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INTRODUCTION

"HE WHO COVETS A SOUL, DRAWS WATER FROM A FOUNTAIN; BUT HE WHO TRAINS A SOUL-WINNER DIGS A WELL, FROM WHICH THOUSANDS MAY DRINK TO LIFE ETERNAL."SPURGEON

Congratulations on making the decision to be a soul-winner for our Lord Jesus Christ. The time and energy spent studying this book will repay itself many times over in your personal soul winning and for all eternity. You will quickly discover that there are really only a few basic questions stated a great number of ways. Don't be intimidated by the size or amount of material. It's really pretty simple. Getting started is the hardest part. It quickly will all fall together and you will be a confident soul winner.

The real POWER in soul winning is in the Word of God. Be sure to use the scriptures as your primary focus. The additional material is to keep the conversation going and to point out what the Scriptures say.

Each chapter of the workbook corresponds with that same chapter in THE SOUL WINNERS GUIDE. Each Chapter is broken down into 6 sections:

1.POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

Like a doctor tries to discover what is wrong with a patient before he suggests a cure this section suggests what the person may be thinking when he offers this excuse. This is helpful to know when you begin the transition to the salvation presentation.

2.OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED

When you begin to see the similarity of the excuses you will be able to remember the key scriptures and feel a confidence that you can be an effective soul winner without

memorizing the whole Bible. It makes it easier to get started and with a little practice it helps you to make a quicker diagnosis of where the persons real point of need is.

3.TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

These are suggested questions you can ask that will guide the prospective believer to The Word, help him see his excuse for what it is, and guide him to salvation.

4.SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

A collection of additional material and insights that may be helpful to shed light on the question or answer other related questions that often arise.

5.KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

A suggested memory verse that summarizes each excuse.

6. SCRIPTURES

A partial printing of the verses listed in abbreviated form in THE SOUL WINNERS GUIDE for your convenience and memorization.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/ch0.asp>

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EXCUSE 1. I MUST GET BETTER FIRST

POSSIBLE RATIONAL BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I am ashamed of the sin in my life.
2. I feel like my sin is bigger than God.
3. I feel inferior to Christians/everybody.
4. Pride - bragging.

5. I am not good enough.
6. I must work for my salvation.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED

- 8 Backsliders
- 9 I will not be accepted
- 10 Friends would persecute me
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 14 Too much to give up
- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 21 It is too late
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 23 Unpardonable sin
- 26 Worldly amusements
- 28 I can't give up my companions
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian
- 33 I have tried once but failed

TRANSITION TO SALVATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have the strength in yourself to get better?

2. How good do you have to be? (Isa. 64:6 All your righteousness is as filthy rags.)
3. How do you think you can get better first?
4. What is keeping you from getting better first?
5. Do you really want to get better?
6. Do you think Christ has power to help?
7. What will happen if you don't get better? (Rom.3:23 & 6:23)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

The motive behind all of the excuses that begin with "I" have one thing in common, the person wants to "play God". At the core of each of the excuses is the same sin that Eve fell to in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.) Today people still want to be the God of their own lives and make their own decisions. Here's a test to determine if a person is trying to be the God of their own life.

TEST FOR GODSHIP OF LIFE. *

1. Do I determine the standards of conduct for others? (Ex. 20:1-17)
2. Do I demand absolute obedience? (Gen. 22:1-12)
3. Do I judge the lives, actions and attitudes of others? (Psa. 9:16; 94:1-2)
4. Do I attempt to control all of life? (Acts 17:24-28a).
5. Do I exercise sovereign independence, doing whatever I please? (Dan. 4:35)
6. Do I seek the praise and worship of others? (John 4:23)

7. Do I ask help and guidance from no one? (Rom. 11:33-34)

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The scripture verses with each of the questions show that all of these areas belong in the prerogatives of God. When dealing with a person who has an "I" problem it would help him to see that he is trying to take the place of God.

Also refer to Supplemental Material under Excuse 11 "Works".

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MAT 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

SCRIPTURES

ISA 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ISA 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

LUK 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH1.asp>

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EXCUSE 2. I CANNOT FORGIVE

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE.

1. I don't want to forgive.
2. I don't know how to forgive.
3. Excuse for my own behavior.
4. I want you to know how hurt I am.
5. I want to get even first.
6. I don't have to forgive.
7. If I forgive I might get hurt again.
8. I really can't - very deep emotion.
9. Disappointment.
10. The other person doesn't deserve to be forgiven.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 11 I am doing the best I can ,
- 16 Christians inconsistent, Hypocrites
- 21 It is too late
- 23 Unpardonable sin
- 33 I have tried once but failed

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION.

1. Have you ever been forgiven by anyone? (Eph. 4:32)

2. Would you like to be forgiven?
3. Would you like to know how to forgive?
4. Who ultimately pays the price for you not forgiving? (1 John 4:20)
5. No one can really forgive without Christ...He alone paid the price. (1 John 1:9)
6. If you refuse to forgive someone, doesn't that person control you?
7. What would it take for you to forgive? (Phil. 4:13)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL ON FORGIVENESS.*

I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS

Christian forgiveness is an action of my will, accepting as my own the guilt of another's wrong toward me, and then counting that guilt paid for by Christ's sacrifice.

II. WHAT FORGIVENESS COSTS

The cost of forgiveness is enormous. It cost God His Son, Christ His life. It costs the Christian his pride (the proud person will not truly forgive. Condescend--yes; forgive--no). It costs the forgiver all his feelings of vengeance, righteous indignation and blame. All these must be let go. To exercise true forgiveness requires the grace of God. Hebrews 12:15 (Phillips)

III. WHY FORGIVENESS IS NECESSARY

Without true forgiveness every offense is "treasured up" against the offending person, ready to be "cash in" when one's feelings become overloaded. This "cashing in" usually involves retaliation, accusation and condemnation of the offending person. These are then used to "prove" how bad the offender is and justify one's own wrong actions.

Without true forgiveness the spirit of unforgiveness fosters resentment which crystallizes into bitterness. This makes the unforgiving person harsh, critical, cynical, and mistrustful -- not only toward the offender but toward anyone else in the victim's present or future life who bears a likeness to the offender. (This may help us understand the immediate and unwarranted feelings of hostility or fear we sometimes sense toward a person we have never met before.)

Without true forgiveness the victim secretly awaits the "joy" of seeing the offender punished by God, and is delighted when it happens. This is a form of vengeance which displeases God.

"never take vengeance into your own hands. Stand back and let God punish, if He will." Romans 12:19 (Phillips)

This attitude, held by the victim, will actually hinder God's disciplining the offender.

"Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth; lest the Lord see it, and it displeases Him, and He turn away His wrath from him." Proverbs 24:17-18

IV. THE PROCESS OF FORGIVING

A. Clearly describe to yourself the actual offense committed. Write it out, listing the ramifications as they affect you.

B. Alone before God, go down list item-by-item, telling Him that you are now taking each wrong upon yourself - no longer holding the offender responsible.

"Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

C. Then, in prayer pass each offense that you have accepted upon yourself-- on to God.

"Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you." Psalm 55:22

**Because you have taken the offense upon yourself--the offender is no longer responsible to you regarding it.

**Because you have given that same offense to God, you no longer have any responsibility for it.

**God may yet deal with the offender, but that is longer your concern.

D. Destroy the canceled list.

NOTE: Do not tell the offender he/she is forgiven. (Telling the person you have forgiven them may simply create more conflict, because the offender may not be focusing on his own wrongs at all. His focus may be on what he perceives as your wrongs.) Your forgiveness of him was between you and God. Now you are free, simply to relate to the offender in that freedom.

E. If his/her offense is of a persistent nature that disrupts Christian harmony, God may lead you to confront the person with his/her need after you have exercise forgiveness.

**The purpose of such a confrontation is to "win" or "restore" the offender.

**The pattern for confrontation is given in Matthew 18:15 and Proverbs 25:9.

**The attitude required on the part of the "confronter" is spelled out in Galatians 6:1.

V. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FORGIVE

That blame which one is holding toward an offender, disappears when true forgiveness is exercised. This means that the fact of the offense, now carries no guilt. It may still be remembered by both as a learning experience, but the poison and hurt have been removed. Therefore, it cannot be used or even mentioned by the offended as an accusation, nor remembered by the offender as a point of shame. (The flawless demonstration is God's forgiveness of mankind through Christ Jesus.)

"Let there be no more resentment, no more anger or temper, no more violent self-assertiveness, no more slander and no more malicious remarks. Be kind to each other, be understanding. Be as ready to forgive others as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32

VI. TESTS OF FORGIVENESS

1. Are you sincerely thanking God for the lessons learned during pain? Romans 8:28-29
2. Can you talk about your hurt without getting angry, without feeling resentful, without the slightest thought of revenge? Ephesians 4:31
3. Is there willingness truly to accept your part of the blame for what happened?
4. Can you revisit the scene or the person(s) involved in your hurt without experiencing a negative reaction?
5. Are you rewarding with good those who have hurt you? Romans 12:20-21; Matthew 5:44-45

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KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

EPH 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

SCRIPTURES

1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

MAT 6:15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

EPH 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

MAR 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

MAR 11:26 (there is no 11:26 in the NIV)

PHI 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

1JO 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE: Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH2.asp>

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EXCUSE 3. I HAVE NO FEELING

POSSIBLE THINKING BEHIND EXCUSE.

1. I should feel guilty and I don't.
2. I should feel happy and I don't.
3. I really do feel the Holy Spirit but I don't want to admit it.
4. I have emotionally protected myself from feelings.
5. I am afraid it won't work.
6. I don't feel a need.
7. I am not an emotional person.

8. I am not a believer.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

6 No difference what I believe

9 I will not be accepted

11 I am doing the best I can

12 I do not believe the Bible

14 Too much to give up

15 Not now--I have plenty of time

17 I am too great a sinner

21 It is too late

22 I have not finished sowing wild oats

25 I feel saved

33 I have tried once but failed

34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What feeling do you expect?

2. What feeling would you like? (Eph. 2:8-9)

3. Do your feelings always tell the truth? Are they accurate?

4. If you had a feeling what would you do? (John 1:12)

5. Do you make your decisions based on feelings? (Rom. 10:9-10)

6. Do your feelings change often?
7. Why do you have to have a feeling? (John 1:12)
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Do your feelings ever lie to you? Have you ever laid in bed late at night with your arm dangling over the side and get the eerie feeling that someone or something is going to grab you? Your mind tells you that you are safe (especially if you sleep on a water bed) but you feel threatened until you put your arm back under the covers. Feelings are very often inconsistent with what is really happening around us. THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS * illustrates why we should not depend upon our feelings:

The promise of God's Word, the Bible - not our feelings - is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. This train diagram illustrates the relationship between fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21).

(The train picture)

The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we, as Christians, do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

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KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

SCRIPTURES

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1JO 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

ISA 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

GAL 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH3.asp>

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EXCUSE 4. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BELIEVE

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE:

1. I don't want to think about it.
2. I really don't know enough facts about it?
3. I don't understand.
4. How is this going to make my life better?

5. How do I apply it now?
6. I can't let go.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 6 No difference what I believe
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 9 I will not be accepted
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 12 I do not believe the Bible
- 13 Earnest-minded skeptics
- 14 Too much to give up
- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time
- 19 How we know there is a God
- 31 I cannot understand the Bible
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian
- 33 I have tried once but failed
- 35 The Bible is God's Word

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What are you putting your faith in now? (John 1:12)
2. Would you like to believe?

