

GOD'S WONDERFUL SALVATION

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PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

These lessons have been produced for use in 5-Day Clubs[®], but teachers in other situations will also find them helpful. The aim is to teach children about their need of salvation and how that need can be met in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I appreciate the many hours of work which Didi Hegnauer invested in these lessons to illustrate them effectively and attractively. I am very grateful for all the ground-work done by Kay Denham (CEF[®] of New Zealand).

May God be pleased to use these lessons to bring many children to experience His wonderful salvation.

“It is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven,
that one of these little ones should perish” (Matthew 18:14).

Jennifer Haaijer

Praying

Be much in prayer for the children. Unless God works in their hearts and lives, no spiritual work will be done. Pray that you will teach each lesson in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the secret of effective evangelism.

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one truth (special emphasis) has been chosen. The teaching of this truth has been woven throughout the narrative, and is also marked out in the lesson plan.

The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. For example, the application may use a boy's name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

The detailed script is provided to help teachers, but should not be a substitute for careful, prayerful preparation. Study the passages in the Word of God before studying the script. Endeavour to know each lesson so well that you will be able to teach without notes, or at most, with a minimum of notes. Remember, it is almost impossible to use notes in an open-air 5-Day Club situation. Also, practise using the flashcards before you teach a lesson to the children. There is a map provided on the inside of the back cover of the flashcards. You can point out where the events took place.

Lesson 1	-	Goshen
Lesson 2	-	En route to Canaan
Lesson 3	-	Jericho
Lesson 4	-	In Israel
Lesson 5	-	Philippi

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

You could tell the children about being available for counselling

- ◆ at the time during the meeting when you give the announcements.
- ◆ after teaching the memory verse which speaks about personal salvation from sin.
- ◆ during the Bible lesson, preferably in the early part.
- ◆ at another suitable time in the programme.

An example of what to say

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

As there are often children who trust the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour on their own (without having been counselled personally), it is good to say something like this towards the end of the week of 5-Day Club:

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus, and I don’t know about it, please tell me after the meeting, so that I can be of help to you. I will be standing over there beside that bench (*or some other place*). Just come and tell me, ‘I wanted you to know that I asked Jesus to save me.’”

This would then allow you to enrol such a child in your follow-up programme, and be able to help him in the area of assurance and Christian growth.

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. We suggest that, when these lessons are taught on five consecutive days, only three memory verses be taught. It is better that children really learn three, rather than partially learn five. This explains why memory verses are repeated for two of the lessons. Two other Bible verses are suggested, if you are teaching these as individual lessons.

Practise using the visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the flashcards or PowerPoint slides and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

PowerPoint® visuals

If you are using the PowerPoint version of this lesson, you can choose from two options on the CD.

- 1 The first version contains the flashcard images and lesson cover slides only.

-
- 2 The second contains the extra features of the special emphasis, applications and memory verse.

At the bottom right side of each slide you will see a small image (such as a Bible, a cross or a crown) which contains a hyperlink. If you click on this image, it will take you to the special emphasis for that lesson, thus allowing you to use the special emphasis at any stage in your teaching. Clicking on the arrow on the special emphasis slide will take you back to the slide you were previously showing.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson, or in the next meeting before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Overview

Lesson	Special emphasis	Application	Memory verse
John the Baptist points the way John 1:19-36 Luke 3:1-3 Matthew 3:1-6 Exodus 12	Jesus Christ saves from judgement	Unsaved: Trust the Lord Jesus to keep you safe from judgement	"... God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" 1 John 4:9
Nicodemus hears a story John 3:1-16 Numbers 21:4-9	People who "look" to Jesus Christ for salvation have eternal life	Unsaved: You must trust in Jesus Christ in order to be saved	Review 1 John 4:9 Or teach "... You must be born again" John 3:7
Zacchaeus is found by the Saviour Luke 19:1-10	The Lord Jesus Christ came to save sinners	Unsaved: Trust Him to save you from sin	"... He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him ..." Hebrews 7:25
The prodigal son learns a lesson Luke 15:1,10-32	"Repenting" is turning away from sin to God	Unsaved: Turn from your sin to the Lord Jesus Christ	Review Hebrews 7:25 Or teach "... There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" Luke 15:10
Paul and Silas go to Philippi Acts 16:11-40	Only the Lord Jesus can change your life	Unsaved: Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and your life will be changed	"... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved ..." Acts 16:31

Lesson 1

John the Baptist points the way

Scripture for teachers

John 1:19-36

Luke 3:1-3

Matthew 3:1-6

Exodus 12

Special emphasis

Jesus Christ saves from judgement

Application

Unsaved: Trust the Lord Jesus to keep you safe from judgement

Memory verse

“... God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him” 1 John 4:9

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 and 1-8

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 and 1-8

Lesson outline

Introduction

“He’s out there again!”

Progression of events

- 1 John baptises people in the River Jordan
- 2 “Is John the Christ?”
- 3 John - “No”
- 4 John - “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- 5 The Israelites are slaves in Egypt
- 6 God’s plan to rescue His people
- 7 Moses pleads with Pharaoh to set his people free, but Pharaoh refuses
- 8 God sends Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh with a last warning
The wages of sin is death
- 9 Moses gives instructions to Israelites
 - “On the tenth day of the month choose a lamb (male, perfect)”
Jesus never sinned
 - “On the fourteenth day, kill the lamb”
Jesus died for sinners
- 10 At midnight, the Lord passes through the land
Trust the Lord Jesus
to keep you safe

Climax

- 11 Pharaoh - “Go!”
- 12 Israelites ask Egyptians for clothes and jewellery
- 13 Israelites leave Egypt

Conclusion

Jesus is the “Lamb of God”

Closing challenge

Lesson

“He’s out there again!” someone shouted down the street. “John the Baptist is preaching. He’s near the Jordan River. Come and hear him!”

As the news spread, people came quickly from their houses and workshops chattering excitedly, as they hurried down to the river. This river, the River Jordan, is in Palestine. John, this famous preacher, preached about two thousand years ago.

Flashcard 1-1

Soon the people could hear John’s loud voice.

“Repent!” he was calling to them. “Turn from your sin, if you want to escape God’s punishment.”

What a strange sight he was, dressed in camel skin, with a leather belt. The crowd listened as he preached. Many believed what John said, and they were baptised in the river, to show that they were turning from the wrong things they had done. All kinds of people came - young and old, rich and poor, leaders and ordinary people. They came from near and far, even from the city of Jerusalem, to hear John preach. Some wondered who John really was.

“Is John the Christ, the One God promised to send one day?” they thought.

“The Christ” was the name given to the special One Whom God had promised to send as the Saviour.

“No,” John said, “I am not the Christ. I am not the promised Saviour. Someone is coming, Who is so great that I am not good enough even to get down and help Him take off His shoes. He is the Christ, not I.”

John had been given a special work to do. God sent him to tell the people to get ready, because God’s Son, the Christ, was on His way.

Flashcard 1-2

One day John turned and pointed to Someone and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

The people looked to where John was pointing. There stood the Lord Jesus Christ!

John was telling them that the Christ, the promised Saviour, had come. In the Old Testament part of the Bible God had told His people many things about this Special One Whom He promised to send. For hundreds of years God’s people, the Israelites, waited for His coming. Now John was saying that He had come!

