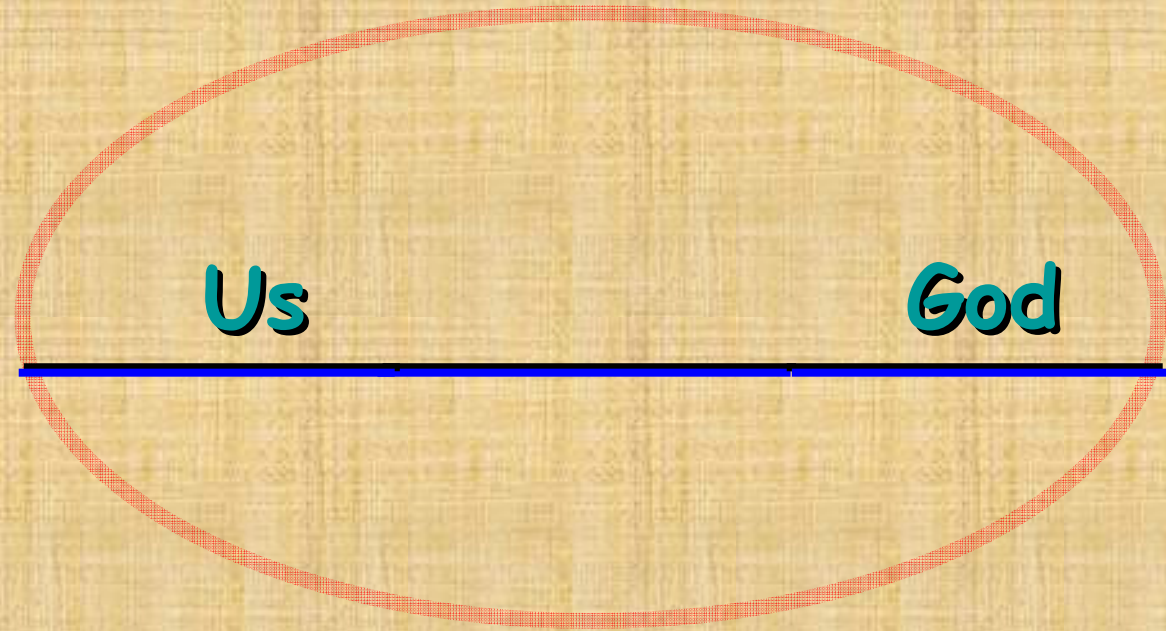


Have you ever taken something that is simple and made it difficult? I do it all the time. The whole thing is planned but I can never follow the plan, I then have to live with the consequences of not following the plan.

Us

God

God's plan is simple,
He created us, He
loves us, He wants to
be with us. That's why
He created us. He
created us in His
image, that means we
have free choice to do
what we like. God
made it easy, He
gave us everything,
the whole earth, He
gave us everything
we could possibly
need. But we took
something that was
simple and made it
complicated



There was only one warning, one condition: Don't sin, because if you do it will separate you from Me. That's a big deal. God is a holy God and cannot look upon sin. When you are separated from God you die. We are not just flesh and blood, we have a spirit also and our spirit lives forever. When our body dies something happens to our spirit and the death God is talking about is the spiritual death that takes place when we are separated from Him. Sin separates us from God, that's hell. Hell is not a place of fun, filled with slot machines and loose woman as popular culture would have you believe, It's a place of misery. God is love, God is light, and God is the source of hope. To be separated from God means to be without love, light or hope. Can you imagine that? That's hell.

Us

S I N

God

The Bible puts it this way, it says everyone has messed up and sinned. It may only be in thought, but the bad thoughts are sin just as much as the bad deeds. It also says that the wages of sin, the payment for sin, is death.

Now you sometimes people say, "I'm pretty good, and getting better, not as bad as I used to be. Surely that must count for something?"

The idea is, if I do enough good one that outweigh the bad?

Well that would be nice but unfortunately the little bit of bad spoils the whole thing.

Us

God

**All have
Sinned.
The wages
of Sin is
Death**

DEATH

To be without sin is to be perfect. If someone tells a lie what is that make them?

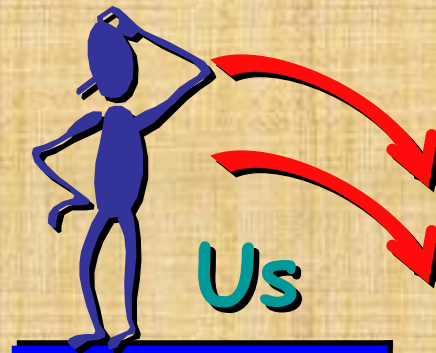
Have you ever told a lie? I have. What does that make me?

