

THE FOUR — FACILITATOR GUIDE

A Gospel Training & Presentation Tool

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Four is a gospel presentation tool developed by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. It uses four simple signs — a heart, a division sign, a cross, and a question mark — to walk a group through the gospel clearly and memorably. Participants see all four signs taught, practice sharing them, and then study the gospel in Scripture.

This session meets two types of people at once. Someone who doesn't yet know Jesus can respond to the gospel, while someone who does know Jesus grows in confidence to share it.

NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR

Before you lead, get familiar with The Four until you can present it naturally without reading word for word. You don't need the script memorized — just know the flow well enough to draw and label each symbol as you go. The Four was developed by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes — visit thefour.fca.org to learn more. For more context, read The Four post at redeemedblog.com. Every session uses the Follow-Along Sheet. Choose your follow-up handout and print both before you begin.

SESSION GOALS

- 1. For Believers** — Every follower of Jesus who participates in this session will leave more confident in their ability to share the gospel message — in a one-on-one conversation, with a group, or in an everyday moment God opens up. (1 Peter 3:15)
- 2. For Those Who Don't Yet Know Jesus** — Any person who does not yet know Jesus as their Savior will leave feeling that the gospel message makes sense, that it is meant for them personally, and that they know how to respond in faith. (Romans 10:14–15)

SESSION OVERVIEW

Step 1 — Introduce the Session

Gather your group and tell them what you'll be doing together. Let them know they'll be drawing along with you as you teach — so make sure everyone has a pen and their Follow-Along Sheet before you begin.

"Hey guys. Today we're going to learn a visual for the most important message in the Bible — the gospel. The word gospel means good news. So today we're going to hear that good news, and we're going to have a chance to respond to it. Some of us might respond in faith for the first time. Some of us might respond by getting ready to share it with someone else."

Step 2 — Teach the Visual

Using the script on the following pages, present each of the four signs in order. As you present each sign, draw the symbol and write what it represents next to it. Before you begin, point your group to the Conversation Starters on the next page and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

Step 3 — Partner Practice

Once you have finished presenting The Four, have participants pair up with someone near them. Encourage them to open their practice time with one of the Conversation Starters and close with a question from the Continuing the Conversation section at the end of this guide. Ask each person to take a turn sharing what they remember — walking their partner through all four signs in order. Encourage partners to help each other if someone gets stuck or forgets a part. Remind them that this is practice, not a test.

Step 4 — Group Debrief

Bring everyone back together after the partner practice. Use this time to encourage your group well. You might ask:

- What went well when you practiced?
- What was hard or felt awkward?

Acknowledge that sharing the gospel can feel intimidating — but remind your group that confidence grows through practice, not perfection. Most importantly, remind them that it is only through the power of God that anyone is saved. Our job is to be faithful and willing — not flawless. (1 Corinthians 3:6–7)

Step 5 — Salvation Invitation

Before dismissing to small groups, take a brief moment to acknowledge that someone in the room may be hearing the gospel for the first time — or may have heard it many times but is ready to officially respond in faith today. Invite anyone who does not know Jesus as their Savior to talk to you or another leader before they leave that day. Do not rush this moment. It may be the most important thing that happens all night.

Step 6 — Small Group Discussion

Dismiss participants to their small groups with the handout you have chosen.

You have three follow-ups to choose from. Practice the Gospel has them pair up and take turns explaining the visual to each other. Rooted in Scripture has them look up verses and place them on the visual they drew — an answer key is available for you. Or choose one of the three Bible studies: Luke 19, Ephesians 2, or 1 Corinthians 15.

Choose before the session and print the right handout. You don't have to do this the same night — many groups teach the visual one week and come back to the study at a later meeting.

TRAINING TIPS

- **Draw slowly.** The presentation only works if participants can follow along. Pause between each sign and give people time to process before moving on.
- **Draw big.** Use a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper when presenting The Four to a group. If you are sharing one-on-one, a napkin or the back of a piece of paper works just fine.
- **Draw and label as you go.** As you present each sign, draw the symbol and write what it represents next to it — for example, draw the heart and write “God loves you” beside it. You can also write the scripture references next to each symbol as you go. This gives participants a clear visual anchor for each part of the gospel and — especially when sharing one-on-one — leaves the person you shared with a complete summary on one page that they can take with them.
- **Practice before you lead.** Present The Four to a family member, a friend, or even just to yourself in a mirror before leading the session. The first time you teach it will always feel the most awkward — make sure that first time is not in front of your group.
- **Normalize the awkward.** When you debrief after partner practice, be honest about your own experience learning to share the gospel. Vulnerability from the leader gives participants permission to struggle without shame.
- **Close with a gospel invitation.** No matter how the session goes, make sure the invitation in Step 6 is never skipped. You never know who in the room needs to hear it.

THE SCRIPT — TEACHING THE FOUR

You don't need to memorize this word for word — just keep the four signs and their explanations intact. The visual below shows all four.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

One of the hardest parts of sharing the gospel is knowing how to bring it up naturally. Share these with your group before teaching the visual and encourage them to write down any that feel natural to them.

- Can I show you a simple visual that explains what I believe?
- I just learned something that really helped me understand the gospel — can I share it with you?
- Have you ever heard of The Four? It's a simple way of looking at what the Bible says about God, sin, Jesus, and what it means to trust Him — can I walk you through it?
- I'd love to get your thoughts on something — can I draw something out for you real quick?

SIGN 1 — GOD LOVES YOU *(draw a heart)*

The first sign is a heart, and it represents God's love for you. In John 3:16, the very beginning says, "For God so loved the world." The word world there means people. God created you to be in relationship with Him — to know His love, and to experience it daily.

John 3:16 · 1 John 4:8

SIGN 2 — SIN SEPARATES US *(draw a division sign)*

The second sign is a division sign, and it represents how sin separates us from God. Every person has been born into sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." So what we have earned for our sin is death. And that's not just a physical death. It's an eternal death — the separation we will have between us and God forever, in hell.

Romans 3:23 · Romans 6:23a

SIGN 3 — JESUS RESCUES US *(draw a cross)*

But because God does love us — as the first sign reminds us — He does not want us to remain separated from Him. So that's why we have this beautiful third sign, which is a cross. The cross represents that Jesus rescues us.

Jesus is God's Son. He was born. He lived a perfect, sinless life that none of us have been able to live. He perfectly obeyed God the Father. And then He willingly went to the cross and took a punishment He did not deserve — the punishment for our sin. But three days later, Jesus proved He is who He says He is, the Savior of the world, by rising from the dead.

Romans 5:8 · 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

SIGN 4 — WILL YOU TRUST JESUS? *(draw a question mark)*

And that leads us to the question mark. Will you trust Jesus? Will you trust what He did for you by dying in your place on the cross?

Earlier, we talked about how John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world." But the rest of the verse is this: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

And in Romans 10:9, it says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

And so the question is — do you believe this? And will you trust Jesus with your life?

John 3:16 · Romans 10:9 · Ephesians 2:8–9

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

The following questions are tools participants can use when sharing The Four with someone one-on-one. Read through this list out loud with your group and encourage each person to write down one or two that feel most natural to them. Then have them practice using their chosen question with their partner to close out their sharing time.

- Have you ever heard this message before?
- Which of the four signs stood out to you most? Why?
- Where do you think you would place yourself in this gospel illustration? Why?
- What questions do you have?
- Would you like to follow Jesus?
- Are you connected to a local church? If not, I would love to help you find one.
- How can I pray for you?