John was calling Him “the Lamb of God”. Those words “Lamb of God” most have reminded those listening to John about something

PowerPoint 1-1

PowerPoint 1-2

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

which happened many years before. Let's hear the story of what happened at that time. It will help us understand what John said the Lord Jesus was coming to do.

Flashcard 1-3

God's people, the Israelites, were living in the land of Egypt. At first they were well treated. But as the years went by, the Egyptians became afraid of them. There were more and more Israelites, so the Egyptians made them their slaves. They forced them to work very, very hard and treated them cruelly. They used them to build the pyramids in Egypt. Many Israelites died in the terrible work they had to do. But still the Egyptians felt there were too many Israelites. They even tried to kill all the little Israelite baby boys.

The people of God longed to be rescued. God saw their need. He had a plan to set them free, so that they could return to their own land. He gave the Israelites a leader, Moses. He sent him to speak to Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. Moses pleaded with Pharaoh to set his people free, but Pharaoh refused - he didn't want to lose his slaves!

But God showed His mighty power by sending great and terrible troubles to Egypt. Stubborn Pharaoh still refused to let God's people go. Many times Moses and his brother Aaron went to see Pharaoh to warn him of God's punishment. But they could not change this hard cruel man. He always said, "No, I will not let you go!"

Flashcard 1-4

Then God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh with a last warning.

"This is what the Lord says, 'I will go through all the land of Egypt. The eldest in every Egyptian family will die - the eldest of Pharaoh, the eldest in every rich and every poor family. There will be death even among the animals of the Egyptians. There will be loud wailing throughout the land, worse than you have ever heard or ever will hear'" (from Exodus 11:4-6).

Moses went on to say, "Your servants will come to me and say, 'Go! Take all your people with you.' And then, Pharaoh, I will go and take the people with me" (from Exodus 11:8).

With that Moses turned and stalked out of the palace. The wicked Pharaoh still refused to let God's people go. He had heard a warning of death, but would not listen.

Perhaps you are like him. In the Bible there is a warning like this for all of us, too. God says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). You know that if someone has a job, at the end of the week or month they get money for the work they have done. That is called getting wages. The Bible says that if you sin you earn wages, the wages of death. This means that your soul, the part of you that will live forever, will be separated from God. It means that you cannot

PowerPoint 1-3

PowerPoint 1-4

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

live with God. This is a really terrible punishment; but it has to be so, because God and sin cannot be together.

What do you do to earn this punishment?

Allow the children to answer.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

You sin! Sin is disobeying God. The Bible says that everyone has sinned. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That means that you have sinned. When you think about it for a moment, you know that this is true. You can think of times when you thought angry, hateful thoughts about someone. "I hate him," you thought to yourself. The Lord Jesus said that when you have these kinds of thoughts about someone, you are disobeying God's command which says, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:31). Mean thoughts, bad temper, angry words are sin and displeasing to God. He is so pure and good and right that He must punish all sin. The Bible warns us that the punishment is separation from God. Make sure you listen to God's warnings. Don't be like Pharaoh.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 1-5

When Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, they had to get the Israelites ready for what was going to happen. They gathered the people together and explained what they must all do.

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

"Listen! On the tenth day of the month, choose a lamb. It must be a male lamb, not more than one year old. Check that it has no cuts or scratches. It must be a perfect lamb" (from Exodus 12:3-5).

This lamb makes us think of the Lord Jesus Christ. John the Baptist called Him "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29). Jesus was perfect. He did not have a sinful heart which would make Him want to disobey God. He was born pure and sinless, the only person ever born like that. As He grew up He never cheated, He never lied, He never answered back when His mother asked Him to do something, He never sinned. So the lamb that Moses talked about reminds us of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PowerPoint 1-5

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Moses continued to instruct the people, "Then on the fourteenth day, kill the lamb. Collect the blood in a basin, and sprinkle with the blood the two side posts and above the door of your home" (from Exodus 12:6-7).

The Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, died too. There was no other way that people, who deserved to be separated from God forever, could be saved from that awful punishment. He, the only One Who never sinned, took the punishment we deserve from God. Jesus gave His precious blood, so that people like you and me could be safe. There was only one way for the Israelites to be safe, when the Lord would come and bring death throughout the land, because

of the terrible sins of the Egyptians. There is only One Who can save you, too - the Lord Jesus Christ.

On the fourteenth day each family did as Moses said. The lambs were killed. As God through Moses had told them, each family took the blood and sprinkled it on the two side posts and above the door. The blood wasn't just to be kept in a basin, it was to be put on the doorposts. When the Lord saw the blood, He would pass over that house and all the people inside it would be safe. The lamb was punished and the Israelites were not.

It is just the same with the Lamb of God. He has died, but that does not mean that everyone in the world is safe from being punished for their sins. If you want to be safe, you must personally trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to save you. You must count on Him as the One Who died for you, Who gave His precious blood for you.

That's what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross. Just like the Israelites had to make sure that the blood of the lamb was on their doorposts, you must be sure that you are depending on the Lord Jesus Christ to save you.

Inside each Israelite home the family roasted the lamb and had a meal. Every one was dressed ready for a journey. They didn't have to worry about God's judgement, for God had said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13).

Flashcard 1-6

That evening every Israelite family waited for what God said would happen. At midnight, the Lord passed through the land. In every home, where there was no blood on the doorposts, the eldest son died. A terrible cry rose from the palace - the crown prince was dead. The same cry went up from the other Egyptian homes, as they discovered the death of the eldest son. Such sadness! Such weeping!

Oh don't be like those people. Don't be a boy or girl who is not trusting the Lord Jesus. He gave His blood and died for sinners. If you go on in disobedience and refuse to trust Him, you will be separated from God forever. Do not be like these people who did not have the blood of the lamb on their doorposts.

But in every home where the blood had been sprinkled, there was no death. They were all safe, just as God had promised. Make sure you are like those people. Do not think that going to church, saying prayers or trying to be good can keep you safe. They cannot. It is good to go to church, pray, behave as best you can, but only the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, can keep you safe from judgement. The Bible says, "There is therefore now no condemnation [or judgement] to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). This means that if you are depending on Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, you are safe from God's judgement, just like the Israelites.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 1-6

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

The Egyptians were weeping and crying. Pharaoh was broken hearted. During the night he called Moses and Aaron and commanded, "Go! Leave my people, you and all the Israelites. Go and worship the Lord as you asked. Take your flocks and herds, and go!" (from Exodus 12:31-32).

Flashcard 1-7

PowerPoint 1-7

Moses didn't have to be told twice. He and his people were ready. Throughout the land Egyptians were pleading with Israelites, "Go, before we all die!" (from Exodus 12:33). The Israelites asked the Egyptians for clothes and jewellery and they gladly gave them these. They handed over gold and silver bracelets, earrings and chains and the very finest clothing. This was God's way for the Egyptians to repay the Israelites for all the years of hard work. "Here, take them all," they urged. "Only go! We don't feel safe until you are all far away!" The great crowd of God's people moved out. They were free at last. They had been kept safe during the most dreadful night Egypt had ever known. The blood of the lamb had kept them safe.

Flashcard 1-8

PowerPoint 1-8a

PowerPoint 1-8b

Read the verse from your Bible.

Can't you see now why John the Baptist said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)? He was pointing to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He had come to die, so that all who trust Him would be safe on the great day when God punishes sin. The Bible says, "God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9).

Read the verse from your Bible.

