

**SIMPLE  
DRAWINGS  
OF  
GOOD NEWS**

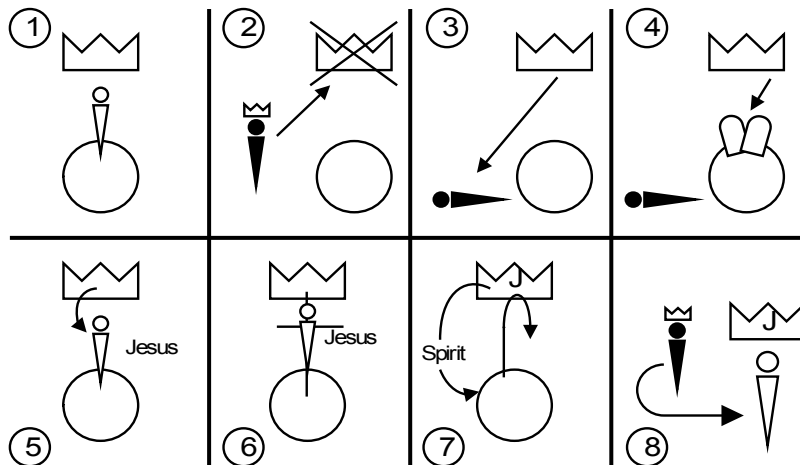
*IT'S GOD'S WORK - BUT OUR CHOICE*

Booklet & On-Line Format designed by Gerhard T. deBock. [gerhard.debock@gmail.com](mailto:gerhard.debock@gmail.com)  
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# 8 SIMPLE DRAWINGS THAT CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE'S GOOD NEWS

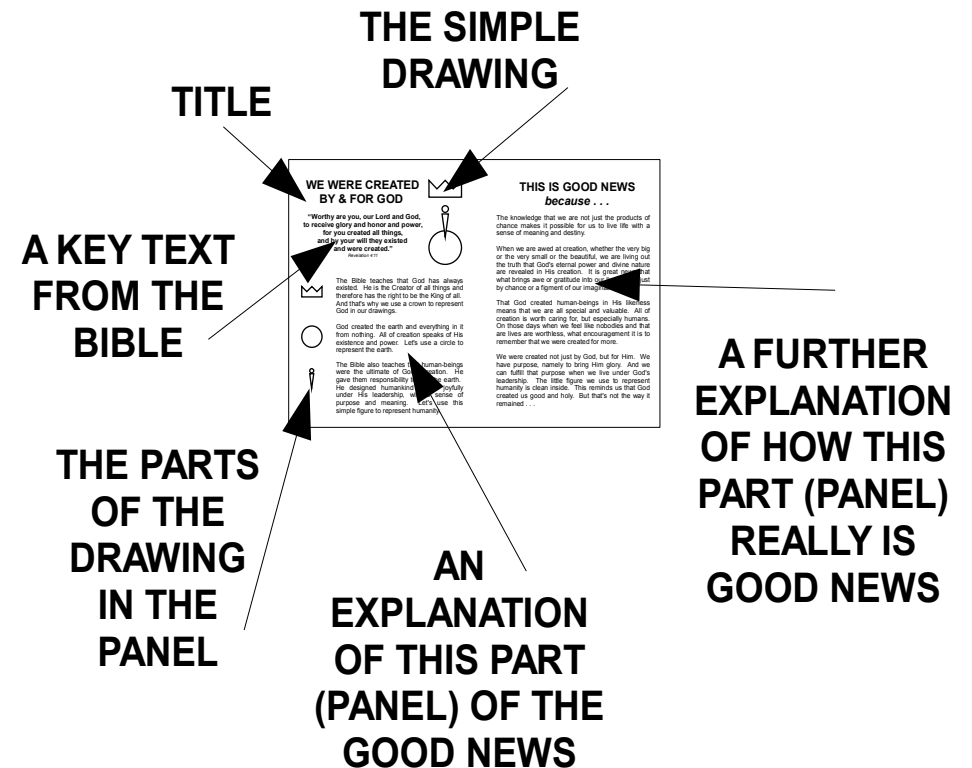
## How to make the most of this booklet:

8 Simple Drawings of Good News (It's God's Work – But Our Choice) is designed to guide you through the gospel (good news) message. The main pages have the following components:

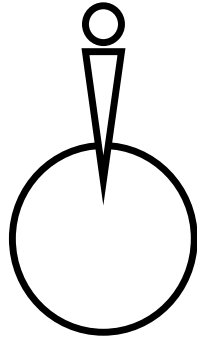


These pages present an overview of the greatest story ever told --- and it's true! The eight pictures give us a look at the incredible work of God on our behalf. By following the order of the Bible, we can understand God's work of creation, judgment, revelation, and redemption.

