

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 your mum or dad. 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/DVD 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!