Gospel Presentation Idea - String Magic

A piece of string illustrates that sin entangles us and that we need Jesus to free us.

Materials
- String (about 5 - 6 feet; 1.5 to 1.8 meters long)

Preparation
- Tie the 2 ends of the string together to form a loop.
- Practice the steps below several times with a friend to make sure you can do this smoothly.

Age Group
- 5 to 12

What to Do

(Guidelines on What to Say can be found below.)

Step 1
Hold up the string to show that it’s a loop.
**Step 2**
Hold up the string around the **Pinkies** and **Thumbs** of both hands.

**Step 3**
Using your **Right Middle Finger**, reach across to hook the string from your **left hand**.

**Step 4**
Using your **Left Middle Finger**, reach across to hook the string from your **right hand**.
**Step 5**
Ask the child to put his hand inside the centre diamond.

**Step 6**
Ask the child to keep his hand inside the diamond.
Ensure that both your thumbs have a grip on the string.
Then release the string from your other fingers.
The child’s hand should be caught inside the loop.

**Step 7**
With the child’s hand caught inside the loop, repeat Steps 2, 3 & 4 to form another diamond.
*Note: The order of the steps is very important; right hand first, then the left.*
Step 8
Ask the child to raise the same hand that is caught inside the loop up through the diamond.

Step 9
Ensure that both your thumbs have a grip on the string. Then release the string from your other fingers. The child’s hand should be released from the loop.
What to Say

Here are some key points to cover as you present the gospel.

You may need to tailor your gospel presentation to suit the age of your audience.

1. A circle has no beginning and no ending.
   - It just goes round and round

2. We can use a circle to represent God because God is eternal.
   - God has no beginning and ending
   - God exists from the very beginning and he will continue to exist forever

3. The Eternal God is also the Creator God.
   - God made the world and everything in it
   - He created the sun, moon, stars and the earth
   - He created the land, sea, plants and animals
   - The most special thing he created was you and me

Use Questions to engage your listener and to check understanding.

Use Bible Verses where appropriate, but be careful not to overload your listener with too many verses.

Can you tell where the ends of this string are?

Do you know who God is?

What is your favorite animal?

What are some other things that God created?

Rev 22:13
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Gen 1:1
In the beginning God created the sky and the earth.

Gen 1:25
So God made the wild animals, the tame animals, and all the small crawling animals.

Gen 1:27
So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.
1. We can also use a circle to represent the type of life that God wants to give us – Eternal Life.
   • Eternal life is like a circle
   • Eternal life never ends

2. Eternal life begins when we have a relationship with God.

3. When we have a relationship with God,
   • we become children of God
   • we can call God our father
   • we can one day be with God in heaven

4. Heaven is a wonderful place
   • There is no sickness, no pain and no hunger
   • No one ever dies
   • Everyone is perfectly happy
   • The most wonderful thing about heaven is that it is God’s home
   • God wants us all to be with him in his home.

   What do you think heaven is like?
   Would you like to be with God in heaven?

   John 10:28
   I give them eternal life, and they will never die.

   Rev 21:4
   He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain.
1. But because of the wrong things we have done, we can't be with God.
   - We have all done things that have made God unhappy
   - These things are called sins
   - Telling lies, disobeying your parents, hurting others and being selfish are examples of sin

2. Sin entangles us.
   - When we sin, we get caught up in it.
   - We are unable to break free from sin on our own.
   - Just like this...

   Do you know what "sin" means?
   What are some things you have done that may have made God unhappy?
   How do you feel about being tangled up like this?

Rom 3:23
Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God’s glorious standard.
1. But God loves us very much and wants us to be with him.

2. So God sent his son, Jesus, to earth.
   - Jesus was a man who was different from any other person
   - Jesus is God and never sinned

3. Jesus came from heaven to earth to take the punishment for our sins.
   - Instead of us being punished, he took our place
   - Jesus died on the cross so that all the wrong things that we have done can be forgiven
   - And on the third day, Jesus became alive again

4. Jesus is the only way for us to get out of this tangle of sin.

Do you know who Jesus is?
When do we celebrate Jesus' birth?

John 3:16
God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.

Rom 5:8
But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Rom 6:23
The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Acts 13:30, 31
But God raised him up from the dead! After this, for many days, those who had gone with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem saw him.
1. But before Jesus can help us get out of this tangle of sin we need to
   - Admit that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us
   - Believe that Jesus died on the cross to be punished instead of us, and
   - Invite Jesus into our lives to help us turn away from sin
2. When we do these things sincerely, we will be released from the tangle of sin.
   - Just like this...

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Do you think you have sinned?
Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to take our punishment?
Do you want to ask God to forgive you?
How do you feel about finally being released?
1. When we are released from the tangle of sin, we can have a relationship with God.
   - We can become children of God
   - We can call God our Father
   - We can one day be with God in heaven.

2. Invite the child to sincerely pray for forgiveness and for Jesus to come into his/her life.

3. Saying this prayer sincerely means:
   - You are truly sorry for all the wrong things you have done
   - You truly believe that Jesus took the punishment for your sins
   - You truly want to start a relationship with Jesus to help you turn from all the wrong things you have done and do what is right

**Sample Prayer**

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for loving me. I know that I have sinned. I have done things that are wrong. I believe that you died on the cross to pay the price for my sins. Please forgive all of my sins. Please come into my life and help me turn away from doing wrong. Thank you that because you paid the price for my sins, I can have a relationship with you and will one day be with you in heaven.

John 1:12
But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 1:9
But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done.