If someone steals what does that make them? Have you ever taken something you shouldn't have, maybe a pen from work, or a pad of paper? I have. What does that make me?

You see God's standard is perfection and we all fall short.

So we are all sinners bound for hell, separation from God.

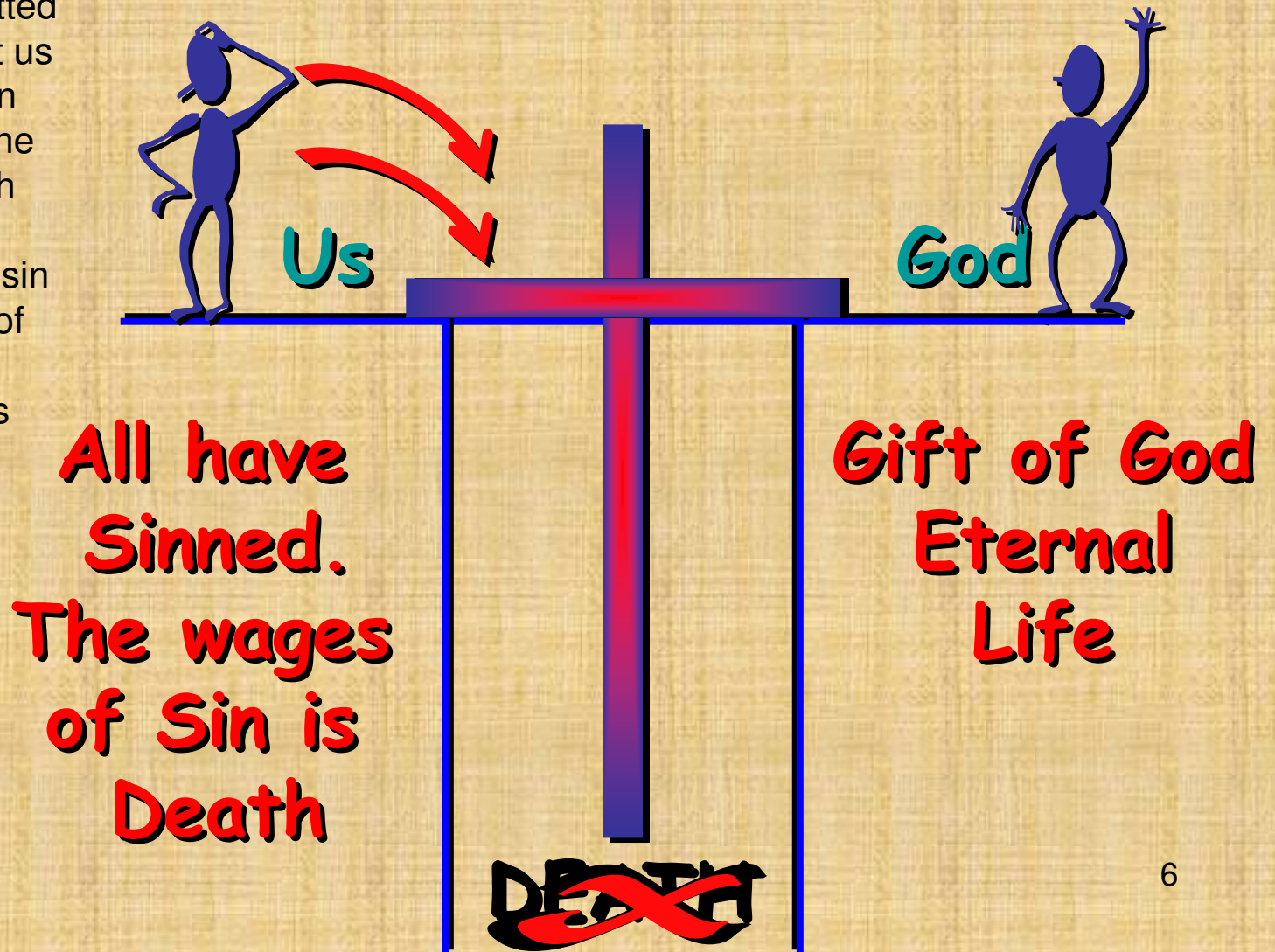
But...



