

# THE BOOK/PHONE ILLUSTRATION



This illustration can be helpful when explaining what happened when Jesus was dying on the cross.

## What to do

Hold up a book (not the Bible) or a mobile/cell phone in your right hand.



## What to say

Imagine that someone has written about your life in this book (or filmed your life on this mobile/cell phone) – but they've just chosen the bad stuff. Every time you've told a lie. Each time you let a friend down or were rude to someone in your family. All the times you laughed at someone behind their back or took something that wasn't yours.

So this is a record of your sin – every time you have said, thought or done things that are wrong.

Hold your left hand out, with your palm facing the ceiling.



Imagine that this hand is me, and that the ceiling is where God is.

Take the book/phone and put it flat on your hand.

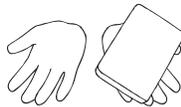


This book/phone shows all the wrong stuff I've ever done – it shows my sin.

Ask: "But when I put it here (*on your hand*), what does it do?" (It gets in the way between me and God.)

It stops me from knowing God and living as his friend. That's why sin is such a problem – it separates us from God.

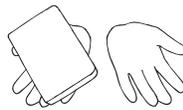
Hold out your right hand, facing up. Your left hand should still have the book/phone.



Imagine that this hand is Jesus. He was perfect. He never did anything wrong – he never sinned. That means that there was nothing at all between Jesus and his Father, God. They had a perfect, loving relationship.

But when Jesus was dying on the cross, this is what happened...

Now transfer the book/phone from the left hand to the right hand.



Ask: "What is there between Jesus and God?" (The book/phone that lists all your sin.)

This is why Jesus died – it was to take the punishment for all our sin.

Refer to your left hand, now empty, still facing upwards.



But look back at my other hand for a moment.

Ask: "What is there between me and God?" (Nothing!)

When Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment for our sins so that we can be forgiven. This means that there is nothing to separate us from God anymore. This was God's rescue plan for us!

# THE CHAIRS ILLUSTRATION



This illustration can be helpful when explaining what was achieved when Jesus died on the cross.

## What to do

*Position two empty chairs so that they face each other.*



## What to say

Explain that one chair represents God and the other one represents man (us).

When we were created, God and mankind were together.

*Turn one chair to face away from the other.*



But the world turned its back on God and rejected him. This is called sin.

*Turn the other chair away as well.*



Because of sin, God must sadly turn his back on us. This is his judgment on sin.

*Turn the chair that represents God so that it faces the other one again.*



But through the cross, God is now able to forgive sinful people.

*Now turn the chair that represents man so that both chairs are facing each other again.*



All that remains is for sinners to repent and turn to God for forgiveness.

If they do this, they can be reconciled to God forever.

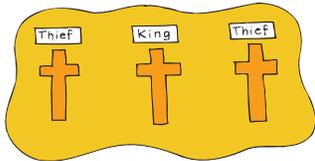
# THE SWAP ILLUSTRATION



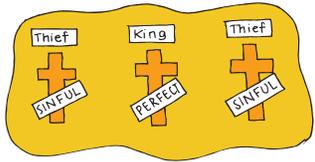
This illustration uses the account of the thief on the cross (Luke 23:32-43) to explain the swap that happened when Jesus was on the cross.

## What to do

*Draw three crosses; then write "King" above the middle cross, and "Thief" above each of the others.*

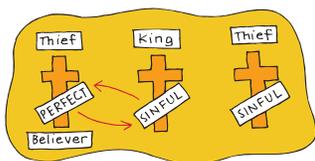


*Add a label saying "Perfect" to the middle cross, and "Sinful" to each of the others.*



*Add "Believer" below the left-hand cross.*

*Swap "Perfect" from Jesus' cross with "Sinful" from the believer's cross.*



## What to say

Explain that when Jesus was crucified, two criminals were put to death at the same time, one on either side of him.

Jesus had a sign above his cross that said "The King of the Jews." It was the custom to label each cross with the reason the person was being killed, so the other two men probably had a list of their crimes as well.

From the outside, the three men would have looked much the same—battered, bleeding and dying. But on the inside they were very different. The two men were both sinners (in every way, not just because they were thieves). But Jesus never sinned—he lived a perfect life.

One of the thieves mocked Jesus, but the other one did not. Instead, he believed that Jesus was God's promised King, and asked Jesus to remember him when he came to reign.

As Jesus died, he took the punishment for this man's sin.

As a result, Jesus swapped his perfection for the man's sinfulness.

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:21