The first four drawings look through the Bible's Old Testament, while 5, 6, and 7 focus on the New Testament. The last panel helps us understand that we must make a choice.



# WE WERE CREATED BY & FOR GOD

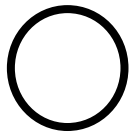


**“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed  
and were created.”**

*Revelation 4:11*



The Bible teaches that God has always existed. He is the Creator of all things and therefore has the right to be the King of all. And that's why we use a crown to represent God in our drawings.



God created the earth and everything in it from nothing. All of creation speaks of His existence and power. Let's use a circle to represent the earth.



The Bible also teaches that human-beings were the high point of God's creation. He gave them responsibility to rule the earth. He designed humankind to live joyfully under His leadership, with a sense of purpose and meaning. Let's use this simple figure to represent humanity.

# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

The knowledge that we are not just the products of chance makes it possible for us to live life with a sense of meaning and destiny.

When we are awed at creation, whether the very big or the very small or the beautiful, we are living out the truth that God's eternal power and divine nature are revealed in His creation. It is great news that what brings awe or gratitude into our lives is not just by chance or a figment of our imaginations.

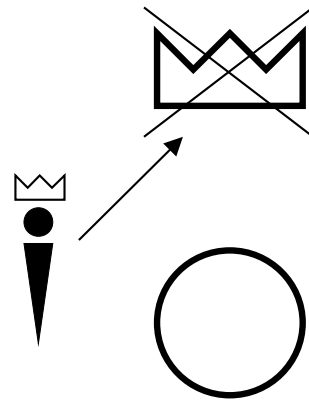
That God created human-beings in His likeness means that we are all special and valuable. All of creation is worth caring for, but especially humans. On those days when we feel like nobodies and that our lives are worthless, what encouragement it is to remember that we were created for more.

We were created not just by God, but for Him. We have purpose, namely to bring Him glory. We can fulfill that purpose when we live under God's leadership. The little figure we use to represent humanity is clean inside. This reminds us that God created us good and holy. But that's not the way it remained . . .

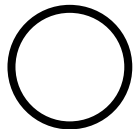
# WE SINNED & REBELLED

... as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

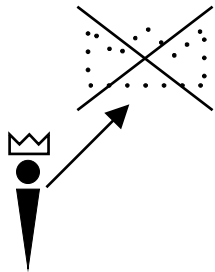
*Romans 3:10-12*



God created people to serve Him and enjoy Him forever. He created them good. He also created them with the freedom to choose.



The Bible teaches that the first human, Adam, and all of us since then, have rejected God's rule over us. We have rebelled against the King by making ourselves the rulers of our lives. Note how the little figure representing humans is now filled with darkness. This represents that sin has infected the whole of our beings. God as King has been crossed out and the human-figure puts a little crown on their own head.



# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

This means that we are all in the same trouble together. There may be some people who appear "worse" than others, but in the eyes of the Holy God, we are all sinners who have chosen to put ourselves before Him. We are rebels.

This "bad" news is in a sense "good" because it helps to explain the world as we know it. There are very few people who would be so arrogant as to say that they have never sinned. Even if they think there is no God or absolute standard, no human even keeps their own standards of righteousness. That's why the whole world knows of the concept of guilt.

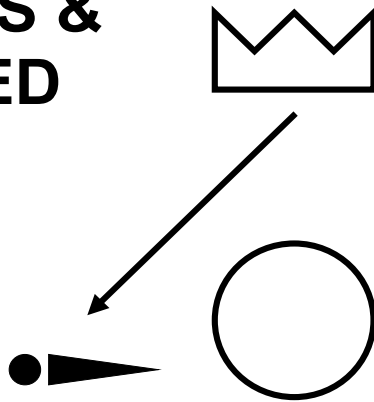
Psychology may tell us that lots of guilt is "false guilt" pressed upon us by society. However, in our hearts we all know that we often do what we know to be wrong and fail to always do what we know to be right.