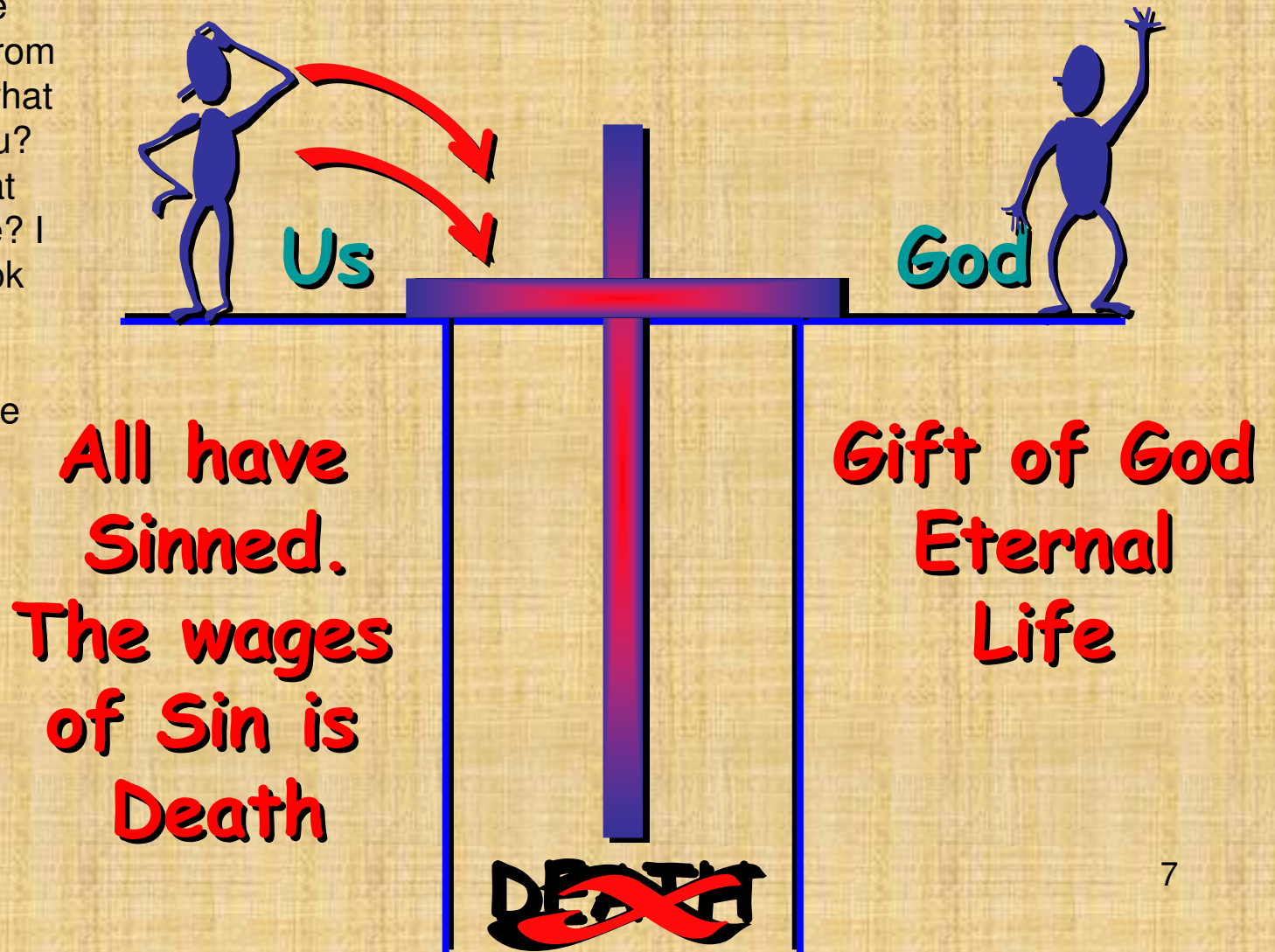
**All have
Sinned.
The wages
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DEATH

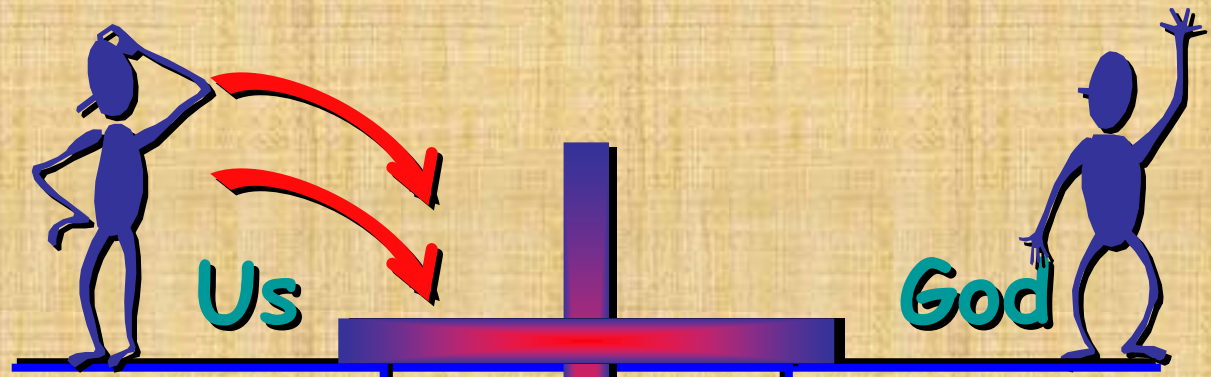
But for God. Just when everything seems lost God steps in. God knew we were going to mess up and before the first sin was ever committed He had a plan to get us out of it. The verse in the Bible that says the wages of sin is death doesn't end there, it says "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."



