

# 5 S's

## START

God is the creator of all things – he created the universe, the planets, the animals and lastly he created us, people. The first two people that were created lived in perfect union and harmony with God. They enjoyed uninterrupted community, walking with God. They experienced the fullness of joy and complete freedom because God was with them and they perfectly reflected the image and glory of God their creator

## SIN

However, there was one thing God asked them not to do, and after some time, the man and the woman rebelled against God and sinned. From that moment on sin interrupted God and mankind's relationship.

## SEPARATION

No longer could they enjoy an uninterrupted relationship with God. No longer could they approach God and be in his presence. God is perfect and Holy and now, mankind was unholy, full of sin and so they were separated.

## SACRIFICE

Because God is perfect, he must punish sin. The punishment for sin is death. The bible says that nobody has an excuse before God because all have sinned and therefore all are deserving of death and judgement. But God still loved his people and wanted there to be a way for mankind to be brought back into a relationship with him. So he told them that if they made a sacrifice to Him each year, with a perfect animal, their punishment of death would fall on the animal in the place of the people.

So each year the people were required to bring an animal and offer it to God... But even the sacrifices couldn't remove the separation completely and so the people continued to wait until the one who would come and offer an ultimate, once and for all, sacrifice.

## SALVATION

The one who did this was named Jesus – Jesus is both God and man – He came to earth 2,000 years ago for a very special purpose – Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life qualifying himself as the one who could remove our sin and then was condemned to death. But this didn't surprise him, this was his purpose. Jesus offered up his life on behalf of all people when he died on the cross – Jesus died in the place of you and me bearing the burden and the shame and the cost of all of our sin– and the good news is he didn't stay dead – he rose from the grave and is alive today waiting for you to turn to him

No longer to we need to keep bringing sacrifice after sacrifice, trying to do good deeds to earn our way to God. God has made himself known to us and he offers us forgiveness of our sin and makes us clean before him through our relationship with Christ. That relationship is offered to us based on our faith. Faith in Christ as the substitute for the punishment of our sin and faith in his resurrection that he alone is able to forgive.

We all must make a personal decision to respond to this good news. Not based on our culture or society or what our parents say...a personal decision to follow. A personal decision to repent and believe. Repentance is a turning from and a turning to – a turning from the old way of sin and death and the turning to of life and forgiveness in Christ. The bible says that if we believe in our hearts that Jesus died for our sins and we turn to him, forsaking all of the control and ownership of our lives, we will be forgiven and we will walk in a relationship with God no longer separated and that lasts for eternity....but we must recognize that because the sacrifice of Jesus was so great, there is no other way to be reconciled to God – it is only through his death and resurrection.