3. What would it take for you to believe? (John 5:24, Mat. 18:3)
4. What do you understand about the Bible?
5. What does believing mean? (believing means receiving, putting your trust in something or someone John 3:16, 5:24)
- 6.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Many people do not realize it, but they are putting their trust in something or someone. Most often it is Self. At some point everyone must take a "leap of faith". What would be the smallest leap that is supported by the evidence?

THE QUESTION: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?*

Jesus considered who men believed Him to be of fundamental importance. C. S. Lewis, who was a professor at Cambridge University and once an agnostic, wrote: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the real foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.'" This is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse."

"You can shut Him up for a fool, you spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

IS JESUS CHRIST GOD?

Jesus claimed to be God. He did not leave any other options. His claim to be God must be either true or false and is something that should be given serious

consideration. Jesus' question to His disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29) is also asked of us today.

Jesus' claim to be God must be either true or false. If Jesus' claims are true then He is the Lord and we must either accept or reject His Lordship. We are "without excuse."

First, consider that His claim to be God was false. If it was false we have two and only two alternatives. He either knew it was false or He did not know it was false. We will consider each one separately and examine the evidence.

WAS HE A LIAR?

If, when Jesus made His claims He knew that He was not God, then He was lying. But, if He was a liar, then He was also a hypocrite because He told others to be honest, whatever the cost, while He Himself was teaching and living a colossal lie.

And, more than that, He was a demon, because He told others to trust Him for their eternal destiny. If He could not back up His claims and knew it, then He was unspeakably evil.

Lastly, He would also be a fool because it was His claims to being God that led to His crucifixion.

Mark 14:61-64 "But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death".

Someone who lived as Jesus lived, taught as Jesus taught and died as Jesus died could not have been a liar. What other alternatives are there?

LUNATIC?

If it is inconceivable for Jesus to be a liar, then could not He actually have thought Himself to be God, but been mistaken? After all it is possible to be both sincere and wrong.

But we must remember that for someone to think that He is God, especially in a culture that is fiercely monotheistic, and then to tell others that their eternal destiny depends on believing in Him is no slight flight of fantasy but the thoughts of a lunatic in the fullest sense. Was Jesus Christ such a person?

LORD!!

Whom you decide Jesus Christ is must not be an idle intellectual exercise. You cannot put him on the shelf as a great oral teacher. That is not a valid option. He is either a liar, a lunatic or the Lord. You must make a choice. "But" as the apostle John wrote, "these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God"; and more important, "that believing you might have life in His Name" (John 20:31).

The evidence is clearly in favor of Jesus as Lord. However, some people reject the clear evidence because of moral implications involved. there needs to be a moral honesty in the above consideration of Jesus as either a liar, lunatic or Lord and God.

*Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict, p. 107ff Used by Permission

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

SCRIPTURE:

JOH 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

JOH 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

MAT 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

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EXCUSE 5. I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I must be saved, I go to church.
2. Arguments about which church is right.
3. Shallow understanding of Word.
4. Parents were members.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED: 6, 7,. 11, 18, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, 34

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. How does your church tell you you can be saved? (JOHN 3:3)

2. What does your church use as the final authority for salvation? (2 Tim. 3:16)
3. Have you ever asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior and Lord? (Titus 1:16)
4. When did you ask Christ to be your Savior? (1 John 3:21)
5. How does the Bible say you can have eternal life? (Eph. 2:8-9)
6. What do you think will get you to heaven? (Gal. 2:16, 2 Tim. 1:9)
7. What does it mean to be a church member? (Matt. 7:21-22)
- 8.
- 9.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Avoid arguments about denominations or churches. Most all protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church accept the Bible as God's Word. The Roman Catholics use the Douay Version. Do not deal with the differences between churches but what is the same. The acid test is John 3:3, "except a man be born again...".

Although doctrinal distinctives are important, this is not the time to discuss various church doctrines. Follow the apostle Paul' example on Mars hill (Acts 17). He started with what they all could agree upon and shared the gospel from that starting point.

Following is a chart showing what the various major denominations believe regarding the Bible as the final word and authority for life, Christ as God and Salvation by faith.

DENOMINATION	AUTHORITY	CHRIST	SALVATION
Adventists	Bible	yes	yes*
Assembly	Bible	yes	yes

Brethren	Bible	yes	yes
Baptist	Bible	yes	yes
Christian Sci.	Sci. & Health	no	no
Church of Christ	Bible	yes	yes
Four Square	Bible	yes	yes
Friends	Bible	yes	yes
I.F.C.A.	Bible	yes	yes
Jehovah Witness	Watch Tower	no	no
Lutheran	Bible	yes	yes
Mennonite	Bible	yes	yes
Methodist	Bible	yes	yes
Mormon	Book of Mormon	no	no
Nazarene	Bible	yes	yes
Orthodox	Bible & 7 Councils	yes*	
Presbyterian	Bible	yes	yes
Roman Catholic	Bible &	yes	yes

Dogma of Vatican

* The point of this chart is to give the Soul Winner confidence that some where in the doctrines of most of these churches salvation can be found. Sometimes you may have to look very hard and there are great differences it what some groups mean by salvation, but the point is simply to be like Paul and concentrate on what can be

agreed upon, the person must make a personal acceptance of Christ. At this point other important matters must be secondary.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURES

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

GAL 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

2TI 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

MAT 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

MAT 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

1JO 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

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EXCUSE 6. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHAT I BELIEVE AS LONG AS I AM SINCERE.

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. God won't really send me to hell.
2. There are many paths to God. Your way is only one.
3. I'm not anti-god. I'm really a good person.
4. I'm comfortable the way I am.
5. I'm safe. I'll make it somehow.
6. My good deeds outweigh my bad deeds.
- 7.
- 8.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 3 I have no feeling
- 4 I don't know how to believe
- 5 I am a church member
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 13 Earnest-minded skeptics
- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time
- 25 I feel saved

- 29 I don't have to go to church
- 30 I was always a Christian
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian
- 34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

- 1. Christ said it does make a difference. (Mark 16:16)
- 2. Could you be sincere and wrong? (Pro.16:25)
- 3. On what do you base that idea?
- 4. Jesus said there is only one way. Could He have been wrong? (John 14:16)
- 5. Have you ever been sincere and wrong before? (When you were little did you believe in Santa Clause or the Tooth Fairy?)
- 6.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

IS JESUS WORTHY OF OUR TRUST?*

"Suppose you went to the airport to fly in an airplane. You paid your money, picked up your luggage and began to walk toward the plane. As you approached the plane, you noticed that one propeller of the craft was nearly ripped off. The wings had holes in them, the gas tank was leaking and the tail looked like it was going to fall off."

"The flight attendant smiled and said, `would you climb aboard, please?'"

"When you hesitated, he said, 'Oh, don't worry. Just have faith, and we'll get there all right.'"

"IS THIS A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF FAITH? WHY OR WHY NOT?"

No! Because it would be foolish to board the kind of aircraft described here. Faith is impossible if the object of our faith is unreliable or untrustworthy. Faith must have a trustworthy object.

"THEN WHAT IS FAITH?"

Faith is trusting or committing myself to a trustworthy object. If the object of my faith is not trustworthy, then I cannot commit myself to it or trust it.

"How does 1 John 5:14-15 relate to this definition of faith?"

Christ is a trustworthy object for our faith because He does what He promises. If we ask Him to do something which is according to His will, we can be certain that He will do it because He says He will.

"Our faith is in the God who has revealed Himself and His faithfulness through the Bible. Though there is only one God, He relates to us in three persons--the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this session we will center our discussion on God the Son, the person of Jesus Christ."

"SINCE CHRIST IS A TRUSTWORTHY OBJECT FOR OUR FAITH, HOW CAN WE BEGIN TO DEVELOP FAITH IN HIM?"

By seeing Christ as a person we can trust. By seeing His uniqueness and His power. By seeing that He is like an airplane that will never crash!

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KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

SCRIPTURE

MAR 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

PRO 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

JOH 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

2TH 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

JOH 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

JOH 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

JOH 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1JO 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH6.asp>

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EXCUSE 7. GOD IS TOO GOOD TO DAMN ANYONE.

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I don't really think there is an actual hell.
2. God is love.
3. God is not a real being, just an idea.
4. When God balances the scales my good deeds will win out.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time
- 25 I feel saved
- 27 What about the heathen
- 30 I was always a Christian
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian
- 34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Does God damn people or do they reject Him? (John 3:18,36; 5:40)

2. The Bible says God will reject those who reject him. (Luke 13:3)
3. Does God's holiness demand justice? (2Pet. 2:4-9)
4. If you really love someone, would you violate his free will?

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Have you ever heard anyone say "there ought to be a law!?" Have you ever heard children rightly complain that something was not fair? Do the good judges send the felons to prison or do they set them free to repeat their crimes? From our earliest years we have a sense of fair play, right and wrong, justice. Statistics show that the average person believes that the criminal ought to be disciplined in some fashion and if he is not the system is considered broken. Evangelism Explosion illustrates this point with the story of a bank robber:

Suppose a person were in a desperate financial situation. They needed a few thousand dollars for some emergency medical needs for their child. In desperation they pass a note to a bank teller demanding all the cash in the drawer. In their haste they forget they are being video taped and are soon apprehended. When they stand before the judge, caught red handed, they plead for mercy because of the situation. After all no one was hurt and all the money was returned. No matter how sympathetic the judge is to their plight, could he just let them go free? If he did, no bank would be safe.* Used by Permission Evangelism Explosion

If the judge must punish a guilty person, how much more should a holy, righteous God require justice. God does not desire that any should have to be punished for their sins. He has already paid the price. God does not damn anyone, they damn themselves by refusing to believe on Christ. Are you going to damn yourself?

2PE 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

SCRIPTURE

MAR 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

JOH 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

JOH 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

2PE 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2PE 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

2PE 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

LUK 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

ROM 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

JOH 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH7.asp>

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EXCUSE 8. BACKSLIDERS

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. God did not come through for me.
2. I do not like what God did.
3. I just drifted away.
4. I refuse to meet God's demands.
5. I'm interested in something else now.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 2 I cannot forgive
- 3 I have no feeling
- 4 I don't know how to believe
- 9 I will not be accepted
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 12 I do not believe the Bible
- 14 Too much to give up
- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time
- 16 Christians inconsistent, Hypocrites

- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 25 I feel saved
- 26 Worldly amusements
- 29 I don't have to go to church
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian
- 33 I have tried once but failed
- 34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Are you happy with where you have slid to? (Jer. 2:19)
2. Would you like to renew your relationship with God? (1 John 1:9, Psa. 51:12-13)
3. Are you angry with God? Why?
4. Are you angry with yourself? Why? (2 Pet. 2:20)
5. Are you angry with other people? Why? (John 7:24)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

There are two kinds of Backsliders. The first kind has no great desire to come back to the Lord. These people need to be reminded of the results of their wandering. Jer. 2:19 and Amos 4:11-12 are good passages to use. The second type of Backslider is the one who is sick of his sin and wandering and has a desire to come back to the Lord. These are perhaps the easiest sinners you will find to work with. Use the scriptures that promise the Lord is ready and eager to see them come back to Him. The story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24) is particularly good for this.

As you can see by the above section "OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED", people can have a multitude of reasons for drifting away. Why the person is backsliding is probably caused by basic disappointments. One is disappointment in self, A FEELING OF FAILURE TO KEEP THEIR COMMITMENT. The second area is disappointment with other people (i.e. Excuses 9, 16, 28). The third possibility is disappointment with God. Disappointment with God is hard for people to admit, especially if they have had much of a church background before. The backslider has worked himself into the position of playing God in his own life. Here's a test to determine if they are playing God.