When Jesus died on the cross He died to pay the price of your sins and mine. He took our place. If you were dying from cancer and I had the cancer transferred from your body to mine what would happen to you? You would live. What would happen to me? I would die. Jesus took the punishment for every sin ever committed so that we could live.



The key word in that verse is the word gift. Do you know what the difference between wages and a gift is? Wages are what you are paid for what you have done. You earn your wages, they are what is owed to you right? If you worked for me for a week and I didn't pay you how would you feel? You would want what's owed you. A gift, on the other hand, is something you are given, you didn't do anything to earn it.

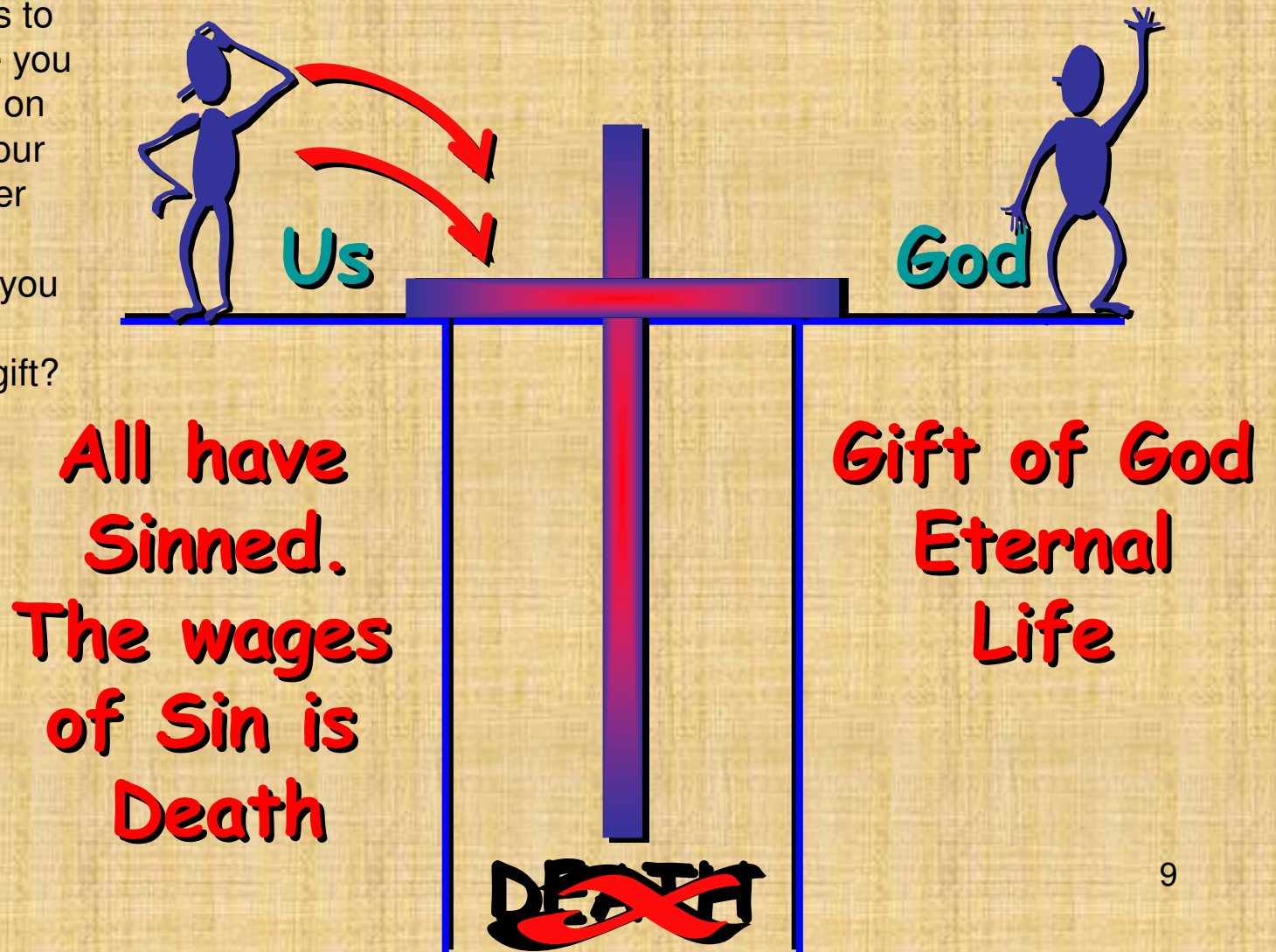


**All have
Sinned.
The wages
of Sin is
Death**

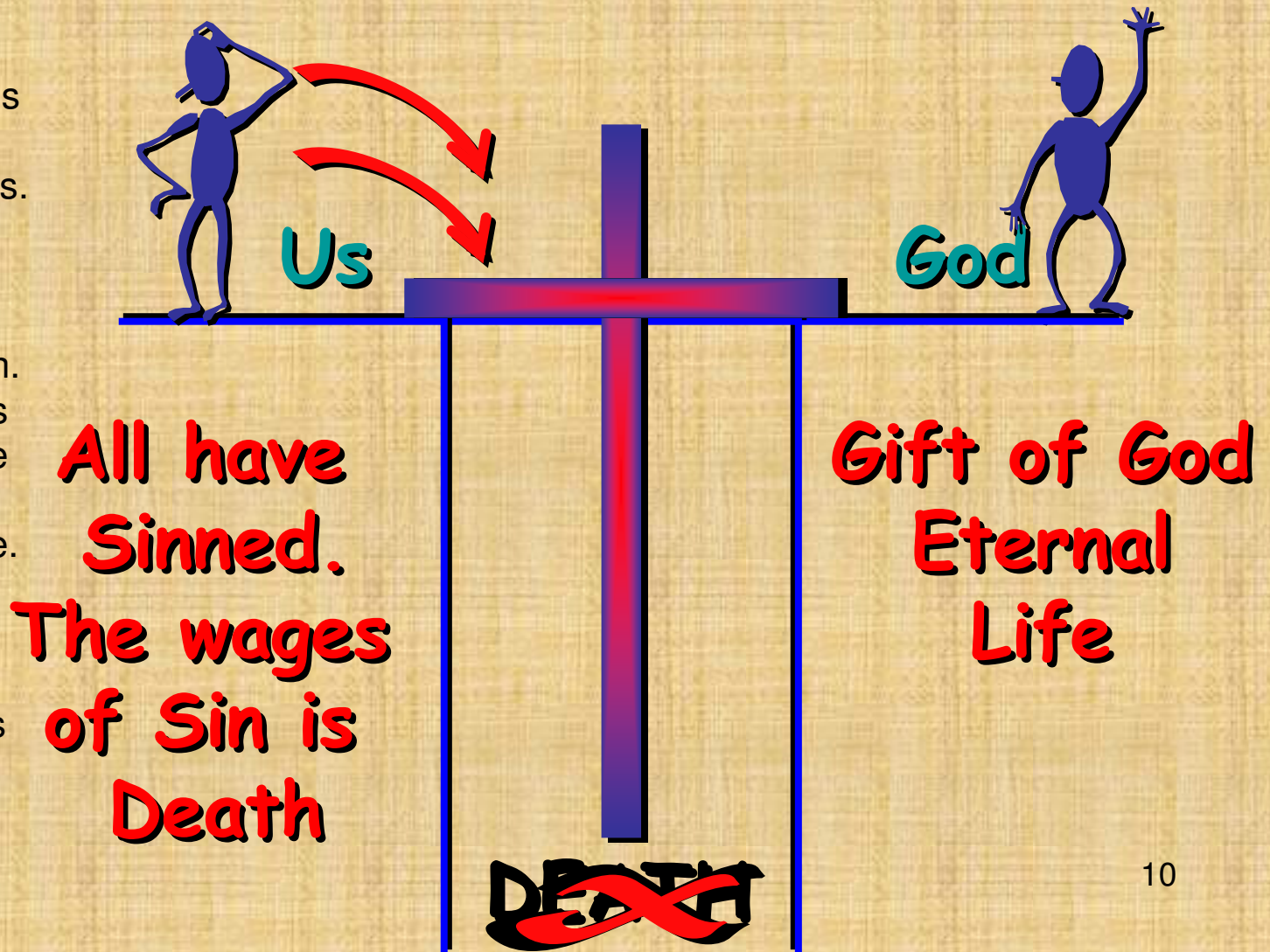
**Gift of God
Eternal
Life**

~~DEATH~~

