

# TURNED AROUND

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PLEASE NOTE!

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# Introduction

Important! Before you begin to prepare your lessons, please read these notes carefully on how to use this Bible Lesson series

The Bible lessons included in this series have been carefully selected. Each one is strongly evangelistic in its focus. The lessons are designed specially for the first weeks of teaching in a Good News Club® of Child Evangelism Fellowship® or in other classes reaching out to children who are unfamiliar with the Gospel and not yet believers.

- ◆ Zacchaeus, a lost man who was saved and **changed** by Jesus.
- ◆ Mephibosheth, a poor, lame man who was **accepted** into the king's family.
- ◆ Noah, who was **saved** from destruction.
- ◆ The Ethiopian Treasurer who was **found** by Philip and by God.
- ◆ Saul who was **turned around** by God.

The message of salvation is clearly presented throughout each lesson. Each lesson also contains teaching and application of the truth for saved children. If the Good News Club is just starting and there are as yet no saved children, the teacher would not need to include this teaching for believers.

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## Definitions of terms and symbols

### *Scripture*

Although there may be other Scriptures that relate to the lesson, the Scripture listed is the passage from which the lesson was drawn. The New King James Version is used in this text. Be sure to have your Bible open at the passage and read a few key verses at appropriate moments as you teach the lesson.

### *Memory verse*

Five memory verses are printed with the visuals for the five lessons. We recommend that the first three of the verses be taught during the five weeks. It is probably better to teach three thoroughly, rather than trying to teach a new verse each week. The two remaining verses, which also are strongly evangelistic, can be kept for other occasions.

### *Central truth (CT)*

A central truth has been chosen for each lesson. Print on a card the central truth for each lesson. Keep it handy and at various points in the lesson hold up the card for the children to see. You should develop this truth gradually throughout the lesson so that the children will really understand it. You could think of questions that new children might have about this truth. Then answer these questions one by one as you teach the lesson. Let us take the lesson on Zacchaeus as an example. The CT is "Jesus loves children and wants to save and **change** them". The CT could be taught as we answer the following questions:

- ◆ Who is Jesus? (The Son of God who became a perfect man.)
- ◆ Why do children need to be saved and changed? (Because they are sinners.)
- ◆ What did Jesus do so that He could save and change? (He died and rose again.)
- ◆ What does a child need to do to be saved and changed? (Turn from his sin and accept Jesus into his life.)
- ◆ What changes will that begin to make in his life? (He will want to please the Lord in his words, thoughts and actions.)

**CTU** - Abbreviation for how the central truth is applied to the unsaved child.

**CTS** - How the central truth is applied to the saved child.

### ***Visual aids***

Use the flashcards provided. You may want to use a few extras, such as cards with the words of the central truth; also the key word for each lesson - “changed”, “received”, “saved”, “found”, “turned around”. At an appropriate point in the lesson you would show the cards.

### ***Making yourself available (MYA)***

A point in the lesson (or during some other part of the club programme) when you tell the children that you will be available after the class to give personal counselling and help to a child who wants to trust Jesus as his Saviour. Several examples of how to make yourself available for counselling are included in the lessons.

### ***The invitation***

This is an integral part of the Gospel. The teacher explains to the children that God invites the unsaved child to come to Him. The child does this from his heart as he turns from his sin in repentance and turns to God in faith.

### ***Review questions***

This is an important part of the programme. It enables you to assess how much of the teaching the children have understood. In the light of that you can add to their understanding or correct it as you see is necessary. Be sure to read these questions before you teach the lesson, to ensure that you give the children the information to enable them to answer correctly. Use a visual aid that you are familiar with to keep score.

## **Four divisions of the Bible story**

### ***Introduction***

A way to capture creatively the children’s attention and focus their thoughts on the content to follow.

### ***Progression of events***

The chronological progression of the major events of the passage.

### ***Climax***

This is the high point of the story where the problem is solved, or the mystery ends. After this point the interest of the children begins to fall. Most of the teaching and application needs to be included before this moment.

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## Conclusion

The brief, closing facts of the story. Sets the stage for the final invitation for the unsaved child to put his faith in God.

## Sidebar helps

Along the left margin of each lesson are sidebar helps for the teacher. These helps are designed to assist you with background information and methods of involving the children in the learning process. Choose what is most useful to you depending on the age of the children, the time and amount of space available to you in the room where you meet.

## Bible lesson outlines

An outline of each lesson is included to help you see the overall direction of the lesson. These outlines may be photocopied and placed in your Bible to guide you as you teach. Scripture verses quoted are part of the lesson. Verses in brackets are a reference for the teacher.

## Sample programme for a Good News Club that is just beginning

Welcome	Children are often coming from homes where parents are absent, or are in conflict and have no time to listen to the children. Take time to talk and listen; maybe play a game or two. Be a friend to the children!	(8 minutes)
Songs	Teach and sing one or two songs that contain the facts of the Gospel. For example: “Good News, Good News, Christ died for me” “I believe the Bible is the Word of God”	(5 minutes)
* Wonder time	Comment briefly on the readings in the Wonder Devotional Book that you want to introduce to the children and have them follow. Your aim is to encourage them to have a “Quiet Time” each day - reading a few verses from the Bible and praying.	(5 minutes)
Prayer	Lead the children in a very brief prayer. Teach them to be reverent.	(1 minute)
Doctrine	It would be good to teach two or three pages of “What Every Child Ought to Know”	(5 minutes)
Song	Sing again one of the songs that the children have learned	(3 minutes)
Memory verse	Teach or review a verse in an interesting way	(7 minutes)
Song	Sing again to give plenty of variety to the programme	(1 minute)
Bible lesson	This is the most important part of the class	(15-20 minutes)
Review quiz	Questions are provided with each lesson which review not only the facts of the story, but the teaching and the applications	(8 minutes)
Song	Sing one of the songs that are familiar	(2 minutes)
Conclusion	Close with prayer	(1 minute)

Total approximate time: 60-65 minutes

\* If the Wonder Devotional Books are available in your country and your language.

The programme will change as the year progresses. For example you will probably spend some time later in the year teaching the children to pray, or you might choose to include a chapter of one of the missionary stories produced by Child Evangelism Fellowship. Then you might leave out the review quiz some week or the five minutes on doctrine.

### Hints for teaching preschool children

Because preschoolers have a short attention span, teach the main events of the story, eliminating some of the details. To maximise learning, involve the children in related activities as you teach. Some activities are provided in the lesson sidebars.

Using lesson 1 as an example, here are some ideas for activities for preschoolers. You can adapt these ideas for use with the other lessons.

#### ***Lesson 1 - Zacchaeus***

- ◆ Flashcard 1-1 Allow each child to put coins in the bag. Instead of using a map, have children imagine the trees and “smell” the flowers. If possible have real flowers for them to pass around.
- ◆ Flashcard 1-2 Role play: Have all the children be Zacchaeus, walking, looking, stretching on tiptoe.
- ◆ Flashcard 1-5 Role play: Let all the children be Zacchaeus climbing down the tree.
- ◆ Flashcard 1-6 Children, pretending to be Zaccacheus, walk (around in a circle) to his house with Jesus.

You could give the message of salvation as a separate 5-minute teaching session within the class time, omitting it from the Bible lesson. Use the flashcards 1-3, 1-7 and 1-9.

# Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Zacchaeus - Saved and changed by the Lord Jesus Luke 19:1-10	The Lord Jesus loves the lost - He wants to save and change them	Unsaved: Accept the Lord Jesus into your life (as Zacchaeus accepted Jesus into his home and life)  Saved: Show others how the Lord Jesus has changed you	“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”  Luke 19:10
Mephibosheth - Accepted into the king’s family 2 Samuel 4:4 2 Samuel 5:1-5 2 Samuel 9:1-13	Only by God’s grace we can be accepted into His family	Unsaved: Just as you are, come to God through the Lord Jesus (just as Mephibosheth came to David)  Saved: Behave like a son of God	“... the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out”  John 6:37
Noah - Saved from destruction Genesis 6:1 - 9:17 2 Peter 2:5	God’s way is the only way to be saved	Unsaved: Trust in the Lord Jesus, the only Saviour (as Noah trusted in the ark that God provided)  Saved: Be faithful (as Noah was) in telling others about the way of salvation	Review Luke 19:10 and John 6:37
The Ethiopian treasurer - Found by God Acts 8:1-8, 26-40	God gave His Son to die for the lost	Unsaved: (As the Ethiopian man did) believe in Jesus, the Saviour Who is looking for you to give you eternal life  Saved: (Like Philip) share God’s written word (a tract or a verse) with someone	“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”  Romans 6:23
Saul - Turned around by God Acts 9:1-22 Philippians 3:3-8	Everyone must make a U-turn in life	Unsaved: Turn from your sin to Jesus  Saved: Pray for others ...  ... for those who suffer because they turned to Jesus  ... for your unsaved friends, that they will turn to Jesus	Continue to teach Romans 6:23
Review lesson	---	---	---





# Lesson 1

## Zacchaeus - Saved and changed by the Lord Jesus

### Scripture for teachers

Luke 19:1-10

### Central truth

The Lord Jesus loves the lost - He wants to save and change them

### Application

Unsaved: Accept the Lord Jesus into your life (as Zacchaeus accepted Jesus into his home and life)

Saved: Show others how the Lord Jesus has changed you

### Memory verse

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” Luke 19:10

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8 and 1-9
- ◆ It would also be good to print out the central truth on two cards (one card with the words “The Lord Jesus loves the lost” and the second with “He wants to save and change them”) and show them at the points in the lesson as indicated in the text
- ◆ Print the word “changed” on a card

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Zacchaeus counts his money

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Zacchaeus, a wealthy but hated tax collector, lives in Jericho (Luke 19:1-3)
- 2 Jesus comes through Jericho, drawing large crowds (Luke 19:3) CT  
Give teaching on “Who is Jesus?” - The Son of God; His love for Zacchaeus and everyone
- 3 Zacchaeus is a sinner CTU  
Teach: “Children too are sinners”

4 Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree to see Jesus (Luke 19:4)

5 Jesus stops below the tree and looks up at Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5)

6 Jesus tells Zacchaeus to come down and that He is going to his house CTU

Develop teaching on the Lord Jesus - He knows you; He loves you

7 Zacchaeus comes down and receives Jesus with joy (Luke 19:6-7)

8 Zacchaeus takes the Lord Jesus to his home

9 The crowd complains that Jesus is a friend of sinners

10 Jesus would die for the sins of Zacchaeus CTU

“What did Jesus do so that you and I can be saved from our sins?” - He died on the cross for you - not for His own sin; He rose again

11 Jesus declares His mission on earth - to seek and to save the lost CTU

You need to receive the Lord into your life, (just as Zacchaeus received the Lord into his home)

#### **Climax**

Zacchaeus not only receives Jesus into his home; he receives Him into his life and the Lord saves and changes him

#### **Conclusion**

Zacchaeus is changed inside and this shows in a changed conduct that others could see (Luke 19:8) CTS, CTU

Explain: “What differences will there be in your life when the Lord has saved you?”

Give the invitation for the unsaved child to receive the Lord as Saviour (Use John 1:12, for example)

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

*You could use flashcard 1-10 to teach this verse.*

### **Introduction**

Have you ever been lost?

*Share an instance when you were lost or allow a child to share.*

Did someone come looking for you? How did you feel when you were “found”? The Bible says that when you and I were born, we were lost in sin and separated from God. There is Someone Who is looking for you and our verse today tells us Who that is.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible while the children follow along with flashcard 1-10.*

### **Explanation**

*For the Son of Man* - This is a name for Jesus that is used a lot in the book of Luke in the New Testament.