ACTIONS OF MAN WHEN HE IS PLAYING GOD IN HIS OWN LIFE.*

Do you determine the standards of conduct for others?

Do you demand absolute obedience from others?

Do you judge the lives, actions and attitudes of others?

Are you controlling all of life?

Do you exercise sovereign independence doing whatever you please? Do you seek the praise and worship of others?

Do you ask help and guidance from no one?

PREROGATIVES OF GOD

Determining standards of conduct for others. Exodus 20:1-17

Demanding absolute obedience. Gen 22:1-12, Deut. 8:20

Judging the lives, actions and attitudes of others. Psa 9:16, 94:1-2

Controlling all of life. Acts 17:24-28a, Job 12:13-25

Exercising sovereign independence, doing whatever he pleases. Dan. 4:35, Psa. 135:5-6

Seeking the praise and worship of others. John 4:23, Isa. 42:8

Asking help and guidance from no one. Rom. 11:33-34

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When a person begins to see that they are taking on the prerogatives of God it helps them to turn things back over to Him, similar to the way Job surrendered after God challenged him in Job 38ff.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SCRIPTURE

JER 2:19 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

REV 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

2PE 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

PSA 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

PSA 51:13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

LUK 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH8.asp>

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EXCUSE 9. I WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. God won't accept me.
2. People won't accept me.
3. The church won't accept me.
4. I feel rejectable.
5. I don't accept myself.
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 8 Backsliders
- 10 Friends would persecute me
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 21 It is too late
- 23 Unpardonable sin
- 29 I can't give up my companions

33 I have tried once but failed

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Who won't accept you?
2. Why won't you be accepted? (Luke 19:10)
3. Would God reject you? (1 Tim. 1:15)
4. Do you feel rejectable? (Isa. 1:18)
5. We all feel rejection, but would God reject one His Son died for? (Rom. 5:8)
6. Jesus is looking for you, will you accept Him? (Mat. 9:13)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Most everyone feels rejection in some form. Rejection could be defined as an impaired ability to give or receive love. When a person feels he has been rejected, it is difficult for him to believe that God accepts him just as he is. People feel two types of rejection, overt rejection and covert rejection.

In overt rejection the people involved know it is going on. It is open or obvious behavior which conveys the message to the rejected person that he is unwanted.

In covert rejection neither the person being rejected or the person doing the rejecting may be aware it is going on. Covert rejection commonly manifests itself in two forms. Overprotection or over-indulgence. In either case, the rejected person feels insecure and inadequate often without knowing why.

The important thing to remember when dealing with a person who feels rejected is that God promises in His Word He will not reject anyone who comes to Him. (Rev. 3:20)

(For more information on rejection see *THE INS AND OUT OF REJECTION* by Dr. Charles Solomon).

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

LUK 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

SCRIPTURE

1TI 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

ROM 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

ROM 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

ISA 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

LUK 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

MAT 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

REV 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

REV 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

PSA 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH9.asp>

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EXCUSE 10. FRIENDS WOULD PERSECUTE ME

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I would feel funny/embarrassed.
2. I can't give up my friends.
3. Friends would ridicule, reject, not accept me, or make fun of me.
4. My family may reject me.
5. My family/friends are Muslim, Roman Catholic, etc.
6. I would have to act different than I do now.
- 7.
- 8.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 9 I will not be accepted
- 14 Too much to give up
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 24 I don't have to accept Christ openly
- 26 Worldly amusements
- 28 I can't give up my companions
- 29 I don't have to go to church

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What could your friends do? (Rom. 8:18)
2. Why would your friends persecute you? (John 15:18,19)
3. Who would you rather have persecute you, your friends or God? (James 4:4)
4. Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul" Mar. 8:36. Is it worth it?
5. That may be true, but are you willing to reject Christ for your friends? (Mark 8:38)
6. Is your friends rejection worth God's acceptance? (2 Tim 2:12)
7. Since you expect people to notice, what do you expect will change in your life? (2 Tim 3:12)
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

The person may feel persecuted if he believes his friends would reject, ridicule, mock, scorn, humiliate or tease him. The scriptures in this section indicate that a true disciple of Christ may face real persecution and may even encounter physical threats. There is a price to be paid to be a follower of Christ, but the price to be paid in rejecting Christ is infinitely greater. If there is real danger of persecution because or religious or cultural heritage share the verses here. If it is a problem of worldly friends and embarrassment see excuses 14 and 28. The transitions questions will help you to determine what the person fears.

KEY SCRIPTURE TO MEMORIZE

MAR 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

SCRIPTURE

2TI 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2TI 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

ROM 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

MAR 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

MAR 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

JAM 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

JOH 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

JOH 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

ACT 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

HEB 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEB 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH10.asp>

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EXCUSE 11. I AM DOING THE BEST I CAN

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I go to church and pray.
2. I can't quit _____.
3. God will accept me.
4. My good deeds outweigh my bad deeds.
5. I feel saved.
6. God is too good to condemn me.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 5 I am a church member
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 24 I don't have to accept Christ openly
- 25 I feel saved
- 30 I was always a Christian
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian

33 I have tried once but failed

34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What are you doing?
2. What does the Bible say you need to do? (Luke 13:3-5)
3. How do you know if the "best you can" is good enough? (Rom. 3:23)
4. Would you like to be sure you are saved?
5. Can you save yourself or does Christ save you? (Rom. 3:21-22)
6. Is what you are doing good enough? (Gal 2:16)
7. How do you know the balance is on your side? (Jam. 2:10)
8. God says you must be perfect, are you? (Mat 5:48)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

This excuse and the other related excuses deal with a "works" concept of salvation. All but four of the major world religions are based on philosophies of works. Three of the four that are rooted in a personality are based on works. Only Christianity is unique. A careful reading of any college textbook on Philosophy reveals virtually all philosophies and "isms" that people put their hope in are based in some form of human effort. These self help efforts are not satisfying to the soul hungry for truth and salvation. Consider these definitions of various popular philosophies of life and religions from THE DICTIONARY OF PHILOSOPHY, by Dagobert Runes:

BUDDHISM: "Centers around the main doctrine of the four moral truths, the last of which enables one in eight stages to reach nirvana: Right views, tight resolve, right speech, right conduct, right conduct, tight livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, tight concentration." (pg. 42)

COMMUNISM: "In its fullest sense, that stage of social development, which, following socialism is conceived to be characterized by an economy of abundance on a world wide scale in which the state as a repressive force (army, jails, and the like) is considered unnecessary because irreconcilable class antagonisms will have disappeared, and it will be possible to apply the principle "from each according to ability, to each according to need". It is held that the release of productive potentialities resulting from socialized ownership of the means of production will create a general sufficiency of economic goods which in turn will afford the possibility of educational and cultural development for all, and that under such conditions people will learn to live in accordance with valued standards without the compulsion of physical force represented by a special apparatus of state power." (pg. 59)

SOCIALISM: "The general features of socialist society:

- 1) Economic: collective ownership of the means of production.
- 2) Political: a state based on dictatorship of the proletariat.
- 3) Cultural: The extenuation of all educational and cultural facilities through state planning...

Marx and Engels held that socialism becomes the inevitable outgrowth of capitalism because the evolution of the latter type of society generates problems which can only be solved by a transition to socialism. (pg. 293)

CAPITALISM: " A mode of economic production which is characterized by the fact that the instruments of production (land, factories, raw materials) are controlled to a greater or lesser extent by individuals. An implication of this basic notion of individual control is that the individual will control production in his own interest." (pg. 44)

ISLAM: "to resign oneself." "The word means not fatalistic submission to deity, but striving after righteousness, the practice of law, obedience to rules and formal performance of outward duties. Meaning the acceptance of the divine will, Islam stress the legal and external performance of religion." (pg. 151)

HUMANITARIANISM: "Any view in which interest in human values is central". (pg. 132) Essentially Humanism is Buddhism and Communism rolled into a blue suit.

NOTE THE DIFFERENCE IN DEFINITION FOR CHRISTIANITY

CHRISTOLOGY: "First of all Christology must concern itself with the promise of a Saviour and redeemer of the Human race". (pg. 54)

As you can see there is no comparison. No philosophy of works will bring the hope that is found in Christ alone.

Evangelism Explosion asks the diagnostic question "If you stood before the Lord and He were to ask you 'why should I let you into my heaven'? What would you say?" Their answer will tell you what they are trusting in to gain them eternal life. Any answer other than "trusting Jesus" or the equivalent reveals that they are trying to earn eternal life.

Like Apollos before Aquilla and Pricilla, if indeed a person is truly working towards salvation he should rejoice in hearing that the work has been done for him. Section 38 Assurance of Our Salvation would be a great follow up in encouraging a personal commitment to salvation. Also Section 4 (supplemental information) could be shared. Is Jesus worthy of our trust?

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

GAL 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

SCRIPTURE

LUK 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

MAR 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

ROM 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

ROM 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

ROM 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

ROM 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

ROM 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

JAM 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

MAT 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH11.asp>

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EXCUSE 12. I DO NOT BELIEVE THE BIBLE

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I can not accept the miracles in the Bible.
2. The Bible contradicts science.

3. I don't believe in God, Heaven or Hell.
4. I don't have to answer to anyone.
5. I don't believe in the resurrection or virgin birth.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 3 I have no feeling
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 13 Earnest-minded skeptics
- 19 How we know there is a God
- 31 I cannot understand the Bible
- 33 I have tried once but failed

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Have you ever read the Bible?
2. What do you put your faith in?
3. If the Bible is not God's Word as it claims it is, what is it? (2Ti. 3:16)
4. If the Bible is not the Word of God to men, what is it?
5. I would be surprised if you did at this point. (1Co 2:14).
6. Would you like to be able to believe the Bible? Experience is the best test. (John 7:17)
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

See trilemma argument for Bible in Section 35 of this workbook.

This is not the time to become embattled in an argument about science, evolution or interpretation of scripture. Keep the central theme Jesus Christ. What do they believe about Jesus? Many people struggle with the authenticity of miracles or scientific evidence but they need to be reminded that the Bible was written by and to people who were witnesses to the events and miracles. (1 John 1:1-3, Luke 1:1-3, Acts 10:39-42, 1 Peter 5:1) It is interesting to note that the historians of the day and the political leaders did not challenge the authenticity of the claims of scripture. (Acts 26:24-28)

The subject of miracles in the Bible has had the critics snickering for years. They simply dismiss them as legend without a thought as to why the miraculous claims were accepted and went unchallenged by the people to whom the letters and books were written. The prejudiced critic does not let the historical record stand for itself. One incident that actually happened to me illustrates: While traveling from Egypt to Israel by bus through the Sinai Peninsula our Egyptian guide was pointing out sights of interest. During his lecture on the historical sights he told us he wanted to set one historical inaccuracy straight. He explained that the Red Sea, the tip of which we would be crossing through the Suez Canal, was not the sight where the children of Israel had escaped Egypt. It was a spot further north, called the Reed Sea, a shallow swampy area about a foot deep. Of course the rest of the biblical account of Moses parting the water and the Israelites crossing on dry land was just a legend that had grown up around the actual event. If this were actually the case I presume the real miracle must have been the entire Egyptian army drowning in a foot of water. It should be remembered that although the miracles are not possible to "prove", there is no solid historical, scientific, or archaeological evidence to deny them. The evidence that does exist strongly suggests the probability of the validity of the miracles.

The Bible has been challenged so often for its historical and scientific statements that it would require a library to recount them all. The conclusion of every challenge to date has authenticated the statements of Scripture.

If the person claims to have serious intellectual problems see Excuse 13, Earnest-minded skeptics, Supplemental Material.

