

God's Story

1. God has wonderful plans for your life

(Thumb: Most important)



- God is interested in you! You are valuable to Him.
- He wants to give you a gift. The question is: What will you do with it?

2. Problem: We don't do what God wants us to do

(Index finger: Pointing at others with accusation or blame, but the problem is with us)



- There is a big problem in our lives: Sin.
- *What is sin?* Stealing, lying, killing... (breaking the Ten Commandments) is sin.
- But God's standard is even higher:
 - Thinking badly about someone else is sin.
 - If you know the right thing to do but don't do it, that's sin.
 - Root of sin: Thinking we know better than God, ignoring Him and refusing His love.
- God desires us to be perfect. But our sins cause us to be broken, spiritually dead and separated from God.
- God will judge us according to our sin because justice means actions have consequences.

3. God's solution: Jesus paid the price for our sin

(Middle finger is the tallest finger: Symbol for the cross where Jesus died)



- How does this fit together? How can God be full of love but at the same time be the judge who punishes?
- God's special solution is His son Jesus. He came to this world, lived a perfect life and brought healing to many people.
- His enemies arrested Him, beat Him and killed Him on the cross.
- But three days later He came back to life!
- He took the punishment so that we can have forgiveness!
- *Story: The Two Twins (see back)*

4. God wants a relationship with us

(Ring finger: Relationship with God)



- God wants to give us the gift of eternal life and a close relationship with Him – we need to accept.
- How does that work? By trusting Him and deciding to accept His offer.
- But we must realize that this decision has consequences. It means deciding to leave your old life behind and start living like God wants you to live.
- It's like saying "Yes" at a wedding. When you say "Yes," God will also say "Yes" to you. He wants to talk to you, to provide for you and to live with you!

5. The Holy Spirit will support you

(Pinky: There is potential for growth)



- In our own strength we will fail again and again.
- God has much more for you! It is a joy to get to know Him and experience His wonderful plans for you.
- The Holy Spirit is like "God's power" for you. He teaches you, changes your weak points and helps you to be a better person.
- Other people with the Holy Spirit will also support you and train you to understand God better and to do what He wants.

Illustration Story: The Two Twins

There were two identical twins. One of them strayed from the right path as a teenager. He joined a gang and had no contact with his family anymore. Eventually he became a murderer. On a raid he shot a person who got in his way. In court he saw his brother again for the first time in decades. He was the judge! At first he was happy. "It's my brother," he thought, "he should still love me! He'll get me out of here."

His brother, the judge, passed the sentence – death penalty! The twin brother was angry. "Why that strict?!", he asked, "that's not loving!" But the judge had to stick to the laws to fulfill justice.

The sentenced twin was sitting on death row when suddenly, in the middle of the night, the door opened. It was his twin brother! At first he was angry with him. "Why did you sentence me to death?!", he demanded.

"I had to; I'm just. But I have a suggestion for you. We both look the same. Let's change clothes. I'll stay here and you can go."

"Okay, great!", the twin said and left the prison. He celebrated the whole night because he was so happy. The next morning he remembered, "Wait a second, the execution was scheduled at 9 o'clock that morning." He walked to the prison walls and suddenly heard a shot! He realized that his brother really had taken his punishment! He was totally desperate. He went to the house of his brother and found a letter from him. It read,

"You're free. I took your punishment. I want you to live my life from now on, to be honest and to remember what I did for you."

How to pray to accept God's offer

- God, I thank You that I can talk with You. I realize that I didn't live according to Your will. I'm sorry. Please forgive me.
- Jesus, I thank You that You have a solution and died for me. I accept You as Savior and Lord.
- I'm ready to change my life and get rid of anything You don't like. I'm happy to get to know You and I want to live the way You want me to live.
- Holy Spirit, please help me with that. Cleanse me and fill me.

My answer to God's offer

God has done his part. Now it's your turn...

Did I accept his offer?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Am I sure that I received eternal life?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Did I turn away from sin and bad ways?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Am I sure that I received the Holy Spirit?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Asking God: My next steps

God, what do You think about me?

God, which things in my life are not like You want them? What do I need to change?