



the *ultimate*
RELATIONSHIP

Do you ever wonder :

What is life all about?

Is there a higher power? What is our purpose?

Why are we here? Is there more to this life?

If you could know
God personally
WOULD YOU
WANT TO?

This booklet will help you find answers to some of these questions and reveal some helpful truths about life.

Created for Relationship

God created us to have a personal relationship with him, now and forever.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.”

-1 John 3:1

God wants us to know his love and experience his fulfilling plan for each of us.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

-Jeremiah 29:11



Do you think we perceive
and encounter God in this
personal way?

Our Relationship is Broken

The problem in all our lives is sin — our turning away from God in what we have done and what we have failed to do. Sin severs our relationship and separates us from him.

The image to the left symbolizes the separation our sins create and the consequences that sin has brought about.

Some of the consequences of this separation are guilt, emptiness, or feeling far from God. But sin has even a greater consequence: eternal separation from God.

“For the wages of sin is death.”

-Romans 6:23

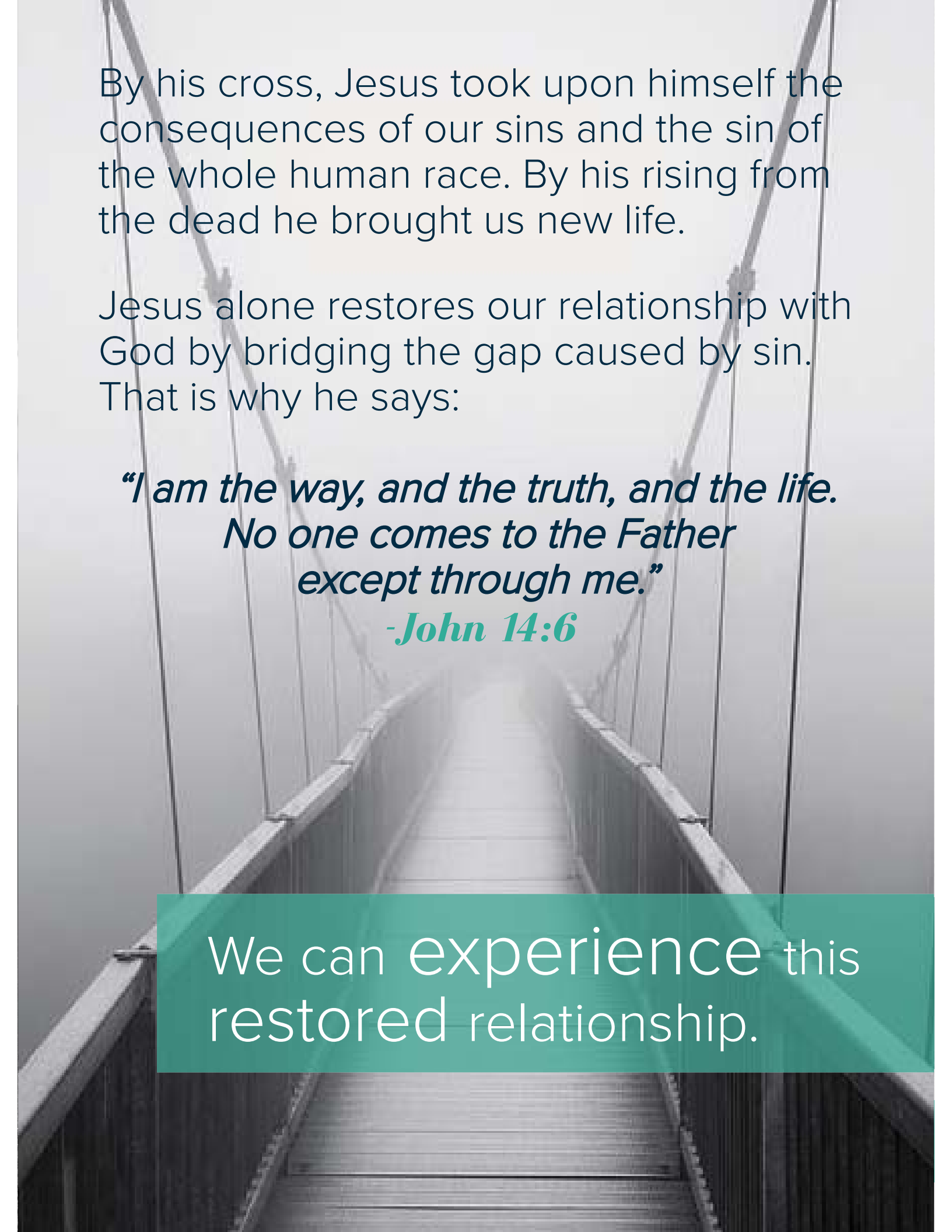
Our broken relationship
can be **restored.**