For a complete discussion of this subject see Josh McDowell's EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT Section 1.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

1CO 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

SCRIPTURE

ROM 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

ROM 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

2TI 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

JOH 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

1CO 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

2CO 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2CO 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

JOH 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

MAR 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

PSA 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

JOH 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

JOH 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

HEB 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

HEB 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

HEB 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

REV 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

JOH 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH12.asp>

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EXCUSE 13. EARNEST-MINDED SKEPTICS

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I want to believe but I think the Bible contains errors.
2. Eternity is too big a concept for me.
3. I don't believe in anything I can't see or touch.

4. If there is a God He wouldn't allow people to suffer.
5. I can not understand how men could write for God.
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 3 I have no feeling
- 4 I don't know how to believe
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 12 I do not believe the Bible
- 16 Christians inconsistent, Hypocrites
- 27 What about the heathen

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What are you having doubts about?
2. What is the alternative to believing God? (1Co 2:14)
3. Is your difficulty important enough to you to die for?
4. Would you like the Holy Spirit to teach you? (Eph. 1:9-18).
5. Would you like to study more and find the truth? (John 8:32)
6. Would you be willing to read one book in the Bible to see what it says for yourself? (John 20:31)

7.

8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Arguing will never bring a person to Christ. A patient, loving friend will. The Holy Spirit will work in His own time. Be patient and keep sharing and encouraging them.

In my experience, I have yet to encounter a person with a true intellectual problem. One man I witnessed to for years who claimed to be an atheist, began to read some literature I gave him. For a time he softened to the gospel and I was sure he would accept Christ soon. Almost overnight he began to have all sorts of "intellectual problems". All were easily dealt with, but he was stubborn. The real problem: He fell in love with a younger woman and wanted to divorce his wife, which he ultimately did. His was not a intellectual problem, but a moral one. Josh McDowell has come to the same conclusion. He gives three main reasons people reject Christ. *

1. Ignorance--Romans 1:18-23 (often self imposed)

2. Pride--John 5:40-44

3. Moral Problem--John 3:19-20

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For further study see: EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT and ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS SKEPTICS ASK ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH By Josh McDowell and Don Stuart.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

1CO 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

SCRIPTURES

JOH 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

ROM 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

JOH 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

JOH 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

PSA 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

JOH 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

EPH 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

EPH 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

EPH 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

2CO 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

2CO 3:15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

2CO 3:16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH13.asp>

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EXCUSE 14. TOO MUCH TO GIVE UP

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I don't want to stop
2. I would have to
3. I like things the way they are.
- 4.
- 5.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 8 Backsliders
- 10 10
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 26 Worldly amusements
- 28 I can't give up my companions

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Can you really afford not to? (Mark 8:36)
2. What is it really worth to you? (Phil. 3:7-9)
3. Are you willing to die for _____ ?

4. Do you know what you will gain with Christ? (Mat.6:33)
5. What is it doing for you now? (1Ti 6;10)
6. What do you think Jesus meant when he said "Whatever a man sows, he will reap?"
7. What is it you would have to give up that is not temporary anyway? (1Jo 2:17)
8. Would you be willing to give up what you cannot keep to gain what you cannot lose? (1JO 2:17)
9. Would you like the strength to give up _____? (Phi 4:13)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

This excuse could expose an ignorance of God's promises or a person with a false concept of what a Christian really is. Of course, there is a price to be paid. That price is self. But he gains eternal life and the fruit of the spirit and the Holy Spirit in his life.

A man would be senseless who would not give up what he cannot keep in order to receive what he cannot lose.

See Supplemental material under excuse #22 The Laws of Sowing and Reaping.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MAR 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

SCRIPTURE

1JO 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1TI 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

PHI 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

PHI 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

PHI 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

MAT 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

PHI 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

PHI 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

PSA 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

ECC 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

1JO 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1JO 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1JO 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

GAL 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH14.asp>

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EXCUSE 15. NOT NOW, I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I plan to accept Christ later.
2. I want to finish sowing wild oats. (Excuse #22)
3. I'm comfortable the way I am, maybe later.
4. I don't want to go to Hell so I'll accept Christ before I die.
5. I'll have a chance just before I die.
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 14 Too much to give up
- 21 It is too late
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 26 Worldly amusements

28 I can't give up my companions

34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION:

1. When do you plan to die? (Pro.27:1)
2. How much time do you have? How do you know? (James 4:13)
3. What do you want to do that would prevent you from accepting Christ? (Acts 22:6)
4. Are you sure you can wait? (Gen.6:3)
5. What will happen to you if you don't accept Christ? Is _____ worth the risk? (Psa. 95:7-9).
6. If you can reject the Holy Spirit today, doesn't it make sense you can reject Him easier later? (Isa.55:6)
7. What will you gain by waiting? What could you lose? (Ecc.12:1)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

It may be that the Holy Spirit is going to create a sense of urgency in this persons life. Life changes quickly and sometimes dramatically. As a soul-winner your job is to plant seed. Pray that the scripture and the Spirit work in their life even as you speak. Sometimes it could be useful to ask the person if they are formally reflecting Christ at this time. By not accepting Christ, they are in effect rejecting Him.

See Supplemental material: Law of Sowing and Reaping under Excuse 22.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

2CO 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

SCRIPTURE

JOS 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

PSA 95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

PSA 95:8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

PSA 95:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

PRO 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

ECC 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

ISA 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

ISA 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

MAT 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

ACT 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

JAM 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

HEB 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

HEB 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

MAT 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

GEN 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH15.asp>

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EXCUSE 16. CHRISTIANS INCONSISTENT, HYPOCRITES

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE.

1. I have been done wrong by a Christian.
2. I have been done wrong by a church.
3. Christians fail to meet my expectations.
4. Just an excuse.
5. Christianity must not work, or their would not be hypocrites.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first

- 2 I cannot forgive
- 8 Backsliders
- 29 I don't have to go to church
- 33 I have tried once but failed

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What is the basis for the standard of conduct you require of Christians? (Mat. 7:1-5)
2. If a hypocrite stands between you and God, who is closer to God?
3. How does their hypocrisy stop you from having a relationship with God? (Rom. 14:12)
4. Are you angry with a particular person? Why?
5. Will an inconsistent or hypocritical Christian still be forgiven and go to heaven? (John 7:24)
6. In Hebrews 5 God agrees that Christians are not what they ought to be, but they are still part of His family. Wouldn't you like the same favor?
7. Did you know that observations makes you without excuse? (Rom 2:1-5)
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Hebrews 5:12-13 confesses this very problem. There are many in the church who are not what the should be or ought to be, but this in itself is the highest compliment. Hypocrisy is the tribute which vice pays to virtue. The very fact that some people take the trouble and run the risk of being hypocrites suggests that what they imitate is worthwhile.

The hypocrite is to the church the same thing that a cubic zirconium is to a jeweler, a cheap imitation of the real thing. Many people buy false labels and look alike because they are not willing to pay the price for the real thing.

How many Christians are actually hypocrites is hard to know since it is easy to charge someone with hypocrisy but difficult to prove. There are probably far more accusations than hypocrites and what the world sees as harboring hypocrites is no more than throwing a cloak of charity over an infant believer. It really is encouraging to see the body of Christ doing what she was called to do: Seek and save the lost. Christians certainly are inconsistent in their walk, but God boldly proclaims His love for us in spite of our failures. The book of Romans makes it clear that the Bible is not a book about sin, it is a book about forgiveness. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Rom 8:1)

There is a high possibility that the root of this problem is they have been wronged by someone who calls himself a Christian. If this is the situation, see excuse #2 I Cannot Forgive.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

Joh 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

SCRIPTURE

JOB 8:13 So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

ISA 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

MAT 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

MAT 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

MAT 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

ROM 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

ROM 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

ROM 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

ROM 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

ROM 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

2CO 10:18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

1PE 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

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EXCUSE 17. I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. Bragging
2. I want you to tell me I'm not.
3. I'm afraid I will be rejected by God.
4. I really feel guilty.

5. I don't want to quit what I'm doing.

6.

7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

1 I must get better first

9 I will not be accepted

14 Too much to give up

21 It is too late

22 I have not finished sowing wild oats

23 Unpardonable sin

26 Worldly amusements

28 I can't give up my companions

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Do you think God cannot forgive you? (John 6:37)

2. Are you afraid you would not have the strength to live a Christian life? (1John 1:7)

3. Great! You're just who Jesus is looking for. (1Tim 1:15)

4. If you acknowledge you are a sinner, you must know in your heart the Spirit is urging you to repentance. (Rev.22:17)

5. Would you like to be set free from your sin? (Heb. 7:25)

6. You should be able to appreciate forgiveness more. (John 12)

7.

8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

The person who feels he is too great a sinner for God to save is transferring the rejection he has felt from people. Since he feels others have rejected him, God probably will to. He may have:*

1. Feelings of worthlessness
2. Wishful feelings he had never been born
3. Feelings of inferiority
4. Inability to express feelings and emotional insulation
5. Depression, introspection
6. Subjectivity, perfectionism
7. Lack of self-discipline
8. Irresponsibility
9. Worry, doubts, fears
10. Self Hatred
11. Self condemnation
12. Guilt

(* for further study see: THE INS AND OUT OF REJECTION BY DR. CHARLES SOLOMON Used by Permission)

Everyone suffers rejection to one degree or another. Much has been written about the cause of it, but there is only one lasting cure. That is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When a person takes on the cross of Christ and exchanges his life for Christ's life, he will no longer feel rejected by God and the rejection he felt from people will be dealt with.

See Excuse 30 "I was always a Christian", Supplemental material for a picture of how a person exchanges his life For Christ's life.

SCRIPTURE VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MAT 9:12-13 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

SCRIPTURE

ISA 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

LUK 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

ROM 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

1TI 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

2CO 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1JO 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

HEB 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

1JO 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

JOH 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out

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EXCUSE 18 I AM A ROMAN CATHOLIC

POSSIBLE RATIONAL BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I have been baptized.
2. I go to church.
3. I have my own religion
4. Catholics are Christians
5. The priest takes care of all that.
6. I hope I will go to heaven but I can't be sure.
- 7.
- 8.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED

- 5 I am a church member
- 6 No difference what I believe

- 8 Backsliders
- 10 Friends would persecute me
- 25 I feel saved
- 30 I was always a Christian
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian
- 34 I am no sinner--good enough
- 38 Assurance of our salvation

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Does baptism save you? (2 Cor. 5:17)
2. What does it mean to be born again? (John 3:3-8)
3. Can you earn your Salvation? (Eph. 2:8-9)
4. Would you like to know for sure that you have eternal life? (Rom. 10:9-10, 1 John 1:9)
5. Are you trusting in Christ or the church? (Acts 4:12)
6. Can you approach God directly? (Heb. 10:10-20, 1 Tim. 2:5)
- 7.
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL HELP

Today a good many Roman Catholics do know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. At this point you are not trying to get them out of the roman Catholic Church, but to introduce them to Christ. When dealing with a Roman Catholic remember to:

- I. Show him the necessity of the new birth. (John 3:3-8)
 - A. Many understand this to be baptism. (John 1:12)
 - B. Explain that there is no chance after death. (Heb. 9:27)

- II. Explain the necessity of repentance and conversion. (2 Cor 5:17)

- III. Leave him with assurance of salvation.
 - A. Show that it is a believers privilege to know he has eternal life. (John 10:27ff, Acts 13:28ff, Rom. 10:9-10)
 - B. Show him there is but one mediator. (1 Tim 2:5)

- IV. Show them the advantage of personal Bible study. (John 5:39, 1 Pet 2:1-2)
 - A. It is possible to use the Douay or Roman Catholic Bible for the salvation verses.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURES

2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

HEB 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

1JO 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1PE 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1TI 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

1PE 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

ACT 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

HEB 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

HEB 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

HEB 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

HEB 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

HEB 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

HEB 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

HEB 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

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EXCUSE 19. HOW WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I am confused.
2. I am stalling.
3. I have honest intellectual questions.
4. I can't believe in something I can't see.
5. I don't believe that Jesus is God
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 3 I have no feeling
- 4 I don't know how to believe
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 12 I do not believe the Bible

13 Earnest-minded skeptics

31 I cannot understand the Bible

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. How do you know there is not? (Psa 14:1)
2. Does the orderly design of the world suggest a designer? (Psa.19:1 & Romans 1:19-22)
3. Do you have a sense of eternity? (Ecc. 3:11)
4. If you could know there is a God, would you worship Him?
5. Who was Jesus Christ? (1Tim.3:16, Phil. 2:6-7)
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Romans 1:19-22 asserts that deep down in their heart every person does know that there is a God. "Scientific" speculation about the origins of man are entirely unsatisfactory to the open, thinking mind. The lack of any real verifiable evidence in the theory of evolution is causing many honest intellectuals to rethink their feelings on the origins of man. Even the renowned Dr. Carl Sagan has admitted that the further we travel into space, the more sure science is that life is unique to this planet. Unfortunately much of the information being taught in our schools and on television about man's origin is knowingly false. Science avoids the hard questions, (like how did male and female evolve) in order not to threaten their humanistic bias. Do not be intimidated. In the heart of each skeptic is a gnawing awareness that there is a God and an eternity.

