

## **Gospel pitches**

Saint Peter wrote, ‘Always be prepared to make a defence to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you.’ The best way to be prepared is to write out very briefly how you would explain the gospel. Here are some examples which you may use if you wish, but it is probably better if you write out and use your own explanation.

### **Mini starter pitch**

Shall I tell you some good news?

God loves you and has a purpose for your life, which he will show you if you want him to. Would you like to know more? (Go to 2 minute check-out pitch.)

### **1 minute elevator pitch**

What exactly is the good news that Jesus Christ brought into the world? It is that everlasting life is available to everyone who will turn to God in repentance for their unbelief and rebellion against his laws, who accepts Jesus Christ his Son as Saviour and Lord, and who publicly begins a new life in love with Jesus by baptism into the family of God. In return God will enable you to live as he meant you to live, through his gift of the Holy Spirit, and he promises to raise you from the dead just as he raised Jesus after his crucifixion, so that you can live with Jesus as king for ever in a perfect new earth to come.

### **2 minute check-out pitch** (Learn on five fingers)

1. God loves you and has a purpose for your life which will last forever.
2. However, neither you nor anyone else has lived as God meant us to live. We have all become infected by a spiritual disease called sin, which means that God cannot allow us to continue to live for ever. The Bible says, “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” And, “*The wages (or result) of sin is death.*”
3. To rescue us, God came into the world in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life, full of truth and love. He overcame the power of sin, and then he overcame death by dying in a public crucifixion and returning to full life again two days later in a manner which has been described as the best attested fact of ancient history. The Bible says, ‘*God so loved the world (which includes you) that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*’
4. The living Jesus offers you free forgiveness for your sins and a new everlasting life, if you will believe in him and commit yourself to live in obedience to him as your Saviour and Lord forever. “*There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”
5. If you truly wish to begin a new life with the help of Jesus, you can do that right now, by mean of a simple prayer. Jesus said, “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him...*” Would you like me to help you say that prayer of commitment now?

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### **4 minute bus queue pitch** (Learn on ten fingers)

May I tell you a true story?

1. Many years ago God created a perfect world with the intention that we should enjoy living in it in fellowship with him for ever.
  2. The first two people he made disobeyed him, and as a result all kinds of things went wrong. Their first child committed murder and everyone became infected by a horrible disease called sin, which is what causes all the trouble in the world today.
  3. As a result, God could no longer allow us to live for ever, so after 80 years or so our bodies now wear out and die.
  4. But God still loves us and he wants to set us free from this spiritual disease called sin. So just over 2000 years ago he came into the world himself as a man called Jesus Christ, who was really God in human form.
  5. Jesus came into the world to do three things:
    1. To show us what God is like.
    2. To live a complete human life without sin of any kind so that he could share that life with us.
    3. To prove that we *can* live for ever if we allow him to change us by entrusting our lives to him as Saviour and Lord. He proved this by voluntarily dying in a public execution which no one could deny and then by coming back to life and meeting so many people that no one could deny he had conquered death.
  6. It is as though Jesus deliberately got himself infected and killed by Covid, but then returned to life with Covid antibodies, which he can now share with us by a kind of spiritual blood transfusion when we join ourselves to him by being baptized. The Bible says, '*The blood of Jesus God's Son cleanses us from all sin.*' And, "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved.*"
  7. When enough people have come back to God he is going to bring an end to this world and start again with a new earth in which nature itself will be at peace once more and those who have entrusted themselves to Jesus as Saviour can live with him for ever, just as he originally intended.
  8. We cannot save ourselves, any more than we can cure ourselves from Covid: only Jesus can. "*There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Only Jesus has lived without sin, and only Jesus has conquered death.
  9. God wants to save you from sin and death, and he will do this if you will commit yourself to live in loving obedience to Jesus and his commandments forever, with the help that he will give you. The Bible says, '*God so loved the world (which includes you) that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*'
  10. You can begin this new life of friendship with Jesus right now if you want to, by speaking to him in a prayer that I can help you with. He said, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him...*" Would you like to invite Jesus Christ into your life now, as your Lord and Saviour?
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