

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTIAN TRACTS

Sharing tracts is a great way to witness the Gospel. Tracts are easy to make and can be used in many different ways. They are a great reminder to the believer that we all need to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Making your own tract can be a very important help in your Christian witness. We firmly believe that every Christian has a ministry, a service to do for the Lord and writing tracts is one way almost anyone can serve God. We all have a special "voice" that God needs to be expressed in order to help His mission of the Gospel.

So how to get started?

Step one--PRAY!

Let God lead you in everything. He has great ideas and gifts of creativity for you and in you!

So let's say you have all ready written a tract.

How can we make it into a "portable" format, a tract?

Well there is really no "right or wrong" way of making a tract. In fact a tract can be as simple as a "hand-out" --just writing on a page. And actually that is the way to start. Give your self freedom to write as God leads you, and when the tract is done we can easily fit it into any number of formats that will make it easier to utilize and share.

So, a simple "hand-out" or rough draft of a tract, might look like this.....

JESUS LOVES YOU

God in His great wisdom sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die for the sin of the world. Did you know that? Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

God loves you, but He loves you in a specific way. His greatest love has come through the offering of the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. We are all sinners. What does that mean? It simply means that all of us have disobeyed God's perfect laws. Yes you know, those commandments--"thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not murder".. Now you may say that you are not a thief or a murderer--well good for you, but did you know that even telling a lie or coveting (desiring the things of this world greater than God) is also a sin. And did you know that if we disobey one part of God's law we have disobeyed all for it? The truth is that we are all equally guilty of sin. God cannot have sin in His presence in Heaven. The punishment of sin is Hell, eternal separation from God. Yes there is Heaven and hell, and they are the eternal destinations of everyone born in the earth. You see we are all born once in sin, but we can be born again!

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

How can someone be saved?.....

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

We need to have Jesus in our heart. We need to truly believe that He is Lord, that He is God, that He is alive forevermore. And since He has conquered death and hell we shall live with Him eternally in Heaven. What glorious Good News! Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? A walk with Jesus can begin with this simple prayer....

Ask Jesus Into Your Heart

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. But I believe that you died upon the cross for me. That you shed your precious blood, for the forgiveness of my sin. And I believe that you rose into heaven to prepare a place for me. I accept you now as my Savior, my Lord, my God, my friend. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, set me free from my sin, and be my Savior. Thank you Jesus!

Well you certainly could just print it and hand it out just like it is. But I would like to give you some other ideas on how to make your tract more “portable” that is to say, easier to share and carry with you, and also how to make it more cost-efficient to print.

The simplest step would be to make it into a brochure. Now you may all ready have software in your computer that will help you make a brochure. But it’s really very easy to make a format to accommodate your tract.

First you will need to utilize an application that will make text boxes. That is to say you need to be able to take the text you have written and be able to copy and paste it into columns and resize it to fit where you want it to go. Most graphics or word processing applications have an option to make text boxes. Here is what a text box can do....

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They usually have “handles” at the corners which allow you to re-size the text so it can be stretched out to fit your tract format. By the way, “copy” and “paste” are commands that you can usually access from the menu’s at the top of the page in most apps. First “select” the text you want to edit by clicking, and dragging over the text--(it will turn color)--and then selecting the “copy” command.

You can make your document 2-sided and print it front-to-back. This will give you more space to write and make it more cost-effective to print. It’s also helpful to draw some guidelines.

Experiment!--Try different ways of placing type and see what works best for you, and your computer/printer. It’s really a lot of fun and I’m sure you can invent your own way of doing things!

So here is what a simple “brochure” format might look like...

Vertical line on the left side of the page.

Vertical line on the right side of the page.

Well that's pretty simple!

Those guidelines are there to fit your type into, and also they will serve as fold lines when it's printed. If you print front-to-back you can fit a lot of writing on a page this way.

So here is what our tract might look like copied into this format....

