

# God's plan

## 1. God loves you and has wonderful plans for your life



*(Thumb: most important)*

- God loves you and is interested in you!
- He wants to give us a present – the question is: What will we do about it?

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



*(Index finger: pointing at others means accusing or blame)*

- There is a problem: Sin. What is sin?
- Stealing, lying, killing... (10 commandments) is sin.
- But even more: God says we need to be perfect! His standard:
  - Thinking badly about someone else is sin
  - If you know the right thing to do but don't do it: that's sin
  - Biggest sin: Thinking we know better than God, ignoring him and refusing his love
- God is totally holy: One single sin is enough to stop us from coming close to him anymore. Our sin separates us from God.

## 3. God's solution: Jesus paid the price for your 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: His son Jesus. He came to this world, lived a perfect life and brought healing to many people.
- Finally they arrested him, beat him and killed him on the cross. Three days later he came back to life. He took the punishment so that we can have forgiveness!

## 4. God wants a relationship with us



*(Ring finger: Relationship with God)*

- God is not so much concerned about “religious things” but he wants to be in contact with you, talk to you and provide for you!
- How does that work? By trusting him and deciding to accept his offer.
- Think before: The decision has consequences (like saying “Yes” at a wedding): I decide to live more and more like he wants

## 5. The Holy Spirit is supporting you



*(Pinky: there is potential for growth)*

- God has more for you: He wants to support you in doing what he wants. In our own strength we will fail again and again.
- The Holy Spirit is like “God's power”: Teaching you, changing your weak points, helping you to be a better person
- Other people 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, joined a gang and had no contact with his family anymore. Finally he became a murderer: On a raid he shot a person who got in his way. At the court he saw his brother again for the first time in decades: He was the judge! He was happy: It's my brother, he should still love me! He'll get me out here he thought.

Finally the judge (the brother) passed the sentence: Death penalty! The twin brother was angry: Why that hard?! That's not loving.

But the judge had to stick to the laws.

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

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

"Okay, great!" The twin left the prison and 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, went to the house of his brother and found a letter from him:

"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 come to you. Jesus I believe in you and I come to you.
- I realize that I didn't live according to your will and I repent. Please forgive me.
- Jesus, I thank you that you gave your life for me. I accept you as Saviour and Lord.
- I give my life to you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me to live the way you want.

### 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

Am I sure that I received the Holy Spirit?

Yes  No

### *My spiritual birth certificate:*

On \_\_\_\_\_ (date) I said Yes to God's offer in his son Jesus. I accepted Jesus as my Saviour in whom my sins are forgiven. I gave my life to him, received the Holy Spirit and started to live the way he wants.