In Francis Schaffer's classic book THE GOD WHO IS THERE it is demonstrated that the smallest "leap of faith" is made in choosing to believe that there is a God who

wants to have a personal relationship with man. All other philosophies and "isms" stretch the credible mind and have no substantive proof.

LOGIC DEMANDS THERE MUST BE A GOD

Logically speaking for anything to exist, something must exist in and of itself. Scientists have speculated that the smallest particles of sub atomic matter (known as quarks and Higgsbothoms) somehow began with a collision in space and a resulting Big Bang. It is reasonable to expect that for something to exist in an of itself it must be by every measure perfect in every way. What we understand of Einstein's Second Law of Thermodynamics demands it. It must also have absolute power and be devoid of any form of decay. This is to much to ask of any material element, but is a fitting description of God and can easily be seen in His Word to us.

A person may have some question about the reality of God because God is beyond our ability to comprehend fully, but Solomon assures us in Ecclesiastics 3:11 "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

We have the assurance of God that He has and will reveal Himself to the unbeliever.

Under Excuse 4 the trilemma argument that Jesus Christ is the Son of God was explained. Jesus was a lunatic, liar or the Son of God as He claimed to be. The major strength of the argument that

Jesus is God lay in the fact of His Resurrection. As Josh McDowell summarizes, "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, or it is the most fantastic fact of history". The whole of Christianity stands or falls with the Resurrection. Following is a outline summerized from EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT Chapter 10, The Resurrection, Hoax or History.

I. The Resurrection of Christ was an actual historical event.

A. The Biblical and secular descriptions of the event were of real people and real places.

B. The names of those who saw Him were recorded and they themselves stated He was resurrected.

C. Secular and early Church literature is filled with references to Jesus and His resurrection, yet there is nothing written beyond the Biblical account of the Pharisees denial that challenges the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.

II. The Circumstances at the scene of the Tomb.

A. Jesus was dead.

1. The Government soldiers, religious leaders, disciples and spectators all certified that Jesus was dead.

2. The Biblical description matches modern medical expectations that Jesus died on the cross.

B. The tomb was an actual rock tomb known to the government and the religious leaders who had Jesus killed.

1. Guards were placed in front of it.

2. Women visited it.

3. It had a Roman Seal

4. Jesus was wrapped in the usual burial shroud of the day.

C. Jesus was Resurrected.

1. The disciples had fled.

a. Hardly a band of men who could overpower a Roman guard.

2. The grave clothes were in tact.

3. The stone was rolled a good distance away.

4. The Roman guards told the Pharisees that Jesus rose.

a. The Pharisees told them to lie. (Matt. 28)

III. Jesus was Alive.

A. Appeared to:

1. Mary Magdalene
2. Women at tomb
3. Separately to Peter, James, Stephen, and Paul
4. Emmaus disciples
5. Apostles and Thomas
6. Seven by Lake Tiberias
7. 500 on a Galilean mountain
8. John on Patmos.

IV. THE ENEMIES OF CHRIST GAVE NO REFUTATION OF THE RESURRECTION.

A. At every trial of the disciples the religious leaders were silent on the resurrection question.

B. The Roman rulers, Agrippa and Festus did not answer Paul's claim of Jesus' resurrection, they just mocked Paul.

V. TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF TRANSFORMED LIVES.

A. The disciples became a bold group of preachers.

B. All through the years up to the present time lives have been transformed.

VI. THE CONCLUSION: JESUS DID RISE FROM THE DEAD

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KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

ROM 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

SCRIPTURES

ROM 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

ROM 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

ROM 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

PSA 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

PSA 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

ECC 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

1TI 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

PHI 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

PHI 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

HEB 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH19.asp>

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EXCUSE 20. GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

POSSIBLE RATIONAL BEHIND THE QUESTION

1. I am ready to Receive Christ right now.
2. I want to know what I would have to do.
3. I think I already am a Christian but I want to be sure.
- 4.
- 5.

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Would you like to pray right now and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? (John 3:16)
2. What would stop you from receiving Jesus Christ right now as your Lord and Savior? (Rom 3:23)
3. If you were to die right now, would you go to heaven?

How do you know?
4. Do you know hat it means to be born again? (Eph. 2:1-6)
5. If you do not want to accept Christ right now are you actually formally rejecting Him?

6.

7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

What presentation you make when asking a person to pray to receive Christ is not as important as the fact he has an opportunity to pray. If there is some hesitation to pray to receive Christ you could, at the leading of the Holy Spirit, ask the person if he wants to formally reject Christ right now. Actually, not accepting is rejecting, but this should only be done at the leading of the Spirit and with a gentle spirit. Accept a no to both requests. Quite often the person will pray to receive Christ later when he has had a chance to think it over.

Other presentations:

Four Spiritual Laws - Available from Campus Crusade for Christ International, Arrowhead Springs, San Bernardino, Ca. 92414

The Real Purpose of Life (Available from Baptist Student Union, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103 (405) 236-4341, Ext. 287).

Evangelism Explosion (E.E. International, P. O. Box 23820, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307

Romans Road

1. HE IS A SINNER Rom. 3:10-12, 23
2. THE PRICE OF SIN. Rom. 6:23 (Rev. 20:14)
3. JESUS PAID THE PRICE FOR HIS SIN ON THE CROSS. Rom. 5:8
4. HE MUST RECEIVE CHRIST BY AN ACT OF FAITH Rom. 10:9-10, 13

SUCCESSFUL SOUL-winning

SHOW THEM HOW TO ACCEPT CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOUR.

- A. Isa. 53:6 How many have gone astray?
- B. John 1:12 Who has the power to receive Christ?
- C. Romans 10:9-10 What must you do?
 - 1. Matt. 10:32-33 What is Christ's promise to you if you confess Him?

II. SHOW THEM THAT THERE MUST BE A WILLINGNESS TO CONFESS AND FORSAKE SIN.

- A. Isa. 55:7 What is your part and what is God's part.
- B. Acts 2:38 What is it to repent?
 - 1. Hebrews 7:25 How is Jesus going to help you?

III. SHOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BELIEVE ON JESUS FOR SALVATION.

- A. Acts 16:31 What must you do to be saved?
- B. Romans 1:16 What is the gospel?
 - 1. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 The Gospel is the news of Jesus.

IV. HAVING LED A SOUL TO CHRIST, GIVE THE PERSON A FEW PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE UPON WHICH TO REST HIS FAITH.

- A. Acts 10:43 Are your sins forgiven?
- B. Acts 13:39 From what are you justified?
- C. John 3:36 Do you now have everlasting life?

D. John 5:24 Can you ever be condemned before God again?

* SCRIPTURE MEMORIZING FOR SUCCESSFUL SOUL WINNING, by Oscar Lowry

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ISA 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

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

ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

ROM 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

MAT 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

ACT 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

ACT 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

EPH 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

EPH 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

EPH 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

MAT 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

MAT 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1CO 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1CO 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1CO 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1CO 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1CO 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

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EXCUSE 21. IT IS TOO LATE

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I feel like God cannot forgive me.
2. I don't feel like accepting Christ.
3. I deserve what I get.
4. I couldn't live a Christian life now.
5. I can't accept myself. (low self esteem.)
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 2 I cannot forgive
- 3 I have no feeling
- 9 I will not be accepted
- 14 Too much to give up

- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 23 Unpardonable sin
- 28 I don't have to accept Christ openly
- 33 I have tried once but failed

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

- 1. Too late for what? (John 6:37)
- 2. Why is it too late? (Psa. 91:15)
- 3. Do you think God cannot forgive you? (2Pet3:9)
- 4. Do you really want to pay for your sin yourself?
- 5. Since God says He won't reject you, are you rejecting Him? (Heb. 3:7-8)
- 6. If you could change, Would you?
- 7. If I can show you that it is not too late will you receive Christ? (2Cor. 6:2)
- 8.
- 9.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

It is the Holy Spirit who calls men to salvation. Most likely the Holy Spirit is working and this person feels the great weight of his sin and is at the end of himself. Share the

many Scripture promises listed here to assure him the Lord can and will save him, but he must make the choice. The story of the thief on the cross beside Jesus in Luke 23:39ff is useful in showing that even at the last hour Jesus will listen to a sinners plea. Since you are speaking with them about their salvation, it is safe to assume the Holy Spirit is still at work in their lives.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

2PE 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

SCRIPTURE

JOH 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

ROM 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

DEU 4:30 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

DEU 4:31 (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

2CO 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

REV 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

HEB 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

HEB 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

PSA 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH21.asp>

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EXCUSE 22. I HAVE NOT FINISHED SOWING WILD OATS

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I can quit later--before it's too late.
2. There is no real penalty for sowing wild oats.
3. I enjoy my lifestyle.
4. I don't feel guilty.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 3 I have no feeling
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 8 Backsliders
- 14 Too much to give up
- 15 Not now--I have plenty of time

17 I am too great a sinner

23 Unpardonable sin

26 Worldly amusements

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What crop do you think you will harvest from your "wild oats"? (Gal. 6:7 & Rom. 6:23)

2. When do you plan to finish sowing? (Pro. 27:1)

3. You must want what you want when you want it or you will end up with something you don't want at all. (James 1:15)

4. Do you want to be God's enemy? (James 4:4)

5.

6.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Laws of Sowing & Reaping; 120-B

SAVE HALF PAGE FOR REDUCED COPY OF 120 B1

THE LAWS OF SOWING & REAPING

1. You reap what you sow.

2. You reap more than you sow.

3. You reap in a different season than you sow.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

GAL 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

SCRIPTURE

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

JAM 1:15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

GAL 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

ROM 8:6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH22.asp>

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EXCUSE 23. UNPARDONABLE SIN

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. Someone told me I can't be saved because I...
2. I committed the unpardonable sin.
- 3.
- 4.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 9 I will not be accepted

17 I am too great a sinner

21 It is too late

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What sin does Jesus say cannot be forgiven? (Mat. 12:31-32)
2. Would you like to be forgiven by God and have eternal life? (1John 1:9)
3. Since you are concerned about it, you have not committed the unpardonable sin because the Holy Spirit is still at work in your heart.
4. Have you ever Blasphemed the Holy Spirit? (Mat. 12:31-32)
5. What do you understand the unpardonable sin to be?
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

When this excuse is encountered it is necessary to find out what the person considers the unpardonable sin to be. Some rightly understand that it is blasphemy but are confused with exactly what blasphemy was. It was not common profanity or even cursing at God. Paul confessed to Timothy " Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief". (1 Tim. 1:13) Peter also denied the Lord with cursing and swearing and was forgiven. The fact is, no particular act of immorality is the unpardonable sin. All sin common to man is covered by the blood of Christ. Paul makes this clear in 1 Cor. 6:9-11 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God".

