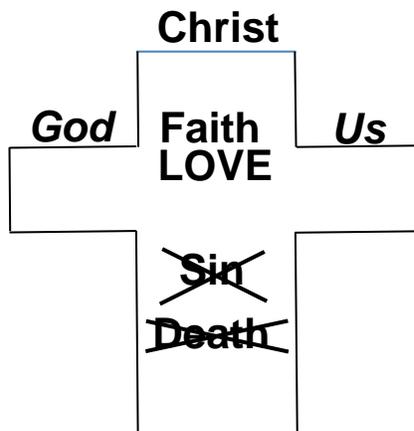


Journey Illustration

The Journey Illustration is an evangelistic tool to help us share our faith with others more effectively. It shows how the payment of Christ for the penalty of sin makes it possible for a broken relationship with God to be restored. There are five parts to *The Journey*; with each part supported by a Scripture verse and a corresponding illustration. The following five “P” words describe *The Journey*:

- 1) The *Problem* in life is sin, of which all are guilty.
- 2) The *Penalty* that results from this problem is death.
- 3) The *Payment* for sin comes through the death of Jesus.
- 4) The *Process* necessary to receive this payment is faith.
- 5) The *Purpose* of faith is love expressed in reconciliation.



<i>Problem</i> is SIN	Romans 3:23	Darts/Dartboard
“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”		
<i>Penalty</i> is DEATH	Romans 6:23	Wage/Gift
“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”		
<i>Payment</i> is CHRIST	Romans 8:3	Judge/Justice
“God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.”		
<i>Process</i> is FAITH	Romans 10:9	Check/Cash
“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”		
<i>Purpose</i> is LOVE	Romans 13:10	Invest/Return
“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”		

* Verses displayed above are from the English Standard Version (ESV)

The first illustration, Darts/Dartboard, which corresponds to the *Problem* of Sin, goes like this: God is love and out of love He created us to enjoy a personal relationship with Him forever, but true love must be free to choose between the interests of God or self. Sadly, and tragically, we chose to please self before God, thus causing the problem of separation. Consider a game of darts with rules that require one to hit the bulls-eye of a dartboard every time in order to win. If you hit the bulls-eye four out of five times, and I hit it only once, who wins? The answer is neither, since the rules require a bulls-eye every time. God's standard is perfection; thus, one sin is enough to separate us from Him.

The second illustration, Wage/Gift, which corresponds to the *Penalty* of Death, goes like this: You have a job, and earn a wage for the work you do. Conversely, a gift is not something earned, but a blessing given at the expense of someone else. We have earned the wage of death for our works of sin against God, but the Father has chosen to give us the gift of life at the expense of His Son, Jesus.

The third illustration, Judge/Justice, which corresponds to the *Payment* of Christ, goes like this: You are arrested for a crime that carries the death penalty. When you appear in court, the judge asks for you to plead guilty or innocent. Knowing that the evidence against you is overwhelming, you answer, "Guilty, your honor." The judge responds by declaring, "Guilty as charged; the sentence is death." You feel hopeless until you hear the judge say, "I offer you a way out." He then rises, comes to your side, and says, "I will pay the price for you with my life in order that justice may be served, and that you may go free." God is the judge who came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins with His life by dying on a cross to redeem us from the penalty of death.

The fourth illustration, Check/Cash, which corresponds to the *Process* of Faith, goes like this: If you accept payment from someone in the form of a check, you show faith in that person to have sufficient funds in a bank account. However, the check is of no use until you exchange it for cash. Likewise, faith in God is not merely acknowledging His gift of salvation, but acting upon it by trusting in Jesus to give what He offers, which is eternal life through His death on our behalf.

The fifth illustration, Invest/Return, which corresponds to the *Purpose* of Love, goes like this: If you invest money in a company, you do so with the expectation of getting a return. This is the purpose of any investment. When the Father invests His love in us through the death of His Son and power of His Spirit, He expects a return on His investment. The return is God's love working in and through our lives, transforming us into agents and instruments of reconciliation.

The Journey may be shared in this way: God is love, and out of love He created us to enjoy a perfect relationship with Him forever. But love is free; it cannot be forced. Sadly, tragically, we chose to go our own way, divorcing ourselves from a relationship with God. This is a problem; the problem is sin (Romans 3:23). Our sin carries a penalty; the penalty is death (Romans 6:23). Penalties must be paid; the payment is Christ (Romans 8:3). Payments must be processed; the process is faith (Romans 10:9). Faith has a purpose, which is love expressed as reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ (Romans 13:10).