

First Steps to God

(From *Speaking of Jesus* by J. Mack Stiles)
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The following is an outline of the Christian message that was developed for students and staff in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Many have found it a useful summary to keep in mind as they share their faith.

God

- ◆ **God loves you. (John 3:16)**
- ◆ **God is holy and just. He punishes all evil and expels it from His presence. (Romans 1:18)**

People

- ◆ **God, who created everything, made us for Himself to find our purpose in fellowship with Him. (Colossians 1:16)**
- ◆ **But we rebelled and turned away from God. (Isaiah 53:6) The result is separation from God. (Isaiah 59:2) The penalty is eternal death. (Romans 6:23)**

Christ

- ◆ **God became human in the person of Jesus Christ to restore the broken fellowship. (Colossians 1:19-20) Christ lived a perfect life. (1 Peter 2:22)**
- ◆ **Christ died as a substitute for us by paying the death penalty for our rebellion. (Romans 5:8) He arose (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) and is alive today to give us a new life of fellowship with God, now and forever. (John 10:10)**

Response

- ◆ **I must *repent* for my rebellion. (Matthew 4:17)**
- ◆ **I must *believe* Christ died to provide forgiveness and a new life of fellowship with God. (John 1:12)**
- ◆ **I must *receive* Christ as my Savior and Lord with the intent to obey Him. I do this in prayer by inviting Him into my life. (Revelation 3:20)**

Cost

- ◆ **There is no cost to you; your salvation comes to you freely. (Ephesians 2:8-9)**
- ◆ **But it comes at a high cost to God. (1 Peter 1:18-19)**
- ◆ **Ultimately, your response is a life of discipleship. (Luke 9:23-24)**

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This document was posted on the Evangel website as [evbapt.org/docs/First Steps to God.pdf](http://evbapt.org/docs/First_Steps_to_God.pdf).

This material was referred to as a resource in Pastor Dave Tietjen's sermon, "Lift Up Your Eyes," based on John 4:13-42.