Salvation History
Roadmap to Salvation

Goal: The purpose of this material is help Disciples of Christ come to understand the saving plan of God and how to respond to it so that they can lead others to Christ.

I. What is humanity? The highest form of creation created to live and share in the life of God who is Spirit.
   A. Man is created in God's image. Genesis 1:27 - Created in the image of God - With a spirit - like God
   B. Man is Flesh and Spirit - Genesis 2:7 - To breathe "life" was to create the spirit & soul for each physical body.
      1. We are creatures that have both a spirit and soul to dwell with God and body to dwell in the physical creation.
      2. Open Casket - Seeing the body, but the person (spirit & soul) are gone.
   C. Man is Fractured - Our spirit was suppressed after original sin. Therefore, we have very little awareness of our spiritual needs or how to live spiritually.
      1. Our Spirit no longer controls our physical passions.
      2. Our passions, without effective control, tend to control us - Addictions...
      3. The physical creation can't fulfill our deepest longings because they are spiritual.

II. Who Needs A Savior? - We all do! Why? Because of Original Sin!
   A. Man Fell From Grace - Genesis 3 - Man lost everything when he sinned/rejected God. Humanity could no longer live in the fullness of their creation because they lost the ability to live in God's life.
      1. Separated from God - Eating the fruit was the exercise of their free will for the purpose of rejecting the person and role of God, as well as his love. They didn't want someone over them telling them what to do (the role of God). Instead, they chose to be like God. (Choosing to dictate their own will and rules - sound familiar)
      2. Suppressed Spirit - When they were cast out of the garden, they were cast out of the life of God and now became the possession of Satan - The devil. With original sin, we lacked "sanctifying grace" (the life of God - Holy Spirit) that enabled us to live holy lives in God's presence. We can't be holy without God!
      3. Destined for Hell - Since we can't return to the garden because we can't be holy on our own, we are destined to remain separated from God forever, unless God chooses to intervene and save us. Rom. 5:8

III. The Promise of God - God made a promise to Abraham that he would be our God, and we would be his people. He would provide everything we need, and we would obey his commands. If anyone in his family/clan... did not obey, God promised to die for us.
A. He Promised to Die For Us - Genesis 15:12 - God walks through the blood.
   1. Father of Faith - Abraham is the Father of Faith - To be in his family is not just to be Jewish, but to believe in his word with faith. Rom. 4:10-12
   2. The Plan is Faith in the Promise - The plan for salvation is to believe in the word/promise of God, the Father.
   3. A Sign of Proof - Gen. 15:13 - The Lord gave Abraham a prophesy to confirm that his promise would be valid - His descendants would be in a foreign land for 400 years and then return to the promised land.

IV. An Illustration of the Promise - Because of a drought, the Israelite found themselves living in Egypt. As they grew in number, they were enslaved by the Egyptians for fear of losing their own land. They cried out to God to deliver them from their bondage of slavery. God responded by sending them one of their own - Moses.

   A. The Savior of Israel - Moses was selected by God to deliver the Israelites our of slavery and bring them to the Promised Land. The Book of Exodus
      1. Moses' Miraculous Rise - While the rest of Hebrew boys were being killed by Pharaoh, Moses finds favor with Pharaoh's daughter and grows up in his household. Ex. 2
      2. Empowered by God - Moses was given the ability to do powerful signs so that Pharaoh would pay attention to Moses as he spoke to God. Ex. 4
      3. He Came For the People - At the appointed time Moses returned to Egypt to demand the release of his people. Ex. 4:18 +

   B. The Sacrifice of the Lamb - The Tenth Plague God brought upon the rebellious Pharaoh was the death of the first born son. For Israel to be saved from the angel of death, they had to sacrifice a one-year-old lamb. Ex. 12
      1. The Lamb - The Lamb had to be unblemished. God wanted their sacrifice to be the best they had, not the runt or leftover that no one would want. It had to be worth the most to those whom the sacrifice was going to cover. It had to be one year old from the sheep or goats, Male.
      2. The Liturgy of Sacrifice - 12:11 For the Sacrifice to be complete they needed to consume the flesh of the lamb. They had to dress, prepared to travel because they were leaving their land of bondage and traveling to the promised land.
      3. The Passover - That night, the angel of death was going to pass over the land of Egypt, and any house that was not covered by the blood of the Lamb was going to lose their life of the first born son. In the morning, all the firstborn males of the Egyptians and their animals were found dead. This threat included Pharaoh's son. In his sorrow, Pharaoh told Moses to take the Israelites out of Egypt. The Egyptian people, in fear of the God of Israel, gave the Israelite people their valuables to take with them.