*has come* - Jesus left Heaven and came down to this Earth for a very special reason.

*to seek* - He is looking for those who are lost in sin, who don't know Him as Saviour. He is looking for you today.

*and to save that which was lost* - He is not just looking for those who are lost, but wants to save them. He wants to take away your sin by having you believe on Him as Saviour.

### **Application**

Unsaved: If you are still lost in your sin, Jesus is looking for you. He wants to take away your sin. You need to turn from the wrong things that displease Him and accept the Lord Jesus into your life. You could do that today! Later in the Bible lesson I will explain to you how you could do that.

Saved: If you are no longer lost in your sin, others should see a difference in your life. They should be able to tell that you have been turned around. Old habits should change as you obey God's commands. If your friends see a difference in you, it can cause them to ask questions about what makes you different and will give you a chance to tell them about God.

**Repetition**

“Finish the verse”

Divide into two groups, with the first group saying, “For the Son of Man has come,” and the second group finishing the verse. All repeat the reference.

Variation: “Parrot game”

In parrot-like fashion, the leader says the first word and the others repeat it. This continues until the leader purposely says an incorrect word. All who are caught repeating that word are out of the game, but they may assist the leader in spotting other players who also repeat a wrong word. The leadership of the game may change throughout.

Example:	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Children</u>
	Luke 19:10	Luke 19:10
	For	For
	the	the
	Son	Son
	of	of
	God	--- (Should remain silent.)

Lesson

Flashcard 1-1

Use actual coins, dropping them in two small piles, saying the words as Zacchaeus may have said them. Scoop one pile into a drawstring bag. This will add drama to your introduction.

Hold up the Bible for the children to see, open at Luke 19.

Have the children pronounce Zacchaeus' name.

The tax was based on the money the person earned, land he owned, the number of people who lived at his house and other factors. (See "Roman taxation" in "Unger's Bible Dictionary".)

Show the location of Jericho and Jerusalem on a map. The older children will find this interesting and helpful.

Involve the children in the lesson to help them remember the story! Have children role play this scene - the people eager

Clink, clink, clink. The coins dropped, one by one onto two piles on the table. One pile he set aside.

"I'll send this tax money off to Rome tomorrow," he noted.

Then his eyes fell, gleaming, on the second pile - just a little larger than the first. A smile curved his lips as he ran his fingers through the coins.

"This money - this is mine! Payment for a job well done," he congratulated himself.

He pulled the second pile toward him, dropping the coins into a large cloth bag which he then tied tightly shut.

We find the story of this man in the Bible - the book that God had written for us.

His name was Zacchaeus. He lived in the city of Jericho. As chief tax collector, he was in charge of all the tax collectors hired by the Roman government.

It was the tax collector who decided how much each person had to pay. Many tax collectors were dishonest and greedy and collected far more money than they should, keeping the extra for themselves.

Zacchaeus had become very rich with the money he stole from the people. He probably had no friends among the Jews, the people who lived in Jericho. Few people ever came to his home for a friendly visit or invited him to visit them.

The morning sun rose over Jericho - a beautiful city, with tall palms and gardens of sweet-smelling roses. Nearly every day lines of camels coming in from the desert passed through the city with traders buying and selling many colourful things. Many visitors passed through Jericho on their way to Jerusalem the capital.

Flashcard 1-2

Zacchaeus left his beautiful home and entered the crowded streets. He probably hated the days when crowds of people pressed in! All around him people shouted greetings to one another. But no-one greeted him.

He noticed a large crowd gathered by the roadside. They seemed to be waiting excitedly for something.

"What could be happening?" he wondered.

He tried to push impatiently through the crowd of people but he could not get through. He stretched up on tip-toe to try and see over the heads of the crowd but the Bible, God's Book, tells us that "he was of short stature [he was very small]"(Luke 19:3).

“He’s coming! He’s coming!” shouted the crowd.

The people pressed forward to see. Zacchaeus felt the excitement building up all around him. Who was this Person Whom everyone wanted to see? It was the Lord Jesus! The crowd had probably heard quite a lot about Jesus - how He had healed the sick, how He had fed the hungry.

*Let the children participate by telling you of some other miracles that Jesus had performed.*

Probably Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus too. I suppose he thought that Jesus was a very good person.

That certainly is true. Jesus was a good man. But He was much more than that! He is the Son of God Who came down from Heaven. He was born as a baby and grew up like other children do, but He was different in one way - He was perfect. He never did anything wrong. He was perfect and His heart was full of love for everyone. That was part of the reason why He was coming to Jericho - because He loved Zacchaeus and was looking for him.

Possibly Zacchaeus was curious, like others in the crowd, to see what a miracle-worker looked like. Or maybe he felt guilty about his stealing from the people. The Jews considered him a very wicked man because he worked for the hated Romans who had taken over their country.

**Flashcard 1-3**

It’s true. Zacchaeus was not a good person. He was selfish and greedy. But he is not the only one. Did you know that God says in the Bible, “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23)? So you and I are sinners too. That means that we want our own way, and we go against God’s way. We are born like that. Any time you talk behind someone’s back saying unkind things about them, or you disobey your mother, or go along with friends to do something wrong like painting graffiti on walls, you are disobeying God. For God says very clearly in His Word, “Obey your parents” (Ephesians 6:1) and, “Be kind to one another” (Ephesians 4:32). You and I sin. We are born wanting to do wrong inside us. Your sin separates you from God and you deserve to be punished. You need to be saved and rescued from that punishment. Your sin can also spoil your relationship with others, just as Zacchaeus’ selfishness and stealing separated him from God and from other people.

He was hated and distrusted by the people.

Whether it was his curiosity or his guilty feelings, whatever his reason, he tried desperately to see over the crowd but he could not. He was too short!

**Flashcard 1-4**

The noise of the crowd grew louder! Jesus had entered the city. His disciples walked along with Him. The people shouted and pressed in

to see Jesus; Zacchaeus struggling to go through the crowd.

CT

CTU

Help the children apply the truth of sin to their own lives with examples to which they can relate.

Your facial expressions, voice and a touch of

drama will help you tell this part of the story with excitement and suspense.

on all sides. Sick people probably pushed close to be healed. Maybe mothers were holding their babies out for Jesus to touch them. The noise must have been deafening! Zacchaeus' heart beat hard in his chest. Soon Jesus would pass by and his chance to see Him would be gone! What could he do? Could he climb up somewhere? Yes! He could see a good place. Let's find out where it was!

*Read Luke 19:4 aloud to the children, or have an older child read the verse from your Bible.*

Yes! He decided to climb into a tree with low, spreading branches. He pulled his robes up around his ankles and the Bible tells us he ran! What a strange sight to see this important, wealthy, proud tax collector racing down the dusty street with his robes flying behind him!

Grabbing a branch he climbed, huffing and puffing, up into the tree. Settling himself on a strong branch, he leaned forward, peering through the many leaves, trying to see Jesus. Jesus was coming along the road closer and closer to the tree. How exciting!

### Flashcard 1-5

Jesus came right up to the tree. He stopped below it. The crowd stopped with Him. They waited and probably grew quiet. Maybe He was going to speak to them. Then Jesus looked up into the tree. He looked through the shadows of the leaves, right into the startled face of the chief tax collector. No-one had ever looked at Zacchaeus with such love and kindness! Then to his (and the crowd's) amazement Jesus spoke to this man that other people hated.

Let's read from God's Book what Jesus said.

*Read, or have a child read, Luke 19:5 from your Bible.*

"Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5).

Zacchaeus was stunned. "He called me by name. How does He know me? And He wants to come to my house!" These thoughts were tumbling through his head. "No-one ever wants to come to my house - especially not a holy man like Him."

CTU

Boys and girls, can you tell me how the Lord Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name? Yes, He is God the Son. He knows everything! He knew that Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He also knew that Zacchaeus was suffering because he was doing wrong and others disliked him. But the Lord Jesus loved him even though he had lived in a selfish, greedy way.

God knows your name too. He knows where you live and where you go to school! He knows the wrong things that you have done, those things that displease Him, but He loves you too no matter what you have done or what other people think of you. Others may leave you

out of their games or their team because of something that you've done, how you look or because you can't do things they can do. God will not turn you away or leave you out. The Bible tells us that God loves everyone in the whole world (John 3:16). That includes you!

### Flashcard 1-6

Zacchaeus too was beginning to realise that Jesus loved him, even though he had done wrong.

Right away he came down from the tree. In his heart there must have been a great longing to be a different person - a person who was not greedy, who did not steal, who was not selfish. With great joy he took the Lord Jesus to his house for a meal.

We do not know all that was said during that meal time, but Zacchaeus realised that Jesus could save him and change him.

### Flashcard 1-7

Zacchaeus, you and I - everyone in fact - deserves to be punished by God for the way we have disobeyed Him and what He commands us in His Word. But the Lord Jesus took the punishment that we deserved when He died on the cross. He suffered and shed His precious blood on the cross so that we could be saved. That is what we mean by being saved - we are saved from the punishment that we deserved.

The Lord Jesus did not stay dead. He was buried but after three days He rose again from the grave. He is alive now and for ever. You cannot see Him with your eyes but He is here with us today in our class and He wants to save you and change you, just as He wanted to save and change Zacchaeus.

### Flashcard 1-6 (again)

Under the tree, on the way to the house and at the meal the Lord Jesus and Zacchaeus talked together. Other people were surprised that Jesus would go to the home of a sinful man. They would not even think of going into the house of such a terrible person.

*Lead the children in a brief discussion by asking, "Why would Jesus want to spend time with someone like Zacchaeus?" Their answers will reveal much about their understanding of Who the Lord Jesus is and why He came to Earth.*

Jesus said to these people, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Those are the words that we learned in our memory verse. Let's say them over again together.

*Have the children repeat the verse.*

Boys and girls, the Lord Jesus can save you and change you too!

What do you need to do? Like Zacchaeus, you must be willing to turn away from those wrong things that displease God. You could ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life, just as Zacchaeus received

Show the card with  
"The Lord Jesus loves  
the lost".

CTU

Show the card with  
"He wants to save and  
change them".

CTU

Show both central truth  
cards.



Make yourself available for personal counselling.

Jesus into his house. You could invite Him to take away your sin and to change you. You can say that quietly to God from your heart. But if you don't know quite how to do that, please come to me up here at the front after the class and I will sit down with you by yourself and help you. Don't be afraid, I really want to help you if you want Jesus to save and change you. That is what Zacchaeus wanted.

Show the card with the word "changed".

Yes, that is why the Lord Jesus came from Heaven to this Earth and why He went to the home of the tax collector.

Zacchaeus not only received Jesus into his home, he received Him into his life and the Lord saved and changed him.

Zacchaeus was changed in two ways. He was changed inside - His sins were forgiven by the Lord Jesus. That was something that other people could not see. But the change that took place inside Zacchaeus led to changes in his life that other people could see.

After the Lord Jesus had forgiven him, Zacchaeus said, "I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times over" (from Luke 19:8).

*Read Luke 19:8 from the Bible.*

This showed that the Lord had really saved him, and had forgiven him. He was like a new person.

**Flashcard 1-8**

CTS

Show both central truth cards.

If you invite the Lord Jesus to come into your life to forgive you and to save you, He will certainly do that. He came to this world to look for and to save boys and girls, men and women. Also, just as He changed Zacchaeus He will begin to change you in a way that others can see.

Keep in mind the behaviour patterns of the children in your class. Give a few examples of the changes in behaviour, attitudes and speech, which God wants to see in their lives as they trust in Him for salvation.