Perhaps you know in your heart that you are not safe, but you want to be safe. Are you willing to turn from those things which do not please God, and trust the Lord Jesus alone to keep you safe? Will you trust Him now? Tell Him, "Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, thank You for dying to take away my sins. Thank You for giving Your precious blood for me. I am sorry I have been so bad. I am trusting You now as the only One Who can take away my sin and keep me safe from God's judgement."

If you trust Him, the Bible promises that "there is therefore now condemnation [or judgement] to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Review questions

- 1 What was the name of the preacher at the Jordan River? (John the Baptist.)
- 2 Who was given the name "The Christ"? (The Saviour God promised to send, Jesus.)

- 3 While the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, who did God send to see Pharaoh? (Moses and Aaron.)
- 4 What did Moses plead with Pharaoh to do? (Set the Israelites free.)
- 5 What was the last warning God gave to Pharaoh? (The eldest in every Egyptian family will die.)
- 6 What is the punishment for sin? (Separation from God.)
- 7 In our lesson today, what did the Israelites do to make sure they were safe? (Kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on the sideposts and above the door.)
- 8 Why was Jesus the only One Who could die for our sins? (Because He was perfect, He never sinned.)
- 9 What did the Israelites ask the Egyptians for, when they were leaving Egypt? (Jewellery and fine clothes.)
- 10 How can you be safe from sin and judgement? (Trust the Lord Jesus to take away your sin.)

Lesson 2

Nicodemus hears a story

Scripture for teachers

John 3:1-16

Numbers 21:4-9

Special emphasis

People who “look” to Jesus Christ for salvation have eternal life

Application

Unsaved: You must trust in Jesus Christ in order to be saved

Memory verse

In a 5-Day Club® review 1 John 4:9

Or

In a one-time meeting teach:

“... You must be born again” John 3:7

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7 and 2-8

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7 and 2-8

And

◆ Map at the back of flashcard book

Lesson outline

Introduction

“Sssh ...” Make yourself available
for counselling

Progression of events

- 1 Nicodemus meets Jesus at night
- 2 Jesus - “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”
- 3 Nicodemus - “Does a person have to become a baby again in order to have this new life?”
- 4 The Israelites travel through the wilderness
- 5 Israelites forget what God had done for them and they start to complain
We are all sinners
- 6 God sends snakes to punish the people for their complaining God is holy and sin must be punished
- 7 “We have sinned - pray for us”
- 8 Moses prays and God listens
We all deserve God’s punishment
- 9 God - “Make a snake out of bronze - look and live” Jesus died for sinners

Climax

Just as the serpent was lifted up, Jesus would be lifted up on a cross to take the punishment for sin Jesus was punished in your place

Conclusion

Obey God and look to the Lord Jesus today
Closing challenge

Lesson

“Sssh ...” It was quiet and dark. A man walked quickly along the shadowy streets of Jerusalem. It was Nicodemus, one of the religious leaders. Where was he going? He had heard of strange, wonderful things that had happened in the city. People were talking about Jesus of Nazareth, Who could do things which no-one else could do. Nicodemus was sure God had sent Jesus and he wanted to know more.

It may be that you want to know more about the Lord Jesus and how He can forgive your sins. Perhaps you have never asked the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Saviour and now you really want Him to forgive your sins, but you are not sure what to do. I would be glad to talk to you after the meeting, and show you from the Bible what the Lord Jesus wants to do and what you must do. If you would like to talk to me about this most important question, I will be standing underneath that tree (*or designate some other place*), when the meeting is over. You can come to me under the tree and I will know you want to talk to me about how Jesus Christ can forgive your sins.

Yes, Nicodemus had questions. He stopped at a house and asked to speak to their Visitor. Can you guess who the Visitor was?

Allow the children to answer.

Yes, it was the Lord Jesus, God's Son.

Flashcard 2-1

He and Nicodemus talked alone that night. The Lord Jesus said, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). It was not enough for Nicodemus to know about God - he had to begin a new life. But Nicodemus could not do that for himself. God alone was able to change him, so that he would begin to live for God, then God would be King in his life.

This clever, religious man was very puzzled.

“Does a person have to become a baby again in order to have this new life?”

Nicodemus just did not see how this could happen. So the Lord Jesus used a story which had taken place many years before and which Nicodemus knew. Surely this would help him understand.

Flashcard 2-2

Long, long ago God's people, the Israelites escaped from Egypt where they had been slaves. (You remember in the last lesson how the Israelites killed the little lambs and God protected them so that they could go free.) They were going to a new land.

As they travelled they talked about how good God had been. He had shown that He was great and mighty by bringing them out of Egypt.

PowerPoint 2-1

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Use a map to show the route Israel took from Egypt to Canaan.

They were very glad they belonged to the one, true God. They did not worship false gods which could do nothing. Their God was powerful and good.

For many years this great crowd of people walked through the wilderness. One day they came to the holders of the land of Edom. If they could travel through Edom, they would get to their new land much more quickly. But the King of Edom refused to allow them to come through his land. So they had to take the long way round. The journey seemed endless! They got very discouraged and forgot what God had already done for them.

“Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! We hate this worthless food,” they complained (from Numbers 21:5).

Flashcard 2-3

But they had food and water. God had been very good to them. Each morning, when they got up, they found that God had given them bread from Heaven. They called the thin round flakes on the ground “manna”. They had manna every day. Not only that, but God was able even to make water come out of a rock when they were thirsty. But now they were complaining against God.

Aren't we just like them? God has been very good to us. We have food, friends and homes. We are strong and well. God gives sunshine and rain. Even being alive today is a gift from God. He is very good and kind. But we are just like those people long ago. We rebel against God. He commands that He should be your God and be first in your life. The Bible says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Mark 12:30). But we don't, do we?

You play each day, go to school, you eat and sleep, but you don't often think about God. Your friends, your toys, your TV programmes are more important to you than God is.

The Bible says that we are not to forget about God's goodness and grumble and complain (Psalm 105:5). Do you say things like, “I don't like the teacher telling me what to do. I don't like having to wash the dishes for Mummy. I don't want to listen to what God says to do in the Bible. I just want to do what I like”? Are you a grumbler, a complainer? When you do things like that to others, you are disobeying God. It's as if you were shaking your fist at God and saying, “I don't want You to rule over my life. I don't like what You have given me.”

But maybe you say, “I don't do that often.” It's like a crack in a vase. If there is even just one crack, the whole vase is spoiled. Disobeying God in one thing is like disobeying Him in everything. You are fighting against God's commands. You disobey Him just like these people long ago.

PowerPoint 2-2

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-3

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-4

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 2-4

Suddenly a cry went up in the camp, a panic stricken, painful cry! Everywhere deadly writhing snakes were slithering among the people, biting them. The burning pain was terrible. People were dying, God had sent the snakes to punish the people for their complaining and disobedience. God is good and kind, but He is also pure and right. When people disobey Him and rebel against Him, He must punish their disobedience. Now these people were in danger of dying because of their sin.

Did you know that you are in the same danger? Oh, no, you haven't been bitten by a snake, but you have been disobedient to God and deserve His punishment. God tells us in the Bible what that punishment is. He says, "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). This does not mean that you die and are buried. It means to be put away from God for ever and ever. It means to be separated from God. This is the punishment for disobeying a good, pure, all-powerful God, and we all deserve it.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

The people in the desert knew they deserved what was happening. They understood why those deadly snakes were everywhere in the camp. In great distress they came to Moses, their leader, and pleaded, "We sinned for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the snakes from us" (Numbers 21:7).

