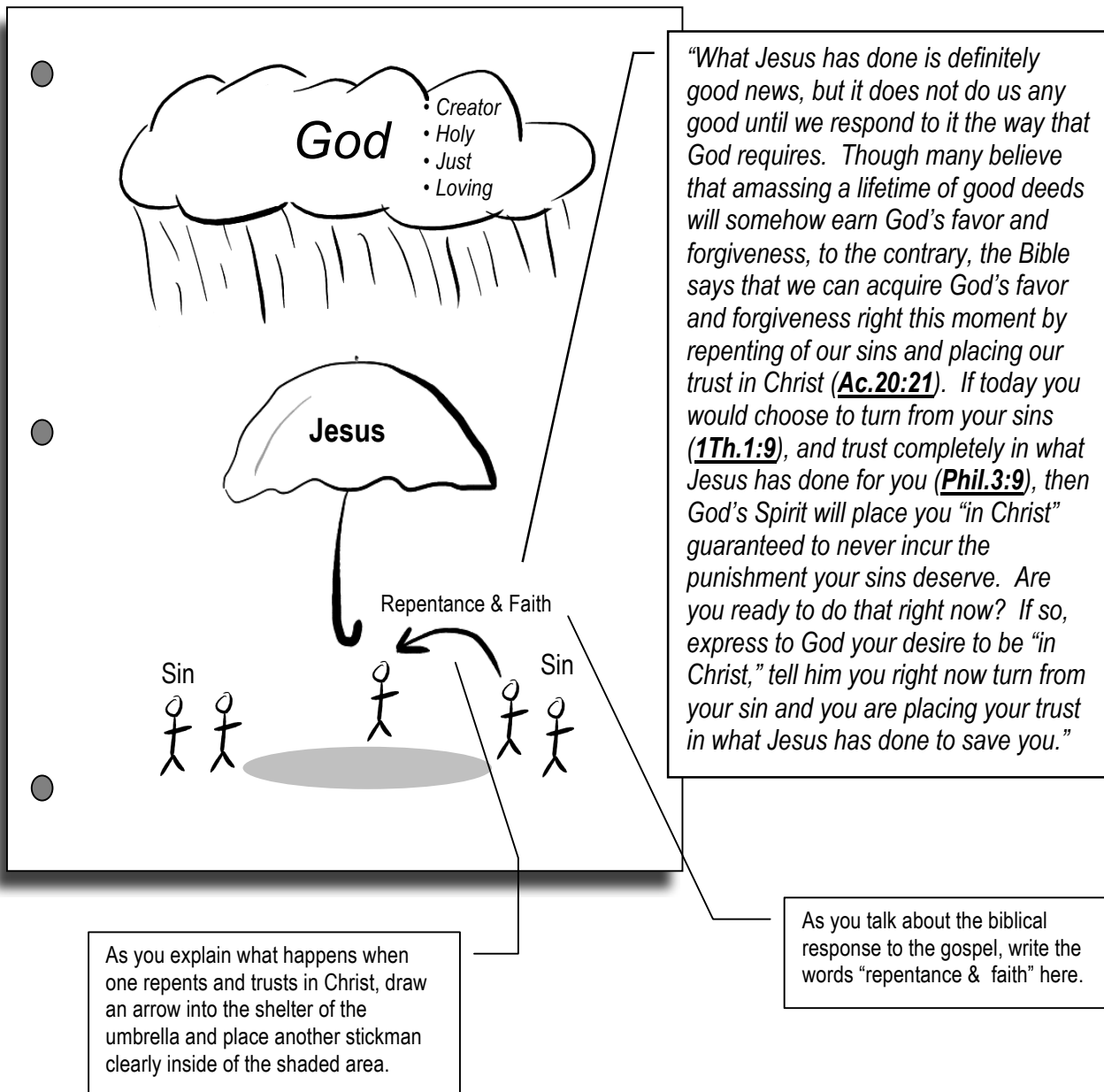
As you talk about Jesus draw the umbrella and write the word “Jesus” inside of it.

As you talk about Jesus providing a place where God’s wrath won’t be, shade in this area, but make sure that the stickmen are not inside the shaded area... yet!

This is the heart of the good news – God’s solution! Don’t be afraid to spend a good percentage of your time on this step. Make sure you adequately explain: 1) who Jesus is; 2) that Jesus served as our substitute in his life and his death; and 3) that Jesus rose again as a testimony to his completed work on our behalf.

In underscoring God’s incredible love it can be helpful (if you have any artistic skill at all) to draw an arm coming out of the cloud holding the umbrella as a shelter from his wrath. Whether you can do this or not, just make sure you give God the credit he deserves for loving sinners enough to provide us with such a costly solution for our sins!

Step 5: Draw an arrow and another stickman that is clearly in the shelter of the umbrella! Write the words “repentance & faith” above the arrow and explain...



This is the step where you should work hard to explain what it means to “repent” and place “faith” in Jesus. Use synonyms like “turning” and “trusting” to get the point across. Be sure and clarify that the “sin” we turn from is our whole life apart from Christ. Drive home the fact that repentance involves a brand new life orientation (see 2 Corinthians 5:15). Be certain that there is a clear understanding that when we trust in Christ to save us, we are called to trust in Christ *alone* (see again Philippians 3:9). As you conclude your explanation of the gospel you should state that genuine repentance and faith will initiate a new relationship with God’s Spirit, and this will not leave a person unchanged – and that change will last for the rest of one’s life!

Don’t end your conversation without clearly asking the person to make the right response! Don’t be shy at this point (see 2 Corinthians 5:20)!