This is good news because now we know what the problem is and perhaps there is a solution for it. Indeed, God does provide a solution for our sin and rebellion, but first we have to see that the bad news gets even worse . . .

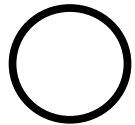
# GOD JUDGED US & DEATH ENTERED THE WORLD

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment . . .*

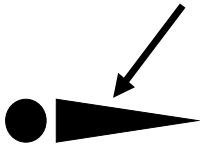
*Hebrews 9:27*



Though mankind rebelled against God, He was and is the Creator and King. Being a just God, He could not just allow such sin to be left unpunished.



As the righteous and holy king, God judges humans for their rebellion. That's what the arrow from the crown to the human-figure represents.



The punishment is that we must die. That's why the human-figure is laying on his side. This death is spiritual. For all of us it will be physical, and if God does not provide a cure, our death will ultimately be eternal.

# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

We are reminded that God is just. Since we are created in His image, we yearn for there to be justice in our world. So it's good to know God is just and not merely an all-powerful but arbitrary dictator.

The harsh news of spiritual death and ultimate physical death helps to explain what we see in our world. Suddenly the evil we see and experience, as well as the sickness and death, makes sense. It is still bad but we now know that's not how it is supposed to be. It is a result of humanity's sin and rebellion against God.

This truth also is good because it motivates people to actually be willing to look for a solution. Though some despair of life, most of us want to live. We want to live free of pain and suffering. How can we really live now? How can we have hope for eternal life?

God would be just to send us all to an eternity in hell right now, but the Bible teaches that God is not only just, He is also loving and merciful. His judgment upon our sin is not the final word!

# GOD GAVE US HIS LAW, TELLING US HOW TO LIVE

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

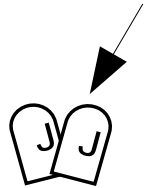
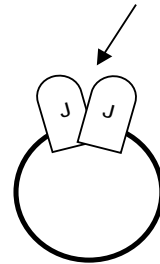
So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

*Galatians 3:10, 24*

When God gave the Law, He not only told us what was right and wrong. He also gave us promises of One who would come and help us get right with God again (note the little “J” on each of the “tablets” of the Law).

Though the prophecies foretold of a coming Savior, the Law by itself could not bring life back to people. That's why the human-figure remains darkened and dead.

The Law's purpose was to show us that we cannot do it on our own (even when we know what is right) – it is a guardian to lead us to the one foretold of, Jesus.



# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

When God sent the Law, He clearly showed that He had not just given up on humanity. There was hope!

Unfortunately, humankind twisted the Law into religion and rules. Because we did not understand how bad the bad news was, we underestimated how powerful the solution needed to be. It was not enough for God to tell us what to do and not do.

Every major religion other than Christianity is really some variety of works-religion. If we keep the rules, then there is some hope of a meaningful life now and eternal life then. As our Scripture text from Galatians 3 tells us, this only is possible if we keep “all things” in the Law. No mere human has ever done that.

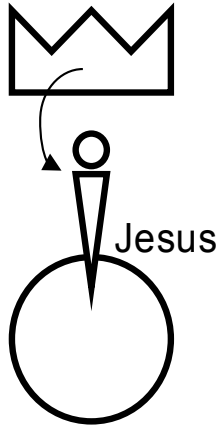
By giving us the Law (and the rest of the Old Testament), we see God revealing Himself in history that is verifiable. So we are able to trust God as the source of truth because He has shown Himself and His will over time. God also set the stage for His own coming into history, making it clear through centuries-old prophecies that His plan was always to send a Savior.

# GOD SENT HIS ONLY SON TO BECOME TRULY HUMAN

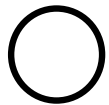
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*John 1:14 & 3:16*



God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to earth. The "Christmas account" helps us to see that Jesus is and was always truly God and yet also became truly human.



He lived without any rebellion toward God and gave us an example of how to live. That's why the drawing shows Him without any darkness (sin).



One reason Jesus came was to be an example for us. Between God's Law and His Son, we have a good picture of what is right and true.

# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

God did not just reveal Himself through prophets and other messengers. He knew that the gap between Himself and people was too great to be crossed by mere information transfer.