PowerPoint 2-5

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 2-5

Their faithful leader went to speak to the Lord God for the people. He knew if God were to allow them all to die, that would be what they deserved. No-one could say, "It's not fair!"

It is like that with us. If God were to send each of us away from Him to be punished forever, no-one could say, "I didn't deserve it." We are so disobedient to God that all we deserve is His punishment, just like those people for whom Moses was praying.

God listened to Moses. He gave Moses very strange instructions, "Make a snake out of bronze and put it on a pole. Lift it up so that the people can see it. Anyone who wants to be saved must look at the bronze serpent and keep their eyes fixed on it. If they look, counting on God to heal them, they will live" (from Numbers 21:8). Wasn't God good to give those complaining people a way of being saved from death? But the way He has given for you and me to be saved from our sin is far, far more wonderful.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus that just as the bronze serpent was lifted up, so He, the Lord Jesus, must be lifted up. He meant that He was going to be lifted up on a cross. He never, never sinned, so He did not deserve any punishment. But God took our sins and put them on the Lord Jesus, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own

body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24a). God punished His own dear Son as if He had done the wrong. Remember, we said that the punishment for sin is to be separated from God.

As the Lord Jesus died, He suffered greatly. But the worst suffering was to be cut off for a time from His Father, God.

He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You left me?” (from Matthew 27:46).

At that time God laid on Him the judgement and punishment of our sin. How great God’s love is for us that He should give His only Son to be “lifted up” to die. Then on the third day God raised Him from the dead. He is alive today and lives in Heaven with God the Father. This is why the Lord Jesus is able to say to us today, “Look to Me and be saved” (Isaiah 45:22a).

Does that mean that everyone is saved from the punishment of sin? Think back to the people in the desert.

Flashcard 2-6

They had to believe that God had given a cure, only one cure. They had to look at the bronze serpent if they wanted to be saved from death. If someone said, “I don’t believe it,” he would not live. If another said, “I don’t think just looking at the bronze snake could make me well,” he would die. But many gathered around, knowing they were facing death. They really believed what God said. They looked at the bronze serpent and at once they were healed, just as God had said.

It is like that with the Lord Jesus. He explained it to Nicodemus, “So must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”(John 3:14b-15).

You must believe that the Lord Jesus was punished in your place and trust Him to save you from the punishment you deserve. If you really look to the Lord Jesus with all your heart (that means to trust Him alone) you will not be lost forever. You will know God’s life in you and when you die, or when the Lord Jesus comes again, you will go to live with Him forever.

Flashcard 2-7

Nicodemus listened carefully as the Lord Jesus explained how he could have new life. He was surprised. Nicodemus was very religious. He knew all about God and he often said prayers. But the Lord Jesus was saying that those things did not make him ready to live with God. The Lord Jesus said he must be born again. He must be made a new person. He needed to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you understand how you can have this new life? Do you know why the Lord Jesus Christ is the only One Who can save you from sin?

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-6

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-7

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 2-8

Read the verse from your Bible.

“God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9).

Flashcard 2-8

What about you? Today you have heard some of the wonderful things the Lord Jesus said. You have seen that there is only one way to be rescued from being separated from God. Listen to these wonderful words from the Bible, “Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:22).

Obey God and look to the Lord Jesus today. Tell Him that you are trusting in Him. “Lord Jesus I have disobeyed Your commands. I know I deserve to be punished. But I do believe that You were punished for me. Please save me now.”

If you trust Him, He will save you and you will know that God has made you a new person, a person who can live for Him.

Review questions

- 1 What was the name of the man who came to see Jesus at night? (Nicodemus.)
- 2 What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he needed to do? (“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”)
- 3 As the Israelites travelled through the wilderness, God sent them bread from Heaven. What was it called? (Manna.)
- 4 How did the Israelites sin against God? (They complained against Him.)
- 5 How did God punish them? (He sent deadly snakes into the camp and they bit the people.)
- 6 Why do we deserve God’s punishment? (Because we disobey Him.)
- 7 What did God tell Moses to do, so that the people could be saved from death? (“Make a snake out of bronze and put it on a pole. Anyone who looks at the bronze serpent will live.”)
- 8 How was Jesus like that bronze snake? (He was “lifted up” on a cross.)
- 9 If you know Jesus as your Saviour, what happens to you when you die (or when Jesus comes again)? (You go to live with Him forever in Heaven.)

Lesson 3

Zacchaeus is found by the Saviour

Scripture for teachers

Luke 19:1-10

Special emphasis

The Lord Jesus Christ came to save sinners

Application

Unsaved: Trust Him to save you from sin

Memory verse

“... He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him ...” Hebrews 7:25

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8

Lesson outline

Introduction

“Seventy, eighty, ninety, one hundred ...”

Sin separates us from God

Progression of events

- 1 “Jesus of Nazareth is coming!”
- 2 Zacchaeus - “I must see this man”
- 3 Zacchaeus joins the crowd, but is too small to see over the heads of the people
- 4 He runs down the street and climbs a sycamore tree
- 5 Jesus is passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem Because Jesus was perfect, He could take the punishment for sins
- 6 Jesus stops under the tree
- 7 Jesus - “Zacchaeus, hurry down, for today I must stay at your home”
Jesus is calling people today
- 8 Zacchaeus comes down from tree
If He is calling you, obey Him
- 9 Crowds complain - “Doesn’t He know the kind of man Zacchaeus is?”
Only Jesus can save sinners
- 10 Zacchaeus trusts Jesus to forgive all his sin
- 11 Zacchaeus - “Lord, I give half of what I have to the poor”

Climax

Jesus - “Today salvation has come to this house”

Conclusion

Zacchaeus’ life is changed by the Lord Jesus Christ - what about you? Closing challenge

Lesson

Flashcard 3-1

“Seventy, eighty, ninety, one hundred ...”

Zacchaeus loved to count the money, for he knew that he would keep a lot of it for himself. He had a very important job, working for the Romans who had conquered the land of Israel. The Romans made the Jews pay many taxes. Zacchaeus was in charge of all the men who collected these taxes in and around the city of Jericho. He was the chief tax collector. He made sure that the Roman government got all the money it asked for. But he also made sure that he kept plenty for himself.

This rich, important man lived in Jericho, a beautiful city with tall palm trees and pretty gardens. Many rich people lived there. I am sure Zacchaeus was glad about that, for they would pay a lot of money to the Roman government and that meant more money for him!

Zacchaeus was important, he had plenty of money and he lived in a beautiful city. But there was something wrong. He was a cheat and a thief. He took more money than he should from the people. He cheated in order to get money for himself. He must have known God's command, “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15), but he disobeyed it all the time. When you disobey God, that is sin. Sin cuts us off from God so that we are far away from Him. The Bible says, “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

That was what was wrong with Zacchaeus - he was far away from God. He was lost in sin. Perhaps you are just the same. Let's think of that command, “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15). Do you have a pencil, toy, or book which you took from someone else? Have you stolen money from Mum or Dad to buy ice cream? Think of that test (exam) in school, where you copied an answer from someone else. You stole their answer. You have been disobedient to God. You know about these and other wrong things in your life which come between you and God. You too are lost in sin, just like Zacchaeus. Your sins come between you and God.

Flashcard 3-2

One day Zacchaeus saw excited crowds gather. In the hot sunshine people called and shouted, some pushing their way through.

“Jesus of Nazareth is coming!”

The news spread quickly. Different people had heard different things about Him. They must have told what they had heard.