Jesus Restores Our Relationship



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

-John 3:16-17



By his cross, Jesus took upon himself the consequences of our sins and the sin of the whole human race. By his rising from the dead he brought us new life.

Jesus alone restores our relationship with God by bridging the gap caused by sin. That is why he says:

***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through me.”***

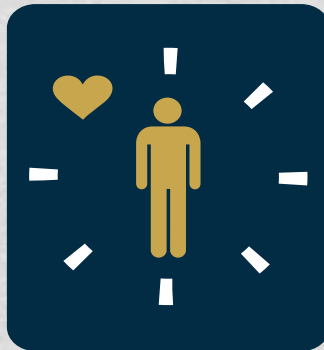
-John 14:6

We can experience this restored relationship.

The Relationships Diagram



Outside
of my life



Part
of my life



Center
of my life



Outside
of my life



Part
of my life



Center
of my life

The top three images represent levels of commitment in three kinds of human relationships. The first image represents someone who is single; there is no romantic relationship in their life. The second image represents someone who is dating. This relationship is a part of their life, but commitment is limited.

The third image represents someone who is married; there is an intimate relationship and a permanent mutual commitment.

Let's compare this to our relationship with God

The bottom three images represent levels of commitment in a relationship with God. The first image represents someone who does not have a relationship with Jesus. As far as this person is concerned, Jesus is outside of their life. The second image represents someone who acknowledges Jesus as a part of their life, but has not completely committed to him. Jesus is just one aspect of their life among many others. The third image represents a Christ-centered relationship. This relationship is primary and central, influencing all decisions and every aspect of their life.

Which image best represents **your** relationship with God?

Which image would you like to have represent your relationship with God?

Invitation



Jesus desires to
be at the center
of your life.

*“If we let Christ into our lives,
we lose nothing,
nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes
life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this
friendship are the doors of life opened wide.
Only in this friendship is the great potential
of human existence truly revealed....
do not be afraid of Christ!*

*He takes nothing away
and he gives you everything.
When we give ourselves to him,
we receive a hundredfold in return.
Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ
– and you will find true life.”*

-Pope Benedict XVI

*“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you,
and you with me.”*

-Revelation 3:20



Prayer of the Heart

Whether you have been close or far from him in the past, he is waiting for you to open the door. Take a look at the following prayer.

*“Father, I believe that you know me
and love me.*

*I have not always chosen to love you,
and have broken my relationship with you
through my sins.*

