



Making a decision to follow Jesus is the most important decision we can make. As volunteers, leading someone through this decision is one of the greatest privileges we can have. God is preparing people's hearts long before we meet them and this moment is when we invite people into eternal life. Peter wrote, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15) As EBC volunteers you may have this opportunity and we want you to be prepared to lead people to Christ.

This is one way, not the only way, of leading someone to Christ. This method is taken from what is commonly referred to as the Romans Road, as it is guided by four verses in the book of Romans.

Framework for the Conversation:

This framework is meant to guide you through three simple portions of the conversation.

1. **Their Story** - it's important to hear their story. Start by asking a question like "*What brought you to this point?*" Listen for both their **felt need** and **sin pattern**. If someone has been dealing with infidelity in their marriage, you might notice a **felt need** of confusion or loneliness, and a **sin pattern** of adultery or promiscuity. With careful listening you will know how you can pray for them later in your conversation.
2. **My Story** – You do not need to share your own personal story, but by *recalling* your story, your **felt need** and **sin pattern** will be helpful for you to empathize with them. Even if you've never been in their shoes, you are a sinner and have struggled with your own issues that brought you to the point when you began a relationship with Jesus. Letting them know you connect to their story will help them to connect with you and give you credibility as their guide. Say something like, "Though my personal situation is different, I can relate to how you are feeling."
3. **His Story** – This is where you will spend most of your time. Our sin, God's love, Jesus' sacrifice, and the gift of eternal life are parts of the most beautiful love story ever told. It is a story that we should know and memorize so that when we share it, it comes naturally.

Romans Road:

This road through the book of Romans will guide a person through four concepts about how we can have a relationship with God and inherit eternal life. They illustrate the concepts of sin, the penalty of sin, sacrificial love, and the decision to confess and believe.

Whenever possible have a Bible with you and show them where the verses appear, but remember we want you as a prayer volunteer to know and memorize these verses. As you read the verses out loud, keep in mind the meaning behind the words that tell His story.

Stops along Romans Road:

1. **Romans 3:23** – "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**"
 - a. Sin – to miss the mark by not living the way God designed us to live (being our own life leader; not living a God directed life).
 - b. All – we all, the entire creation, is sinful.
2. **Romans 6:23** – "**For the wages of sin is death.**"
 - a. Death – infers two types of death; spiritual death and physical death. We know we will all face a physical death, but spiritual death is the eternal separation from God that results in spending an eternity in hell. Spend some time on this as it may be a new concept to the person you are speaking to.
 - b. Wages – something we earn or deserve. Now for the bad news—the payment for our sin is death (but this is only a part of the story).



3. **Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**
 - a. God demonstrated his own love – we chose to live apart from God and have been living a self-directed life. God knows that it is impossible for us to defeat our sin, so He provided an escape for us. Through His love, grace, forgiveness and mercy He sent His son to rescue us from our despair. The person you are talking with may be experiencing this despair by thinking God will not forgive them of their past sin. God forgives all sin.
 - b. Christ died for us – Jesus, who was sinless and deserved no penalty, died as a sacrifice for our sin. Jesus is God’s solution to rescuing us from our sin.

4. **Romans 10:9-10 – “If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”**
 - a. Confess – we need to confess that we’ve been living a self-directed life and are now choosing to live a God-directed life.
 - b. “Jesus is Lord” – saying out loud that we now choose to live every part of our life fully directed toward and by God.
 - c. Believing - to know in our heart that God, Jesus, sin, death, and the resurrection are real and that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and defeated death by rising from the dead (resurrection).
 - d. Raised from the Dead - proof that God has the power to defeat both types of death – physical and spiritual death. And if we “*believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, [we] will be saved.*”

The Question:

Here are some ways to ask the most important question you will ever ask anyone:

- Are you ready to follow Jesus?
- Are you ready to make this decision?
- Are you ready to make Jesus Christ your life-leader?
- Are you ready to make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?

If they say yes, the next step is to pray for and with them.

A Two Part Prayer

1. Personal Prayer - pray for them concerning their sin pattern. They will feel the weight of their sin throughout the conversation. Praying for them will help them to process through it, allow you to care, and invites God into the conversation.
2. Repeating Prayer - use short and simple sentences and ask them to repeat (out loud) after you. “I’m going to start by praying for you and then I will invite you to pray with me by having you repeat what I say.”

Suggested themes to include in your prayer:

- Sin – “*God I have been living my way...*”
- Repentance – “*I want to turn from my way and sin...*”
- Confession – “*I want you to be my Lord and Savior...*”
- Spirit – “*Holy Spirit come into my life and make today and everyday new for me...*”

After you complete the prayer, congratulate them on becoming a part of God’s family. Let them know that this moment has marked the beginning of their relationship with God and a new future. Get their contact information so that we can follow-up with them. If you are at one of EBC’s campuses, you can use the form (paper or electronic) located on the Next Steps boards in the lobby.



Reference the materials that are available for all new believers for free— a Following Jesus Booklet and Bible. At the campus, these resources can be found at Info Central at the campus. Encourage them to pursue spiritual growth by growing in our five values—follow Jesus, spend time with God daily, serve others, connect in community, and live generously.

This is an incredible life changing moment for a new Christian. Just as Peter said, we want you to, *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* You never know when these moments will happen, but it will be important for your response to be second nature to you. Commit to practicing this conversation and even try role-playing so that you can become more and more comfortable leading someone to Christ. Look for opportunities to try out what you’ve learned by asking others if they have invited Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. You’ve got nothing to lose, and they have everything to gain.