

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

TITLE: Planning a Trip

OBJECT: A map

DOCTRINE: Justification

STORY WITH THE OBJECT

Many people spend a lot of time planning their vacations. Where will they go? How will they get there? They make the reservations, save up their money, and pack their suitcases ahead of time. After a few weeks or a month, their vacation is over.

TRANSITION TO THE SPIRITUAL

But there is a trip that is much more important that we will all take one day, and very few people have prepared for that trip. That trip is death. After death, there is an eternal destination. Everyone wants to go to heaven, but very few know how to get there.

THE PROBLEM (LAW)

One day a young man asked Jesus, "How can I get to heaven?" Jesus answered, "Obey the commandments." Let's see if we can get to heaven by that route. One of the commandments says, Do not lie. Is there anyone who hasn't told a lie? Another law says, Do not steal. Have you ever taken anything that didn't belong to you? Another law says, Do not covet. Have you ever desired things that someone else had? If we are honest, we must recognize that we cannot get into heaven by obeying the commandments.

THE CONSEQUENCES (ETERNITY)

Heaven is a perfect and holy place, and for that reason we cannot enter there if we have broken any of God's commandments. But the truth is that we have broken many of them, and many times. The destination that we deserve for our disobedience to God is hell.

THE SOLUTION (CROSS)

God is a God of justice; but He is also a God of love. And when He saw that we cannot get to heaven through the route of obeying the commandments, He sent Jesus Christ to make a new way to get to heaven. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of our sins, and he rose again to demonstrate that we can be forgiven and welcomed into heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

THE CALL (REPENTANCE AND FAITH)

But to enter Jesus' route and receive forgiveness for your sins, you must change direction and leave your sin behind. Then you must go Jesus' way and follow Him, and He will help you live a life that is pleasing to God. Prepare yourself now for this trip that you will take one day. You don't know when. Don't continue on the road of sin that leads to hell. Follow Jesus' route to receive forgiveness and eternal life.