V. Jesus The Messiah - At the appointed time, the savior of the World came into the world as one of us - human. Taking human flesh, he came to show humanity the
fullness of revelation of God, his Father. He had Old Testament Prophesies foretelling his arrival to confirm that Jesus was, in fact, the Christ.

Because Adam and Eve were human, and God told them that they would die of they ate of the fruit, the just atonement for their sin would have to be a human death. Since God had promised in his covenant with Abraham that He would die for the people, God had to become Man.

1. **Conceived in the Virgin Mary** - Through angel Gabriel, God asked Mary if she would give him a body by allowing the Holy Spirit to conceive a son (Jesus) in her womb. Her pregnancy would cause her great shame and possible death but her trust in God’s word would enable her to move through the fears and become the mother of God.

2. **Jesus Grew into a Man** - He lived with his mother and his step-father until Joseph died. He remained with Mary until he turned thirty years old. It was around that time that he would give up his carpentry tools to start his public ministry.

B. Signs & Wonders - Jesus preached with profound authority and the people could not understand where its source. To prove that his words were true, Jesus performed numerous miracles, some which had never been done before. Throughout his public ministry, Jesus always maintained that he was from God to save the world as the messiah.

1. **He Controlled Nature** - As He and his apostles crossed the sea, He was able to calm the winds when the storm rose.

2. **He Healed People** - Whether blind from birth, afflicted with leprosy or dead in the tomb for 4 days, Jesus was able to restore life and health to their bodies.

3. **He Cast Out Demons** - Jesus’ proves his divinity by having authority to cast out demons. As he walked by, they would writhe in pain as they feared what Jesus could do to them. When he commanded them to go, they obeyed immediately.

C. **He suffered, died, & Rose from the Dead** - The passion of Jesus Christ was accomplished for a specific purpose - He did it for us! He suffered the pain of rejection, shame, abandonment, and the physical horrors of scourging and crucifixion for our sins.

1. **He is the Unblemished Lamb** - Jesus did not deserve to suffer and die because he never sinned. He lived a perfect life in union with his Heavenly Father, and it is his shed blood that covers us. Unblemished means he had no sins.

2. **He Took Our Place** - We deserved to die! We did not deserve to be reunited with the Father. Jesus, in loving obedience to his Father, fulfilled the plan of salvation by dying on the cross.

3. **God Has the Power To Rise** - There was never a question if Jesus was going to rise from the dead. The trinity wasn’t sitting there wondering
if this plan was going to work. They knew it would achieve all that was
planned before the creation of the world.

VI. The Time of the Spirit - After Jesus had ascended to leave, the Father initiated the
last part of his saving plan - to send the Holy Spirit. This post-resurrection period is the
time where the Spirit is willingly invited to enter the hearts of believers and begin the
work of making us holy.

A. The Spirit Leads - The Spirit was given to each of us to lead us into the truth
where God always dwells. The fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5) help us rightly to
discern the will and directing of the Spirit. We must get to know him.

B. The Spirit Empowers - The Spirit has supernatural gifts that he want to give
us when we are ready and willing to serve Jesus in the building of the body of
Christ. (I Cor. 12)

C. The Spirit Corrects - Once we receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we begin
the journey out of life of sin and deception and into a life of honor, integrity and
strength. This conversion will not happen without a lot of correction from Him.

D. The Spirit Perfects - We could never make it to heaven of our own ability or
will. It is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that we will be made perfect and
able to enter the Beatific Vision. (Heaven) Since it isn't our job to become perfect,
and then our job is to dispose our heart to the Holy Spirit so that he can transform us.

CLOSING - It is all about attaining a relationship with the Living God now so that
he can bring us home!