So He sent God the Son to become truly human and be born here on earth. As true God, Jesus has the power to provide the solution for all of humankind. And as true man, He is able to understand us and be our mediator.

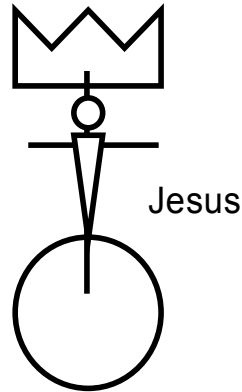
The "Christmas Account" is such good news that we still celebrate it with gifts and feasting. That God would take the initiative and come for us is truly the most marvelous expression of grace.

The good news is not just that Jesus gave us an example to live by or that He most perfectly revealed God to us. Jesus made clear that He came to do much more than be a good teacher or moral example . . .

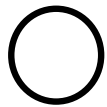
# JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US

**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God . . .**

*1 Peter 3:18a*



But it was not enough for God just to send His Son to give us an example of how to live. The gap between the holy God and rebellious people still existed.



So Jesus, though He had done no wrong, was killed on a cross on "Good Friday." His death was the holy sacrifice that paid the price for all the rebellious wrong-doing of humans.



Jesus

Through Jesus's sacrifice, God showed Himself to be just (the wrongs were paid for) AND merciful (He paid what we owed).

# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

There is a solution to our sin problem. That problem that infects our whole being and cannot be fixed by rules and religion, now has a cure.

God's perfect Son, Who became true man, has offered Himself as the substitute for all of humanity. Only true man could be our rightful mediator, and only true God could bear the sins of the whole world.

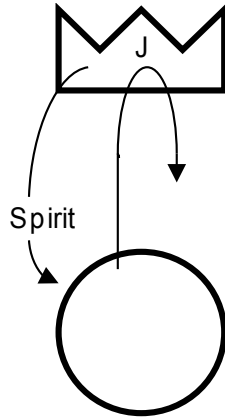
Jesus, Who has always been perfectly righteous, suffered the holy wrath of God on the cross. He did this so that He might bring us to God. In a sense, His death provides a bridge between Holy God and sinful humanity. That's why the cross is placed between the circle (representing the world) and the crown (representing God).

All this good news would be only hopeful thinking if Jesus had remained dead. He had promised He would rise again. His resurrection would declare that His work on our behalf indeed WORKED! That's why Christians rejoice on Easter because . . .

# JESUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD & IS COMING AGAIN

. . . that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time . . .

*1 Corinthians 15:3b-6a*



The good news of hope is that Jesus, the Savior, did not stay dead. He arose bodily from the grave. Someday He will return again to earth to set up His kingdom in its fullness.



Our "Easter hope" means that God declared Jesus to be the King of all. He rules now, though the fullness of His rule awaits His coming again.



Our hope is not just limited to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and His promised coming again. Between the time of those two events He sent God the Holy Spirit to live within us and empower us to serve Him.

# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

We can have a living hope. Our hope is not in some dead religious leader, who had some interesting ideas, nor in a prophet who talked well but had no power over our final enemy, death itself.

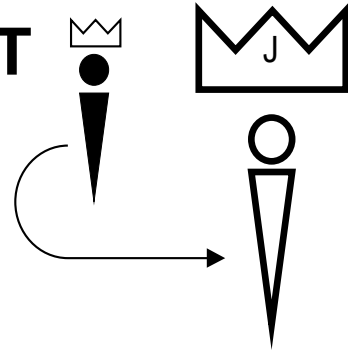
Rather, the great news is that Jesus rose from the dead, verifying all of His teachings and promises. He has given our hope a sure foundation.

We now know that this world is not just doomed to decay and despair. The King of Kings will return and make things right . . . at just the right time!

If that were not good news enough, believers are also not left all alone in the meantime. The great news is not just that Jesus paid for our sins. It is not just that He is coming back to make the world what it was created to be. He also sent the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, to come and live within each of His followers.

Believers have been adopted into His family and can have the assurance of the Spirit's presence with them now and forever. That's God's work, but we must still make our choice . . .

# WE MUST CHOOSE TO TURN & TRUST



**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

*John 3:36*



We are sinful and guilty, seeking to be rulers of our own lives. That is one way to live.



