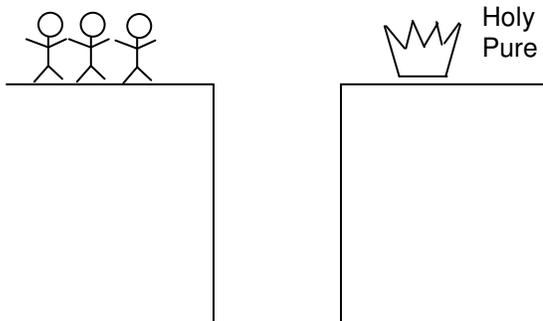


The Bridge Diagram

What it is: A simple, graphical tool used to illustrate and present the gospel in a clear and concise manner.

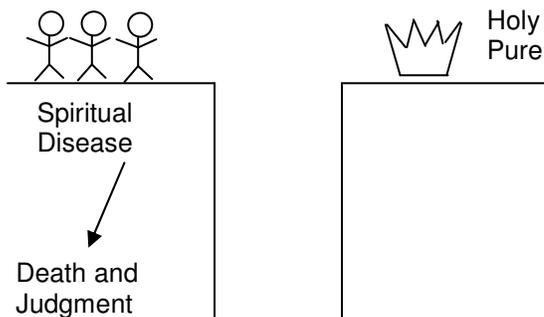
1. Begin by explaining what you will be doing and give an introduction to the gospel: *I would like to share with you something called the gospel. The word "gospel" literally meant "good news" in Greek and was what Jesus focused on when he taught and preached.*

2. Begin drawing the bridge diagram:



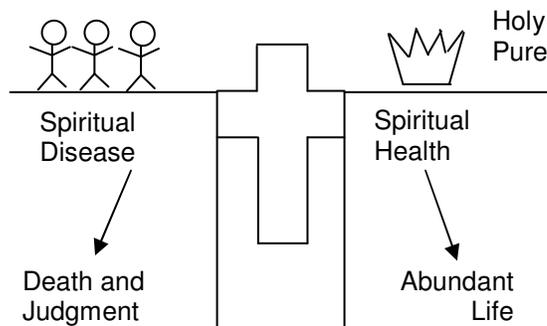
The gospel, however, begins with some bad news. The left side of this picture represents all human beings, including you and me. The right side with the crown represents God. God is "holy," which means that he is "pure."

3. Talk about the spiritual disease called sin:



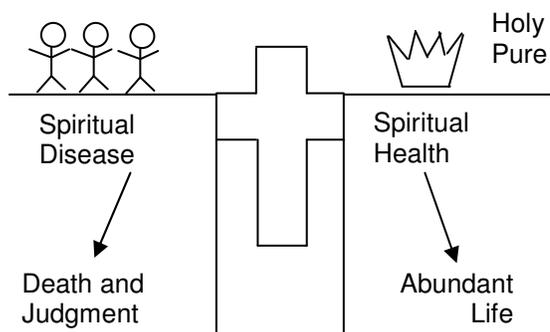
But we have been separated from God (point to chasm) because we have a spiritual disease. That spiritual disease is sometimes called "sin." This spiritual disease leads us to act and think in ways that are contrary to God's purity. For instance, we may lie, covet, gossip, belittle others (or substitute own list). This spiritual disease is 100% fatal; it inevitably leads to spiritual death and finally, God's judgment. This presents a problem for us—our spiritual disease separates us from a holy and pure God and will lead to God's judgment.

4. Talk about God's solution:



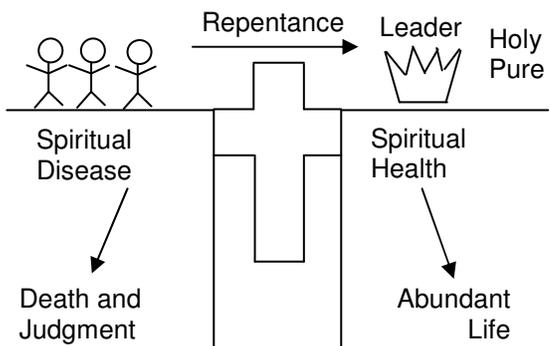
But God has a problem too because God still loves us and wants a relationship with us. God had to find a way to bridge this gap. So he sent his son Jesus to come to this earth. Now, because Jesus was the son of God, he did not have our spiritual disease and lived a pure life. He died on the cross and was buried to pay for all the wrong things we have done. But the story doesn't end there because Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. By doing so, he conquered death once and for all and made it possible for us to receive spiritual health instead of disease and abundant life instead of death.

5. Explain the promise of abundant life:



Through Jesus and the cross, we now have access to God and the promise of spiritual health. The signs of spiritual health are things like love, joy, peace, the certainty of eternal life with God, a relationship with God, and power—power not only within our soul but God’s power to change the world.

6. Talk about repentance:



To accept this spiritual health and cross over from death to life, we must repent. Repentance means a “change of heart:” a change of heart in recognizing our spiritual disease, a change of heart in recognizing Jesus’ ability to take that away, a change of heart in receiving spiritual health and abundant life, and a change of heart in claiming Jesus as the leader of your life.

7. Make the ask:

If you had to place yourself in this diagram, where do you think you would place yourself?

- If the person places him/herself on the left side:
Is there anything that would prevent you from repenting today and crossing over to receive spiritual health and abundant life?
 If yes, address obstacles and/or invite into GIG/other follow-up
 If no, invite them to cross over the bridge today with prayer
- If the person places him/herself on the right side:
Great! Can you share with me when and how you made that decision to cross over?
 Look for understanding of the main gospel elements above (sin, separation from God, Jesus’ death and resurrection, promise of eternal life, repentance, following Jesus as leader)
- If the person places him/herself on the cross or is unsure:
May I suggest the following: (Draw figure on the left side of the cross with arrow moving to the right) Are you over here but moving towards the right hand side?
 If yes, go to a) and re-word as “completely crossing over”
 If no, ask for clarification (An alternate question to ask would be “If you were to die today, do you know with 100% certainty that you will have eternal life in heaven?”)

8. The prayer:

In the prayer, invite the person to repeat after you line by line. Explain what you will do during the prayer and then do it. A suggested prayer might be something like this:

Jesus, I know that I have a spiritual disease. I know that you came and died to cure me of this disease. I know that you rose again to conquer death. I receive your spiritual health and abundant life today. I choose to follow you as my leader from now on. Amen.