GEM CORE MESSAGE

THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION

1. **Do you want to go to Heaven when you die?**
2. **Do you know for sure how to get to Heaven?**

The Bible tells us that God loves us and has made a way for us to go to Heaven. This way can be understood through **Three Steps to Heaven**.

STEP 1: THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF — THE PROBLEM

We are all born sinners with a dirty heart.

Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God's Word. Sin includes lying, stealing, cheating, disobedience, bad thoughts, bad words, and bad actions. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, and every human being has inherited this sinful nature. **It is not our fault that we were born sinners, but it is our problem.** God is holy, and nothing unclean can enter Heaven.

Bible Reference: Revelation 21:27

Review Questions:

- What kind of heart are we born with? **A dirty heart.**
- Can we enter Heaven with a dirty heart? **No.**

STEP 2: THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS — THE SOLUTION

Jesus Christ is God's solution to our sin problem.

God requires the shedding of innocent blood for the forgiveness of sin. In the Old Testament, innocent animals were sacrificed for the sins of the people. But those sacrifices could not permanently take away sin. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the final sacrifice for all people and for all time.

- Jesus was born of a virgin.
- He lived a sinless life.
- He died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins.
- He was buried.
- He rose again on the third day.

Jesus took the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life.

Bible References: John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Review Questions:

- Who is God's solution to our sin problem? **Jesus Christ.**
- What did Jesus do for us? **He died for our sins and rose again.**

STEP 3: THE TRUTH ABOUT ETERNITY — THE CHOICE

Everyone must make a personal choice about Jesus Christ.

After this life, everyone will spend eternity in one of two places: **Heaven with God or Hell separated from God.** Jesus has paid the price for our sins, but we must personally receive Him by faith. We cannot save ourselves through good works, religion, or our own efforts. The Bible says:

> *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*
> **Romans 10:13**

We receive Jesus by believing in Him, confessing our sins, and calling upon Him for salvation.

Review Questions:

- Where will people spend eternity? **Heaven or Hell.**
- How can we receive Jesus? **By believing in Him and calling upon His name.**

SIMPLE PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner and that I have a dirty heart. I am sorry for my sins. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, that He died for my sins, and that He rose again from the dead. Please forgive me, cleanse my heart, and save me. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Please take control of my life and help me live for You. Thank You for forgiving me, saving me, and giving me the promise of eternal life in Heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.