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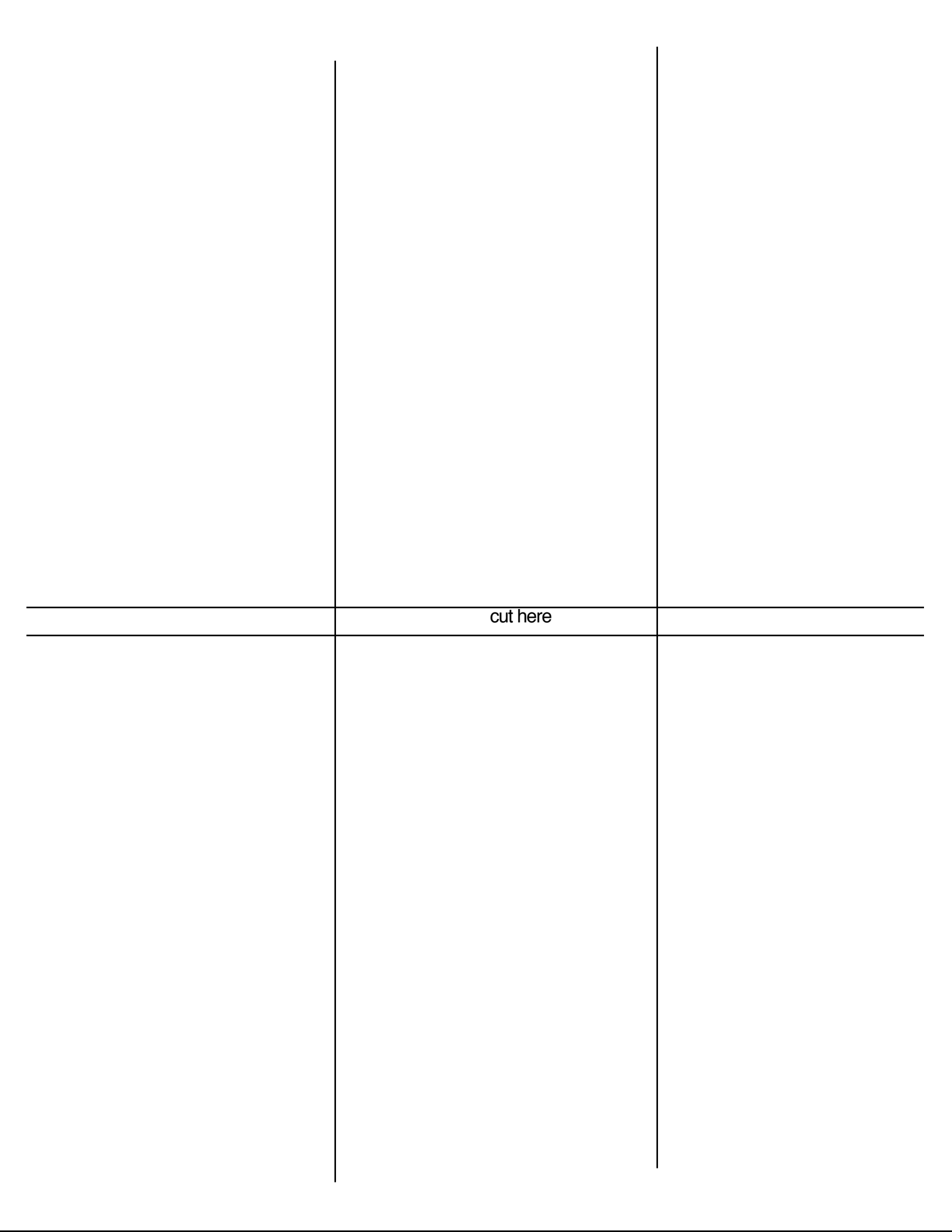
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Thank you Jesus! “

Now, if we take the same format and add two horizontal lines we can make 2 copies per page...like this.....



cut here

Simply by adding 2 lines at the middle of our brochure we can turn it into a “2-tract” set up. Those 2 lines are a little gap where you can cut the tracts in half (it’s good to make a tract format that you can save and use over and over again). The gap is there since often printers don’t align pages correctly and a tip is to not let the type run too close to the edges if possible.

So once again by copying and pasting our text into this format (using text boxes) we can now print 2 tracts per page, and this is what it will look like....

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With this format we can make 2 tracts per page. You can of course divide the page into smaller pieces, making 3 or even more tracts on one piece of paper. This will bring down the cost of the tracts and make them easier to carry.

There are many other options of course. As you can see in the finished product I added colored text and copied in a picture. There are many free sources for clip-art that can be utilized or you can even make your own pictures. The possibilities are endless, so be creative and let God lead you!

Of course if you are going to just make tracts for your own use, then this is all you need to do. However, if you would like to share your tracts with others, there is one more small step you need to do, and that is to save your tracts as a .pdf document. How to do this? Well some software has the option to save a document as a .pdf and there is also software available that can give you that option. I would suggest looking it up in the "help" menu on your own computer and/or searching the internet for help in that area. When your tract is saved in this way it can readily be shared as a download with anyone and should print consistently.

And hey, when your tract is done--send it to us! We would be glad to post it for free download at our website (tracts.com). Our website consist largely of tracts and Bible studies which have been written by many many people, from all over the world, who have generously shared their gift of writing with other believers.

Now these are just my ideas and experience on how to make tracts. Hopefully they will give you a start and encourage you to write your own tracts and serve God. In fact I'm sure that you can think of even better ways to make tracts--so go to it!

If you are not sure of something, have any questions or we can help in any way, please feel free to write us. Our e-mail address is: tracts1@aol.com We would be blessed to give you help in putting together your tracts. We are also happy to put tracts together for you. We do all our ministry completely for free and do not accept donations, (we like to give the "free gift" freely!). In fact you can send us the text of your tract in an e-mail and we would be glad to format it for you.

And, if you make a group of tracts or Bible studies we would be blessed to set up a website for your tracts. We encourage you to make your own tract website--and if we can help in any way, feel free to write and let us know, we are very glad to help.

May God bless you as you serve Him,

Joe & Laura Rich
tracts.com