The circumstances surrounding Matthew 12 were unique. The Pharisees had accused Jesus of healing by the power of demons. The Pharisees had clear evidence that Jesus was the Messiah. Even the multitudes following Jesus were beginning to believe Jesus was the Son of God. The Pharisees deliberately spoke against what they knew to be true saying Jesus cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the ruler of demons.

Because Jesus no longer walks the earth it is questioned by some scholars if the unpardonable sin could be committed today. In any event, if the person is concerned that he may have committed this sin, it is clear evidence that the Holy Spirit is still at work in his heart. Had he actually committed the unpardonable sin, he, like the Pharisees, would not care.

The multitude of Scriptures under Excuse 17 "I Am Too Great A Sinner" should be shared until the person sees that God desires to forgive him and make him His child.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

SCRIPTURE

MAT 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

MAT 12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH23.asp>

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EXCUSE 24. I DO NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT CHRIST OPENLY

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. Religion is a private matter.
2. I'm embarrassed to walk an aisle in a church.
3. I don't want anyone to know.
4. I can't pray out loud.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 29 I don't have to go to church
- 30 I was always a Christian

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Do you think you have to walk an aisle in church to be saved? (Acts 2:21)
2. Are you just shy or ashamed of Christ? (2Ti 1:8)
3. Did you know that if you will acknowledge Christ, He will acknowledge you? (Mat. 10:32)
4. I know it's hard, but it is an important part of making your commitment to Christ. (Rom. 10:9-10)
5. Would you be willing to tell one other person that you have accepted Christ?
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

The Scriptural standard is to confess Christ openly, not being ashamed of Him. Salvation is a free gift of God without any works to be performed on our part. Walking an aisle or praying out loud or giving a testimony in church is not the criteria. That will come with maturity. Encourage them to share with others in their every day life what Christ has done in your them. The important step is that they talk to others about Christ, not where they do it. One woman was terrified to stand up in a church and give a testimony after she was saved yet she began telling every one in her family and at her work what Christ had done in her life. She was not ashamed of the gospel, she was afraid of crowds. It is equally difficult for the new believer to pray out loud. They often have the idea they are suppose to pray a certain way instead of just talking with God. As you pray aloud with them they will learn.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MAT 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

SCRIPTURE

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

ACT 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2TI 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

MAR 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

1JO 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

PSA 51:15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH24.asp>

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EXCUSE 25. I FEEL SAVED

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I don't feel like a sinner. (What is this feeling?)
2. I go to church.
3. I'm better than the next guy.
4. My good deeds will get me through.
5. I'm O.K.
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 3 I have no feeling
- 5 I am a church member
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 18 I am a Roman Catholic
- 30 I was always a Christian

32 I am trying to be a Christian

34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Do your feelings always tell you the truth? (Pro. 14:6)
2. Do you always trust your feelings? (Luke 18:9-14)
3. Could your feelings be wrong? (Jer. 17:9)
4. What do you base your feelings on? (Titus 1:2)
5. How do you know you are going to heaven? (John 3:36)
6. What is this feeling?
7. Do feelings or faith get you into heaven? (Heb 11:6)
- 8.
- 9.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

DO NOT DEPEND UPON FEELINGS*

Have you ever been driving or hiking and lost all sense of direction? If it's dark or cloudy you may feel like you are heading East when you are really heading West. As soon as the sun comes through or you see a familiar landmark your "feelings" change and you are back on the right track. Airplane pilots must learn to trust their instruments. High in the air there is no frame of reference. It is easy to experience "vertigo" and actually be upside down. A quick glance at the instruments tells the pilot what position he is in and he can adjust accordingly. The same is true for people "feeling" their way through life. With no frame of reference they can easily become lost or upside down and "feel" sure they are right. The Bible provides the only sure, true frame of reference to measure our feelings against.

See "Train" illustration in Excuse 3 I have no feeling

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

SCRIPTURE

HEB 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

PRO 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

TIT 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH25.asp>

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EXCUSE 26. WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I would have to stop _____* and go to church.
2. I don't want to take time from _____.
3. I can't _____ and be a Christian.
4. I would rather _____.
- 5.

6.

*(Fill in with whatever amusement the person mentions.)

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 14 Too much to give up
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 28 I can't give up my companions
- 29 I don't have to go to church

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

- 1. Is _____ more important than eternal life? (1John 2:15- 17)
- 2. What real benefit comes from _____? (Pro. 21:17)
- 3. Is _____ all there is? (1 Tim. 5:6)
- 4. What brings true and lasting Peace and Joy?
- 5. When something "harmless" displaces God in your life, is it really "harmless"? (Mat. 13:22)
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

The person offering this excuse often sees it as harmless. They may have a "list" of things they have heard Christian cannot do, like dance or go to the movies. The real issue is not "innocent" amusements. People can become involved with anything from sports to work. The issue is what effect these amusements have on the person's relationship with God. In their proper place many amusements are harmless. All are dangerous when they displace God.

Other worldly amusements are knowingly harmful but entrenched in the persons lifestyle. Drugs, alcohol, all forms of immorality could hold the person back from responding to the gospel. Although God is not pleased with that activity, that is not the central point. Their personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the issue that must be dealt with. Often the person knows this "amusement" is harmful, but he is caught in it's clutches. If the person is not willing to give up that sin at this moment, ask him if he is willing to let the Lord make him willing. I have had many begin the road to the cross here. If they are willing to be made willing, most often salvation will follow as the Holy Spirit continues to work in their life.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

1JO 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

SCRIPTURE

JAM 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

1CO 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

MAT 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

PRO 21:17 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

1TI 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

LUK 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

1CO 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

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EXCUSE 27. WHAT ABOUT THE HEATHEN?

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. How can a loving God condemn someone who hasn't heard?
2. True concern for those who have not heard.
3. God is unfairly condemning them without a chance.
4. I'm really not concerned about them, I just want to argue.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 7 God is too good to damn anyone

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. If, as you fear, God would condemn someone who has not heard, what do you think He would do to someone who has heard and rejected Him?
2. Are you saying God would condemn someone unjustly? (Rom 1:18)
3. Romans 1 says they see enough in nature to know He is there and yet they reject Him--will you too?
4. Are you considering being a missionary to tell them?
5. Could God ignore their sin when they reject what truth they have?
6. If God is revealing Himself to you, would he do less for someone else?
- 7.
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

In Romans 1 Paul addresses the question "what about the heathen". God's holiness demands that justice be done, but His love sent Jesus to pay the price. Since the time of Adam and Eve people have willfully sinned against God and rejected His plan of salvation. God has revealed Himself to all mankind in nature and intuitively in their hearts (Romans 1:18-20). Solomon observed the same thing in Ecclesiastes 3:11. The real question is, are you going to reject God too?

See additional material in section 7 "God is too good to damn anyone."

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

ROM 1:19-20 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

SCRIPTURE

ROM 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROM 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

ROM 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

ROM 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

JOH 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

JOH 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

JOH 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

JOH 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH27.asp>

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EXCUSE 28. I CAN'T GIVE UP MY COMPANIONS

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. My friends wouldn't go to church.
2. My friends wouldn't understand.
3. My friends are more important to me than God.
4. I like what I am doing now too much to quit.
5. My friends won't accept me.
6. I don't feel guilty about who I am with.
7. I don't want to give up my friends.
- 8.
- 9.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 9 I will not be accepted
- 10 Friends would persecute me
- 14 Too much to give up
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 22 I have not finished sowing wild oats
- 26 Worldly amusements
- 29 I don't have to go to church

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Why do you have to give up your companions?
2. Do you think your companions need Christ? (Pro. 13:20)
3. Would your companions' lifestyle change if they accepted Christ? (Pro. 1:10-15)
4. Why don't you bring your friends with you? (Pro 29:25)
5. Would your friends keep you from Christ? (Psa 1:1)
6. As a Christian you will never be friendless. (1John 1:3)
- 7.
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Much is being said of co-dependent personalities in counseling centers today. Co-dependent people depend on someone else to make them happy or make them feel complete or secure. Solomon said the fear of man is a snare. It is a trap that shackles a person in almost anything he might wish to do. Compare that with the fear of God. The person who fears (reverence, respect, trust) God finds wisdom, freedom, and liberation from human fears in all areas of life.

As a persons life changes after he is saved, his old companions will either seek Christ also or drift away. It is sad to lose a friend, it is disastrous for eternity to lose a Savior.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

PRO 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

SCRIPTURE

PRO 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

PSA 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1JO 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

JAM 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

PRO 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

PRO 24:2 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

PRO 27:7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

1CO 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH28.asp>

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EXCUSE 29. I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I don't want to give up my Sunday.
2. I don't understand what they do in church.
3. I don't know anyone.
4. I went before and I didn't like it.
5. I have a fear of the unknown.

6. Which is the right church?

7.

8.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

8 Backsliders

10 Friends would persecute me

14 Too much to give up

16 Christians inconsistent, Hypocrites

22 I have not finished sowing wild oats

24 I don't have to accept Christ openly

26 Worldly amusements

28 I can't give up my companions

30 I was always a Christian

34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. That is true, but would you like to go to church with me? (Heb 10:25)

2. Do you know what they do in church? (Acts 2:42-46)

3. As a Christian you will like to be around other Christians. (1Jo 1:3)

4. How about going to a home Bible study with me?

5.

6.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

It is true, a person does not have to go to church to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but as he matures in the Lord he will want to. He will feel the need to worship his Lord and that is best accomplished with others. Hebrews 10:25 also is very specific compelling believers to worship. We have a unique privilege in America where the wheels of commerce slow to allow us the time to worship. It is not that way in most of the world. It is important to be connected to a Body of believers in some context but "church" has a bad connotation among many today. Many churches today have small groups and home bible studies to bridge the gap for the new believer between the church and the world while he is maturing in Christ.

Many people are legitimately concerned about which church is correct. They do not know anything about the various denominations or their individual distinctives. It may help them to relate it to something they already understand. They are probably more versed in the differences between Satan's counterfeit for the local church, the local bar. There is a crude similarity in choosing a bar and choosing a church. In the extreme sense, the purpose of going to a bar is to get drunk. (In the church it is to worship). You could ask them:

Suppose I wanted to drink a beer. Which would be the best bar? There is a sports bar, a biker bar, a cocktail lounge and just about anything else I can think of. Which is the right bar for me? They would explain that you could get a beer in any of those bars but you would be most comfortable in a particular type of bar because you have the same interest they do (i.e. you might like the sports bar with the wide screen T.V.) They all serve the same basic product with the same expected result, but in a different atmosphere.

It is a crude similarity, but one they may understand better. At this juncture it would be good to ask them to go to church with you. Doctrinal differences would not make sense and statistics show that over 90% of all first time visitors came to a church because they were invited by a friend. You already have something in common.