“He can make blind people see.”

PowerPoint 3-1

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 3-2

“Yes, and He often touches sick folk and they are better in a moment.”

“He even brought dead people back to life!”

Probably very few of the people in that crowd understood that the One they were talking about was the only Son of God. He had lived forever with God His Father in Heaven. He became a man and came to Earth. It was because He was God, He could do these wonderful things. Even though the people did not understand this, they were very excited about His coming to their city.

Zacchaeus knew that He was coming.

“I must see this man,” he thought.

Perhaps he had heard that the Lord Jesus was a friend of tax collectors, whom everyone else disliked. Zacchaeus hurried to join the crowd, but he just could not see over the heads of the people. He was a little man. Even if he stood on tiptoe, he would not catch a glimpse of the Lord Jesus. Of course, no-one was interested in helping him. He was the chief tax collector and the people hated him.

Flashcard 3-3

Zacchaeus must have been very disappointed. He wanted so much to see this Man. Soon it would be too late, for Jesus was only passing through the city.

Just then Zacchaeus had an idea. The moment he thought of it, he started to run down the street. It was a very unusual thing in those days for a rich, important man to be seen running like that. Whatever was he planning? Zacchaeus' idea was this.

“There is a sycamore tree along the road where Jesus will pass by. If I climb it, I will have the best view of all.”

Just imagine the chief tax collector of Jericho wanting to climb up a sycamore tree!

Very soon he reached the tree. He caught hold of one of the branches and pulled himself up. He scrambled up and seated himself on a branch among the shady leaves. Now he was sure of a good view of the Lord Jesus Christ as He passed by.

Flashcard 3-4

Zacchaeus watched the crowd coming nearer and nearer. Yes, there was the Lord Jesus Christ walking along the hot dusty road. Why had He come to Jericho? He was going to Jerusalem and had to pass through Jericho to get there. He was going to Jerusalem for a special purpose.

He, the Son of God, had left Heaven to come into the world to do something wonderful for people like Zacchaeus, you and me, who are lost in sin and far away from God. He was the only Person Who

PowerPoint 3-3

PowerPoint 3-4

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

ever lived on Earth and never, never disobeyed God. The Bible says that He “knew no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yet He gave Himself to die on a cross and took the punishment which we deserve from God. He was punished, as if He were the One Who had disobeyed God. As He died on the cross He was cut off from His Father, God. What terrible punishment He suffered! But He rose from the dead and is the only One Who can rescue you from being lost forever. He came to die to save lost boys and girls, men and women. That is why He was going to Jerusalem, and so was passing through Jericho.

There was another reason for His being there. He was looking for someone as He walked along that road. He and the crowd moved nearer and nearer to the tree where Zacchaeus sat among the leaves. Zacchaeus was happy to be able to watch.

Flashcard 3-5

But then the crowd stopped, because the Lord Jesus had stopped right under the sycamore tree. He looked up into the tree and called, “Zacchaeus, hurry down, for today I must stay at your home.”

Everyone was surprised! Zacchaeus was really surprised!

Zacchaeus was the one whom the Lord Jesus was looking for in Jericho. He loved this man and wanted to do something wonderful in his life.

He knew all about Zacchaeus - He knew his name, He knew where he lived, He knew he was in that tree on that branch, and He knew about his cheating, his stealing and how unpopular he was. Although the Lord Jesus is in Heaven now, He still looks for people. He still calls people. Is He calling you today? Oh, you won't hear a voice the way you can hear mine. But if you know that you are lost in sin and that what you have been hearing today is just for you, then the Lord Jesus is calling you. Deep down in your heart, you know that He loves you; He is telling you to come to Him, so that you will not be lost in sin any more. Is He calling you today? On that day long ago He called Zacchaeus.

Quickly the little man clambered down the tree. I can imagine him nearly falling out of the branches. In a moment he was standing beside the One he wanted so much to see. Was Zacchaeus right to come, when the Lord Jesus called? Yes, he was! If the Lord Jesus is calling you today, obey Him and do what He says, just as Zacchaeus did.

Flashcard 3-6

Together the Lord Jesus and Zacchaeus set off towards the little man's home. The people in the crowd were very displeased and began to mutter and complain.

“Doesn't He know the kind of man Zacchaeus is?”

PowerPoint 3-5

PowerPoint 3-6

“Imagine staying at the house of a cheat!”

But Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to look for and save people like Zacchaeus. He did not want Zacchaeus to go on in his disobedient way and be lost from God forever. He is still the same today. He still saves bad boys and girls, men and women.

What does that word “save” mean? Imagine you are at the seaside and you go for a swim. Suddenly you find yourself caught in a current. You are going under. You are being carried out to sea. You can do nothing to save yourself. The current is too strong. But a life-guard sees what is happening and swims out. Before long you are back on the sand. You have been rescued, or saved from the water.

Because of the sin in your life you are in danger of being separated from God forever. Your sin keeps you away from God and you can do nothing to help yourself. You need someone to save you, or rescue you, from sin. Jesus Christ is the only One Who can do that. He is the only Saviour. That day He, the Saviour, was walking along the road to the tax collector’s home.

Flashcard 3-7

Zacchaeus was so happy to have the Lord Jesus in his home! He probably told his servants to prepare a meal for this special Visitor. I’m sure the Lord Jesus talked with Zacchaeus and the others in the house, but the Bible does not tell us what He said.

While He was there, something wonderful happened in Zacchaeus’ life. As he listened to the Lord Jesus he knew that Jesus was truly the Son of God, that He was truly the Saviour. Zacchaeus saw how pure and perfect the Lord Jesus was and how wicked and sinful he himself was. He wanted to have his sins forgiven. He wanted his life to be different and not full of selfishness, lying, cheating and stealing. Zacchaeus simply trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive all his sin. That is why Zacchaeus suddenly stood up. All the talking stopped. Everyone waited.

“Lord, right now I give half of what I have to the poor,” he said. “If I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times as much as I took” (from Luke 19:8).

Some of the people must have gasped. Could it be true? Was this really Zacchaeus speaking? Whatever had happened? The Lord Jesus immediately made it plain.

He said to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to this house ... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:9-10).

The Lord Jesus rescued Zacchaeus from being punished forever for his sin. He saved Zacchaeus from the terrible hold sin had on him, making him steal and cheat. Zacchaeus had been saved from sin. He

PowerPoint 3-7

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

was no longer separated from God. His life was changed by the Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful day that was for Zacchaeus!

Flashcard 3-8

PowerPoint 3-8

Read the verse from your Bible.

This could be a wonderful day for you, if you know that you are lost in sin and you want to turn from all that displeases God. Ask the Lord Jesus now to take away your sin and to save you from it. You can say to Him, "Dear Lord Jesus, I have sinned and done wrong things. Thank You that You came to die on the cross to save me. I pray that You will take away my sin. I am trusting completely in You as my Saviour and Lord."

If you truly trust Him to save you, He will. The Bible says, "He is also able to save to the uttermost [that means completely] those who come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25). He is able to change your life. Then, like Zacchaeus, you will begin to live to please God.