If you have Jesus in your life, your parents will begin to see that you are different. You won't be perfect but each day you can ask Him to help you to be more obedient. You will begin to obey more cheerfully and quickly. Your teachers at school will begin to see a difference too, because God will help you to study more and to behave better in class. Your friends will start to notice too that God is changing you, maybe in the way you speak. The Lord will help you not to say the bad words that you used to say. Maybe you will not want to listen to the dirty jokes they tell. If you invite Jesus into your life your behaviour won't become perfect all at once but there will be some changes that others can see and, little by little, God will continue to change the way that you talk and behave and think.

This is good teaching for saved children. It is also good for the unsaved, so that they understand that becoming a believer will mean a new way of living for them.

**Flashcard 1-9**

Show the card with the word "changed".

That day long ago Zacchaeus was changed. His sins were forgiven. He must have been so glad that the Lord Jesus had come to look for him and to save him!



The Lord Jesus is looking for you too! He took the punishment that you deserved so that God could forgive you and save you. But He did not stay dead. He is alive and is here in our class today though you cannot see Him.

Do you want the Lord Jesus to forgive you and to save you? Do you want Him to begin to change you so that you do not go on doing those wrong things that displease Him? With His help do you want to be a different person? If your answer is “yes” invite Jesus to come into your life to be your Saviour and your Leader.

From your heart you could pray in words something like this, “Lord Jesus, I know that I have done many wrong things that do not please You. Thank You that You love me, although I have done wrong. Thank You that You died on the cross for me. I want You to come into my life to forgive me and to help me from now on to please You and obey You.”

Do that today - right here in our club or when you go home. The Lord Jesus will certainly answer your prayer because He Himself said, “I have come to seek and to save that which was lost” (from Luke 19:10). He saved and changed Zacchaeus. He wants and is able to save and change you!

### Review questions

- 1 What kind of a person was Zacchaeus the tax collector? (Selfish, greedy, a thief, a sinner.)
- 2 Who besides Zacchaeus are sinners? (Everyone.)
- 3 How do you know that God loves sinners? (God says so in the Bible - John 3:16.)
- 4 Our memory verse tells us that Jesus came to earth to do two things. What are they? (To seek and to save the lost.)
- 5 Who are the lost? (Those who have not received the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.)
- 6 What did Zacchaeus do to the people that was wrong? (He charged more taxes than was fair and kept the extra money for himself.)
- 7 When the Lord Jesus came to Jericho, what did Zacchaeus do to see Him? (He ran and climbed into a tree.)
- 8 What did the Lord Jesus say to Zacchaeus in the tree? (“Come down, for today I must stay at your house.”)
- 9 Why was the crowd shocked that Jesus was talking to Zacchaeus? (Because Zacchaeus had cheated them of their money and he worked for the Romans who had conquered their land.)
- 10 The Lord Jesus changed Zacchaeus inside. In what way? (He forgave his sin; He saved him.)

- 11 The Lord Jesus began to change Zacchaeus in a way that others could see. What changes could be seen? (He promised to give half of what he owned to the poor and to repay four times over those he had cheated.)
- 12 If a boy or a girl has received Jesus into his life as his Saviour, what changes should begin to be seen by others? (His parents see he is more obedient; his teachers see he is respectful; his friends hear less bad words. The children would not have to give the same examples as were given in the lesson.)

# Lesson 2

## Mephibosheth - Accepted into the king's family

### Scripture for teachers

2 Samuel 4:4

2 Samuel 5:1-5

2 Samuel 9:1-13

### Central truth

Only by God's grace we can be accepted into His family

### Application

Unsaved: Just as you are, come to God through the Lord Jesus (just as Mephibosheth came to David)

Saved: Behave like a son of God

### Memory verse

"... the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" John 6:37

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8 and 2-9
- ◆ Print central truth on two cards (or one card doubled in two) - the first part with the words "Only by God's grace" and the second with the words "we can be accepted into His family"
- ◆ Print a card with the word "accepted" and show them to the children where indicated in the lesson

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

A messenger brings terrible news for Mephibosheth - his father (the prince) and his grandfather (the king) have been killed in battle

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 5-year old Mephibosheth is crippled when his nurse lets him fall (2 Samuel 4:4)
- 2 Considered as enemies of the new king, they hide in a village CTU

Sinners are the enemies of God - certainly not part of His family

- 3 David chosen and crowned as the new king (2 Samuel 5:1-5)
- 4 King David remembers his promise to Jonathan to show kindness to his family (2 Samuel 9:1)

- 5 Through his servant Ziba, David finds out about Mephibosheth and sends for him (2 Samuel 9:2-5) CTU

God is holy and hates sin but He loves you

- 6 Mephibosheth comes before David in fear of his life (2 Samuel 9:6-7)
- 7 David welcomes him in spite of the fact that he is lame, poor and from an enemy family CTU

God can forgive and welcome us because Jesus was punished in our place

- 8 David gives Mephibosheth lands and servants (2 Samuel 9:7-13)
- 9 He eats at David's table like his own son

#### **Climax**

From that day on Mephibosheth has the privilege of being treated like the son of a king CTS

Behave like a son of God

#### **Conclusion**

Mephibosheth had done nothing to deserve this kindness CTU, MYA

God in His mercy invites you to be His son or daughter

Short prayer

Explain that a child who needs more help may come and talk to you

Alternatively, you may use John 1:12 (flashcard 2-10).

If you use this verse, emphasise the verb “believe” or “trust” rather more than “receive”. In the Bible lesson, King David receives Mephibosheth and treats him as he would a son. Similarly God in His mercy receives the repentant sinner. It might be confusing to the child to over-emphasise the contrasting idea that he has to receive Christ.

If you explain the word “receive” you could refer back to Zacchaeus (lesson 1) and how he received the Lord Jesus into his life and his home.

If translation is to be done into another language use John 6:37 “... the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out”.

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“... the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

*We suggest that before the club starts you write part of John 6:37 on a board.*

### **Introduction**

Have you ever been left out of a game or not been invited to a party? Did you feel bad about that? The Lord Jesus never leaves people out or turns them away when they want to come to Him.

### **Presentation**

*Have a child read the part of the verse from your Bible. The class follows the words of the verse on the board.*

*Make sure you write clearly, large enough for all to read easily and in lower case letters!*

### **Explanation**

*Interweave the explanation and the repetition. After each repetition, remove a word or two from the board.*

*Use questions:*

Who makes this promise? (The Lord Jesus.)

Does He always keep His promises? (Yes.)

Why do we need to come to Jesus? (To have our sins forgiven and to become part of God’s family.)

How can you come to Jesus? (By praying to Him, saying to Him that you are really sorry for your sins and asking Him to be your Saviour.)

If you come to Him, what does He promise to do? (He will not turn you away. He will receive you.)

### **Application**

Unsaved: If you have never come to Jesus you need to do that! Right here in our class you could do it today!

Saved: If you already did come to Jesus and are part of God’s family, remember each day that you are a son or daughter of God. At school, at home, in our club behave in a way that really pleases your Heavenly Father!

## Lesson

“The king is dead! Prince Jonathan is dead! They were killed in battle. Run for your lives! When the new king and his family take over, we will all be killed!”

Mephibosheth was only five years old when his father, Prince Jonathan, and his grandfather, King Saul, were killed in the battle between their country Israel and the Philistines. The story is told here in God’s Word, the Bible, so we know it is all true.

*Have your Bible open as you say this.*

The people were upset and afraid. Would the enemy attack? Who would be the new king?

### Flashcard 2-1

When the nurse who took care of Mephibosheth heard what had happened, she was struck with fear! She had lovingly cared for King Saul’s family and was responsible for his grandson. Her heart pounding, she picked up Mephibosheth and ran, hoping to save his life. Although he was five and too heavy for her, she struggled to carry him because he couldn’t run fast enough.

Suddenly as she ran, the nurse must have stumbled. The Bible tells us what happened.

*Read 2 Samuel 4:4b.*

“And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame” (2 Samuel 4:4b).

Mephibosheth fell from her arms to the ground. Both his feet were badly injured by the fall.

“Shh ... don’t cry. It will be all right.” She must have tried to comfort the boy.

But there was no time to stop. They had to keep going to escape from the enemy. Poor Mephibosheth! In one day he lost his family and his home and now, because of his injury, he would be crippled for the rest of his life.

At last they arrived at a place of safety where a kind family let them live. Only a few people knew Mephibosheth was alive and where he lived. It was very important to keep this a secret. Although a new king had not yet been chosen, the custom was that when the new king took over, he had the former king’s sons put to death. He did this so that they could never be king in his place.

### Flashcard 2-2

Mephibosheth’s life could very well have been in danger since he belonged to the family of the former king. The new king might consider him an enemy.

Have a child play the part of the messenger bringing this bad news or record the message and play the tape in the introduction.

Have the children repeat this difficult name, Mephibosheth, several times. Meh-fib-oh-sheth.

CTU

Show the card with the words of the central truth "We can be accepted into His family".

For background information, see 1 Samuel 18:6-7 and 23:1-5.

Read the verse from your Bible.

God, the King of Heaven, could certainly consider that you are His enemy. You are born wanting to sin, which is why you displease God by your actions and your thoughts. You break the laws that He has given in the Bible. For example, He tells us that He is to be the most important person in our lives. He wants us to love Him with all our hearts and minds (Matthew 22:37) but instead you have turned your back on God; you go your own way and please yourself. When you get involved in wrong things like disobeying, fighting, swearing, taking drugs or stealing, you are behaving like God's enemy. Your sin separates you from God. The Bible says, "There is none righteous [right before God], no, not one" (Romans 3:10). As long as you are in this condition, you are an enemy of God. You are not yet accepted into God's family. A little later I'll tell you how you can be accepted.

Mephibosheth was a member of an enemy family and might therefore have been in danger of death.

Finally the war with the Philistines was over. But since King Saul was dead, the people of Israel needed a new king. Who would rule over them? Many of the people wanted David to be their king. He was a great army leader who had led them to victory over their enemies.

### Flashcard 2-3

It was an exciting day in Israel when David was made king! Crowds of people gathered and cheered. David stood before them in royal robes. He bowed his head as the crown was placed on it. The soldiers lined up to salute the new king. God had planned long before that David should be the king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1,12). He had prepared David's heart for this important work so that he would be a good ruler of His people.

### Flashcard 2-4

Long before he became king, David had been a very good friend of Jonathan, Mephibosheth's father. For years, wicked king Saul had tried to kill David, but Jonathan protected David time after time. Finally the day had come when David had to escape and hide in far away places so that Saul could not take his life. Before he left, David met with Jonathan to say good-bye and they made an important promise to each other. They had agreed that they would always show kindness to one another and to each other's family (1 Samuel 20:14-17).

Several years after David became king, he remembered, "I promised to show kindness to Jonathan's family."

Quickly he called in his servants and asked, "Is there any that is left of the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (from 2 Samuel 9:1).

## Flashcard 2-5

A servant who had worked for King Saul was found and brought to King David. He told David about Jonathan's lame son, Mephibosheth. Immediately David ordered Mephibosheth to be brought to his palace. He wanted to show love and kindness to this grandson of Saul, even though Saul had tried many times to kill him. He was not treating him as an enemy but as a friend. This is a picture of how God, the King of Heaven treats us.

God is completely holy. That means that He has never done, nor can do, anything wrong.

He is King over the whole universe but He only uses His power to do what is right. When He sees the sin in your life, He hates it. You are disobeying Him; you are acting like an enemy. But God loves you very much just as David loved Mephibosheth.

How surprised Mephibosheth must have been when a servant of King David came to the place where he was living.

"King David wants you to come to the royal palace," the servant explained.

I wonder what raced through Mephibosheth's mind! "Oh no! David has found me at last! Maybe he is going to kill me because I am Saul's grandson! Do I really have to go with this servant?"

