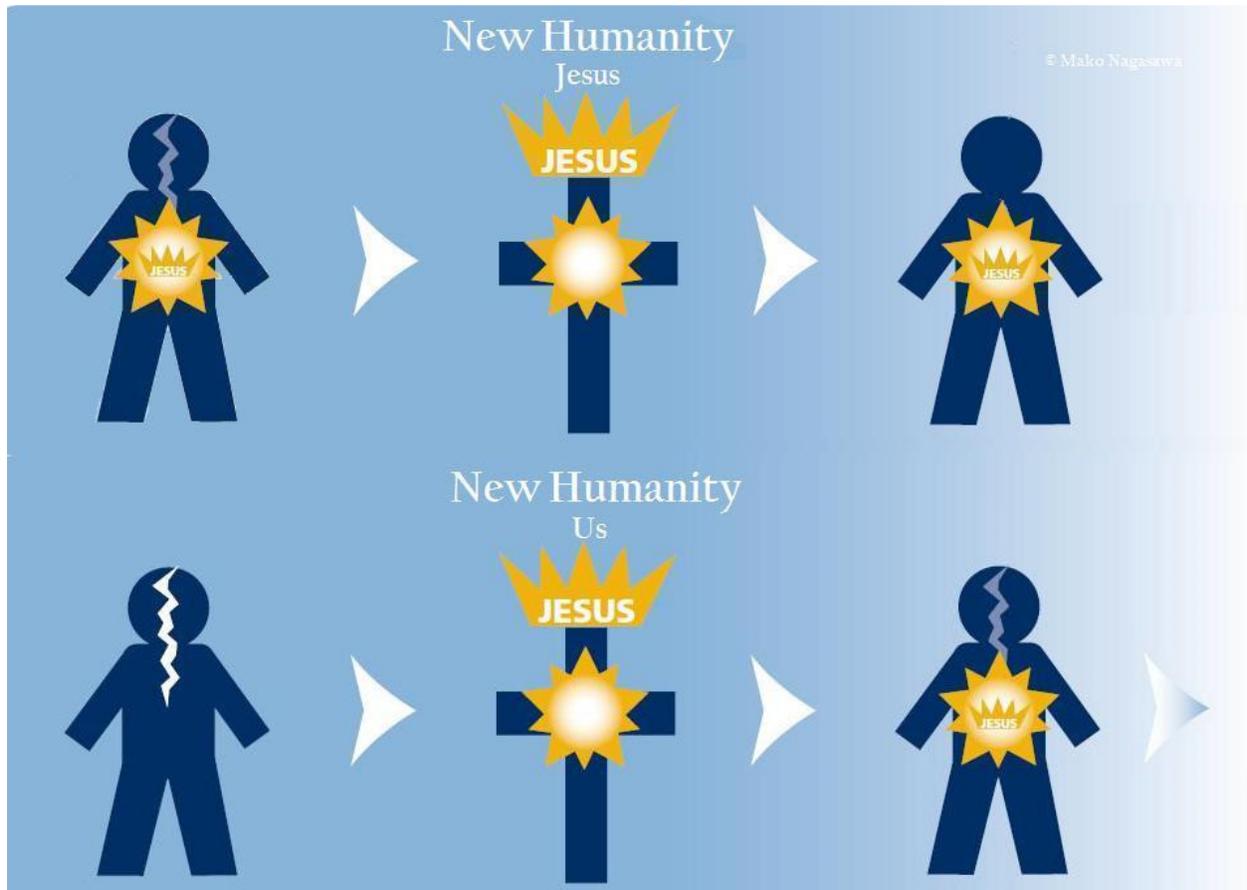


# How to Share Your Faith, How to Share Jesus

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Problem: Human evil and brokenness

Solution: Jesus



## *Jesus' Story (The Top Sequence)*

- Left (incarnation, life): The Son of God became human as Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus took to himself a broken human nature, symbolized by the crack running down the human figure. He did this to fight the corruption and brokenness in his own human nature. But he never sinned. Within himself, Jesus poured out the wrath of God upon that brokenness that was in him. He bent his human nature back into the love of the Father.
- Center (death, resurrection): Jesus died and rose again. Ultimately through his death on the cross, he judged the corruption and brokenness in himself, overcoming its final resistance. In his resurrection, Jesus now has a God-drenched, God-soaked, God-drenched, new humanity. That's why there is no crack left in him. He has become what God always wanted for human beings: to bear God's glory from within himself.
- Right (resurrection, Spirit): He can share his new humanity with us by his Spirit if we just ask him. He can work in us without us knowing exactly how he does so, but I think it helps if we agree with him that we need him to heal our human nature.
- *Invitation: Do you want Jesus to heal and transform you?*

### ***Our Story (The Bottom Sequence)***

- Left (before Jesus): I was created by God to reflect Him. But I am corrupted and broken, symbolized by the crack running down the stick figure.
- Center (coming to Jesus): Jesus invited me to die and rise with him. Coming to Jesus was challenging, but good. Jesus said it would feel that way. He said that everyone who comes to him and follows him must take up their cross and deny themselves, but he who loses his life for Jesus' sake will find it in him (Mt.16:24 – 25).
- Right (with Jesus): Now, Jesus lives in me by his Spirit. He shares with me his new humanity. So he is healing me, retelling my story (see notes for Matthew 3:13 – 4:11), and shaping my life to look more like his. The crack is still there, but I'm not defined by it. Jesus defines me instead. And the arrow to the right of that represents the fact that my story is not over. Jesus will one day heal all things, including me.

### Tips for Telling Your Story

- Is this my conversion story or transformation story? *Transformation story.*
- I meet many who say, 'But I gave my life to Jesus at age 5, then 6, then 7, and every year until I was 15! How did I tell that story?' *But this isn't about your conversion story necessarily. It could be. It's about structuring your transformation story (or stories).*
- Personal note: Since I came to Jesus at age 17 from a non-Christian family, I have a clear conversion story that is also one of my transformation stories. But if you notice, I told a transformation story that spanned about 6 years of my life. My healing and transformation, while very real, was not instantaneous.
- So don't stress out if you are from a Christian family and grew up in the church. Your transformation story is about what it's like to bring a sin issue in your life (like your anger, your way of treating the opposite sex, your dislike for a certain kind of person, your impatience, your greed, or whatever your particular form of selfishness was) to Jesus. Talk about what you were like before you brought that issue to Jesus. Talk about what it was like to bring it to Jesus and surrender; that will feel both challenging (because it's a real letting go of something you want to control) and good (because Jesus will give you a new love, power, freedom, and direction). Talk about what you are like now with Jesus (hopefully you're changed in some way, even though you're not perfected yet!).
- If you are telling a non-Christian person your transformation story, be aware that this is what s/he needs to know about what giving their life to Jesus will feel like, and possibly look like.
- If you feel like you are still waiting for and longing for more change to happen in your life, that's okay too. Just say so.