*Thank you for sending your Son Jesus who
proved your love for me on the cross.*

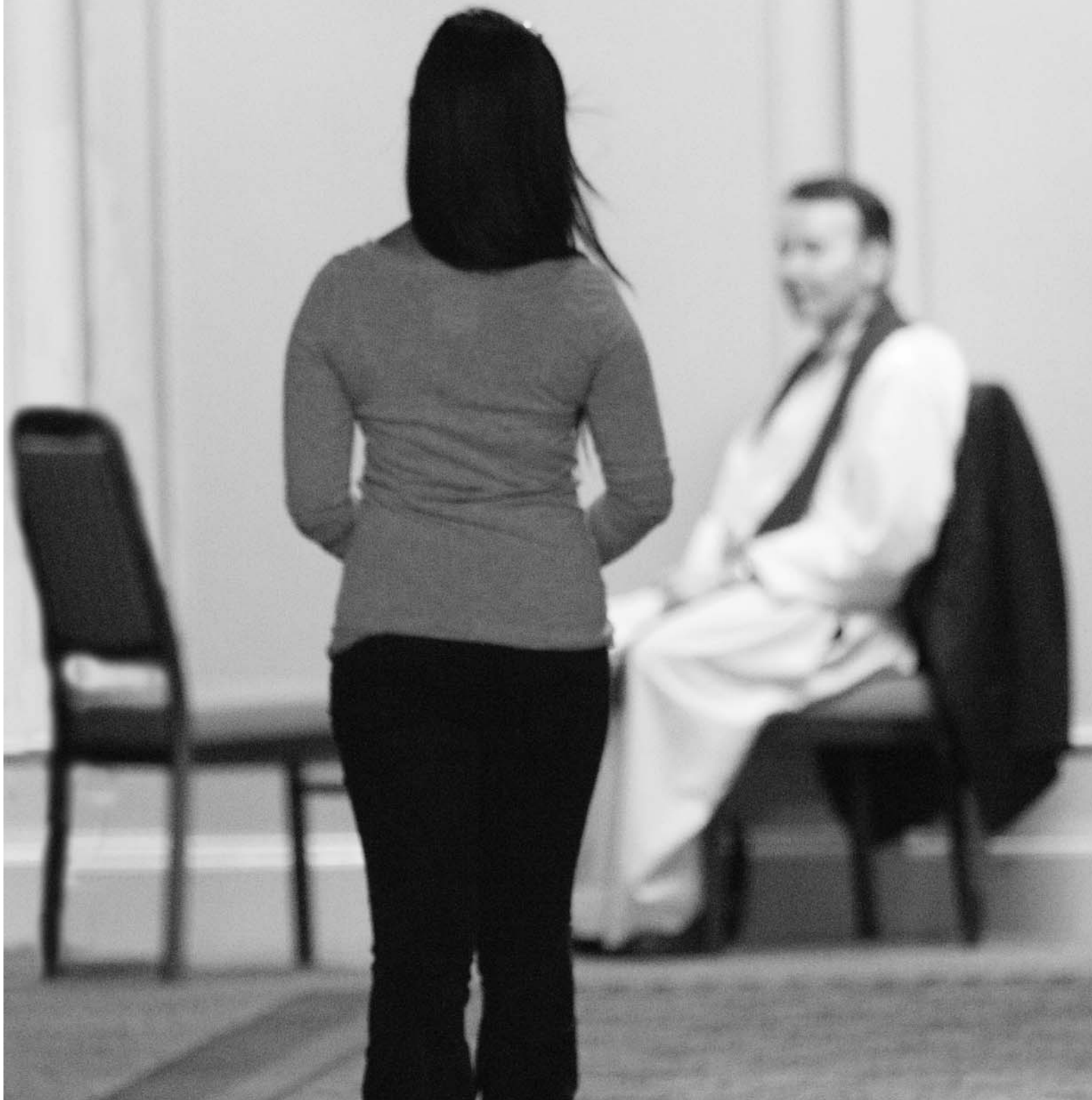
*Lord Jesus, I open the door of my heart and
I invite you to be
at the center of my life —
to be my Saviour and my Lord.*

*Direct me by your Holy Spirit and help me to
live the Gospel with my whole life. Amen”*

Would you like to invite
JESUS to be at the center
of your life?

If so, step out in faith and pray
to him right now.

Sealing our Relationship



An important part in our relationship with Jesus is the new start we receive through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

“If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

-1 John 1:9

Jesus brings us freedom and new life through the graces of the sacrament of Reconciliation. If you are a Catholic, take the time to find a priest to hear your confession.

Relationship Essentials

Here are some practical steps to begin growing your relationship with God:

- Talk to God every day through prayer
- Be baptized, if you are not already
- Read your Bible every day beginning with the New Testament
- Become involved in your local parish
- Share your faith with others
- Celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday
- Go to Confession on a regular basis
- Get to know the teachings of the Catholic Church, which can offer guidance on your journey with Jesus

Know that regardless
of any stumbling on your way
he will always be there **loving you**
— ready to **forgive you**
and **help you.**



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