He had no choice. He had to go to the palace. Probably he had to ride on a donkey or a horse, because he could not walk properly.

## Flashcard 2-6

After a difficult, tiring journey Mephibosheth arrived at the palace. In great fear he limped into the presence of the king and bowed down before him.

"Now what is going to happen to me? What does David want with a poor, lame man like me? He may even treat me as an enemy. Am I going to be killed today? What is the king going to shout at me?"

Mephibosheth listened.

David was speaking to him in a gentle, kind voice, "Mephibosheth ... do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan's sake" (2 Samuel 9:7a).

David had a great surprise for Mephibosheth - he was going to treat him just like a member of his family and bring him to live in the palace with him!

David was showing Mephibosheth great kindness. Mephibosheth had done nothing to earn this kindness. We call this kindness that we haven't earned "grace".

CTU

Have two children role play the servant Ziba going to get Mephibosheth. Then in the next scene, role play Mephibosheth limping in before King David.

Read the first part of the verse from your Bible. ("Mephibosheth" comes from verse 6.)

CTU



In a far greater way, God shows His love to you and me. He gives you your food, your health, your friends, people to care for you.

**Flashcard 2-7**

Most of all God showed His love and kindness to us when He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus down from Heaven to this Earth. He lived a perfect life but He allowed Himself to be put to death on a cross. This was part of God’s loving plan. Jesus was taking the punishment that we deserved.

He had done nothing wrong but you and I certainly have and Jesus suffered and died instead of us.

He did all this for us so that we could become children of God. We certainly don’t deserve to become the sons of God. It is only through His great mercy that He accepts us into His family. Do you remember we said “grace” means kindness that we haven’t earned and don’t deserve?

Show the card with the words of the central truth.

**Flashcard 2-6 (again)**

You are just like Mephibosheth - in a way you too are lame. You are not lame in your body - but you have not been walking in the path that God has for you - you have not done the things that God wanted you to do, you have not followed Him.

You, too, could be treated by God as an enemy, but He loves you and He gave His Son to die on the cross for you.

**Flashcard 2-7**

The Lord Jesus died, but He did not stay dead. He rose again from the grave and He is alive today. He is here with us by His Spirit. Because of what Jesus did God, His Father, loves us just as King David, because of his friend Jonathan, loved Mephibosheth.

**Flashcard 2-8**

What was the surprise that King David had for Mephibosheth? Yes, he was going to accept him as his own son. Mephibosheth’s eyes must have opened wide in surprise as he listened as the king spoke to him and then to Ziba the servant.

*Read aloud 2 Samuel 9:7a and parts of verse 10 from your Bible.*

“I will give you back all the land that belonged to Saul, your grandfather, I am going to give you servants to work for you and best of all you are to live here in the palace and eat at my table.”

David told him that from now on he would just be like his own son.

I wonder how Mephibosheth behaved there in the palace. When he thought of all the kindness that David had shown him what would he want to do?

Show the word “accepted” on a card.



*Let the children give some answers.*

Yes, he would want to please David every day.

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God has received you into His family. You did not deserve that, but God did it for Jesus' sake. How should you behave if you are a son or a daughter of God? Yes, you would want to please your Father, Who is also the King of Heaven.

- ◆ How could you please your Heavenly Father right now in our Good News Club?

*Let the children answer the questions.*

- ◆ At home this evening how could you show by your actions that you are the son or daughter of the King of Heaven?
- ◆ How could you show by your words that you are God's son or daughter?
- ◆ How could your teacher at school realise that now you are obeying your Heavenly Father and not just doing what you please?

God's great kindness to us makes us want to please Him. Sometimes even as His children we do not please Him by the things we do and say and think. We need to ask God to help us to do better and to live in the way that He wants. We want to please our Heavenly Father just as Mephibosheth must have wanted to please King David who had been so kind to him.

Mephibosheth had done nothing to deserve to be treated as David's son. It was simply because of the king's great kindness.

## Flashcard 2-9

If you have never turned from your sins, if you have not asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour, you are not yet part of God's family. Would you like Him to forgive you and make you His child? The best time to trust in Jesus is today. There is a verse in the Bible which says ...

*Show the children John 1:12 (flashcard 2-10) and have them repeat it.*

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

It tells us that those who believe in Jesus - those who trust in Him can become the sons of God. Right here in class you can speak to the Lord. Tell Him that you have behaved as an enemy of His, but you are sorry for your sin. Ask Him to forgive you and make you His child. He promises to do so.

*Pray to end the lesson. Ask God to help children to trust in Him and so become His sons and daughters.*

If you do not understand how to trust in God to forgive you and make you His child, come to me here at the table when we finish the

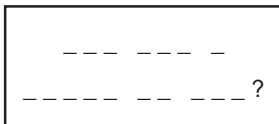
CTS

CTU

Make yourself available for personal counselling.

**Review game**

On a large sheet of paper, draw blank lines (a line for each letter) to represent the mystery phrase "Are you a child of God?"



Ask questions to the group, calling on different children to answer.

For each correct answer, a child may guess a letter.

If the letter is correct, write it in all the spaces that apply. For example, if a child chose "o" you would write it in three times.

If incorrect, write it off to the side.

Don't allow anyone to guess the mystery phrase until all the questions have been answered.

class. I cannot save you. I cannot bring you into God's family but I can explain a little more to you how you can trust in God. I just want to help you so please don't be afraid, just come to me and we can sit down and talk more together about this very important matter.

**Review questions**

- 1 Who became king after Saul and Jonathan were killed? (David.)
- 2 What promise had David and Jonathan made to each other? (That they would be kind to the families of one another.)
- 3 After David became king what question did he ask about Jonathan's family? (Is there someone left of Jonathan's family that I can be kind to?)
- 4 Who was left of Jonathan's family? (Mephibosheth.)
- 5 What was Mephibosheth's problem? (He was crippled and also he came from an enemy family - Saul his grandfather had tried to kill David many times.)
- 6 Why was Mephibosheth afraid when he was called to David's palace? (He feared that David might kill him because Mephibosheth's grandfather Saul had often tried to kill David.)
- 7 (Show Flashcard 2-6.) If we have not trusted in the Lord to forgive us and to make us His children, in what way does Mephibosheth remind us of our position before God? (Accept either or both of the following: we are lame and do not walk in the path God has for us; we are enemies of God.)
- 8 We do not need to be afraid to come to God. Why? (Because He loves us.)
- 9 How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? (He gave him land and servants, and allowed him to eat at his table in the palace. He treated him like a son.)
- 10 How does God show His love and kindness to us? (In many ways - food, clothing, health etc. Specially by giving His Son to die on the cross for us.)
- 11 Repeat John 6:37 (or John 1:12) and tell how you can become a member of God's family. (By coming in prayer to the Lord Jesus and asking Him earnestly to forgive us and to receive us.)
- 12 If you have become a member of God's family, He can help you to show to others that you are His child. Suggest four places where you could you do that. (Answers will vary.)

# Lesson 3

## Noah - Saved from destruction

### Scripture for teachers

Genesis 6:1 - 9:17

2 Peter 2:5

### Central truth

God's way is the only way to be saved

### Application

Unsaved: Trust in the Lord Jesus, the only Saviour  
(as Noah trusted in the ark that God provided)

Saved: Be faithful (as Noah was) in telling others about the way of salvation

### Memory verse

Review Luke 19:10 and John 6:37

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8 and 3-9
- ◆ Print the words of the central truth on a card
- ◆ Print the word "saved" on a card

### Note to teacher

You want the children to really enjoy this fascinating story, but remember that it carries a very serious lesson that a holy God cannot overlook sin. In the drama of the animals entering the ark, don't lose sight of your objective - to give the Gospel clearly to the children!

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Danger! No skating!

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 People sin in thought and actions (Genesis 6:5-7) CT  
God is sad when He sees your thoughts and actions
- 2 Noah believed in God and lived to please Him (Genesis 6:8-21)
- 3 God warns him of coming judgement

- 4 God tells him in detail how to prepare the ark CT

God's way is the only way

- 5 Noah begins to build (Genesis 6:22)

- 6 He warns the people (2 Peter 2:5)

CTS, CTU

You need to be faithful in telling your friends about God's way of salvation

You need to trust in the Saviour

God the creator is holy but He is also loving

- 7 Noah and his family and animals enter the ark after 120 years of work (Genesis 7:13-16)

- 8 God closes the door

CTU

God is warning you

God provided only one way of salvation

- 9 Rain falls for forty days and nights - all people and animals outside the ark are destroyed (Genesis 7:17-24)

- 10 The rains stop and the waters recede (Genesis 8:1-19)

- 11 The ark settles on Mount Ararat

- 12 After a year Noah and his family come out of the ark

#### **Climax**

Only Noah's family is left alive - everyone else had died because they refused to trust in God's way of salvation

#### **Conclusion**

Noah builds an altar and gives thanks to God CTS

If God has saved you, thank Him - and also warn your friends

God places His rainbow of promise in the sky CTU

God's invitation to trust in Him and the Saviour He has given

Teaching the memory verse

Review Luke 19:10 and John 6:37.

*You could use flashcard 1-3 to review Luke 19:10 and flashcard 2-9 to review John 6:37.*

As you review these two verses, you could briefly remind the children of the stories of Zacchaeus and Mephibosheth.

Limit yourself to not more than 7 or 8 minutes for reviewing the verses.

Luke 19:10 Zacchaeus was lost but the Lord Jesus found him and saved him.

John 6:37 Mephibosheth was poor, lame and from an enemy family but King David received him. So God wants to receive us even though we have behaved like His enemies.

## Lesson

John and Mike loved to go skating on the ice when the lake near the town where they lived was frozen over.

One day after school they picked up their skates and went off to the lake. But when they got there they saw that a large sign had been put up - "Danger! No skating! The ice is too thin!" What do you think that they did?

*Let the children answer.*

Well, John was wise - he took heed of the warning and did not go out on the ice. Mike was foolish. He paid no heed and started to skate. The ice broke and he fell into the freezing water. Some men who were near were able to help him out, but he got a very bad cold from being in the icy water for so long. We all need to heed the warning signs, don't we?

In the first book of the Bible, called Genesis, God tells about some people who were warned of an even greater danger. Would they listen and obey the warning?

Show the Bible open at Genesis.

### Flashcard 3-1

The people who were living at that time were doing many wrong things that displeased God. The Bible tells us God "saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

Read from the Bible or have an older child do so.

This verse tells us that God knew exactly what was happening. He could see the people's evil actions. He could also look into their hearts and see their wicked thoughts. How did God feel?

In the next verse we read, "The Lord ... was grieved in His heart" (Genesis 6:6). That means that He was disappointed and angry, just as your parents might be when you do what is wrong.

Boys and girls, did you ever think that God can see your actions, and even see the thoughts in your mind and in your heart? He is a God Who loves what is good and true and right. But He hates it when He hears bad words. God is disappointed and angry when He knows about the disobedient attitude deep in your heart. Maybe when your mother asks you to do something you obey slowly but you are in a bad mood. In your heart you are thinking, "Why do I always have to help? If I could I would just tell my mother that I am not going to do it!" God sees that selfish attitude and it makes Him very sad. He sees when you fight like the people in our picture. He loves you but your actions displease Him, just as the actions and thoughts of these people long ago made Him very sad.

CT

### Flashcard 3-2

But there was one man who loved God and wanted to do the things that God said. His name was Noah.

Make comparisons of the ark's size to buildings or other landmarks familiar to your class.

One day God spoke to him and gave him a message. Part of the message was very, very sad and part was good news. God told Noah that because of the people's sin, He was going to destroy them by a great flood. That means that the world would be covered over by water. That was the terrible, sad news. It must have made God very sad too that these people whom He had created had turned their backs on Him and were so disobedient, that they would have to be destroyed.