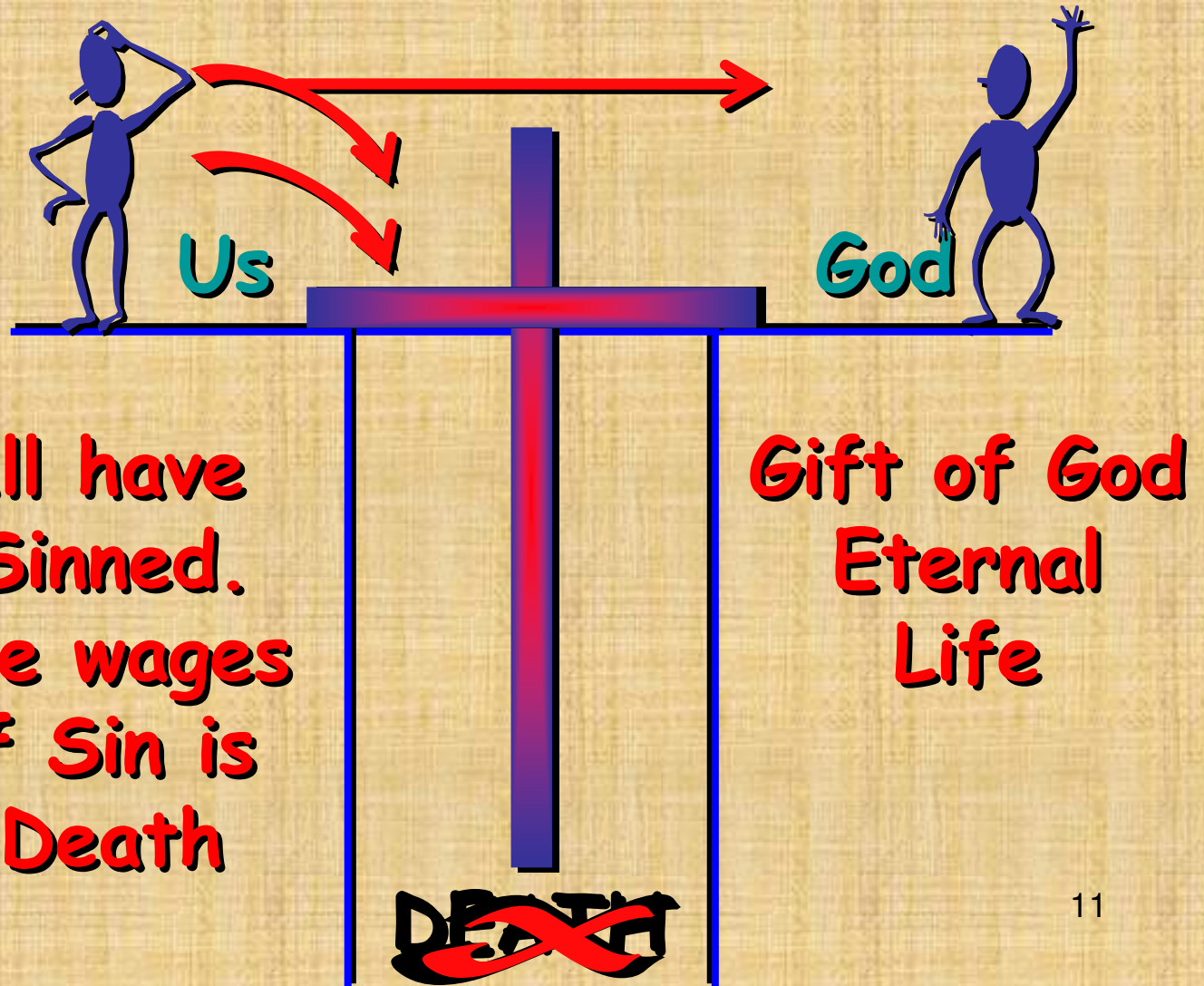
Forgiveness of sin, and eternity spent with God is not something we earn, It's something that is given to us as a gift. But just like any gift, the gift of eternal life has to be received. If I give you a gift, and you put it on the coffee table in your house, and you never open it did you ever really receive it? All you got was a package, what good was the gift? The package was received but the gift wasn't.