Review questions

- 1 Why did the people hate Zacchaeus? (He was a tax collector working for the Roman government, and he cheated the people.)
- 2 Why was Zacchaeus lost from God? (Because of his sin.)
- 3 What was the name of the city where Zacchaeus lived? (Jericho.)
- 4 Why was the Lord Jesus passing through Jericho? (He was on His way to Jerusalem where He would die for our sins.)
- 5 Why could Zacchaeus not see Jesus? (He was too short.)
- 6 How did he solve this problem? (He climbed a tree.)
- 7 When Jesus stopped under the sycamore tree, what did He say to Zacchaeus? ("Zacchaeus, hurry down, for today I must stay at your home.")
- 8 What did Jesus want to do for Zacchaeus? (Save him from his sins.)
- 9 What did the people do when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' home? (They were very displeased and began to mutter and complain.)
- 10 How did Zacchaeus show that Jesus Christ had made him a new person? (He said he would give money to the poor, and repay those he had cheated.)

Lesson 4

The prodigal son learns a lesson

Scripture for teachers

Luke 15:1,10-32

Special emphasis

“Repenting” is turning away from sin to God

Application

Unsaved: Turn from your sin to the Lord Jesus Christ

Memory verse

In a 5-Day Club® review Hebrews 7:25

Or

In a one-time meeting teach:

“... There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” Luke 15:10

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8

Lesson outline

Introduction

“I’m never coming back! I don’t like it here anymore,” Tony shouted to his mother

Progression of events

- 1 “Father, give me the money I would get when you die” We are all sinners
- 2 The father gives him the money and the younger son leaves home
We go our own way rather than God’s
- 3 Soon he has no money left - and his friends are gone too
- 4 There is a famine in the land
- 5 He finds a job feeding pigs
Sin must be punished
- 6 “I will go to my father”
Think about your sin
- 7 He starts off for home
Turn from your sin and come to Jesus
- 8 When he is still a long distance away, his father sees him
- 9 The father runs to meet the son
- 10 Son - “Father, I have sinned”
Ask the Lord Jesus for forgiveness

Climax

Father - “My son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found!”

Conclusion

There is joy among the angels in Heaven when a sinner repents - will there be rejoicing today?

Closing challenge

Lesson

He walked to the front door, suitcase in hand and his coat over his arm. He had a stubborn look on his face.

“I’m never coming back!” he shouted to his mother. “I don’t like it here anymore.”

Sadly Tony’s mother watched him go.

The Lord Jesus once told a story of a boy like Tony.

Flashcard 4-1

“Father, give me the money I would get when you die. I want it now. I don’t want to wait.”

Was that really his own dear son speaking? How sad the father must have felt! He had given his son a good home, with servants. He had given him good food and clothes. His younger son wanted his money now. He wanted to get away from home, to do what he liked, to go his own way. That father makes me think of God. He is so good to us. Can you think of some of the things He has given you?

Discuss God's gifts.

Yes, everything good that we get, we have it because God is so good and kind.

Wouldn’t you think we would want to love and obey such a kind and good God? But we don’t. The Bible says, “We have turned, every one, to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). This means, that even though God has been so good to you, you still go your own way, and not God’s way. God knows what is best for us and wants us to be truly happy. He commands us in the Bible to obey our parents. He commands us to tell the truth.

What if your Dad said, “Be home at 6.30 pm and no later.” But the football game was too good to leave and you didn’t come home until 7.15 pm.

“What time did I tell you to come home?” asked Dad.

“Oh Dad, my watch stopped. I’m sorry.”

Did you go God’s way, or your own? You went your own way. You disobeyed God. Why? Because you were born with a sinful heart that wants to do wrong. No-one had to teach you how to disobey at home, or to tell lies. You find it easy to go your own way, just like this boy.

Flashcard 4-2

Sadly the father gave him the money and just after that the younger son left home.

“I’ll go to a country far away from here,” he thought. “I’ll have a great time and do whatever I want. It will be great to have no-one to

PowerPoint 4-1

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 4-2

tell me what to do, no-one to tell me what is right or wrong. I'll be able to please myself."

Silently, sadly the father watched him go. His dear son was going his own way and the father feared that there was a hard time ahead for him. He watched until he could see him no more. His son was gone. But the son was thinking of other things. He was looking forward to good times ahead - new experiences, new friends. He might even become richer than ever! He thought he could run his own life.

Flashcard 4-3

In the far country he found that he did make new friends. Those friends were very happy to help him spend his money. Along with them he ate too much, drank too much, and did many wrong things. He was far away from his father and was doing things which would have made his father very sad.

You are just like him. When you go your own way, you do things which displease God. When you said, "My watch stopped", it was a lie! God is perfect and good. He never lies and He hates lying. Do you remember not being home at the time you were told? You disobeyed God as well as your parents. Do you use God's name as a swear word? That is something else which displeases God, for He has commanded, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (Exodus 20:7). You do those things, because you have gone your own way. Your sin keeps you far away from God, just as this son was far away from home. He thought he was having a good time.

Very soon, though, there was nothing left. His money was all gone, and his friends were all gone too! No-one would help him. Things got worse and worse. There was a famine in the land and the people had not enough to eat. Food became expensive and scarce. He was hungry. Soon his good clothes were ragged, and he had to sell all his belongings. He had nothing left.

"Perhaps I can find work, and earn some money," he thought.

But the only job he could find was on a farm, feeding pigs. Jewish people were not meant to have anything to do with pigs.

Flashcard 4-4

How ashamed he was! Day after day, he watched the pigs eat. He was so hungry that he felt like eating the pigs' food. If he went on like this, he would starve to death. He had gone his own way and he was far from his father. You have gone your own way, not God's way. You have done many things which displease God. You are far from Him. This is very serious, for the Bible says, "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). This means that if you go on in your own way,

PowerPoint 4-3

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 4-4

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

you will be cut off from God for ever and ever. This is the punishment for your sin. Your own way is not the best. This boy was discovering that, too.

Grunting, smelly pigs! How the son hated them! He began to think about home. He remembered the house, and the servants and his family. He thought of all the food they had to eat, while he was starving. As he looked at the pigs, he was ashamed of himself and the way he was living.

He said, "I will go to my father, I will tell him that I've sinned against God. I'll say I'm sorry I left him and went my own way. I'll leave the pigs and this foolish life for good. Even if I'm just a servant at home, it will be better than this" (from Luke 19:18-19).

Isn't it time you started to think as he did? Think of your sin - your lies, disobedience and swearing. These are not things which don't matter. Do you see them as sin, which God must punish? In your heart do you know that you must be willing to leave behind your sin and turn away from it? Are you thinking about your need to turn from your sin to God, like this young man wanted to leave the pigs and the far country and go back to his father?

Flashcard 4-5

But thinking alone would not help him. He had to act, and one day he did. He started off for home, leaving behind the pigs, the farmer and the far country. He must have thought, "More than anything, I want to get home".

Are you saying, "More than anything, I want to have my sin taken away and to be right with God"? God wants you to do what the younger son did. He wants you, in your heart, to turn away from your sin. From what does God want you to turn away? From lies, disobedience, swearing, cheating, or anything in your life you know to be wrong. When you are really sorry you have sinned against God and want to turn away from sin, that is called repenting. God's command to you is to repent. The Bible says that He "commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

That's what the younger son did, as he left the far country and set out along the road for home. Perhaps he thought, "What will father say? Will he take me in? How could he ever forgive me? I've been so foolish!" Was he excited and nervous, as he trudged along the road that brought him nearer and nearer home?

