

The Strait-Gate Dialogue

When an investigator has accepted the Soft Challenge to baptism, you're still only halfway there. The next step is to set a date for a baptismal service. This really solidifies the commitment and provides motivation for the investigator to continue thinking and working toward baptism. However, many missionaries struggle with setting dates; they get cautious, scared, or fail to communicate the critical importance of baptism.

The Strait-Gate Dialogue is an easy and effective way to help the investigator understand why he or she needs baptism and to see the path forward. This dialogue is used at the end of the second lesson after you have talked about the plan of salvation. It can also be taught as a short, separate lesson of its own.

There are eight steps involved with the Strait-Gate Dialogue:

- 1. Review the plan of salvation**
- 2. Ask them the following two questions:**
 - A. Which kingdom do you want to go to? (celestial kingdom—works every time!)**
 - B. What two things do you need to do to get there? (1. keep commandments and 2. baptism)**

Let them think. Usually they will answer “keeping the commandments,” but they are hesitant to say “baptism” even though they may think of it. If they don't think of it, or even if they do, still give them the example of the child in the mud puddle (see below). Say, “The second thing that we need is this . . . Let me give you an example.”

1. Example of the Child in the Mud Puddle:



Suppose you bought a new home and you just had new white carpet laid with your new furniture. After a hard day's work of dust- ing and cleaning your home, you call your son in to dinner. He has been outside playing in the rain and stomping in mud puddles. You see him on the front steps about to come into your new home and ruin your carpet. What are you going to do? (Clean him up). How? (Wash him off). Why wouldn't you let him in? (Because he'd get the house dirty).

Now, we come to earth, we are all trying to keep the commandments, but no one is perfect. We all break the commandments (Romans 3:23). When we do, it makes us unclean. Is God going to let unclean people into His kingdom? (No). Why not? (Because his kingdom is perfect; we would make it dirty). So what do we need to do? (Get cleaned off). That's right—we need to get cleaned off. How do we get cleaned off?

2. Show a picture of Jesus Christ getting baptized by John the Baptist and ask them the following four questions:

- A. What's happening here? (Jesus Christ is getting baptized)**
- B. By whom? (John the Baptist)**
- C. Why John the Baptist? (He had the authority)**
- D. How? Sprinkled or dipped under? (Immersion)**

3. That's how we get cleaned off. We need to be baptized. In order to be spiritually clean and live with God, we need to keep the commandments and be baptized.

Drop baptism for the moment.



4. Read Matthew 7:13–14. As you discuss the paths, draw them out on the other side of the Strait-Gate paper (see page 57 that outlines the dates, to-dos, and status) following the proper sequence of steps. If they have kids, it’s fun to let the kids draw it; they love that.

5. Ask them the following seven questions about the scripture:

- A. How many paths? (Two)**
- B. What are the paths like? (One big one and one small one)**
- C. Where do they go? (One to destruction and the other to eternal life)**
- D. Which one do you want to go to? (Eternal life—works every time)**
- E. How many people are on each path and why? (Broad— many; narrow—few; because it is easier not to keep the commandments)**
- F. So you want to get on this path. What do you need to do? (You have to go through the gate.) Read 2 Nephi 31:17. What is the gate? (Baptism)**
- G. That’s right, baptism is the gate by which you enter on the strait and narrow path. What else must you do? (Repent as needed and endure to the end.)**

6. Turn the paper over and have a list of all the lessons, commitments required, attending church, and a baptismal date two or three weeks out at the bottom of the list. Check off the lessons that you have already shared with them, and then briefly discuss the remaining lessons and what they cover. Tell them that you would like them to come to church. Invite them to be baptized if they find out for themselves that the Book of Mormon is true, Joseph Smith is a prophet, and that the Church is true.



At this time, set up appointments for the remaining lessons as well as the dates for church.

Example of Step 6

ENTER YE IN AT THE STRAIGHT GATE...

Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there by that find it. Matthew 7:13-14

Date	To Do	Status
April 1	Lesson 1: The Message of the Restoration	Complete
April 1	Commitment: Read and pray about the Book of Mormon	In Process
April 6	Lesson 2: The Plan of Salvation	Complete
April 6	Commitment: To be baptized on April 20	In Process
April 7	Attend church	
April 10	Lesson 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ	Next Visit
April 13	Lesson 4: The Commandments	
April 14	Attend church	
April 15-20	Invite family and friends to baptism	
April 19	Baptism Interview	
April 20	Baptism	
April 21	Confirmation	