If your home church does not have a small group or home Bible study why not start one? Your Christian book store has many good Bible Study Workbooks or write to Immanuel Missions. We have a one year weekly Bible Study course that deals with the practical life situations of a new believer in his Marriage, family, finances, etc.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

HEB 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

SCRIPTURE

ACT 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

ACT 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

ACT 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

1JO 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH29.asp>

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EXCUSE 30. I WAS ALWAYS A CHRISTIAN

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I was raised in a "Christian" home.
2. My parents took me to church.
3. I go to church.

4. I feel close to God.
5. I love God.
6. I believe there is a God.
7. I was Baptized.
- 8.
- 9.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 5 I am a church member
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 18 I am a Roman Catholic
- 29 I don't have to go to church

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. How does a person become a Christian? (Joh 1:12)
2. Is everyone who goes to church a Christian? (Joh 3:3)
3. When did you receive Christ as your personal Saviour?
4. How does your life reflect your salvation? (Isa 46:6)
5. If you were always a Christian, why does Christ say we must be born again? (Joh 3:3).
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Because of a lack of knowledge of God's Word, many people who attend a church, were baptized as a child, or who live in "Christian" America believe that they are a Christian.

They must be made to understand that they must be born again as a deliberate act of their will.

In becoming a Christian a person must understand that he was born a sinner and Christ saved him from that sin when he accepted Christ's life as his own. The following diagrams will illustrate the process.*

SHRINK 140C

You are the stick figure in the picture. The little dots leading to "in Adam" represent your ancestors. According to Romans 5:12 Sin entered through Adam and down the line to you. Romans 3:23 and 6:23 Tell the price for that sin...Death.

SHRINK 140-C1

While living in Adam we learn of another kind of life, the life lived by Jesus Christ. His life is eternal. Events that are past or future to us are eternally present to Him. Christ's life, because He is God is eternal, without beginning or end. This also means he is complete, and never-changing. In the course of Christ's eternal life he came to this earth, died on the cross as the sacrifice for sin, and rose again from the dead.

SHRINK 140-C2

Sinful man's responsibility concerning the death of Christ is to affirm it as his/her own personal sacrifice for sin ---by faith. Failure to do this results in death.

HERE IS THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION: When a person places his faith in Christ, Christ takes him out of Adam's line of death and Places him in Christ's eternal life. Now Christ's history and future is his/her own. ROM 6:6 " Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." and COL 1:13 " Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" A

person cannot be in Adam and in Christ at the same time." (1CO 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.") Your life has become one with Christ. You really were crucified with Christ, because of a miracle of Jesus, you were there. You enter into eternal life when you receive Christ, but your eternal life began with Christ. (Remember His line is eternal). Because you are in Him, everything that is true about the crucified, risen Lord is true and potentially manifest in the believer.

SHRINK 140-D

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KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE

PSA 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ISA 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

JER 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

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

ECC 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

ROM 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH30.asp>

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EXCUSE 31. I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I never have read it.
2. I don't understand King James English.
3. I have trouble accepting the miracles as fact.
4. I have read the Bible and it did not make sense to me.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 4 I don't know how to believe
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 12 I do not believe the Bible
- 13 Earnest-minded skeptics
- 19 How we know there is a God

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Have you ever read the Bible? (1 Cor. 2:14)
2. What don't you understand? (John 12:48)
3. What do you understand about the Bible?
4. What do you understand about Jesus? (1 Cor. 13:11-12)
5. Would you like to understand the Bible? (Psalm 119;18)
6. Do you understand that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- 7.
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Samuel Clemens, the author of the Tom Sawyer tales once commented "it was not what I do not understand about the Bible that concerns me, but rather what I do understand". It is true, there are many things in the Bible that are difficult to comprehend or explain. The concept of God, the trinity, eternity, and the book of Revelation have had men debating to no agreed upon conclusion. The heart of the issue is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His story is so simple even a young child can understand. What a person needs to understand is that they are a sinner, they cannot pay the price for themselves, that Jesus came as the Son of God and gave His life for them and that if they believe in His name, He will save them from their sin and make them His children. Failure to respond to the call of God will result in eternal punishment and separation from God. To be sure, many today still want to talk about what they do not understand instead of dealing with what they do understand.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

1CO 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

SCRIPTURE

2CO 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2CO 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2CO 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

2PE 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

ISA 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

ISA 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

JOH 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

PSA 119:18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

1CO 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

ROM 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

2PE 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

JOH 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH31.asp>

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EXCUSE 32. I AM TRYING TO BE A CHRISTIAN

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I'm doing the best I can.
2. I'm a good person.
3. I keep the golden rule.
4. I go to church.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 25 I feel saved
- 30 I was always a Christian
- 34 I am no sinner--good enough

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. What do you have to do to be saved? (Act 16:31)

2. What are you trying to do? (Eph. 2:8-9).
3. Do you know what the Bible says you must do to be saved? (Joh 16:47)
4. You can not "join" the family of Christ, you must be born into it. Would you like to know how? (Joh 1:12)
5. "Trying" implies failure. Do you think you have failed?
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

A person who says he is "trying to be saved" is probably trying all the self-help methods of salvation. The word "trying" implies that he is failing in his attempt to lead a Christian life. He is doing what seems right in his own sight but is not satisfied with the results. He needs to know that God says trusting, not trying saves. An orphan child may say to a prospective parent "I will try to be your son". Trying will never make them a son, only adoption will. The same is true for the sinner wanting to be saved. Trying will not do it. Only trusting in Christ's work on the cross will. Evangelism Explosion uses the "chair" illustration to demonstrate how to put your trust in Christ.

You do believe this chair exists don't you? (Point to empty chair) Yes

Do you believe this chair would support me if I were to sit on it? Yes.

But it is not supporting me now for a very simple reason. I am not sitting on it. For the sake of making my point, let the chair where I am sitting represent me, and this empty chair represent Jesus Christ. For a long time I believed He existed and could help me. But I did not have eternal life because I was trusting my own good works to support me into Heaven.

Remember what you said you would say to God if He asked why He should let you into Heaven? You said "I try to do the best I can"...Who is the only person referred to in your answer? "I"

Who were you trusting in to get you to Heaven when you said that?

Yourself.

To receive eternal life I must transfer my trust from myself to Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. (Sit in the empty chair).

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KEY VERSE OT MEMORIZE

ACT 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

SCRIPTURE

JOH 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

JOH 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

HEB 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

GAL 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

JOH 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

1JO 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1JO 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

ROM 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

2TI 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

ISA 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

1PE 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH32.asp>

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EXCUSE 33. I HAVE TRIED ONCE BUT FAILED

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND EXCUSE

1. I can not hold out and live a Christian life.
2. I prayed the prayer and nothing happened.

3. God did not change me.
4. I keep on sinning.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 1 I must get better first
- 4 I don't know how to believe
- 6 No difference what I believe
- 8 Backsliders
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 17 I am too great a sinner
- 21 It is too late
- 23 Unpardonable sin

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Why do you think you failed? (Gal. 2:20)
2. Would God reject you? (2 Ti 1:12 & Jude 1:24)
3. Do you think God has given up on you? (Phi 1:6 & Hos 14:4)
4. What brought you to Christ the first time?
5. Have you found a better way of salvation?

6. Did you lose your salvation?

7.

8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

If a person has truly made a full surrender to Christ He cannot fail. Many fail because they do not make the Lord the Master of their lives. They have some kind of religious experience, say a prayer and make no real attempt to live a Christian life. The emphasis here of the Scripture is in the faithfulness and power of God to keep His child. The Christian is not asked to live a perfect life. Our Heavenly Father expected that we would fall short of perfection. That is why He gave us an advocate to plead our case. I John 1:9 promises forgiveness when we do sin. If the person has made a true profession of faith, he needs the assurance that these verses bring. If the person is struggling with assurance or acceptance remind them of Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

See Supplemental Material, Excuse 32. and Salvation Verses Number 20.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

2TI 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

SCRIPTURE

PSA 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

PSA 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

JUD 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

GAL 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

PHI 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

HEB 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

JOH 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

JOH 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

JOH 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

1PE 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1CO 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

HOS 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

LUK 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

2CO 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH33.asp>

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EXCUSE 34. I AM NO SINNER. GOOD ENOUGH

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND THE EXCUSE

1. I'm better than the next guy.
2. I have not done anything really bad.
3. I really try to live a good life.
4. I can't admit someone else might be better than me.
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 5 I am a church member
- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 11 I am doing the best I can
- 25 I feel saved
- 29 I don't have to go to church
- 30 I was always a Christian
- 32 I am trying to be a Christian

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. How many sins would it take for a person to be a sinner? (1Jo 1:10)
2. What can you do to earn salvation? (Titus 3:5)
3. What have you done to earn salvation? (Romans 3:10)

4. According to whose standard are you not a sinner? (Luk 16;15)
5. Is "not sinning" enough to gain eternal life? (Rom 3:20)
6. Not only are you not doing good, but you are doing the very thing that God hates the most. (Heb 10:28-29)
- 7.
- 8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

A central theme in the passages listed in the SOUL WINNERS GUIDE is that no man can measure up to the kind of righteousness that God requires. Every man, when brought face to face with these scriptural truths must quiver because he knows that whatever his outward life may be, his heart will not stand the scrutiny of God's eye. No matter how self-righteous a man claims to be, we need not be discouraged for somewhere in the depths of every man's heart is the consciousness of sin and all we have to do is to work away until we strike that nerve. Every man's conscience is on our side.

Evangelism Explosion uses the "omelet" illustration to demonstrate that man cannot mix his good deeds and bad deeds and call them acceptable before God.

If you were to prepare an omelet with five good eggs and one rotten egg, you couldn't serve it to company and expect it to be acceptable. Even less can we serve up our lives to God, which may have many things in them that men would call good, and yet are filled with deeds and thoughts that are rotten, and expect them to be acceptable to God. Scripture says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jam 2:10). If we want to get to heaven by our good works, then all we have to do is be perfect. God's standard is complete obedience to Him for all time. We all fall short of this.*

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Any excuse that begins with I has another common problem. The person has reckoned himself to be God. This is the state of all men outside of God. See the Test for Godship Supplemental Material, Excuse 8 Backsliders.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

1JO 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

SCRIPTURE

ROM 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LUK 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

ROM 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

TIT 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

HEB 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

HEB 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

HEB 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

GAL 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

GAL 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

JOH 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

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

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH34.asp>

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EXCUSE 35. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND THE EXCUSE

1. How can it be God's Word, men wrote it?
2. Aren't there historical and scientific errors in the Bible?
3. I don't believe in the supernatural.
4. Which Bible is correct - Catholic or Protestant?
5. Which is the best translation?

6.

7.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

12 I do not believe the Bible

19 How we know there is a God

31 I cannot understand the Bible

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. If the Bible is not God's Word, what is it? (2TI 3:16)

2. Why would the Bible claim (3,000 times) to be the Word of God if it is not? (2PE 1:21)

3. What historical or scientific errors are you aware of?

4. Jesus accepted the Old Testament as God's Word. (Luk 24:27ff)

5.

6.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

A good resource for studying the authenticity of the Bible is found in Josh McDowell's *More Evidence That Demands A Verdict and Reasons Skeptics Should Consider Christianity*, Section 1.

The Tri-lemma Argument, introduced by C. S. Lewis, (see Chapter 19) for who men believe Jesus to be is similarly applicable to the Bible. There are really only three choices as to what the Bible is:

- 1) It is the Word of God as it states, written by men who were inspired by God.
- 2) It is not the Word of God but was written by men who thought God spoke to them. They were sincere but deluded.
- 3) It is not the Word of God and was written by men who knew God did not speak to them. They were liars.