When in your heart you turn away from sin (repent), it's not an actual road you take back to God. There is only one way to God. It is through a Person, The Lord Jesus Christ. He had always been God's Son in Heaven, but He came into the world to be the only way back to God. He allowed men to nail Him to a cross. There as He died and poured out His precious blood, He took the dreadful punishment

PowerPoint 4-5

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

for our sin. He died that sinners might be forgiven. He had no guilt of His own. He never did those things we talked of earlier, but He died for the sin of the world. That is why He could say, "I am the way ... no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). But He rose from the dead and is alive forever. So nearly 2,000 years after His death and resurrection, the words are still true, "He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25). Do you want your sin to be forgiven? Do you long to be right with God?

Turn from your sin and come to the Lord Jesus Christ. Tell Him you are really sorry for your sin and that you believe He died for you. Ask Him to take away your sin and take charge of your life. That is the way back to God.

The younger son was on his way back to his father. Even when he was still a long distance away, his father saw him. He must have been watching and longing for his son's return. Far off, in the distance, he saw a ragged, dirty figure coming towards him. As the figure came closer, he realised it was his own dear son.

Flashcard 4-6

With arms wide open he ran to meet him. He hugged and kissed him, weeping for joy.

"Oh Father," cried the son, "I have sinned against Heaven and against you. I don't deserve to be your son" (from Luke 19:21).

But there was no chance, and no need, to say anything more. He could see he would never be a servant - he was a son! He had sinned and he knew it, but his sin would never be held against him. All was forgiven and forgotten! He didn't deserve it, but it was true. What a welcome!

Do you want all your sin to be forgiven and forgotten by God? Would you be glad, if it was never held against you again? That is what will happen, if you turn to the Lord from your sin. Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to save you from your sin. You don't deserve to be forgiven, but this is what God promises to all who repent and put their trust in the Lord Jesus. Oh, His love is very great, even greater than the love of the father in this story which the Lord Jesus told.

Flashcard 4-7

"Bring the best robe for my son."

The servants ran to obey.

"Fetch a ring for my son to wear. My son is not a slave to go barefoot - bring shoes for him to wear! Bring a calf, kill it and we'll have a celebration! For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" (from Luke 19:22-24).

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

PowerPoint 4-6

PowerPoint 4-7

PowerPoint 4-8

Read the verse from your Bible.

The father really loved that boy! If you come to God through Jesus Christ, just as you are with all your sin, then all will be forgiven. God loves you and wants to bring you to live with Him in Heaven when you die. It makes God very glad when a sinner repents. The Bible says that there is joy among the angels in Heaven, when someone asks the Lord to take away his sin.

Flashcard 4-8

Will there be rejoicing in Heaven today? Do you want your sins to be forgiven? Obey with all your heart His command to turn from your sin to God, to repent. Come now to the Lord Jesus Christ, telling Him that you are sorry you have gone your own way and not God's way. Tell Him that you believe He died in your place. Ask Him to take away your sin.

If you do this, and really mean it, all your sin will be forgiven. God will receive you. All Heaven will rejoice! The Bible says, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

Review questions

- 1 What did the son ask his father for? (He wanted to have the money he would get when his father died.)
- 2 What did he do when his father gave him the money? (He left home and went to a country far away, and used the money to do whatever he wanted to.)
- 3 Why do we go our own way and not God's way? (Because we are born with a sinful heart that wants to do wrong.)
- 4 Why did the son have to look for a job? (He had spent all his money and there was a famine in the land, so food was expensive.)
- 5 Why did the son decide to go home? (He was sorry for what he had done.)
- 6 What did his father do when he saw the son coming home? (He ran to meet him, and hugged him.)
- 7 What is the only way for us to get to God? (Come to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to take away our sin.)
- 8 Complete the blanks: The father said, "My son was dead, and is ___ again; he was lost and is ___." (Alive, found.)
- 9 If you ask God to forgive your sins, He has promised to do it. What does the Bible say will happen in Heaven when a sinner repents? (The angels will rejoice.)
- 10 What is our memory verse and where is it found in the Bible? (Either "... He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him ..." Hebrews 7:25, or "... There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" Luke 15:10.)

Lesson 5

Paul and Silas go to Philippi

Scripture for teachers

Acts 16:11-40

Special emphasis

Only the Lord Jesus can change your life

Application

Unsaved: Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and your life will be changed

Memory verse

“... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved ...” Acts 16:31

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 and 5-8

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 and 5-8

And

◆ Map at the back of flashcard book

Lesson outline

Introduction

Stoned by an angry crowd ...

Progression of events

- 1 Paul and Silas visit the city of Philippi
- 2 They join a group of women who meet by a river to pray Make yourself available for counselling
- 3 Lydia believes and her life is changed
 Jesus can make you a new person
- 4 A fortune-teller follows Paul and Silas
- 5 Fortune-teller - “These men are servants of the Most High God ...”
- 6 Paul commands the evil spirit to leave the girl
 We are all sinners
- 7 Her masters grab Paul and Silas and bring them before the judges
- 8 Paul and Silas are badly beaten and put in prison
- 9 No grumbling or complaining - Paul and Silas sing praises to God!
 Application for saved child
- 10 Earthquake at midnight
- 11 Jailer draws his sword to kill himself
- 12 Paul - “Don’t harm yourself, we are all here”

Climax

- 13 Jailer - “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
- 14 Paul - “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”
 Trust the Lord Jesus to save you

Conclusion

God can make you a new, different person
 Closing challenge

Lesson

Stoned by an angry crowd. Escaping from a wicked plot. Freed from prison by an angel. Caught in a shipwreck.

These were some of the things that happened to the very first Christian missionaries. (A missionary is someone who goes to other places to tell people about Jesus Christ.)

Paul and Silas were missionaries. Life for them was often exciting, even dangerous.

Flashcard 5-1

Let's join them as they have gone into a city in a new land. The city of Philippi thronged with people, and Paul and Silas knew none of them.

But they were sure this was the right place to be. God had led them to come here.

Point out Philippi on the map at the back of the flashcard book.

As they watched, they could see that most of the people knew nothing about the one, true God. They worshipped false gods. How Paul and Silas longed to tell them about God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas were missionaries, going from place to place telling people about Jesus Christ and how they could know Him. But where would they start their work in this city? There wasn't even a building where people who did know about God could meet.

At last they found a group of people who knew the first part of the Bible and were praying to the one, true God. They were meeting by a river.

Flashcard 5-2

These women, who gathered to pray, knew about God, but they did not know that God had sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

Paul and Silas thought this was the time to tell them the wonderful news. The missionaries must have told how God's only Son died on the cross and was punished for the sin of the world. How exciting it must have been to tell these women that the Lord Jesus did not stay dead, but that He rose from the dead and is alive forever. For the very first time those women heard that only Jesus Christ could make them right with God.

Perhaps, as you have heard these things about the Lord Jesus, there are some things you don't understand. Maybe you really want to ask the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin, but you don't know how. I will be glad to help you from the Bible. Come and talk with me when club is over. I will be standing over there beside that post (*or some other place which is suitable*).

PowerPoint 5-1

PowerPoint 5-2

While Paul and Silas explained these things, a wonderful thing was happening in one of the women who listened. This was Lydia, an important and wealthy lady. The Bible tells us that, as she listened, God was working in her heart and life so that she understood what Paul and Silas said. She believed the Gospel and really wanted to know the Lord Jesus Christ for herself. She put her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and her life was changed.

Then she said to the two missionaries, "If you accept me as a believer, please come and stay in my home" (from Acts 16:15).

