# SALVATION LESSON 4: Jesus is the Answer

***In this Sunday school lesson, the children will discover that Jesus is God's answer to our sin. They will learn that Jesus died on the cross for us, and purchased our place in Heaven. Jesus got what he did not deserve, to keep us from getting what we do deserve, that is eternal death and separation from God.***

#### TOPICS

Salvation, Baptism, Faith, Grace, Believing, Heaven, Sin

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

**Finish the Story (Activity)**

**In this Sunday school activity, children will discover how God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, so He could show us the way to salvation.**

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| TOPICS:Eternal Life, Grace, Heaven, Jesus, SalvationMATERIALS:Activity page for each childPencilsDURATION:Approximately 15 minutes | hand  |

#### PREPARATION

Before class, print or make copies of one activity page for each child.

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Hand out the copies of the activity page to the class - one per student. Tell them to read the story and think carefully about what the farmer could do to help save the birds. Then write down an ending in their own words. Give the children plenty of time to complete the project before giving them the intended ending.

#### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

This is a story about salvation. I would like to share the (my) ending of this story with you, but first let me ask a few questions.

1. Based on your understanding of the story, do you believe the farmer is genuinely concerned for the birds? Why or why not?

2. Why do you think the birds are afraid to enter the barn? Why do you think they feel this way?

This story is similar to our relationship with God. The birds represent you and me, and of course the farmer represents God. The only way for the farmer to really communicate with the birds, and for the birds to understand him, would be if the farmer became a bird. If he were also a bird, the birds would not fear him because he would not be foreign to them—he would look like them, talk like them, share their same interests and fears. In this way, the farmer could protect them by leading them to the safety of the barn.

This is exactly how God lead us to safety. He came to earth as man, Jesus Christ. Through the teachings of Jesus, we can understand the way to eternal life. Because God came to us in human form, a form we are familiar with, we are capable of receiving the gift of Salvation.”

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

After prayer, ask the class about their homework assignment. They were to read Romans 5:6-11.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Why would it be hard to die for a real "bad" person, someone who sins against you? (You might consider them as your enemy, not worthy)
2. How did God demonstrate His love for us? (He sent His only begotten son to die in our place, even though we were sinning against Him)

#### MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

**"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 NIV**
Have all the kids sit in a circle, and pick someone to start. That child will say the first part of the verse. The child to his or her left (clockwise) must say the second part of the verse, and the next child to the left say the reference. Do this several times, challenging the kids to go faster and faster. You may also want use a stopwatch to time their progress.

#### CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

**Sin Gets Heavy (Object Talk)**

**The weight of our own sin is hard for us to bear, but Jesus bore the sins of the world.**

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| TOPICS:Cross, Redemption, Sacrifice, Salvation, Sin MATERIALS:24 heavy books of the same size(Feel free to use other items)DURATION:Approximately 10 minutes | heavy books |

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

During class, give each person a book, and suggest the book contains all of the sins they committed over the years. For small classes, you can give each child more than one book. Then you will demonstrate how heavy sin gets by having them place the books on the outstretched arms of a volunteer. You will compare this to how heavy all of the sins of the world must have been for Jesus to bear on the cross.

#### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

I want you to imagine that the book I gave you has all of the sins you have committed written in it. Every lie, every time you talked back, every time you grumbled, every time you slammed a door, every time you cheated, and anything else. Some of you may need a bigger book, however let's pretend they are all in there. How long do you think you could hold that book up at arms length? Some day you may want to try, but probably after only a few minutes, it would become quite heavy.

I need a strong volunteer? (Have the volunteer come to the front and stretch out his or her arms, similar to how Jesus did while on the cross, only with his or her palms up.)

Now, one by one, come up and stack your book of sin upon the hands of our volunteer. Keep the sides even as you do. Oh, and volunteer, just yell out "IT'S ENOUGH" when the books of sin get to be too much for you.

(Have the children come up in an orderly fashion and carefully place their book one on top of the other. Keep stacking until the volunteer calls for an end. Then have everyone give him or her a loud cheer.)

Can you imagine how heavy just the sins in this classroom could be? How about the sins in our church? How about the sins in our neighborhood? Jesus did not bare only some sins. The Bible says, "Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2: 2. Jesus himself was without sin. It was because of our sin that He died on the cross. He died in our place.

**Discussion Questions**
1. How does it make you feel to know the extent of what Jesus did?
2. If Jesus died already for our sins on the cross, what does that mean for us? (We are free to live a life of righteousness in the presence of God.)

#### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

**Introduction:**Today, we will be reading a familiar passage from the Gospel of John. It starts with an older man named Nicodemus asking Jesus a very important question. The answer Jesus gives is a lesson for everyone about the gift of Salvation.

**Read John 3:1-21**  (If possible, choose two good readers to read the parts of Nicodemus and Jesus)

**Discussion Questions:**1. Nicodemus called Jesus a teacher from God. Who is He really according to these scriptures? (The son of man, verse 13; God’s one and only son, verse 16; savior, verse 17; light, verse 19.)2. What does it mean to be born again? (To enter into Heaven requires a rebirth, something impossible for man, but possible for God. To be born again means we become a new person spiritually, a person forgiven of sin and involved in an intimate relationship with God.)
3. What is being born of the water and of the Spirit? How are they different? (Being born of the water probably refers to the physical birth, while being born of the Spirit refers to when we awaken to God’s Spirit working in us.)
4. What does Jesus mean when he says, “The Son of Man must be lifted up?” (He must be lifted upon the cross to die for us, and when we turn our faith to him, we will be saved from our sins.)5. Read verses 16-18 again. What does it really mean to believe? (It means to trust in Christ alone, and letting Him become the Lord of your whole life. That means living a life in obedience to His Word.)6. How do you think Nicodemus came away from his conversation with Jesus?
      a. Totally confused
      b. With a clear understanding about being born again
      c. Convinced to trust and follow Jesus
      d. With more questions than answers
7. How about you?

#### CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

**Throw Away Your Sins (Game)**

# Throw Away Your Sins

**A different spin on an old children’s game with a Christian life application**Idea by Jonathan Miller

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| TOPICS:Purity, Repentance, Sin, TemptationMATERIALS:Sheets of paper, one for each childMasking tapeDURATION:Approximately 10 minutes | throw away  |

#### PREPARATION:

Crumple the sheets of paper into balls according to the number of children in the room. Then divide the children in to two teams, and have them stand at opposite sides of the room. Mark the center of the floor with masking tape to separate each team. Then have each child pick up one paper ball.

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

In this game, the paper balls represent sin, and the kids will pretend to throw these sins away. However, as they throw them away, the kids on the other side of the room are throwing more back. Each team will throw the balls (sins) to the opposite side and keep throwing any that come back. After about 30 seconds of throwing, the team that has the least number of balls on their side will be the winner. Then switch the teams around and play again.

#### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

When we accept Jesus in our lives, he gives us the strength and help we need to get rid of all our sins. However, being a Christian does not mean we are completely free of sins. Sometimes there are temptations, such as envy, anger, disobedience, and other garbage of which we need to be aware. These come in different forms and ways, to turn our eyes away from Jesus. We know what these sins are and when they come our way, we need to throw them away.

#### Closing CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

**Verse Worksheet 2**
Have the children take Verse Worksheet 2 from their folder, and have them **paraphrase** the first three verses (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24; and James 2:19).  The remainder will be completed at the end of lessons 2 and 3. When finished, have the kids place the worksheet in their folders for next week.

#### APPLICATION (4 minutes)

So far, we learned that no matter how hard we try, we will never be good enough to get to Heaven on our own. Yet, it is a free gift. We also learned that we are sinners. Sin is keeping us from having a relationship with God in Heaven. God is a just God, and must punish this sin, which is eternal death. However, God is also merciful. He loves us and does not want to punish us.

Today, we discovered how God solved this by sending His only begotten Son to die for us. Jesus was completely without sin. He got what he did not deserve, to keep us from getting what we do deserve, that is death.

The Grace of God can be described in this way (Write the following and encourage all the kids to copy it)

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| **G – od’s                    R – iches                    A – t                    C – hrist’s                    E – xpense** |

In our next lesson, we will see how we can take hold of the Grace of God and receive eternal life by putting our faith and trust in Jesus.
For homework this week, I want everyone to read from the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew 8: 23-27. It is a very familiar passage, but this time I want you to read it several times, and think carefully about what is going on. When we meet again for our next and final lesson on Salvation, have an answer to the following questions:
**1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples they had little faith?
2. How is faith related to not being afraid? Afraid of what?**

#### CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

**Prayer Box**
Once again, have each child take one card out of the box. (If they draw their own name, have them put it back and try again) Have a few minutes of silent prayer, so each child can pray for the person on their card. After praying, have them write their name on the back of the card. Close the lesson with prayer.

Then return the card to the owner. Each card should have several names on the back, so each child can see who had prayed for them during the week.

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