The question to be resolved is which scenario is most plausible? Could liars or lunatics write the finest moral document ever produced. Could liars or lunatics live their lives according to the moral principles found in the Bible? The logical conclusion is that the Bible is the Word of God, written by men by God's inspiration.

The Bible is the most unique book in history. It was written over a span of 1600 years, 60 generations by over 40 authors from different walks of life. It was written in different places at different times under different circumstances to different people. The authors wrote during different moods in three different languages covering a host of controversial subjects yet maintained its continuity and theme. It is unique in its circulation, translation, survival, teaching and influence. To the objective thinking person the conclusion is obvious. The Bible is the Word of God. That leaves two alternatives: accept it, or reject it.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

2TI 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

SCRIPTURE

ACT 1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

2PE 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

LUK 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

MAT 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

MAT 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

1TH 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

2PE 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2PE 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2PE 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

JOH 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH35.asp>

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EXCUSE 36. CHRIST IS SOON COMING AGAIN

NOTE: 36 - 40 ARE NOT EXCUSES BUT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND THE QUESTION

1. How do you know that Christ is coming again?
2. Will I recognize Him? Accept Him?

3. Will I have a chance after He comes back?
4. When?
5. How long before He comes?
- 6.
- 7.

OTHER QUESTIONS THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Are you prepared for Christ's return? (1TH 4:13ff)
2. If you can reject Christ right now, wouldn't you reject Him after He comes too? (1TH. 5:1ff)
3. Do you really want to take a chance and wait until the last minute? (2CO 6:2)
4. We don't know when, what if it were today? (1TH 5:1-2)
5. Why would you want a second chance if you don't use your first chance?
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

There is some disagreement about when Christ will return, but not that He has promised to return. The three main positions revolve around the millennium (one thousand) of Rev 20:2-4

Amillennialism views that thousand years reign as symbolic, beginning at the time Christ ascended into heaven and ending at His Second Coming. This millennium is the same as the church age we now are living in with Christ ruling in the hearts of believers.

Premillennialism views the millennium as a literal one thousand year reign beginning at the rapture of the church, which could come at any moment.

Postmillennialism views a literal millennium as brought about by the work of the church. Christ will come at the end of this thousand years.

The issue is not when, (1TH 5:1-2) but the fact that Jesus is coming again.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MAT 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

SCRIPTURE

GAL 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

JOH 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

JOH 7:33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.

MAT 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

LUK 17:24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

1TH 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

ACT 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

REV 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

1JO 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

2TH 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH36.asp>

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37. HEAVEN

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND THE QUESTION

1. Is Heaven a real place?
2. Where is Heaven?
3. What exactly, is Heaven?
4. What are we going to do in Heaven?
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER SIMILAR OR RELATED QUESTIONS

39 Hell

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Would you like to go to Heaven?
2. Do you sense an instinct for eternity? eternity is bound...Ecc
3. Wipe away tears. (Rev 21:4)
4. Would Jesus have told us so much about Heaven if it were not a literal place? (Joh 14:2-3)
5. Heaven is a place where believers are rewarded. (Mat 6:20)
- 6.
- 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Heaven is one of the infinite concepts that is difficult for a finite mind to comprehend. We are assured in scripture it will be a wonderful place beyond our wildest expectations. In Revelations 21 we learn that it is a place Marvelously built, Gloriously lighted, Righteously governed and a place of absolute perfection and purity. Simply put, HEAVEN IS WHERE GOD DWELLS.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

SCRIPTURES

JOH 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

2CO 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

1CO 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

HEB 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

1TH 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2PE 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

REV 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

REV 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

REV 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH37.asp>

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38. ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION

POSSIBLE RATIONALE BEHIND THE QUESTION

1. Can I lose my salvation?
2. Can I quit if I want to?
3. How do I know If I'm saved?
4. Some days I feel saved, some days I don't.
5. If I were really saved my life would be easy.

6.

7.

OTHER QUESTIONS THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

23 Unpardonable sin

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Would God Lie? (Rev 3:20)

2. Would you like to be sure of your salvation? (1Jo 5:13)

3. Do you know what God Say's about assurance of salvation? (Rom 8:16)

4. Did you ask Christ to come into your life? (Joh 3:36)

5.

6.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

There are three reasons people lack assurance. First is because of ignorance. Emphasize the faithfulness of God's word to the believer and show the volume of scripture that assures him that God will accept him.

Review the Train diagram under Excuse 3.

The second reason a person may lack assurance is because of sin. It may be productive to ask the person if they know of any unconfessed sin that could be troubling their conscience. If the answer is positive review the scriptures under Excuse 17, "I Am To Great a Sinner.

The third and most obvious reason is the person may know about Jesus, but never personally transferred his trust for eternal life to Him. See the "chair" illustration in Excuse 32 I am trying to be a Christian.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

SCRIPTURES

1JO 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

JOH 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

JOH 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

ROM 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

REV 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

ROM 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2TI 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH38.asp>

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39. HELL

POSSIBLE RATIONAL BEHIND THE QUESTION

1. Is there really a hell?
2. How could a loving God create such an dreadful place ?
3. Will God really send people to Hell?
4. Where is Hell?
- 5.
- 6.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED:

- 7 God is too good to damn anyone
- 37 Heaven

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Can there be justice without Hell? (Mat 25:41).
2. Would God lie? (Mat 25:41-46)
3. Hell is at the end of a Godless life. Are you willing to take the risk? (Pro 15:24)
4. Do you believe there is a Heaven?
5. Will you chose to go to Hell? (Mat. 7:13)

6. What do you have to do to get to Hell?

7.

8.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

In order to get to Hell a person must reject Jesus Christ and the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. Even those who have never heard the name of Jesus still must reject the truth they do have (Rom 1: 18-20) so that they are without excuse. Jesus speaks more about Hell and punishment in the scriptures than He does about Heaven and rewards.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MAT 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

SCRIPTURES

PRO 15:24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

MAT 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

MAT 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

MAT 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

MAT 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

MAT 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

MAT 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

JUD 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

MAT 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

2PE 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

REV 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

MAT 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH39.asp>

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40. SALVATION VERSES

POSSIBLE RATIONAL BEHIND THE QUESTION

1. I realize I need to be saved, how do I go about it?
2. I'm not sure about the terms "saved" and "born again".
- 3.
- 4.

OTHER EXCUSES THAT ARE SIMILAR OR RELATED

20 God's plan of salvation

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Would you like to pray and ask Jesus Christ to be your personal Saviour right now? (Joh 3:3)
2. If you do not want to accept Jesus right now, would you like to pray and formally reject Him? (JOS 24:15)
3. Is there any reason why you could not pray to receive Christ right now? (1Jo 5:12-13)
4. What would stop you from praying to receive Christ as your Saviour right now? (Luk 9:26)
5. Will you answer the door of your Life and let Jesus in right now? (Rev 3:20)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

It is important to give the person the opportunity to respond to the Gospel. The crucial step is to see him move from an intellectual understanding to an act of his will. By this time the Holy Spirit has begun to encourage him to receive Christ. A little nudge is all that is needed.

See also Excuse 20 God's plan of salvation.

DRAWING THE NET by Buddy Murphrey pg 35-39.

1. Recap the Roman Road (or whatever presentation you are making)
2. Start talking slower and softer.
3. Read the Net Scriptures. (1John 5:11-12 and Rev. 3:20).
4. Lay a foundation for faith by pointing out the two distinct responsibilities in the net verse.

5. Get him to confirm the honesty of God. (I.e. Would God lie?)
6. Ask him if he would like for Jesus to come into his heart.
7. Ask him to let you pray.
8. Ask him to put his finger on Rev. 3:20 before you pray.
9. Pray a simple prayer for his salvation.
10. Stop in the middle of your prayer and ask him to pray.
11. When he finishes his prayer, ask him to clinch his decision for Christ by taking your hand.
12. Finish your prayer by thanking God for his decision.
13. After finishing your prayer, lead him to assurance from the Word.
14. Get him to walk the aisle Sunday morning and make a public profession of his faith in Christ.
15. Offer to pick him up for Sunday School this Sunday.
16. Sit with him in the church service.

For Further study see DRAWING THE NET by Buddy Murphrey

(P.O. Box 3212, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404)

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

JOH 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURES

ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ECC 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

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

ISA 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

JER 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

LUK 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

ISA 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

TIT 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

JAM 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

GAL 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

PRO 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

JOH 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

ROM 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

1CO 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

ROM 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1PE 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2CO 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1CO 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1CO 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

JOH 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

JOH 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

s1JO 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

1JO 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

MAT 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

MAT 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

LUK 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

ROM 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROM 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

JAM 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

PHI 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

TIT 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

ROM 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

HEB 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

JOS 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

<http://immanuelmission.com/Freetools/CH40.asp>

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41 FOR THE JEW

POSSIBLE RATIONAL BEHIND EXCUSES

1. To be a Christian I would have to stop being a Jew.
2. Jews do not believe in 3 Gods like Christians do.
3. How can God have a Son?
4. The messiah is not God.
5. I cannot accept the virgin birth.
6. Man does not inherit a sin nature.
7. You must work for your salvation.
8. Jesus is not the Jewish Messiah.

TRANSITION TO SALVATION PRESENTATION

1. Why cannot a Jew be a Christian? (JOH 4:22)
2. Christians worship only one God (1TI 2:5)
3. God says he did have a Son. (ISA 9:6)
4. Isaiah called the Messiah God (ISA 9:6)

5. It would require a virgin born Messiah to fulfill Gen 3:15 (ISA 7:14)
6. Moses, Isaiah and Jeremiah all say man does have a sin nature. (GEN 5:3, JER 17:9, ISA 53:6.)
7. Abraham was justified by faith, not works. (Gen 15:6)
8. Have you ever compared the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life with (ISA. 53:1-12)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

In dealing with a Jew it is always best to use their own Bible and show that it points the way to Christ. The Old Testament pinpoints Jesus line from His Conception (Gen. 3:15), virgin birth (Isa. 7:14), Son of God (Psa. 2:7), the family line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David, and in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) under a star. EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT gives 61 distinct prophecies concerning the birth, life and resurrection of Christ. Peter Stoner is quoted in the same book "We find the chance that only one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10157. (pg. 175) The explanation of that possibility is quite convincing.

Most Jews have at least some cultural interest in the Passover, if not some type of family Passover tradition. Get a copy of a Christian Passover Haggadah from your local Christian book store. From a Christian Passover Haggadah you will be able to show him how the Passover pictures the Messiah, Jesus, right from their own traditions. One very pointed part of the Passover is the description of the matzah. (The flat unleavened cracker that is central to the celebration).

*You will notice that the matzah is unleavened: in its baking it is pierced, it is striped. Unleavened, because it is to be without contamination, a symbol of the meaning of sin. Pierced and striped, it illustrates the beautiful symbol of our Messiah, Who being without sin, yet was pierced according to the Scripture, as found in Zechriah 12:10 "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn". Also in Psalm 22:16 "they pierced my hands and my feet I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon

me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture". The prophet Isaiah declares in ISA 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed".

As these penetrating scriptures sink into their hearts and minds remind them that as a completed Jew, they are still waiting for the Messiah to come...a Second Time.

*From PASSOVER HAGGADAH Beth Sar Shalom, P.O. Box 2000 Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962 (914) 359-8535

KEY SCRIPTURE TO MEMORIZE

ISA 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

SCRIPTURES

1TI 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

GEN 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

ISA 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

DEU 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

PSA 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

PRO 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

ISA 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

JER 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

MIC 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

GEN 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

ISA 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

GEN 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

GEN 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth:

GEN 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

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

GEN 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

PSA 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

PSA 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

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