God had worked in Lydia's heart and life. Now she knew the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour. Also God gave her a love for other Christians. God changes those whom He saves. The Bible says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). That means that if you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you are a new person. You look the same on the outside, but you will be really different on the inside. You will be changed from a person who is sinful and disobedient, to a person who wants to obey God. That does not mean you will never disobey God again, but you will no longer be a person who cares very little about God - you will love Him. God does not only tell you how to live for Him, He comes to live in you, to help you do it. That is just what had happened to Lydia.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Flashcard 5-3

Paul and Silas must have been overjoyed at what God was doing. They went on with their great work of telling others about Jesus Christ.

Once, as they were going to a place where people met together to pray, they met a slave girl who was a fortune-teller. The Bible tells us that fortune-telling is something which displeases God and we should have nothing to do with it (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). An evil spirit was in charge of this girl and gave her the ability to tell fortunes.

When she saw Paul and Silas she started to call out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved!" (from Acts 16:17).

What she said was true, but because of what she was doing and the way she shouted, they knew that Satan was in charge of her life. It made Paul and Silas very sad to hear this poor girl crying out like that. She kept following them for days and all the time she called out.

At last Paul was so troubled that he stopped, turned and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" (from Acts 16:18).

At that moment the evil spirit left the girl. How powerful is the Name of the Lord Jesus! He is more powerful than Satan and evil spirits. He was changing this girl's life and He can change you.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 5-3

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

Perhaps you know your life is not right. You tell lies, you think mean thoughts, you disobey your Mum and Dad. You use the name of God as a swear word. You like to have your way. "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). You need to be made a new person. The Lord Jesus Christ can do that for you. We know He is all-powerful, because He arose from the dead. He is alive today. He has the power to change your life. No matter how bad you are, the Lord Jesus can change you completely.

If you trust Him to save you, He will forgive your sin and change your life. He will help you live for Him. Perhaps you have a bad temper and everyone knows about it. But if you come to the Lord Jesus, and trust Him as your Saviour, He will give you the power and strength you need not to be bad tempered. Belonging to the Lord Jesus doesn't only mean being ready for Heaven. It means being made a new person who lives for God, now in this life. The slave girl was certainly different when she had been set free from the evil spirit.

Flashcard 5-4

But not everyone was happy about what had happened. The slave girl had worked for men, who made a lot of money from her fortune-telling. They were furious, when they realised that she would not be making any more money for them. They grabbed Paul and Silas and brought them to the market place, where the city judges sat.

They accused them, saying, "These men are Jews and are causing riots in our city. They are teaching things which are against the law."

This was a lie, but there was no-one to stand up for Paul and Silas. The crowd joined in telling lies and shouting against the missionaries.

The judges ordered that they should be severely punished. The two missionaries had their clothes torn off and they were badly beaten. After that they were thrown in prison and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

Flashcard 5-5

To make sure that they would not escape, the jailer had them put in a cell deep inside the prison. Also he fastened their feet in blocks of wood, called stocks. There they were, bruised, bleeding, and aching. Their hands and feet were held fast. There was no hope of escape.

But in that dirty, damp, dark prison cell there was neither grumbling nor complaining. There was, however, another sound - singing! Paul and Silas were singing praises to God. How could they do it? They knew that God was in charge of everything that had happened. They knew that prison walls could not keep God out - He was with them. They had joy in their hearts. How different they were from other prisoners!

PowerPoint 5-4

PowerPoint 5-5

Those who trust the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour are different, for God has made them new people. If you trust the Lord Jesus, there will be times when it will be very hard to live for Him. But you can be sure that God is with you. He has promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b). God will be real in your life. You will know Him, because Jesus Christ is your personal Saviour. This is why Paul and Silas sang God's praises.

How surprised the other prisoners must have been when they heard their singing! This was not a sound they heard very often inside the thick prison walls.

Flashcard 5-6

But suddenly, at midnight, another noise ripped through the building. Everything began to shake. The foundations of the prison were shaken. All the doors flew open. The wooden stocks fell apart. The chains fell off the prisoners. God had acted. He had sent an earthquake.

The jailer woke with a jolt. When he saw the prison doors wide open, he panicked.

"Surely all the prisoners have fled," he thought. "I will be killed for this."

Quickly he drew his sword. He was going to kill himself. Then he heard a shout.

"Don't harm yourself. We are all here." It was Paul.

When the jailer heard Paul, he called for someone to bring a light. All sorts of thoughts must have been racing through his mind.

"These men must be servants of the Lord God, or else they would have run away when they had the chance. God must have great power, if He could send an earthquake like that."

The jailer knew he was not ready to meet this great God. As he went into the cell, the jailer asked a very important question.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30).

Flashcard 5-7

Paul answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Paul and Silas must have explained what they meant. Jesus Christ, God's only Son, died on a cross and was punished for the sin of the world. He had risen from the dead and was now in Heaven with God. This was the One Who could make the jailer right with God. He must depend on the Lord Jesus Christ to take away his sin and make him right with God.

Read the verse from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read it.

PowerPoint 5-6

Read the verses from your Bible, or have an older child or helper read them.

PowerPoint 5-7

Do you think that the jailer simply listened to what Paul and Silas said about the Lord Jesus and did nothing about it? Did he simply say, "Oh, that's nice to know"? The Bible says he believed, he trusted the Lord Jesus Christ to save him from sin. He asked the Lord Jesus to forgive his sin. Not only that, but the Bible says his family trusted in Christ to save them too. It is not enough for you to simply know about Jesus Christ, you must personally trust in Him and ask Him to save you.

If the jailer really trusted in the Lord Jesus, then his life would be changed, wouldn't it? Yes, he was different. He took Paul and Silas with him and carefully washed the wounds on their backs with water. He brought them into his home. He gave them a meal. He cared for them. What a change!

When the Lord Jesus Christ saves a person from his sin, there is a real change in his life. God the Holy Spirit comes to live in the person's life the moment he puts his trust in the Lord Jesus. He makes disobedient boys and girls into obedient children. He makes those who were not interested in the Bible into people who want to know more of God's Word.

Flashcard 5-8

God can make you a new, different person. He can make you kind, as He did for Lydia. He can help you turn from wrong, as He did for the fortune-teller. He can help you live to please Him, as He did for the jailer.

Do you long that your life would be different? Are you sorry because you know you are not living God's way? Ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you and take charge of your life! Trust Him alone to save you from sin! The Lord Jesus will then live in you by His Holy Spirit and you will see that you are a new person.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Review questions

- 1 What was the name of the city where Paul and Silas went? (Philippi.)
- 2 What was the message which they wanted to tell the people? (About Jesus Christ and how they could know Him.)
- 3 Paul and Silas met a group of women. What were they doing and where did they meet? (They were meeting by a river to pray.)
- 4 What was the name of the woman who believed what Paul and Silas told about God? (Lydia.)
- 5 What is different about you when you become a Christian? (You will love God and want to obey Him.)

PowerPoint 5-8

Read the verse from your Bible.

- 6 What did the fortune-teller call out when she saw Paul and Silas? (“These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.”)
- 7 Why were the men in the city angry? (After Paul cast the evil spirit out of her, she could no longer work for them.)
- 8 Why did Paul and Silas sing praises to God when they were chained up in prison? (They knew that God was in charge of everything and He was with them.)
- 9 After the earthquake, what did the jailer ask Paul and Silas? (“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”)
- 10 Who comes to live in your life when you put your trust in the Lord Jesus? (The Holy Spirit.)

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*).