The good news was that God was going to provide a way to escape. God explained to Noah what to do. He told him to build a great big boat (or ark). It was to be about 150 metres long (as long as one and a half football pitches), 25 metres wide and 15 metres high (about 5 times the height of this room!). Why such a big boat? Because this boat was not only for Noah and his family but also for many, many animals, birds and insects that were to be saved. The boat would have to carry the food that the people and the animals would eat over a long time.

CT Show the card with the central truth written on it.

The only way for Noah to be safe was to trust in God and come to the boat that God was going to have Noah make. God's way was the only way to be safe.

**Flashcard 3-3**

Let the children suggest questions or comments that the people might have made.

Noah obeyed God and began to build the ark. Probably his three sons helped him. What a huge job they had in front of them - chopping down the trees, sawing them into planks, fitting the planks together. It was going to take not only months of work, but years and years.

In another part of the Bible (2 Peter 2:5) we are told of a second job that Noah did as well as building. He is also called a "preacher". A preacher is someone who tells God's Word to others. To whom did Noah preach? To the people who lived in the world at that time. When they saw him building this ark, they must have come around and asked him many questions. They were really puzzled because the boat was being built so far from water.

"What are you building? Why are you building a boat on dry land?" they must have asked.

Noah explained to them that God was going to send a great flood to punish them for their sin. He preached God's Word to them. He kept preaching for about 120 years - all the time that the ark was being built. It seems that not one of them would listen to what God said. They probably thought that Noah was crazy and they must have laughed at him. Noah just kept on building and giving them God's Word.

CTS

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour are you doing what Noah did? Have you told your friends, or maybe other members

of your family, about the danger they are in if they go on in their sins? You know that the Bible tells us that God will punish sin one day. But do your friends at school know that? Can you explain that to them in a loving way? Are you praying for your friends who are in danger of being punished by God? Maybe you say, "Oh I have told them once." Ask God to help you to be like Noah. He did not just tell the people once about the danger. He faithfully kept on warning them!

### Flashcard 3-4

Let's think what Noah must have been telling the people around Him about God.

*Let the children answer these questions.*

- ◆ Do you think he would have told them that God loved them? (Yes.)
- ◆ Do you think God loves all these different children in our picture? (Yes.)
- ◆ How did God show that He loved the people of Noah's time? (He was going to provide an ark for them.)
- ◆ Would Noah have told them that God was perfect, that He hated their disobedience and wrong-doing? (Yes.)
- ◆ In what way was God going to show that He hated sin? (He was going to send a flood to punish them.)
- ◆ Do you think Noah would have told the people that God was very powerful? (Yes.)
- ◆ What would Noah have said to explain that God was very powerful? (He would have told them that God was the creator Who had made the world and the whole universe. When He wanted He could send the rains in torrents).

Today I am telling you the same things that Noah told those people. God is perfect and He hates **your** sin but God loves **you!** He is very powerful and He wants to save **you!**

### Flashcard 3-5

Finally the ark was finished and Noah and his family began to gather lots of food into the ark.

We don't know how, but God is so powerful that He was able to bring the animals and the birds to the ark. Maybe the air was beginning to get heavy and moist with the rain that was coming. Maybe a wind began to rise and was bringing the cloud racing across the sky. In some way the animals knew that it was time to take shelter and they began to come to the ark - mostly two of every kind, but of some there were seven.

CTU



The people were probably standing around watching the strange sight of the birds and animals going into the ark. They were probably laughing and making fun. They simply did not take God’s warning seriously!

All the animals entered the ark, and after them Noah, his wife and three sons and their wives. That was a total of eight people - only eight.

Then we read some very important words in the Bible. “The Lord shut him in” (Genesis 7:16).

*Read the words slowly from your Bible.*

Show the word “saved” printed on a card.

God shut the door! Noah must have felt safe inside the ark with his family.

But what about the people outside? God had given them a chance to hear His Word, to turn from their wicked ways and to come to the ark that He had provided. But they had not listened. Now it was too late. God had closed the door!

CTU

God is warning you too and you need to listen!

**Flashcard 3-6**

The only way at that time long ago for the people to be safe was to listen to what God said to them through Noah - to turn away from their sin and to come to the ark God had provided.

God is perfect. He loves what is good and He hates what is wrong. He must punish sin. But the wonderful good news is that the Lord Jesus took the punishment that you deserve for your sins. He lived a completely perfect life. He never did anything wrong but He went to the cross to die, not for anything that He had done wrong, but because of the things that we have done in disobedience to God. Because He was punished for your sin and mine, we don’t need to be punished by God. But you must be willing to turn from your sin and to trust in Jesus as your Saviour.

God provided one perfect way for the people of Noah’s time to be safe. That was in the ark. But there was only one way - God’s way.

For us too there is only one way to be safe - God’s way - and that is to come to the Lord Jesus. Thank Him for taking your punishment and ask Him to save you.

The people who would not listen to God’s message through Noah were going to suffer the punishment for their disobedience and rebellion.

**Flashcard 3-7**

Soon dark, angry clouds began to gather. Then the first raindrops fell. Could it be true? Was Noah right after all? The people must have



wondered fearfully. The rain poured from the sky! The Bible also says that water came up from the earth. Day after day it rained without stopping. Here in the Bible it tells us how long it rained.

*Read Genesis 7:12 from your Bible.*

“And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights” (Genesis 7:12).

Maybe the people outside wanted to get into the ark now, but it was too late. God had shut the door and they could not get in. Inside Noah and his family were dry and safe.

Everything was soon covered by water. The ark was lifted up, floating on the rising waves. Higher and higher rose the water until even the mountain peaks were covered.

### Flashcard 3-8

Finally, the rain stopped! But it took many months for the water to go down gradually. The ark came to rest on a mountain called Ararat. When the earth dried enough, Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the ark. They had been in there for about a year! How strange everything must have looked. How quiet it must have been.

Noah’s family were the only people left alive. They were the only ones who had listened to God’s Word and had come to the ark that God had provided to keep them safe.

Noah and his family built an altar and offered sacrifices to God, thanking Him for keeping them safe. As they looked up at the sky, they saw a beautiful rainbow - God’s promise that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. Perhaps Noah thought with sadness about all the people who had died in the flood.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you too must thank Him often that you are safe from God’s punishment. At the same time, do you feel sad as you think of your friends who are in danger of being punished by God for their sin? That punishment is to be separated from God for ever. Are you praying for them? Will you invite a friend to come to our club next week to hear the good news from the Bible?

### Flashcard 3-9

Just as the people in Noah’s time were in danger of being punished by God for their sin, you too are in danger. But the Lord Jesus died on the cross for you. He was punished for your wrongdoing so that God could forgive you. You can be safe if you are ready to turn away from your sin and to come to Him. Just as Noah came to the ark, you need to come to Jesus. God’s way is the only way to be saved.

Come to the Lord Jesus today. He died on the cross but He came alive again and He wants to receive you and keep you safe. He said “The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

Ararat has been identified as a huge volcanic mountain near the border between Turkey and Iran.

Have five or six large stones which the children could pile up to portray the altar Noah built.

CTS

CTU

Show the card with the central truth.

God kept His promise to Noah. He will keep the promise that He made when He put the rainbow in the sky, and He will keep this promise that He makes to you in the Bible - "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

### Review questions

- 1 In our lesson today why did God have to send a worldwide flood? (Because the people had forgotten God and were so wicked and violent.)
- 2 What does the Bible mean when it says that God is holy? (He is 100% perfect.)
- 3 How does God feel about sin? (He hates it and it makes Him sad.)
- 4 Who was the one man who had not forgotten God and was living to please Him? (Noah.)
- 5 What did God tell Noah to do? (Build an ark for himself and his family and some of every kind of animal, so they could be safe from the flood.)
- 6 For how long did it rain and how long were Noah and his family in the ark? (It rained for 40 days and nights; they were in the ark for about a year.)
- 7 How many places did God provide for the people to be safe from the flood? (Just one - the ark.)
- 8 Noah was safe in the ark. How can you and I be saved from God's punishment for our sins? (Only when we trust in the Lord Jesus and come to Him.)
- 9 What did Noah and his family do after the flood? (They came out of the ark, built an altar and praised God.)
- 10 God placed a rainbow in the sky. What was He promising? (That He would never again destroy the world by a flood.)
- 11 God always keeps His promises. Where can you find God's promises? (The Bible.)
- 12 Can you finish the promise the Lord Jesus made? "The one who comes to Me ..." ("... I will by no means cast out"/turn away/send away.)

# Lesson 4

## The Ethiopian treasurer - Found by God

### Scripture for teachers

Acts 8:1-8, 26-40

### Central truth

God gave His Son to die for the lost

### Application

Unsaved: (As the Ethiopian man did) believe in Jesus the Saviour Who is looking for you to give you eternal life

Saved: (Like Philip) share God's written word (a tract or a verse) with someone

### Memory verse

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 6:23

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8 and 4-9
- ◆ Print the words of the central truth on a card
- ◆ Print the word "found" on a card
- ◆ Scroll (as shown on flashcard 4-4) with the words of Isaiah 53:7
- ◆ Have some Gospel tracts available that the Christian children could give to a friend

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Nobody knows I am here

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Philip preaches in Samaria (Acts 8:1-8) CT, CTS
- 2 The Ethiopian is on the way south from Jerusalem (Acts 8:27-28) CT  
He did not know the Lord Jesus as His Saviour
- 3 God the Holy Spirit guides Philip to find the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-29)
- 4 He is reading from Isaiah but does not understand
- 5 The Ethiopian invites him up into the chariot (Acts 8:31)
- 6 Philip explains the Gospel to him (Acts 8:34-35) CTU, CTS  
Explain the Gospel with a tract or verse to a friend  
I am willing to give you extra help
- 7 Philip explains Isaiah 53 (Acts 8:35) CTU  
The Lord Jesus died and rose again for you

#### **Climax**

- 8 The Ethiopian understands the Gospel and believes in the Lord Jesus
- 9 The Ethiopian is baptised by Philip (Acts 8:36-39)
- 10 Philip is taken away by the Holy Spirit

#### **Conclusion**

The Ethiopian continues joyfully on his way  
CTU

You have heard about Jesus - have you trusted in Him?

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

*You could use flashcard 3-10 to teach this verse.*

### **Introduction**

What is the difference between wages and a gift?

*Let children answer.*

Yes, a wage or salary is something that you earn - like your father when he gets paid for the work that he has done during the month or the week. He gets what he deserves.

On the other hand, a gift is something that you receive without having to work for it or earn it!

The verse that we will learn today tells us about wages and a gift. Listen and see who it is who pays the wages and who it is who gives the gift.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible while the children follow along with the flashcard 3-10.*

### **Explanation**

*Take two weeks to explain and teach this verse. Intersperse the explanation and application with the repetition.*

Who pays the wages? There is a cruel master called “sin” and he pays terrible wages. What are these wages? Yes, death.

God is warning us that one day we may get our wages, the payment we have earned and deserve because of our sins. That payment is death. What “death” means here is to be separated from God for ever. God does not want that to happen and He offers you the gift of eternal life. Unless you receive God’s gift of life, one day you will be separated for ever from Him, because of your sin. Sin is disobeying what God tells us to do in His Word.

### **Application**

Unsaved: In the Bible God orders you not to tell lies. Have you told lies? He commands you to obey your parents. Have you always obeyed? He tells you not to steal. Have you sometimes taken things that don’t belong to you?

You need to accept the wonderful gift that the Lord Jesus has for you. He gave His life when He died on

the cross to buy this great gift. Listen carefully to the Bible lesson today so that you may know how you can have the gift of eternal life.