There is another way to live. God's work makes it possible for us to be forgiven and made new. We can live life with hope and purpose under the direction of our King, Jesus.



The choice is ours. To begin living the new life we must turn away from our rebellion. We must cross the bridge by faith, asking Jesus to apply God's work to us. Then we must commit ourselves to serve Jesus with all we are and have.

# THIS IS GOOD NEWS *because . . .*

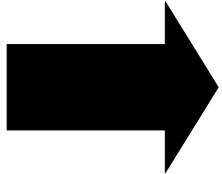
We have a choice. We can continue to live with our little crowns on our own heads, trying to be the ruler of our own destinies. We can try to stay in charge by being “good enough” or “religious enough” to earn God's favor. Or we can believe in God's work through His Son's life, death, burial and resurrection.

Believing is not just giving intellectual assent but rather turning in full trust toward Christ. To do that we must turn away from our sin and rebellion. This is repentance. This is not a matter of cleaning up our lives but of agreeing with God about what's wrong with us and that we wholeheartedly turn away from it all.

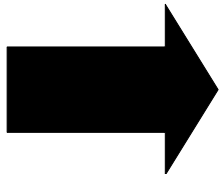
Then, with open hands that have let go of our clinging grasp on sin, we embrace by faith the work of Jesus for us. We trust that His work provides the way for God's holy wrath to be turned away so that we can be adopted into God's family.

God gives us our lifetime to make this huge choice. After we die, it is too late to change our minds. The good news is now that you understand your choice, you can be forgiven. You can have eternal life.

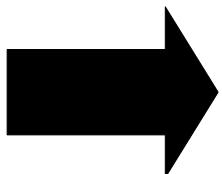
# How do I "turn & trust" and become a follower of Jesus Christ?



If you have read through this booklet and understood the work of God through Jesus His Son, you are almost there. But merely understanding the truth is not enough.



The key step is for you to talk to God (prayer) and agree with the Good News and accept it by faith. The sample prayer on the facing page can help you.



If you sincerely turn from your sins and to Jesus Christ in trusting faith, you are saved, born again, redeemed, and adopted into God's family. Why not mark the date of your new birth as a follower of Jesus by signing and dating the prayer on the facing page?

Dear Lord Jesus,

I now understand that I was created for a life with purpose and meaning under Your rule.

I confess that I am a sinner and have rebelled against You. I cannot perfectly keep the Law so I cannot earn my own salvation.

So right now I am turning away from my rebellion and sin and turning to You in faith and trust.

I accept the work that You did and will do for me through Your life, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming again.

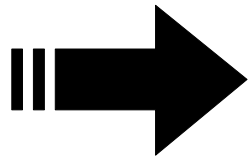
Please, come be my Savior and send Your Holy Spirit to live within me, as You have promised You would. Amen.

SIGNED & DATED:

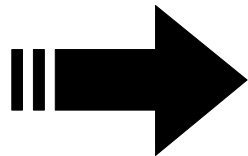
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# "I've become a follower of Jesus. What's next?"

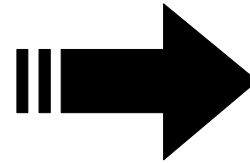
Welcome to the family of God. You have been washed clean of your sins. You've been adopted as God's child. You are a new creation! To continue to grow in Christ, you will want to do the following:



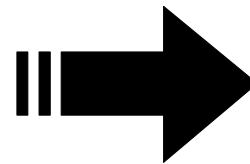
Read God's Word the Bible every day. Learn more about Jesus by beginning your study in the Gospel of John (the 4th book of the New Testament).



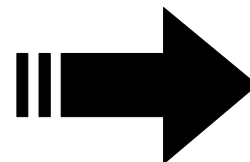
Pray and ask the Lord for guidance in finding a church that is faithful to Jesus and His Word. God wants you to be part of a local church family.



Tell someone else about your commitment to Christ. You can do so by talking through this booklet with them. Another important way of declaring to others that you are a follower of Jesus is through public baptism. The pastor of a good local church can help you study what the Bible says about this important declaration.



Confess any sins you commit each day. And ask the Holy Spirit to direct and empower you so that you can bring honor to the name of Jesus.



Expect a struggle. This does not mean you are not redeemed. It is normal because your new home is heaven . . . and you are not there yet. God will help you if you ask Him.