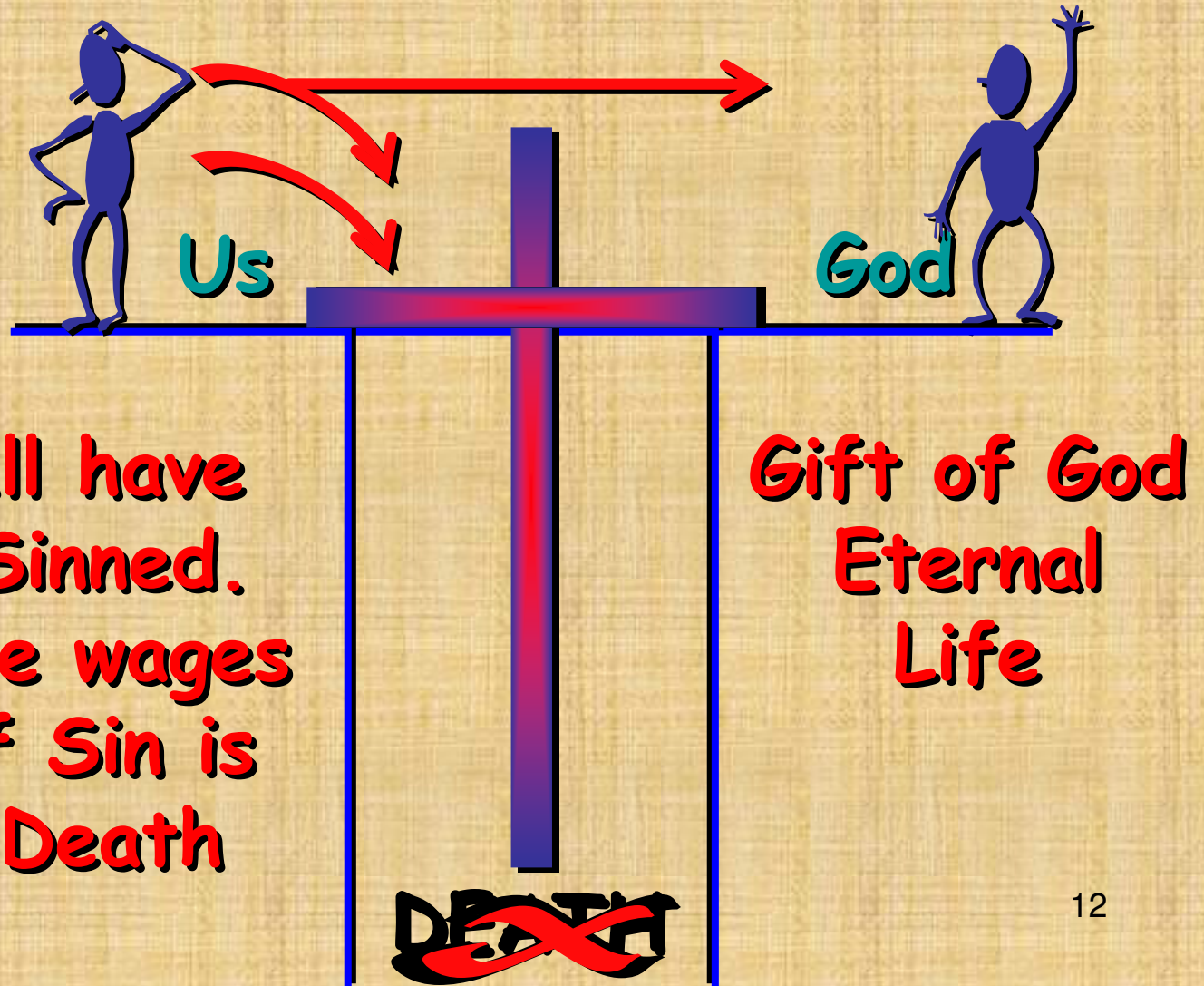
So how do you receive this gift of eternal life? The gift is received through faith. Instead of trusting in our good works to get us into heaven the Bible tells us we are to trust in what was done for us. Jesus was perfect, He was without sin, and therefore was victorious over death. He died on the cross for our sins but three days later He rose again from the grave. He became the bridge across the divide of sin and death that separates us from God.



So it's not what you have done that gets you into heaven, it's what was done for you. The gift of eternal life is received by faith that means trusting in Jesus and what He did for you. Here is the sad part of the story, the Bible tells us that God is the author and finisher of our faith. He actually calls to us to cross that bridge, but many stay on the other side of the canyon, separated from God.