Saved: If you have already received the marvellous gift of eternal life, you could help others to receive the gift too. Later in the class we will let you take a little Gospel tract (*show one*) to give to a friend. Would you be willing to do that?

### ***Repetition***

“Gradually whisper”

Repeat the whole verse with the reference at least seven or eight times, although you are explaining the first part in more detail. The following week you can continue with the learning process, explaining the second part more.

The first time all say the verse in a normal voice. The second time, whisper the last three words and the reference. Say it again and whisper the last six words. Keep going until the entire verse is being whispered.

Lesson

Have you ever been somewhere by yourself and you have thought, "Nobody knows I am here"? Perhaps you had gone for a walk in the woods, or were sitting alone in a park. Did you feel lonely? Did you feel that nobody cared?

Today we are going to hear the story of a man who was making a long journey and maybe he was thinking the same thing.

"I am away so far from my home. The dusty road stretches away out ahead of me and behind me. There is hardly another person who knows where I am right now."

Flashcard 4-1

God was preparing someone who loved Him to go and meet the man who was making the journey. The man who loved the Lord Jesus was called Philip. He had been busy preaching and teaching in a city in the province of Samaria. Philip's message was about the Lord Jesus, God's Son - how God, His father had sent Him down to Earth to die for men and women, boys and girls who are lost because of their sins. People listened and many of them trusted in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. So there was great joy in that city.

One day an angel of God spoke to Philip and gave him a strange message.

*Read Acts 8:26 from the Bible, or have a child read it.*

"Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza" (Acts 8:26).

That was quite a long trip (about 100 kilometres/60 miles) and it was to a desert!

Philip must have thought to himself, "Surely God would not ask me to leave this city where so many people are listening to the Gospel, the good news about the Lord Jesus. Does He really want me to leave here and go such a long distance to a desert where no people live?"

Does God make mistakes? Of course not! Philip may not have understood exactly why God was asking him to make this difficult journey, but he knew that God had told him to do it. That was enough for Philip. One thing Philip knew was that no matter where he went, he was ready to tell others about the Lord Jesus. So, what do you think he did? Yes, we read here in the Bible, "He arose and went" (Acts 8:27).

If you have trusted in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you can be like Philip and tell others about your Saviour. God wants you to do that.

Show a map, letting the children locate Samaria.

CT

Show the card with the words of the central truth.

Open your Bible and read the words directly from Acts 8:27.

CTS

## Flashcard 4-2

Can you guess why God was sending Philip on that long journey that must have taken several days to walk under a hot sun?

*Allow the children to answer.*

Yes! It was to meet that lonely traveller! Let's get to know him!

We don't know his name, but the Bible tells us that he had come from Ethiopia (a country in Africa) to Jerusalem. He had probably travelled along the bank of the river Nile for days on his way to Jerusalem. That journey was about 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) and now he was on his way home again. He was an important man - he was the treasurer for the queen of the country. In other words he was the one who looked after all the money for the queen. He had a chariot in which to travel.

Why do you think he had travelled up to Jerusalem? Maybe he had some business to do. But he also wanted to know the true and living God, and was hoping he could learn about Him there and worship Him. But it seems that in Jerusalem he had not come to know God. He had some scrolls, however. Do you see them in the picture beside him? They contained part of the Bible, God's Word. Rather sadly he was on his way back home again to Ethiopia in Africa.

## Flashcard 4-3

This man seemed to know that he had a problem in his heart that only God could solve. That problem is sin and that is what separates you and me from God. It separates us now and it could separate us from Him for ever. God is so pure and perfect. He could not allow sin into His home in Heaven.

Sin is disobeying God's commands that we find in the Bible. For example, one of God's commands is "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15). Have you stolen something from your mother or from a shop?

God commands, "Let each one of you speak truth" (Ephesians 4:25). Have you always spoken the truth at school and in your home?

God commands, "Let no corrupt word [bad word] proceed out of your mouth" (Ephesians 4:29). Do you listen to dirty jokes and repeat them? Do you use swear words?

All of us have done wrong things that displease God. Because of that we are far from God. We are lost, just as the Ethiopian man was. We don't know what commands of God he had disobeyed, but God tells us in the Bible that everyone on earth disobeys Him sometimes (Romans 3:23). So we know that this man in our story had also done so. He was lost in his sin and he was looking for God. God was looking for him too. God wanted to find him.

Show the children a map.

Show a scroll similar to the one shown on flashcard 4-4. Do not read from it yet. Explain that is what books looked like back then.

CT

Point out the word "lost" on the card with the central truth.

**Flashcard 4-4**

As he rode in his chariot the Ethiopian picked up a scroll containing part of the Bible that had been written hundreds of years before. The sun was hot and the road was dusty, but he really tried to concentrate on what he was reading. Maybe here he would find out more about how to come close to God.

Show the children the book of Isaiah in your Bible.

The book he was reading from was written by Isaiah the prophet.

“He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth” (Isaiah 53:7).

Have the words of Isaiah 53:7 on the scroll, as mentioned above.

The Ethiopian tried hard to understand, but he found it hard. It was about Somebody Who had suffered a lot for other people and had even died. Who could it be? He needed somebody to explain God’s Word to him. God had prepared somebody to do just that. Can you think who it might be? Yes, it was Philip whom we met at the beginning of our story.

Just as God had told him to, Philip had walked the long, tiring journey to the desert.

I expect that he was thinking, “God will have to show me soon why He has asked me to come all this way.”

As he looked across the barren desert, shielding his eyes against the bright sun, he saw something. It appeared to be a man in a chariot coming in his direction.

Have a child role play the Ethiopian reading aloud from the scroll as he rides in the chariot. Have a second child pretend to be Philip, running to meet him.

The Spirit of the Lord spoke to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot” (Acts 8:29).

This is what Philip had been waiting for! The Bible tells us that he began to run towards that chariot! Have you ever tried to run on a hot day? It isn’t easy. But Philip wanted to do what God had said, so he ran, with joy, all the way to the chariot.

**Flashcard 4-5**

Gasping for breath, Philip came close to the chariot. Now he could hear the Ethiopian man reading out loud.

Philip shouted to him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

“No, I don’t,” answered the Ethiopian, sadly shaking his head. “How can I understand unless somebody explains it to me?”

He then invited Philip up into his chariot to help him understand the Word of God. What a joy it must have been for Philip to realise that this was the reason why God had brought him all this way. He now could explain God’s Word to this important man who needed to understand how much God loved him and was looking for him.



### Flashcard 4-6

Philip eagerly climbed up into the chariot and they rode on together. The Ethiopian had been reading about Someone Who suffered a lot. Philip started right where this man had been reading (in the book written by Isaiah) and explained it to him. That Person Who suffered was the Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus had come down from Heaven to look for people lost in their sins, to find them and to bring them to God.

The Ethiopian listened attentively. He had never heard such wonderful things before.

The words that Philip had heard him reading were, "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter" (Isaiah 53:7). That meant that the Lord Jesus was taken by wicked men and was killed. Just as a lamb does not try to defend itself, Jesus allowed men to make Him suffer and to kill Him. But Jesus is God's Son. He could easily have defended Himself but it was God's loving plan for His Son to suffer and die. God had shown Isaiah what to write about the Lord Jesus' death - more than 700 years before Jesus was born. That really shows that Jesus' death was not just an accident - it was God's perfect plan to find us, to forgive us and bring us into His family.

He wants to do that for you too. You are just as important to Him as that Ethiopian man was. He loves you just as much. Trust in Him today and ask Him to forgive you and make you His child. If you don't know exactly how to do that, please come and talk to me after the class. I will be up here at the table. I can't save you, of course, but I can talk to you by yourself and show you from God's Word how you can believe in Jesus and be found by Him.

Philip used God's Word to give the Gospel to this man. If you already know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you love Him, you too could use God's Word to give the Gospel to a friend. Here on the table I have placed a few tracts. You could take one of them to give to a friend this week. You don't have to do this - it is just if you want to do so because you love the Lord and want to serve Him. Can you think right now of someone to whom you could give it? Ask God to help you to be brave and do that. Where would you do it? Maybe at breaktime at school, or on the bus coming home. Before you give the tract, you should read it first. Maybe you could also read it together with your friend. Or, instead of giving a tract, could you explain Romans 6:23, the verse that we learned in class, to a friend? God could use you, as he used Philip to take the Gospel to someone who is lost.

### Flashcard 4-7

Just before the words that the Ethiopian had been reading there is another sentence that he must have read also.

Show the card with the central truth.

### CTU

### CTS

Indicate to the children where they can pick up one or two tracts to give to a friend.

A selection of tracts for children is available from your local CEF® Office. If you need an address, contact the European Headquarters (address at the front of this book).

You could give a very brief demonstration to show how a child could give a tract to a friend.

CTU

Isaiah wrote, “All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isaiah 53:6). You and I are just like sheep that easily turn aside from the right way and get lost. We too have turned aside from God’s way and are lost.

Isaiah also wrote, “He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions” (Isaiah 53:5). That explains why Jesus was wounded. It was because of our transgressions, our wrong thoughts and actions and words - often doing exactly the opposite of what God wants us to do. Jesus did not deserve to die, because He had lived a perfect life. He was being punished for our sins.

He died and was buried, but He did not stay dead. Three days later, God His father brought Him back to life again. Soon after that Jesus went back to Heaven, but by His Spirit He is with us today. He will always be alive from now on. This was the wonderful message that Philip was able to explain to the Ethiopian.

Now he understood! It was no longer a mystery to him. He understood that Jesus was the Saviour Who had died on the cross for him. There in the desert he had been found by Philip but, far more importantly, he had been found by God!

Show the word “found” written on a card.

**Flashcard 4-8**

Just then the chariot came to some water along the roadside.

The Ethiopian turned to Philip and asked, “Is there anything to stop me from being baptised?” (from Acts 8:36).

This was a way of showing that he had understood the Gospel and had trusted in the Lord Jesus as his Saviour.

Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may” (Acts 8:37).

Read the verse from your Bible.

Immediately the Ethiopian answered with joy, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”(Acts 8:37).

He gave orders to stop the horses and he and Philip climbed down from the chariot. Philip baptised him right there in the desert pool. Today people are baptised in different ways with water. For the Ethiopian this was a way of showing that he had trusted in the Lord Jesus as his Saviour.

Although there is no firm evidence that this Ethiopian was the first of his race to bring the Gospel to Africa, many historians agree that it is a likely possibility. (“Commentary of the Whole Bible”, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, p.1092.)

After Philip had baptised him a strange thing happened. Suddenly God the Holy Spirit took Philip away to some other place so that he could tell others. The Ethiopian must have been surprised - God had brought Philip to meet him in the desert and after a few hours God had taken him away again. But the Ethiopian continued on his journey to Ethiopia. He was no longer lost. The Lord Jesus had found him!

**Flashcard 4-9**

CTU

How about you? Has the Lord found you? Like the Ethiopian man, you have heard God’s Word. God tells you that you are lost if you have never turned from your sin and trusted in Him. Just as God was

looking for the Ethiopian, He is looking for you. He wants to give you the gift of life that lasts for ever. The verse we learned today tells us that the “gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23). God paid a very high price for that gift - He gave His own Son, the Lord Jesus to die on the cross for you and for me. So God can offer you the gift of life and salvation. You don’t have to pay anything!

Today you could come to God in prayer and tell Him something like this. “Dear God, I know that I have sinned against You. Thank You that You love me and are looking for me. Thank You for giving Jesus to die for my sin. Please forgive me and help me to turn away from those things that displease You. I trust in You now as my Saviour. Amen.”

If you pray that prayer to God, please come and tell me. It will make me so happy and I will be able to help you some more as you start off your new life as a child of God!

### Review questions

- 1 What was Philip doing in Samaria? (He was preaching the Gospel.)
- 2 Why did God send an angel to tell Philip to leave the city and go into the desert? (So that he could give the Ethiopian the good news of the Gospel.)
- 3 Why did the Ethiopian go from Africa to Jerusalem? (To worship God.)
- 4 What was he doing as he rode home in his chariot? (He was reading from a scroll of Isaiah - part of the Bible.)
- 5 In what way was the Ethiopian “lost”? (Lost in his sin - away from God.)
- 6 What did Philip ask the Ethiopian, and what did he answer? (“Do you understand what you are reading?” “How can I unless somebody explains it to me?”)
- 7 Who did Philip tell the Ethiopian that that part of the Bible was speaking of? (Jesus.)
- 8 After Philip helped him understand what God meant, what wonderful thing happened to the Ethiopian? (He believed and became God’s child.)
- 9 Who “found” the Ethiopian? (Philip did but, even more importantly, God did.)
- 10 Why did the Ethiopian want to be baptised? (To show that he had believed in the Lord Jesus as the only Saviour.)
- 11 What happened to both these men, after the Ethiopian was baptised? (Philip was taken away by the Holy Spirit; the Ethiopian continued on his journey with joy in his heart.)

- 12 The verse we learned today (Romans 6:23) tells us about a wonderful gift. What is that gift and Who paid for it? (The gift is eternal life; God paid for it by giving His Son to die on the cross.)

# Lesson 5

## Saul - Turned around by God

### Scripture for teachers

Acts 9:1-22

Philippians 3:3-8

### Central truth

Everyone must make a U-turn in life

### Application

Unsaved: Turn from your sin to Jesus

Saved: Pray for others ...  
... for those who suffer because they  
turned to Jesus  
... for your unsaved friends, that they will  
turn to Jesus

### Memory verse

Continue to teach Romans 6:23

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7, 5-8 and 5-9
- ◆ Print the words of the central truth on a card
- ◆ Print the words “turned around” on a card

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Dad and Mum were out in the car CT  
Everyone must make a U-turn in life

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Saul requests permission to persecute Christians (Acts 9:1-2)
- 2 Saul is granted permission and starts his journey (Acts 9:3) CTS
- 3 Saul as a young man had studied the Old Testament CTU  
The way to heaven is not by being good
- 4 Near Damascus he sees a brilliant light
- 5 Jesus asks Saul, “Why are you persecuting me?” (Acts 9:4-5)
- 6 Saul realises that Jesus is God’s Son, the promised Saviour CT
- 7 He asks, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”
- 8 Saul, blinded, is led into Damascus (Acts 9:8-9)
- 9 Saul prays - God had turned him round CTU  
You too must turn
- 10 God tells Ananias to go and heal Saul of his blindness (Acts 9:10-16)
- 11 God uses Ananias to restore Saul’s sight (Acts 9:17-19) CTS  
You can help others by your prayers

#### **Climax**

Saul is baptised and preaches that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 9:20)

#### **Conclusion**

All who hear Saul are amazed at the change in him (Acts 9:21-22) CTU  
God can change you too  
Prayer  
Make yourself available for personal counselling

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

Continue to teach Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord".

*You could use flashcard 3-10 to teach this verse.*

### **Introduction**

Last week we talked about the difference between wages and a gift. What is the difference?

*Let children answer.*

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible as the children follow the words on the flashcard 3-10.*

### **Explanation**

*Intersperse the explanation with the repetition.*

Last week we thought about the terrible wages that "master sin" pays.

Now let's think about the next part of the verse which is so beautiful.

It tells us about a **gift**.

Who gives the gift? (God.)

What is the gift? (Eternal life.)

What does "eternal" mean? (It starts now and lasts for ever.)

Who paid for the gift? (The Lord Jesus paid a tremendously high price. He poured out His precious blood on the cross to buy this gift for us.)

Who needs this gift? (All of us.)

Why do we need it? (Because of our sin - until we receive the gift of salvation, we are still the slaves of "master sin", deserving eternal death.)

What do we have to pay for this gift? (Nothing! It is a gift already paid for by the Lord Jesus.)

How do we receive the gift? (We come in prayer to God, tell Him that we are sinners and deserve to be punished and ask Him to give us the wonderful gift that the Lord Jesus bought for us on the cross.)

**Application**

Unsaved: Are you still on the way to eternal death because of your sin? That means separation from God for ever. The Lord Jesus was punished for your sin. He died on the cross to buy the great gift of eternal life for you. Today, turn away from your sin and ask Jesus to give you eternal life. Your sin will be forgiven and your life will be changed.

Saved: If you have asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour, then you have already received from Him the gift of eternal life. Are you praying for your friends who are still heading towards eternal death? Ask God to help you pray every day for them that they too may receive the great gift of salvation and eternal life.

**Repetition**

“Behind the teacher”

Drill the entire verse with the class several times.

Choose one child to stand behind you and have another come up and silently point to a word on the flashcard. The group then says the entire verse with the reference, but when they get to the word that was pointed out, they clap instead of saying the word and then finish saying the verse. The child behind the teacher must then give the missing word.

Play several times so that various children have the part of standing behind the teacher or pointing out the word.

Lesson

Dad and Mum were out in the car with their two children one Saturday when suddenly a policeman stopped them.

“You cannot continue along this road. You must make a U-turn right here,” he told them very politely but firmly. “Further ahead the heavy rains have washed part of the road away. It is too dangerous to go any further.”

Dad was very happy that the policeman was there to help them and warn them of the danger. So he turned the car round quickly and they headed off on a safer road.

Today we are going to hear of a man who was turned around, who made a U-turn in his life. He was warned, not by a policeman speaking to him, but by hearing the Lord Jesus Himself.

CT ■ Every one of us must make a U-turn in life!

Show the words of the central truth.

Flashcard 5-1

The name of the person in our story today is Saul. The story is in the Bible in the book of Acts. Of course it is true, like every part of God’s Word. Saul lived just about the same time as Philip and the Ethiopian, who we learned about last week. Christians like Philip were telling people everywhere about the Lord Jesus and many believed that Jesus really was the Son of God, sent by His Father in Heaven to be the Saviour of the world.

But there were also many Jewish leaders who did not believe in Jesus. They knew that He had been put to death on the cross, but they did not believe that He had risen again from the dead and they certainly did not believe that He was the Son of God. So when they realised that many people were becoming Christians (followers of the Lord Jesus) they became very angry and they began to persecute them. “Persecute” means to do harm and ill-treat people because of what they believe.

Saul was one of these people who persecuted the Christians. He started off persecuting them in Jerusalem, the city where Jesus had died. Christians were put in prison, they were beaten and some were even killed. Because of the cruel treatment that they were suffering, Christians began to escape to other cities like Damascus to be safe. Saul therefore decided to go and find them and bring them back to Jerusalem and have them put in prison.

Show Damascus on a map. Older children specially will appreciate this.

Damascus had a large Jewish population, and it

Saul went to the Jewish high priest and asked for letters that would give him the right to persecute the Christians in Damascus. When the Jewish leaders in Damascus would see these letters from the high priest (who was a very important man) they would certainly give Saul the authority to round up the Christians.



The high priest in Jerusalem did not believe in Jesus either and he gladly gave Saul the letters he wanted. So Saul prepared for the long journey of about 250 kilometres (155 miles). It would take him several days of travel, so he got together a team of men and horses for the journey. And off he went.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you could help Christians who are still being persecuted today in many countries of the world. You could help them by praying to God for them. Some Christians are beaten; some young people are thrown out of their families when they trust in Jesus; some believers have their church burned down; many have been killed. When you thank God for being so good to you, will you also pray for these Christians? They are suffering now because they love the Lord Jesus and want to obey Him, just in the same way that the Christians living two thousand years ago when Saul was living, were also suffering.

### Flashcard 5-2

When Saul was a boy he lived in the city of Tarsus. He had been taught from the books of the Old Testament in the Bible. He had learned the Ten Commandments and he tried to keep all of God's commands. There were also many other rules that people had made up. Saul tried to keep them all. He became very, very proud. He was sure that he was pleasing God by being so good. He did not realise that by his own efforts he simply could not be good enough to please God and earn his way to Heaven.

Do you realise that you cannot get to Heaven by being good? In fact no-one can. Everybody has a sinful nature inside so that we easily do wrong and sin against God every day. God tells us in the Bible, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32). Are you always kind to others? Do you always forgive someone who has hurt you? No. No-one is able to get to Heaven by trying to be good. We all start the journey of life going in the wrong direction. Many people think that the way to Heaven is by doing good things, but in the sight of God Who is perfect, our good deeds are just not good enough.

Suppose you were standing on the bank of a wide river about 20 metres across. You make up your mind to jump across. So you go back a few steps, run as fast as you can and jump. You do a really good long jump of 4 metres - but you fall right into the water. You were a long way short of reaching the other river bank. A friend of yours then tries to jump and he does a little better than you - he jumps 5 metres, but he too lands in the water. Then the world record holder for the long jump comes up and he leaps forward. He jumps 9 metres, but he also falls into the river. This is what it is like when we try to get to Heaven by being good. Maybe you say, "Oh, I am a little better than my friend, or not as bad as that person." But everyone

has been estimated that there could well have been thirty or forty synagogues in the city. (Dr. Warren Wiersbe. "Bible Exposition Commentary.")

CTS

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falls short of God's standards. Everyone must make a U-turn in his life. Each of us must turn away from sin and turn away from trying to save ourselves by doing good things. That was something that Saul would have to learn.

### Flashcard 5-3

As he rode on his journey to Damascus, Saul was planning how he would find and imprison the Christians. He even thought that he was pleasing God by doing this work of persecuting them.

It must have been a long, tiring journey under the hot sun along the dusty roads. On and on Saul rode with his travelling companions. At last they began to come near the city. Maybe they could see the city walls in the distance, when something amazing happened. We can read about it right here in God's Word.

*Read Acts 9:3 from your Bible.*

### Flashcard 5-4

Suddenly a great light from Heaven flashed around the travellers and Saul was thrown to the ground.

As he lay dazed and bruised on the road he heard a voice calling his name, "Saul, Saul."

He must have wondered, "Whose voice is that? Who could be calling to me away out here on the open road? What does this person want to say to me?"

Saul listened and he heard these words, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:4.)

He answered, "Who are You Lord?" (Acts 9:5.)

Again the voice replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5).

What a tremendous shock for Saul! He thought that Jesus was dead and buried. And now Jesus was speaking to him from Heaven.

"Jesus must be God, if He is speaking to me from Heaven and He is shining this bright light around me," Saul thought.

### Flashcard 5-5

Saul realised that he had been completely wrong in his thinking about the Lord Jesus. He thought wrongly that Jesus was just a man. Saul thought he was doing a good thing persecuting the people who believed in Jesus. Saul was on the journey of life, but certainly facing the wrong way. He was facing away from God. He would have to make a U-turn.

Up to this moment Saul did not know who Jesus was. Do you?

Read these words from your Bible.

*You could give some of the teaching about the Lord Jesus by asking the children questions like these.*

Where was the Lord Jesus before He came to this world? (In Heaven with His Father.)

How did He come into this world? (As a little baby in Bethlehem.)

He grew up and became a man, but in one way He was different from everybody else who has ever lived. In what way was He different? (He was perfect - without sin.)

He died a cruel death by being crucified. Why did God allow Him to be put to death by wicked men? (He was being punished for our sins, not His own.)

Did He stay dead? (No, after three days in the grave, God raised Him to life again.)

Is He still alive and if so, where is He now? (Yes, He is still alive and He lives in Heaven.)