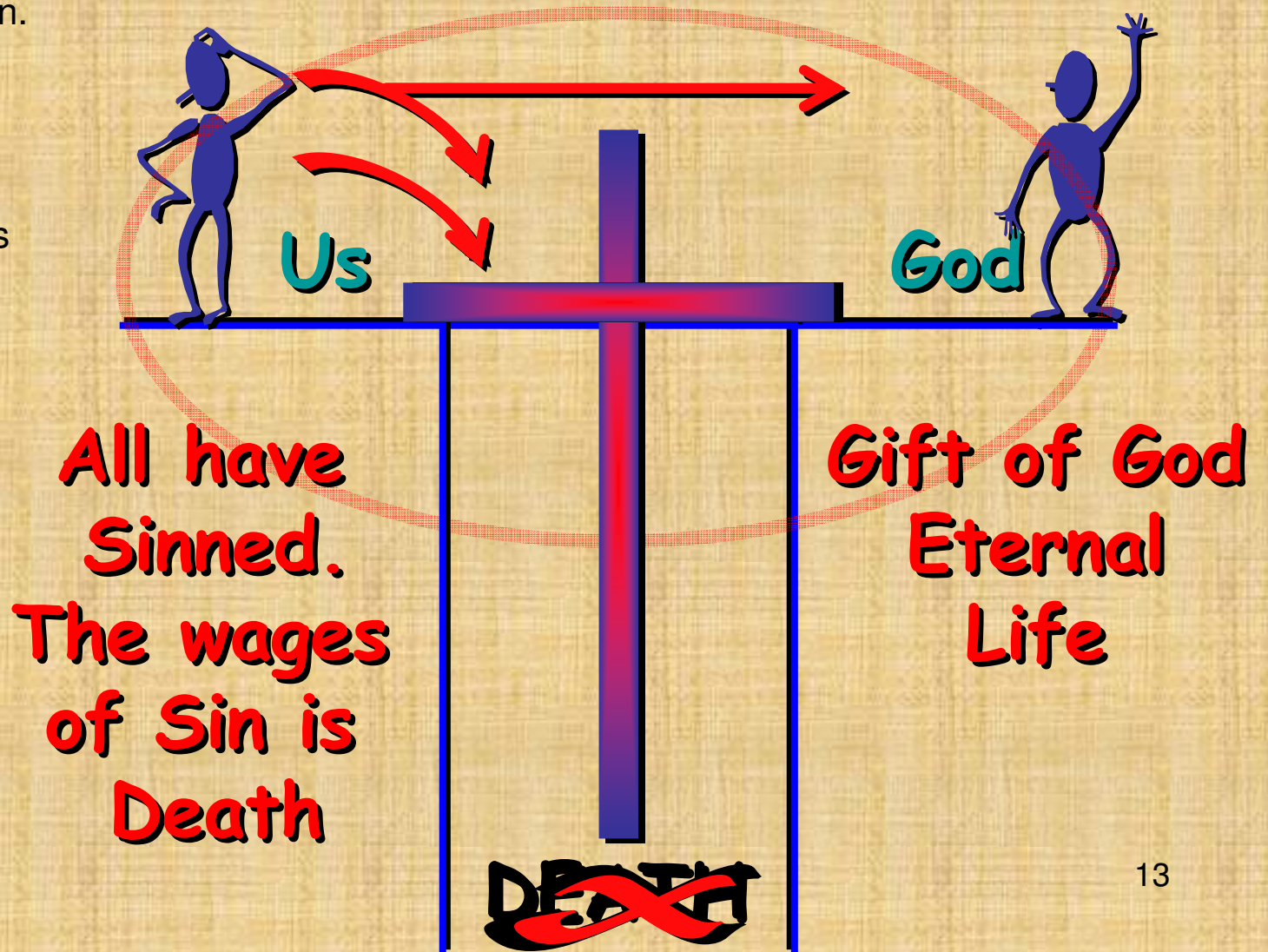


There are many reasons people find stay over there. Some stay there because they don't fully understand it all, but it's not about understanding, the Bible actually tells us we won't understand it all. Some want more evidence, but it's not about evidence it's about trusting. Some just don't believe they are ready. The truth is we will never be ready, we will never be good enough. Some think that trusting in Jesus means they have to give up on life. That's a lie from Satan, life with Jesus is better than life without.



This is simple, don't make it harder than it needs to be. God has been knocking on the door of your heart, open it and let Him in.

Is there anything stopping you from crossing that bridge and trusting in Jesus today?



It is as simple as 1 2 3.

First step: Admit you're a sinner and that you need Jesus' help.

Second step: Choose to trust Jesus as your Savior, believing that He died for your sins and wants to forgive you.

Third step: Ask Him to become the Lord of your life, because His plan for your life is better than yours.

**All have Sinned.
The wages of Sin is Death**



**Us
Gift of God
Eternal
Life**

~~DEATH~~