### Flashcard 5-4 (again)

Saul was beginning to understand that Jesus was the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. As he lay trembling with fear on the road he asked a question. We can read here what he said.

*Read Acts 9:6 from your Bible.*

“Lord, what do You want me to do?” (Acts 9:6.)

Jesus answered, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do” (Acts 9:6).

### Flashcard 5-6

Saul got to his feet, but the flash of light from Heaven had been so bright that he was blind - he could not see at all. His companions had to guide him and help him find the way into Damascus.

He walked down a long street which was called Straight Street and stayed in the house of a man called Judas.

The Bible tells us that Saul, without being able to see anything, sat in that house for three days without eating or drinking. What was he doing? Well, the Bible tells us that too. He was praying to God (Acts 9:11). We don't know exactly what he was saying but he must have been asking God to forgive him for all his sins. He was telling God that he realised that he had been going completely in the wrong direction, but now he realised Who Jesus was and he wanted to turn from his wrong path. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God Who could forgive him and start him on the right road to Heaven.

That is exactly what you need to do, if you have never turned to Jesus before and have not asked Him to be your Saviour. You have not disobeyed God in the same way that Saul had. You certainly have

CT

This street can still be seen in modern Damascus running NE to SW through it and is still called Straight Street - Darb al mustaqim. (New Bible Dictionary. IVP.)

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Read this key verse from your Bible.

Show the card with the words "turned around".

not put Christians in jail. But God's Word says it, and you know in your heart that it is true, that you (and everyone else) has sinned (Romans 3:23). You have been living with your back turned to God, going further and further from Him. Would you like to be different? Are you willing to turn your back on the things that displease Him? Will you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour today?

The Bible says, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). "Repent" means to turn away from your sin. "Be converted" means to do a U-turn. Turn to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to forgive you and save you. If you turn from your sin, and turn to Jesus, you have God's promise that your sins will be blotted out (wiped away). They will all be forgiven. This could be the most wonderful day of your life!

It certainly was a wonderful day in Saul's life when He turned to Jesus and started on his way to Heaven. But he was still blind. Even with his eyes wide open, he could not see anything. However, God was planning another wonderful blessing for him.

### Flashcard 5-7

In the city of Damascus there was a Christian man called Ananias. God appeared to him in a vision (like a special dream) and said, "Ananias, I want you to go to the house of Judas in Straight Street and ask to see Saul of Tarsus."

Ananias could hardly believe his ears and he answered, "Lord, I have heard a lot about this man, and how much harm he has done to the believers in Jerusalem. And now he has come here to put us Christians in prison."

Ananias must have thought, "Surely God cannot mean me to go and talk to this cruel, wicked man!"

God explained to him that Saul had been changed. He had met the Lord Jesus and now believed in Him. He too was a Christian. Now he was praying instead of threatening to injure the Christians. God told Ananias that one day Saul himself was going to be persecuted and suffer for the Lord Jesus.

Maybe Ananias still felt a bit scared, but he set out to do what God had told him. He reached the house where Saul was staying, went in and in a kind voice started talking to him.

"Brother Saul," he said.

Why do you think he called Saul "Brother"? Yes, because now Saul was a son in God's family, just as Ananias was.

"Brother Saul," he said, "The Lord Jesus, Whom you met on the road as you came here, has sent me so that you can see again and so that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit" (from Acts 9:17).

Immediately something like little scales fell from Saul's eyes and he was able to see again.

God used Ananias that day to help Saul begin his new changed life as a Christian. If you love the Lord Jesus and are in the family of God, He can use you too. You can't go and help someone to see again but one very important way that you can be a blessing is by praying. You can pray for Christians who are being persecuted in other lands. You can also pray for your friends who live near you. In the Bible God tells His children to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That means you can always pray, at any time and any place. Are you praying for your friends that they may come to know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour? You could make a little list in a notebook with the names of some friends and begin to pray for them every day. Pray that your life would be an example to them. Pray that God would give you the courage to invite them to come with you to the Good News Club and hear the Gospel. God can give you the courage to do that, just as he gave Ananias the courage that he needed when he was rather frightened.

Soon after he got his sight back Saul was baptised to show that he now believed in the Lord Jesus. You remember that the Ethiopian man did that too.

You could never guess what happened next!

### Flashcard 5-8

Saul began to preach in Damascus that Jesus is the Son of God. He had been turned round completely. Instead of persecuting those who loved Jesus, now he himself was a follower of the Lord and now he wanted other people to hear about Jesus and to follow Him. What a change of direction!

The people could hardly believe it! They kept asking each other, "Am I hearing right? Isn't this the person who came here to put the Christians in prison? How come that now he is doing the very opposite of what he came to do?"

They must have listened with great interest to hear Saul preaching. I expect that some more of those who listened also trusted in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

### Flashcard 5-9

If we had to draw a picture of you and the Lord Jesus standing side by side, what way would you be facing? Is your back still turned to Him? Are you still going your own way, doing those things that displease Him? If that is so, you are going on a dangerous road away from God. Will you turn round today and come to the Lord? His command to you is, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

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Read this key verse from the Bible.

Indicate an appropriate place and make sure to be there after the class to talk to any child who may need personal counselling.

You remember that “repent” means that you are really sorry for what you have been doing that makes God sad and angry, and are ready to turn away from those things.

“Be converted” just means do a U-turn and come to the Lord Jesus to ask His forgiveness and to receive the gift of eternal life from Him. If you have never done that before will you do that today right here in our class or when you go home in your own bedroom? God promises that if you repent and are converted your sins will be blotted out (wiped away) - Acts 3:19. Isn't that a wonderful promise? God will certainly keep His promise if you turn to Him.

*At this point you could pray aloud, asking the Lord that He will help some of the children to turn from sin and turn to Him today for salvation.*

I have just finished praying to God, asking Him that today some of you children will turn to Him for salvation. If you have never done that before, do it today. If you would like me to explain this more clearly to you, come and talk to me. I will be over here by the table. Of course, it is only God who can blot out your sins, but if you need any further help on how to turn from your sin and turn to God, don't be afraid. Come to me after the class and I will explain to you from the Bible what God wants you to do.

### Review questions

- 1 When Saul was a boy what did he think he had to do to please God? (Live by a lot of rules and try to be good.)
- 2 When he became a man what wrong thing did Saul do to the Christians in Jerusalem? (He imprisoned them and even had some killed.)
- 3 Why was Saul going to Damascus? (To arrest believers in the Lord Jesus and to bring them back to Jerusalem to be imprisoned.)
- 4 An exciting thing happened to Saul on the way to Damascus. What did he see and what did he hear? (He saw a blinding light from Heaven; he heard the Lord Jesus speaking to him.)
- 5 Who did God use to help Saul see again after being blinded by the light? (Ananias.)
- 6 We learned by heart that the “wages of sin is death”. What is meant by “death” in this verse? (Separation from God for ever.)
- 7 What is the difference between “wages” and a “gift”? (You can earn wages by working; you don't work for a gift; you simply receive it.)
- 8 What is God's wonderful gift and who paid for it? (The gift of God is eternal life; the Lord Jesus paid for it by giving His life on the cross.)
- 9 God commands us to repent and be converted. What does “repent” mean? (To be really sorry for our sin and be willing to

turn away from it and from trying to save ourselves by being good.)

- 10 What does “be converted” mean? (With God’s help make a U-turn - turn from sin; turn to Jesus and trust in Him as your Saviour.)
- 11 What does God promise to do if we turn from sin and turn to Him? (He will blot out or wipe away our sin.)
- 12 How did Saul show the people in Damascus that he had been converted? (He was baptised and he began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God.)





# Lesson 6

## Review lesson

It would be good to review the five lessons before moving on to a new series.

An interesting way of doing this would be to have a review quiz. Use an interesting visual to keep score. The answers of the children will let you know how much they remember and which points you need to emphasise.

As you review each lesson, show the flashcards of the story briefly.

### Zacchaeus - Saved and changed by the Lord Jesus

- 1 *Hold up the card with "changed" on it.*  
Who was the man who was **changed**? (Zacchaeus.)
- 2 *Show flashcard 1-1.*  
What was his job and where did he live? (Tax collector; Jericho.)
- 3 *Show flashcard 1-4.*  
How did he get to see Jesus? (He climbed a tree.)
- 4 In what way was he changed? (His sins were forgiven inside; outwardly he became an honest, generous person. Accept either answer.)

### Mephibosheth - Accepted into the king's family

- 5 *Hold up the word "accepted".*  
Who was the person who was **accepted**? (Mephibosheth.)
- 6 *Show flashcard 2-6.*  
Who accepted him into his family? (King David.)
- 7 *Show flashcard 2-6.*  
Why was Mephibosheth afraid when he came to David's palace? (Mephibosheth was a member of an enemy family and might therefore be in danger of death.)
- 8 In what way is Mephibosheth a picture of an unsaved person as he comes before God? (We too are lame - we do not walk in the path God has for us and we are His enemies.)
- 9 Does God accept people into His family because they are good or because of His great love? (Because of His great love.)

### Noah - Saved from destruction

- 10 *Show the word "saved".*  
Who were the people who were **saved**? (Noah and his family.)

- 11 *Show flashcard 3-7.*  
From what were they saved? (From drowning in the flood.)
- 12 From what do you and I need to be saved? (From the punishment for our sin.)
- 13 *Show flashcard 3-6.*  
What is the one way that God has provided for us to be saved? (Trusting on the Lord Jesus Who died on the cross for us.)

### **The Ethiopian treasurer - Found by God**

- 14 *Hold up the word "found" and show flashcard 4-2.*  
Who was the man who was **found** in the desert? (The Ethiopian.)
- 15 Philip found him, but who else found him? (God.)
- 16 *Show flashcard 4-3.*  
In what way are boys and girls "lost"? (Lost in sin.)

### **Memory verses**

- 17 Can you finish this verse? "For the Son of Man has come to ..." ("... seek and to save that which was lost" Luke 19:10.)
- 18 We also learned a verse that tells us about God's great gift. What is this gift and how do we get it? (Eternal life. By believing that God wants to give it to us, and simply praying to Him and accepting it.)

### **Saul - Turned around by God**

- 19 *Show flashcard 5-2.*  
When Saul was a boy he was already travelling in the wrong direction. What wrong idea did he have about pleasing God and about going to Heaven? (He thought that he could get to Heaven by keeping lots of rules and by being very good.)
- 20 *Show flashcard 5-3.*  
On the way to Damascus he was still travelling in the wrong direction. Can you explain that? (He thought He was pleasing God by persecuting the Christians.)
- 21 *Show flashcard 5-4.*  
What did Saul realise when the Lord Jesus spoke to him on the way to Damascus? (He realised that the Lord Jesus was God; he also realised that up to that moment he had been going completely in the wrong direction in his life.)
- 22 *Show the card "turned around".*  
Why does each one of us need to **turn around**? (Because we are sinners and need God's forgiveness.)

23 *Show flashcard 5-9.*

We need to turn **from** something and turn **to** someone. From what do we turn and to whom do we need to turn? (Turn from sin and turn to the Lord Jesus.)

24 *Show flashcard 5-8.*

How did Saul show that he had turned from his sin and turned to Jesus? (He was baptised and he began to tell other people about the Lord Jesus.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



## Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

### Make sure the child understands about

#### God

Who is God?  
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.  
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

#### Sin

What is sin?  
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.  
Speak about specific sins.  
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)  
Sin deserves punishment.

#### The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?  
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.  
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.  
He is Lord of all.

### Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.  
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).  
What does the Lord want you to do?  
What will the Lord do?  
Warn about difficulties.  
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"  
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

### Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.  
Speak about a changed life.  
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

### Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.  
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.  
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.  
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.  
Meet with other Christians.  
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).